



## Natalie Cole: "Don't Look Back"

Natalie Cole

"We can learn from the past and savor the memories, but we just can't stay there anymore," said Natalie Cole, her eyes reflecting the sunlight pouring through the windows of the home she shares with her husband and musical partner Marvin Yancy in the hills above Los Angeles. The idea is one that is threaded throughout her brand new album, "Don't Look Back," the seventh of her award-winning career.

"Changes were really in the air late last year," she continued. "Marvin and I were looking forward to the new decade, hoping it'd be good for us and good for everyone. The last few years have been rough for a lot of people, ourselves included, and it was time to turn around to see what's ahead."

"We've entered an era of great challenge for all of us, and it's not going to be easy. That's the other side of not looking back—being able to face the unknown with wisdom gained from the past, knowing the pitfalls that await those who aren't prepared. It's the old 'if you fail to prepare, prepare to fail' story. We learn by our mistakes that you can't really take anything for granted."

"And we've learned that good things don't always present themselves immediately. Some things take time to accomplish. You have to learn to keep pushing without getting too impatient, and that's what 'Hold On' is all about. Just accepting that can be the ultimate challenge for a lot of us as we grow."

"I felt too that musically it was time for me to challenge myself again," she said emphatically. "We did a lot of things differently in keeping with that feeling for the new album. Though I've been writing lyrics for several years

now, I'm now a lot less paranoid about putting my deepest feelings on paper for the world to see, and Marvin and I have found we can write incredibly well together. He comes up with great music, and it's just perfect."

"We worked very hard on this album," she notes. "We came to the realization that you can't just punch them out, because once it's done you can't go back for last minute polishing. A lot of time was spent getting everything together before going into the studio this time, and yet there's even more of a spontaneous feel to some of the songs than in the past, when we'd sometimes be writing and rehearsing them right in the studio."

"On past projects, there was a lot of production and orchestral stuff going on, but this time we found tunes that were so good, the rhythm was so hot, that

the orchestration just would have gotten in the way in most cases. Part of that came from using the same great musicians on all the basic tracks. Most of them have worked with us before, and they gave us exactly what we were after—a band sound, a group groove."

On "Don't Look Back," there's one notable extension of that "band sound," titled "Stairway To The Stars," originally recorded by one of Natalie's biggest influences, Ella Fitzgerald. Backing her on the tune is none other than Nelson Riddle and his Big Band.

"It's a tune I've loved for years and years," Natalie smiled. "It's my mother's favorite, too. The song is about aspiring to things you might think are impossible. 'Shoot for the moon and you may catch a star,' as my cousin told me before I started

singing. It's a nice theme, because you only go around once in this life and you owe it to yourself to go as far as you can. Nelson's been part of our extended family for years—as you know he worked a lot with my father. I knew Nelson was the one to work with me on 'Stairway.' We did it live, and I had more fun singing it than I can tell you. The feel Ella gave the tune is the kind of feel I tried to give it—the inflections and nuances of delivery, the phrasing are all very important to making the song come alive."

## Poet's Corner "Our Blood Runs Pure"

by  
F. R. Carney  
(Written with a feeling)

*Our skin has the color of the darkest coal,  
Our lips have the thickness the eyes should behold!*

*Kinky is the texture of our hair and a lean  
Muscled body our men do bear,  
Our women are unique with beauty to spare!*

*Upon us has come the suffering and pain,  
Were we born to suffer and then to gain!  
Yes, because like God we are in his image,  
and we are his tool. .... Born to suffer yet living to rule!*

*To dispise us because of the color of skin,  
Man does this because he only knows sin.  
To beat us 400 years with thy rod, man does this  
because we are more closer to God!*

*In man's land we do roam, but distant drums are  
calling us home,  
Voices are singing a merry song .... Saying come  
home my children where you belong!*

*Yes, I am sure!  
That our Blood Runs Pure!*

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## Reese AFB Christmas Classic Entries Announced

Lieutenant Colonel George D. Wilson, project officer for the sixth annual Reese Air Force Base, Texas, Christmas Classic High School Basketball Tournament, announced last week that fifteen teams are scheduled to play in the December 18, 19 and 20 event.

