

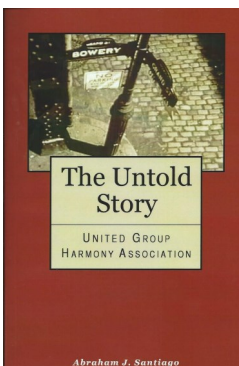
THE UNTOLD STORY: UNITED GROUP HARMONY ASSOCIATION
A REVIEW BY STEVE YOHE

"In Memory of Ronnie Italiano" reads the inscription opposite the table of contents of this book. Ronnie I, as Italiano was widely known, turned his love for African-American vocal groups into the creation of United Group Harmony Association. Through this group he advanced the genre of rhythm and blues vocal group harmonization.

Originally intended as a partial chapter from the forthcoming book Brothers of Another Shade, this is the second book by Abraham J. Santiago, music historian and film documentarian. We reviewed his Acappella Street Corner Vocal Groups (written with Steven Dunham) and the DVD Street Corner Harmony in Key-Notes # 196.

The author's thesis is that while he appreciates and respects Ronnie I's achievements honoring forgotten R&B pioneer singers and assuring that vocal rhythm and blues groups were getting exposure, he also laments the character flaws.

Santiago's purpose is to give us the whole story of the man, warts and all. According to the author, despite the unquestionable iconic nature of Ronnie I, his "inner circle of followers" is almost cult-like and have an "unhealthy devotion" to him. For example, while both acappella pioneers Wayne Stierle (Candlelite Records) and Stan Krause (Catamount and Cat-Time Records) were instrumental in laying the groundwork for UGHA, their contributions are virtually ignored by Ronnie's selected friends.



On one hand, Ronnie I's stated objective was to "preserve the black group sound of the late 1940's and 1950's." On the other, the UGHA's shows featured performers that were mostly non-African-American. The records he produced were mostly by white groups, a throwback to 1950's covering of black artists' songs.

While admiring the stated goals of UGHA, Santiago is disdainful of the methods Ronnie I chose, including self-marketing, which made him often seem larger than the organization. Plus, he often came off as abrasive and controlling.

While he could be quite generous on occasion, he usually avoided paying groups that performed at UGHA events, believing that the exposure and prestige of appearing should be compensation enough.

The final chapter recounts a controversy regarding the author's acappella book. DJ Christine Vitale criticized the work without even having read it, just on the basis of its not giving enough recognition to Ronnie I and UGHA, even though the UGHA was not even around during the period of time covered by the book.

The Untold Story's 97 pages are a fascinating read with heretofore unreported insights into the complex nature of an important figure in the movement to preserve the urban vocal group harmony genre. It includes a plethora of photos of well-known R&B vocal groups, acappella groups, posters, and record covers.

The book is published by Mellow Sound Press, Glencoe IL. For purchase information, visit www.amazon.com



KEY NOTES

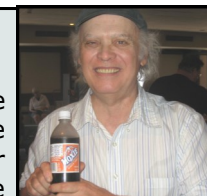
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DECEMBER 2013

OUR
200TH
ISSUE!

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Here we are at the end of 2013 - the year has flown by once again. We're heading into 2014 with some of our best attended shows, both for table bookings and people coming into purchase.

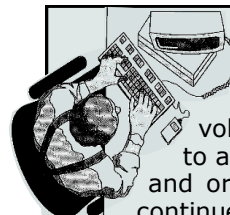


The club is also heading into our 35th anniversary year. That makes the Keystone Record Collectors one of the longest running shows in the country!

As we approach 2014, I want to pass along my thanks to all who are helping to keep the **Keystone Record Collectors** and the **Pennsylvania Music Expo** going as one of the best around!

Lookout 2014.....here we come! Happy Holidays!
Dave Schmidt
2013 KRC President
NRCMusings@aol.com

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR



It is appropriate to thank the 2013 officer team for their hard work. In an all volunteer-run organization, it is not possible to accomplish the many things on our agenda and organize a show every month without the continued efforts of many different people. So, whether it was a small one-time job, or a continued monthly commitment, *thanks for another great year!*

With that being said, the club is still in need of volunteer help with a position...

INTERNET CALENDAR/SOCIAL MARKETING COORDINATOR:

Publicity of our shows and special guests is vital to our continued success. In addition, to traditional promotion (radio/TV/print) we try to market our show via non traditional methods. This includes radio, TV and print internet calendars, along with music and CD/record show publications, Craig's List, Twitter, Linked In, etc. Help is needed to get the word to the list we have built up.

The position does not require your attendance at every show, however they do require computer/internet navigation proficiency. If interested, contact me at bdshaw@lunginfo.org or 717-843-3050.



