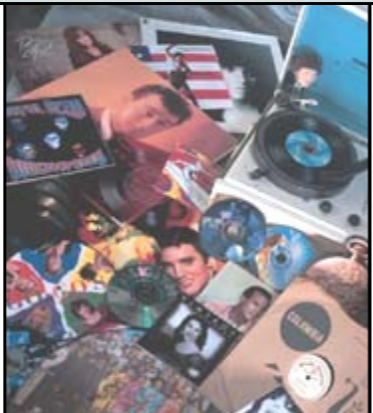


GOLDMINE/KRAUSE PUBLICATIONS SPRING BOOK/CD ROM OFFER

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_____	Classic Guitars	\$19.99	\$12.00
_____	Goldmine Jazz Album Price Guide, 2nd Ed.	\$24.99	\$5.00
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Reminder: The Joel Whitburn/Record Research Book offer will again be made available to current KRC members in the October, 2009 KEY-NOTES. Yet another *benefit* of membership!

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Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary
KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS
 #172, April, 2009
 P.O. Box 1516, Lancaster, PA 17608
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 1979 • 2009

KEY-NOTES

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APRIL 2009
ISSUE #172
Inside...
 ♪ - Rockin' With Brenda Lee
 ♪ - Super Vendor Attender
 ♪ - A Pair of LP Reviews
 ♪ - Books! Books! Books!

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is here - thank goodness! The February ice storm and cold weather are now behind us. The warmer days brings outdoor activities, concerts, Bar B Que's, picnics and more. It is also a great time to visit the **Pennsylvania Music Expo**.

This issue features another music review from a regular contributing member, as well as the annual Krause/F&W book offers (11 titles to select from this year.) Also Charlie Gracie has a new anthology that was just released. We hope to have another return appearance by this great guy and rock-a-billy artist later this year.

The 45 rpm record turned 60 years old on March 31st. Look for a detailed article in the June **KEY-NOTES!**

Keep collecting those tunes!

Derek
B. Derek Shaw
 KEY-NOTES Editor & Communications
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 (717) 898-1246
 CALL ANYTIME!

Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary
KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS
 1979 • 2009

It all started thirty years ago this November. Throughout the year, we will be highlighting what was going on and reading articles from guest authors about our brand new endeavor, in 1979, of organizing a show run entirely by collectors instead of a promoter.

To put things in perspective, it's important to get a feel for what was going on musically. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia... Disco reigns supreme in 1979, with several #1 hits from The Bee Gees and Donna Summer that year. Several artists who were not regarded as dance/disco acts, scored major successes by releasing disco singles, including New Wave band Blondie with their first US number one single "Heart of Glass", Rod Stewart with "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy" and rock band Electric Light Orchestra go disco this year with their UK #1 LP *Discovery*. Country star Kenny Rogers also issues a disco influenced album, entitled *Kenny*. Hard Rock band KISS also has a disco hit this year with "I Was Made For Lovin You".

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Hopefully everyone survived the winter and was able to catch up with all their music purchases from the last few months (in my case YEARS!) and will be ready to get out and find that special piece of music.

During the February **Pennsylvania Music Expo**, we had a chance to catch up with Frank Jordon of the regional group from the 1960s and 1970s, The Jordan Brothers. Frank brought along a few of his CD's of the music the group recorded. He was really glad to meet the people that remembered the group, even signing a few autographs. Frank has promised to come back in the coming months.

Please be sure to stop by the table of **Dave Kressley** and congratulate him on his *250th consecutive* show at today's show (April). Dave has been with the **KRC** shows since the days at Columbia (5 different locations). Good goin' Dave!

See 'ya in the next issue of **Key-Notes!**
Dave Schmidt
 2009 KRC President
NRCMusings@aol.com

The backlash against disco among rock loyalists is also peaking. An anti-disco event in Chicago, Illinois ultimately forced the cancellation of a major league baseball game. When The Knack's song "My Sharona" hit Billboard's #1 for six weeks, many rock critics celebrated the beginning of the end for disco music. While 1979 may have marked the climax of disco, it was also the only popular year for The Knack, who quickly faded into obscurity.

Kate Bush embarked on her first, and to date, only tour in April. She became the first artist to use a wireless microphone, enabling her to sing and dance at the same time.

