

# Vibes

## Tom Petty's Group Sings to Rock Fans

By Lori Hernandez  
New Wave group Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers have been making music for the past five years.

The purpose of the band, which includes Tom Petty, Mike Campbell, Stan Lynch, Benmont Tench, and Ron Blair, is to "make honest rock and roll" and "to combat disco dance music."

The son of a Gainesville, Florida, insurance salesman, Petty started his first act at age 13 after seeing girls go wild over Elvis Presley on a movie set. By the age of 17, he had dropped out of school to become a member of the Mudcrutch band.

After becoming a local Gainesville attraction, Mudcrutch decided to go to Los Angeles, contacted various recording companies

and by the end of the first week they had seven offers. They finally signed with Shelter Records and moved to Los Angeles. But the band soon broke up due to disagreements over song arrangements.

Petty tried doing a solo album with some studio musicians but thought the sound was too "tame" and was looking for sound that would wake people up.

Finally, Petty ran into a few musicians he had played with in Gainesville. "We played together the first day, the next day we called them all and asked if they wanted to start a band," Petty explains.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers went right to work on their first album entitled, "Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers," which took about two weeks to produce and was released in



The group members include: Tom Petty-vocals, guitar, and keyboards; Mike Campbell-guitar; Stan Lynch-drums and vocals; Benmont Tench-piano, organ, and vocals; Ron Blair-bass guitar

during another British tour. During this time, their first album had hit the top 20 on British album charts with "American Girl" and "Anything That Rock and Roll" hitting the singles charts.

They returned to the United States to find that "Breakdown" (also from their first album) had started hitting the United States Charts. Feeling confident from their successful England tour, the Heartbreakers decided to delay their second album in order to do a non-stop tour through most of 1977.

Their second and most current album, "You're Gonna Get It" has had two singles, "I Need to Know" and "Listen to Her Heart." With the New Wave picking up popularity, it looks as if Petty and the Heartbreakers are gonna hit it big.

September, 1976.

Petty and the band toured

England with Blondie and Tuff Darts and finally got top billing

## Hail Queen for He's King

By Gloria Olegario  
Imagine on stage a scintillating figure adorned in a shimmering black sequin ensemble. Could this be the recreation of Marlene Dietrich? No, it's Sylvester.  
On Sunday, March 10, Sylvester performed to a quite post-punk sell out crowd at the Opera House.

Accompanying Sylvester "Two Tons o' Fun," a pair of backup singers, and a 28 piece instrumental ensemble. Throughout the entire performance, Sylvester put all the energy he could muster into his music.

Sylvester's background in jazz and gospel shone through in his rendition of a Billie Holiday-Sarah Vaughn classic, "Lover Man." He put gospel into Burt Bacharach's, "I Took Strength From You."

He brought the 3,500 cheering, dancing, clapping fans instantly to their feet with "I've Been Down." At this point he danced around the stage with Martha Wash, while the other half of "Two Tons o' Fun" sang the crowd out of their seats.

Another huge knockout production was "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," with Sylvester in command doing his thing, while the Tons bounced around the stage.

Halfway through the show, Supervisor Harry Brit presented Sylvester with a key to the city, a ceremony that was preceded by the reading of Mayor Feinstein's proclamation announcing Sylvester Day in San Francisco.

It's only recently, with such hits as "Over and Over" and "Dance to the Disco Heat," that Sylvester came into the



Sylvester with half a ton-one of two backup singers.

spotlight. His career started as a child gospel singer. It's only been in the last year that Sylvester dove into the disco market as a performer. He had, he said, been in disco for years. "It's just been since Saturday Night Fever that the masses know what disco is," he said, "but disco to the gay community is old, real old, Saturday Night

Fever just made disco more commercial. But the first place I ever heard disco was in a gay club...seven or eight years ago."

When Sylvester isn't performing, he lives with his friend, John, in San Francisco. Sometimes he can be seen at the various San Francisco discoteques.

## Marvin Gaye Tells His 'Side of the Story'

By Lori Hernandez  
"People are going to hear my side of the story," commented soul singer Marvin Gaye who has just released a new album entitled *Here, My Dear*, which deals with his recent divorce from Anna Gordy.

The sales from the two-record set will go towards paying costs associated with alimony and child support, which Gaye, reportedly, has refused to pay up to the present.

A look at Gaye's past can prove enlightening. He grew up in Washington, D.C. and was strongly influenced by his father, a Pentecostal minister, who also sang. Gaye went into the Air Force at 17 and followed this experience by singing for a while with a 1950's group, the Moonglows.

In 1961 Berry Gordy, the owner of Motown Records (and Anna Gordy's brother), spotted Gaye in a black nightclub in Detroit. Within a year Gaye had the first of 12 gold records with his hit "Stubborn Kind of

Fellow," which was soon followed by "Can I Get a Witness" and "How Sweet It Is."

Eventually, he teamed up with a Motown singer from Philadelphia named Tammi Terrell. In 1967 Terrell collapsed on stage while performing with Gaye. She died of a brain tumor in mid-March of 1970 and for a few years afterwards, Gaye refused to perform.

To keep his name before the public, brother-in-law Gordy issued an LP entitled *Marvin Gaye's Super Hits*. Then in 1971 Gaye got an idea for a new album and soon released *What's Going On*, which produced three hits: the title song, "Mercy, Mercy Me," and "Inner City Blues. In early 1978 he recorded another album, *Marvin Gaye at the London Palladium* and scored again with his rhythmic "Give It Up."

A few fans may take exception to the openness of Gaye's latest album, but Gaye will definitely have the last word.

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