Derek

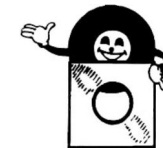
B. Derek Shaw
KEY-NOTES Editor
& Communications
bdshaw@lunginfo.org

KRC MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Buying a club membership for the music collector spouse, cousin, uncle, grandparent, co-worker or friend makes an excellent stocking stuffer gift for the holidays. For a nominal \$15 a year, someone you know can enjoy (or continue to enjoy) a membership in one of the world's largest organizations for music collectors. Membership provides six issues of the **KEY NOTES**, the official club newsletter, 12 issues of **KEY NOTES UPDATE**, a monthly cyberspace communication and show reminder via e-mail. This is in addition to discounts on price guides, chart information books and special music and book offers that appear in **KEY NOTES** from time to time.

Selected music retailers in South Central Pennsylvania offer a cash register discount to card holding KRC members (an up-to-date list of participating retailers is available from Club Secretary, **Erna Reinhart**). If that's not enough, some record/CD shows throughout the Mid-Atlantic region offer discounts to attend their show with a current KRC membership card. What are you waiting for? Sign up your entire neighborhood today! Gift memberships may be obtained by contacting **Erna Reinhart**, 1616 Robert Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, or call 717-314-5009 or e-mail beatlechas@comcast.net

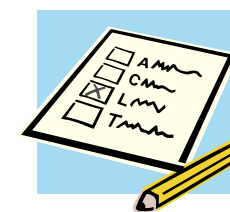


DON'T LOSE IT THIS YEAR!

Your 2014 KRC membership renewal notice is included in this issue of **KEY NOTES** (as usual). It should be returned quickly so it doesn't get mixed in with monthly and holiday bills. Better yet, **renew at the show TODAY**. By renewing your membership early, you will be assured of a listing in the 2014 Membership Directory. You also won't miss out on any special offers that appear in many issues of **KEY NOTES**.



YOUR VOTE COUNTS



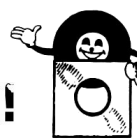
Also included in this issue is a ballot for selecting your 2014 club officer team. To vote, you must be a member for the upcoming year. Please fill out the top part of the form first (Renewal Application), then complete your ballot. Time flies, so don't procrastinate!



#200 December, 2013

Like us on Facebook!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR 2013 OFFICER TEAM!



KRC in 2014

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
(EXCEPT MAY 3 FOR MOTHER'S DAY)

THE CONTINENTAL INN

FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE, SO TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!
ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY OTHER SHOW AT 3:30PM,



Accepting PMA's recognition for MFSB, the group of musicians who created 'The Sound Of Philadelphia' on recordings of Harold Melvin & The Bluenotes, The O'Jays, Billy Paul and others are (l-r) Bobby Eli, Kenny Gamble, and Charles Collins.



Cheri Ross, daughter of **Jerry Ross**, listens as **Kenny Gamble** reads an acceptance speech written by Jerry, who was unable to attend the ceremonies due to illness. Looking on are at left **Jerry Blavat**, and **Joe Tarsia**, PMA board chairman and founder of Sigma Sound Studios.

KEY NOTES

Issue #200 - December, 2013

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PHOTOS: **Kaye Krebs**, **Chris M. Junior**

PROOFREADER: **Semi-Young Steve Yohe**

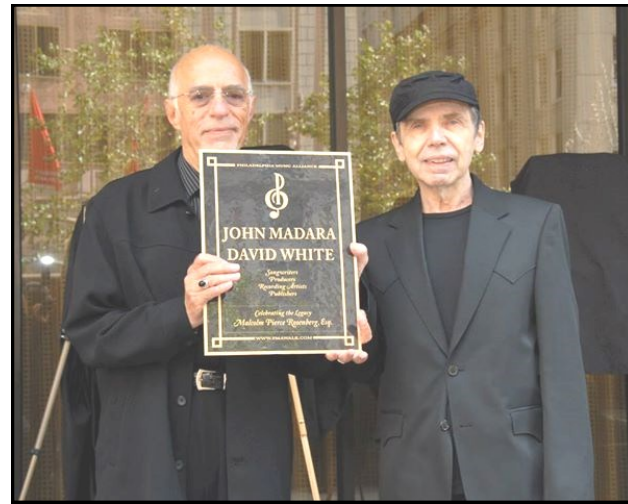
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster, PA 17605

NEWS/PHOTOS/IDEAS: 329 Rathton Road, York, PA 17403-3933

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(Deadline for KEY NOTES#201 is January 12th)

Names in **bold** type are members of Keystone Record Collectors

PHILADELPHIA MUSIC ALLIANCE
2014 Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony

The Philadelphia Music Alliance formally recognized the works of the songwriting and production team of John Madara and Dave White. At the induction ceremonies held in Philadelphia on October 24, the team was presented with a plaque, for their endless musical contributions and hit recordings by artists Len Barry, Lesley Gore, The Pixies Three, Bunny Sigler and others. The PMA event also inducted producer/songwriter Jerry Ross, MFSB, The Salsoul Orchestra, and noted Philly folk music impresario, Gene Shay.



This Cleveland Girl Group were first known as The Sonnets, later becoming The Secrets. "The Boy Next Door" hit #18 in December, 1963. They too were at the recent PMA induction ceremony. **Kaye Krebs** from Hanover PA's Pixies Three (second from right) posed with **Karen**, **Jackie** and **Patty**.