One event of 1979 which would have later significance was the success of the single "Rapper's Delight" by The Sugarhill Gang, which marked the commercial emergence of hip hop music.

Next issue: a 1979 calendar timeline

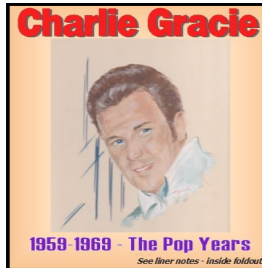
KRC in 2009

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NEW CHARLIE GRACIE ANTHOLOGY

A new CD release containing twenty of Charlie's recordings on the Coral, Roulette, Felsted, President, Diamond and Sock 'N' Soul labels was released last month.

In 1957, Charlie scored the first big hits on the new Cameo (later Cameo-Parkway) label with *Butterfly*, *Ninety-Nine Ways*, *Fabulous*, *I Love You So Much It Hurts*, *Wandering Eyes* and *Cool Baby*. The following spring, he filed suit against Cameo for inconsistent royalty payments. It was settled out-of-court with label bosses.



Later that year Charlie signed with Coral Records. Hopes were high as the label hoped to fill the void left by the tragic death of Buddy Holly in early 1959. Dick Jacobs produced no less than six sides for Gracie between late 1958 and 1959 - but Charlie's stand against

Cameo the previous year, had far reaching consequences.

He suddenly found himself "blacklisted" from the airwaves despite some excellent recordings. The same pattern continued in 1960-61 when Charlie cut four-sides with Roulette under Joe Reisman - two in Nashville at the new Owen Bradley studios. One was a tune written for Gracie by Burt Bachrach.

These and other songs, ranging from early 60's Pop, the Twist, the British Invasion Sound - and even some Blue-Eyed Soul, can be heard in this new anthology from Philadelphia's first rocker. While few of these discs ever saw airplay, they do demonstrate Charlie's artistry and versatility...as he adjusted to the musical tide over that 10-year period.



Issue #172 April 2009

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 Names in bold type are members of Keystone Record Collectors



Brenda Lee Christmas Show December 20, 2008 A Review by Steve Yohe

Brenda Lee's holiday concert at York PA's Strand Theater late last year was one of those good news/bad news situations. The good news is she's a consummate performer with great stage presence--as well she should be since she's been a successful artist for 54 years. Her amusing and self-deprecating reminiscences as the show progressed were supplemented with corny jokes that were well-delivered although they probably sounded familiar to anyone who receives forwarded humor in e-mails. She also added a humorous interlude with several audience members onstage for a spirited version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," featuring some surprisingly good solos.

The bad news is that once versatile, strong voice is mostly gone. Her range is much lower, she occasionally sounds a bit off-key, and she tries to compensate for her fading range with a nightclub-like vibrato, which is not totally effective.

The musical selection was a mix of her biggest hits, pop selections, Christmas music, and an excellent gospel selection, "This Little Light of Mine," sung with great feeling and backed by excellent harmony from her vocal backing group. Other highlights included a creative arrangement of her hit "I'm Sorry" and a moving version of "O Come, All Ye Faithful," in part effective because of her outstanding vocal backing and talented band.

Despite the show's shortcomings, it was still a worthwhile show. At 4' 9" and 64 there's still enough gun powder left in the former "Little Miss Dynamite" to put on a lively, entertaining performance.



Short and Sweet: Brenda Lee took a few minutes after the show during an autograph/meet and greet session to pose with club members. (l to r): **Roy Robbins**, first KRC President, **B. Derek Shaw**, KEY-NOTES Editor and **Karl Wolf III**.

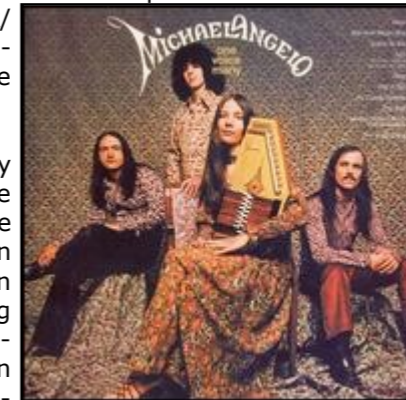
On the back of Brian Collins' album "That's The Way Love Should Be" (ABS Dot DOSD-2009):
*"Music - A sound in life for some, for others, it is life. I would like to dedicate this album to the one who gave me life and taught me how to make music my life...My Mother. Thank You, Brian Collins.
 P.S. Mom...I Love You."*

