

Artists Broken By Independent Manufers. Distribs.

a female trio called The Poppies, who recorded a minor hit titled "Lullaby of Love." After the group broke up, Moore settled down in Mississippi, occasionally going into the studio to sing background on such hits as Jean Knight's "Mr. Big Stuff" and King Floyd's "Groove Me." A happily married mother of two children still living in Mississippi, Moore began her solo career two years ago.



Stevie Wonder



Stevie Wonder is one of the few people to become a legend in his own time twice. A musical prodigy since he first played the piano at age three, he was signed to Motown in 1961 and heralded as "the twelve-year-old genius." During his teenage years he produced such hits as "Fingertips," "I Was Made To Love Her," "For Once In My Life," and "My Cherie Amour," all million-seller.

In 1971, Stevie celebrated his twenty-first birthday with a shift in musical direction that has since yielded five albums, four of which have each sold in excess of one million copies, according to Motown: "Talking Book," "Innervisions," "Fulfillingness' First Finale" and "Songs In The Key Of Life," which is #1 this week on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Albums chart. His accomplishments as a talented singer, composer, pianist, drummer are as impressive as the critical and popular acclaim he has been accorded. Members of the music industry have awarded Stevie a total of ten Grammys in addition to 17 million-selling singles.

Wonder has also been a popular live performer throughout his 15 year career, from his days with the Motown shows in the early sixties. This last year Wonder has kept a low public profile, with the exceptions of select television appearances, benefit concerts, and a concert appearance in Jamaica.



Brass Construction



From basement parties in Brooklyn, to the glittering Manhattan discos, to a national best-selling album, Brass Construction's career has advanced at a breath-taking pace. Their first album,

"Brass Construction," has been certified as a gold record. Their first single, "Movin'," reached #1 on the **Cash Box** R&B singles chart, and their second and latest album, "Brass Construction II," has leaped to #103 on the **Cash Box** Top 200 Albums chart after only two weeks.

The nine-member group consists of writer/arranger/singer Randy Muller, bass player Wade Williamson, guitarist Joseph Arthur-Wong, trumpeter Morris Price, trumpeter Wayne Parris, drummer Larry Payton, percussionist Sandy Billups, tenor player Jessie Ward and clarinetist Mickey Grudge. The group's catchy rhythms, street-oriented percussion and easy-to-dance-to songs have established them as favorites, not only in discos, but as popular artists appreciated by the pop recording consumer.



Bob Marley



Bob Marley's greatest U.S. impact was made this past year with a new album, "Rastaman Vibration," and a coast-to-coast tour. The album peaked at #11 on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Albums chart, reaching a #10 apex on the **Cash Box** R&B Albums chart.

While the last year has seen several record manufacturers seizing upon reggae in their constant search for fresh musical forms, Marley must be considered special among native Jamaican musicians. A favorite among British rock musicians for several years, Marley first reached American audiences through the song "I Shot The Sheriff," recorded by Eric Clapton. The credit for breaking genuine reggae in the United States, however, belongs to Marley and Island Records.

Reggae is a relatively new music, developing from a mixture of derivative styles that grew in Jamaica as Marley himself was growing up. The music combines influences of calypso and whatever American R&B filtered into Jamaica, all of which had been a big part of Marley's life when he emigrated to Kingston, center of the Jamaican music industry, in the 1950s. After recording on several local labels, Marley's recorded work found unified international distribution through Island Records, formed by a white Jamaican native named Chris Blackwell.

The Wailers, Marley's instrumental group, represent the finest studio musicians who have worked in Jamaica. His current album, "Live!" is a reissued import, currently at #97 on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Albums chart.

Captain & Tennille



Daryl Dragon and Toni Tennille, professionally known as The Captain & Tennille, have been making hits ever since "Love Will Keep Us Together" became a runaway bestseller in 1975.

Not only are they successful recording stars, they are also the hosts of their own ABC-TV series. Their years of singing and playing with their families, professionally and with each other, have paid off handsomely, as evidenced by their receiving **Cash Box** year-end awards of "top single by a new duo," "top album by a new duo," and "number one single" last year.

Daryl met Toni in between tours with the Beach Boys, for whom he played keyboards, filling in as a musician for the rock-musical "Mother Earth," which Toni co-wrote and starred in. The duo struck up a strong musical friendship which has resulted in the platinum album "Love Will Keep Us Together," and "Song Of Joy," which shipped gold on release, as well as a string of four hit singles. The other product of their musical collaboration was their marriage on Valentine's Day, 1974.

As evidenced by their two albums on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Albums chart, the duo's popularity continues. "Song Of Joy" is currently at #35 on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Albums chart this week, and "Love Will" is still going strong at #88 after 77 weeks. "Muskrat Love," their most recent single, occupies the #2 position on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Singles chart this week. By all indications, The Captain & Tennille are consummate hit makers.



Diana Ross



On Broadway, in the movies and, of course, as one of America's top female vocalists, the enormous popularity of Diana Ross is unquestioned. Her most recent triumph, "Love Hangover," quickly reached a position on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Singles chart to which Diana Ross is not unaccustomed — #1.

Diana Ross' introduction to that #1 spot came as a member of the legendary Motown group The Supremes. Between 1964 and 1967, The Supremes released 15 singles, among them "Where Did Our Love Go," "Baby Love," "Back in My Arms Again," and "You Can't Hurry Love." Of that total, 14 entered the top 10 and ten of the songs became #1. The vocal flair of Diana Ross helped leave The Supremes with a commercial legacy nearly unmatched in the history of American pop music.

After leaving The Supremes in 1969, Diana Ross established her own impressive string of singles, including "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "The Last Time I Saw Him," and a duet with Marvin Gaye, "My Mistake." Soon after, Ross became a motion picture celebrity with the release of "Lady Sings the Blues," a portrait of the life of Billie Holiday. She followed that film with a starring role in "Mahogany."



Parliament



Parliament's "Mothership Connection" on Casablanca Records was the first album on the young label to be certified as a million-unit seller. That happened in September, and Parliament already has a new album out, "The Clones of Dr. Funkenstein," which is currently #27 on the **Cash Box** Top 100 Albums chart.

Parliament is one of the hottest touring acts in the country, presenting their patently outrageous style of bizarre theatrics, gaudy costumes and music to sold-out concert halls throughout the country. By any standard, Parliament's live act, highlighted by a quarter-million dollar set designed by Jules Fisher (of Kiss and David Bowie fame), is not a mundane affair, especially when the band urges its screaming teenage audience to "get off your seats and jam."

The mastermind behind Parliament is 34-year-old writer/producer and vocalist George Clinton, who started the group in Newark in 1955. The group went from label to label, sometimes known as the Funkadelics, until they signed with Casablanca in 1974. Along the way, Clinton perfected a crowd-pleasing brand of "street-funk," that has escaped a predictable formula classification, being described by one critic as "a mixture of Sun Ra and Sly Stone."