HOW TO REACH US...



www.recordcollectors.org



Find us on Facebook

Keystone Record Collectors



717-898-1246 CALL ANYTIME!



ANOTHER 100 ISSUES OF KEY-NOTES!

By B. Derek Shaw with assistance from Steve Yohe

This certainly is quite an accomplishment! Who would have thought we would still be going strong for 35 years! April, 1997 was when the 100th issue was published. At that time, we gave highlights from many of them along with a history of the club. Let's try that format again.

Issue 101. Jack Supplee was President at the time. Our shows were still in Lancaster Catholic High School Cafeteria. This was when the big US 30 expansion project was just starting (it took many years to complete.)

In August of that year, Club Reservationist **Carole Hertzog** passed away. There was a large article with remembrances from members in #103. The next issue contained a great article on the Payola Scandal. (Subsequent articles focusing on Philly's involvement would appear in later issues, #122 and #123.)

Key-Notes #106 featured an article about recycled music; that is older songs selling products on TV. As the 20th century was coming to a close, Key-Notes #116 was a special 12 page issue that featured a look at the past twenty years of the KRC, written by **Phil Schwartz** and **B. Derek Shaw**.

Key-Notes #120 featured the first of many reviews throughout the most of the decade on the PBS TV show tapings that occurred in Pittsburgh. Nine of us helped the local PBS affiliate staff the phones during a Pledge-A-Thon that featured one of the shows (#121). The next issue featured coverage of the 2nd induction ceremonies at the Vocal Group Hall of fame in Sharon, PA.

Key-Notes #128 featured a list of the top 10 rarest local records. In the next issue (129) we announced the May 19, 2002 one-time-only return to the Columbia, PA market house, where the KRC organization and shows began.

Key-Notes #131 contained a review of the Rockville PA CD release party, which had featured a reunion of South Central PA bands. Number 134 contained a tribute to the late **Ed Lincoln**, renowned Central PA radio air personality and long-time KRC supporter. Issue 137 reported the death of legendary Central PA radio air personality **Doc Dougherty** and a review of the Teen Collectors' Record Guide. Our KRC 25th Anniversary was first announced in issue #141.

Key-Notes #142 contained a tribute to the "Gone But Not Forgotten" Valley Forge Music Fair in Devon, PA. The next issue remembered the late **Bob Bretz**, long-time fixture at our music expos. Issue #146 featured **Doug Smith's** retrospective of our 25th anniversary concert at the Chameleon Club in Lancaster. The Arizona House of Broadcasting was the cover article in issue #148.

Key-Notes #150 reported the death of **Stan Selfon**, former proprietor of Stan's Record Bar, Lancaster. Key-Notes #153 was the first to feature what became an annual favorite - "Thank You for the Music". Tribute was paid to artists who passed the previous year.

Issue #157 featured a tribute to **Herb and Hal Kalin**, who attended a few of our shows, who recently passed. #162 had an article about a local 45 that fetched \$6,101 on e-Bay from a UK northern soul collector. That same issue had a cool article on **Dr. Ted's Musical Marvels** in Dale, IN. The next issue was mostly devoted to our new show site - the PA Jaycees Bingo Hall (which is two locations removed from our current place.)

Issue #165 was another special edition - this time eight pages. The inside four were a special report called "The Record Collector". Written by **Jacqui Durr** for a school project, it was well received. A very well thought out Rock and Roll Timeline graced the back page of #167. **Hard Rock Park** was covered extensively in the next issue in words and pictures. The 45 rpm single turned 60 in 2007 and #173 had a two page spread about the significance.

Key-Notes #176 paid tribute to long time member and vendor, **Ruth Faus** who passed earlier that year. A two page spread on the Pennsylvania Museum of Music & Broadcast History took up the inside of #178. A pictorial spread on what kinds of objects unwanted vinyl can be turned into was found in #180. **Frackville's Jordan Brothers** were the highlight of #182. The next issue paid tribute to more departed KRC regulars, **Geary Kauffman** and **Joe Ronco**.

An unusual 78 rpm manufacturing error was the back page article in #186. In issue #191, the 500th person to "like" Keystone Record Collectors was interviewed about his musical tastes. Also **York teen juke box hangout, The Shady Dell** was highlighted in this issue and the next, #193. **Operation Planotone** was launched in #195 to help **Kenny Vance** recoup some of his music memorabilia since his home was leveled by **Superstorm Sandy**. That man who collects everything on the **Cadence** label wrote an article contained in #196.

K-N #198 reported **Terry Stewart's** retirement as President of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Key-Notes #199 paid tribute to **Dave Kressley**, member and vendor who set up over 300 consecutive shows (minus one due to car trouble). He passed earlier this fall.

There you have it - a glimpse at some of the highlights of our printed publication the past 17½ years. Throughout these one hundred issues the KRC website was added along with a Facebook page to supplement much of this material. Now on to issue #300!