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

Retro album review - Michaelangelo: "One Voice Many" (1971) By Doug Smith

Michaelangelo: a prime figure of the Renaissance

That is an apt sideways lead-in to this review. The group Michaelangelo's sole long player, "One Voice Many", could easily have taken inspiration of the original group Renaissance. Or the British heavyweight of the era: Fairport Convention. The LP is an amalgam of folk/rock/classical/progressive/slightly psychedelic. But even as early as 1971, this style was already lagging behind the times.



In other words, very indistinguishable very many other albums of the era, with one prominent exception: the presence of the auto harp. The female member is billed on record as Angel Autoharp. Autoharp in popular music has to be a rarity. Thinking back, the only other instance of an autoharp I can recall is with John Sebastian in several faux performance clips (as featured on shows like Shindig) with the Lovin' Spoonful.

Does this rarity make for an exceptional work? Not in my opinion. Even though the autoharp is skillfully employed throughout, notably on instrumental tracks; nothing individually really shines on this LP. Not the material, the musicianship, nor the vocals. The group is to be commended for playing on their collective strength as an ensemble; along with making the autoharp prominent without overdoing it.

AA herself does some of the vocals. She has a pleasant-enough alto; but again, it's not really distinctive. Nor strong. It sounds like she is double-tracked in many places. AA was also responsible for the album's compositions.

It seems to me that this instrumental setup, auto harp with conventional folk/rock sharing the stage could easily have become either A) monotonous, or B) way too precious. Michaelangelo does tempt fate in a couple of places in the latter regard: the track "Okay" contains whistling;

LOOK WHOSE CELEBRATING #250!

Dave Kressley is celebrating his 250th consecutive show with us this month. He looked through his extensive records to supply this report, which doubles as a historical review of the **Pennsylvania Music Expo**.

- His first KRC show was March 15, 1987 at the Columbia Market House. Our last show there was December 1991.
- The first show at the Blue Ball Market occurred January 1992. The last show there was February 12, 1995. A total of 34 shows were there with two cancelled due to severe weather: March 14, 1993 and February 13, 1994.
- The first show at Lancaster Catholic High School was March 12, 1995. The last one was September 9, 2007. Three shows were cancelled due to severe weather: January 14, 1996; December 14, 2003; February 12, 2006.

and the closing title track builds to a crescendo with what sounds like a chorus of children. With the other consideration, "One Voice Many" is simply not long enough to get monotonous much less fall into the trap of excessive progressivity.

The male vocals aren't distinctive either. Singer Steve Bohn on the track "Son", at its most dramatic, sort of reminds me of Barry McGuire without the gruff.

The instrumental tracks are the most engaging listens on the album. The one medley is "Take it Bach/Michaelangelo". I guess they were being "punny" with that first part. I didn't recognize anything from JSB (or anything that would be in his style) anywhere on the track, though. I suppose that there could a case made for the autoharp doing its best impression of a harpsichord.

The album is not quite as light as, for example, the Sunshine Company. But it also doesn't begin to get anything close to heavy, either.

"One Voice Many" didn't get much of an audience back in 1971. And since it took Fallout Records more than three and a half decades to bring it back digitally, chances are slim it will get a bigger one the second time around. That is a shame.

Summary: this ensemble was definitely talented enough to have warranted at least one more recording. I personally would have like to have heard a fluid track like the Beatles' "Rain" and how skillfully AA would have made her autoharp sound like running water. And how would the group have tackled something really somber, like "Eleanor Rigby"?

Rating: 6.5.

- There was a one time "Special Reunion" at the Columbia Market House on May 19, 2002.

- The first show at the Pennsylvania Jaycees Bingo Hall in Leola was on October 14, 2007. The last show there occurred November 9, 2008. 13 shows were held at that location with one show cancelled due to a downed power pole.

- The first show at the German Trading post took place December 14, 2008.



- At the October 10, 1999 show Dave received a special award. He is going to receive another one at the April 5, 2009 show. Thanks for your continued participation, **Dave!**