One slot for a sixteenth team remains open in the small school (Commander's Trophy) division due to the withdrawal of Fabens, Texas, from the Classic, not once, but three times during the past month. Fabens ISD officials attributed their withdrawal to personnel turnover and a lack of communication within their own administration.

Any coach interested in entering his team in the Classic may do so by contacting Lt. Colonel Wilson at Reese AFB at (806) 885-3169, or at home at (806) 794-5682.

Fabens, from district 5-AAA, was scheduled to compete in what, even without them, is the strongest and most representative field ever to play in a West Texas high school basketball tournament. The field in the Commander's Trophy Division will match teams from seven (or eight) different districts, a feat that not even the

University Interscholastic League can match with its four-team Regional playoff.

All of the Commander's Trophy Division teams are mentioned as contenders for their district Championship. Those teams and their districts are: Ballinger (8-AAA), Childress (3-AA), Denver City (3-AAA) the defending champion, Dimmitt (2-AAA), Lubbock Christian (Texas Association of Private Schools), Olney (9-AAA), and Tahoka (4-AAA).

Ballinger and Childress will be playing in the Christmas Classic for the first time ever. Dimmitt will be playing in the

Commander's Trophy Division for the first time. The Bobcats competed in the President's Trophy Division during their powerhouse years of 1977 and 1978, and finished with third and second place finishes respectively.

Lubbock Christian played in the President's Trophy Division in 1978 and 1979 when they recorded a second place finish to Clovis (NM). The Eagles won the first Commander's Trophy Division Championship in 1975.

For the first time since the Christmas Classic began, a defending champion will not be returning to try to secure another leg on the permanent giant traveling trophy. The Clovis,

New Mexico, Wildcats, in the President's Trophy Division champions in 1979 were forced to withdraw due to a New Mexico Activities Association rule which limits a school to one tournament during the 1980-81 academic year. Since the Wildcats have hosted their own very successful tournament annually, they opted to withdraw from the Reese Classic in favor of their own.

Despite the absence of a defending champion, the President's Trophy Division has its most balanced and most representative field ever, with plenty of new faces too. The participating teams and their districts are: Amarillo (3-AAAAA), El Paso (1-AAAAA), Andrews (2-AAAA), Big Spring (5-AAAAA), Lubbock Coronado (4-AAAAA), Canyon (1-AAAA), Lubbock Dunbar (1-AAAA), and Midland Lee (5-AAAAA).

Coronado, Dunbar, Andrews, and Andrews all played in last year's Christmas Classic. Amarillo, Canyon, and Midland Lee will be playing in the Classic for the first time. Big Spring returns to the Classic after an absence of three years.

Andrews won the President's Trophy Division Championship in 1975 and 1978. If they win this year, they will be the first team to retire the permanent traveling trophy in that Division.

## Sheridan's Ride

by Jack Sheridan

New business and old business are on the agenda for this week, past and future on the Lubbock entertainment scene as the heydays of November give us the usual busy performing times. Under new business there are two musical events of more than ordinary interest this weekend and one straight drama on the boards, too.

Leading the musical parade is the racial appearance of young classical pianist, Eliot Fisk, in program at the Hemmle Recital Hall on the Texas Tech University campus (University Center). Fisk is serving a two-day residency on the campus to teach master classes culminating in this public concert. Hailed by such illustrious guitar masters as Andrea Segovia, Alirio Diaz and Ralph Kirkpatrick as a "phenomenon of his instrument," Fisk will be performing works of Haydn, Bach and Paganini, all transcribed by Fisk, and Robert Beaser's (dedicated to Fisk) "Notes on a Southern Sky."

The concert is set for 8:15 p. m. Friday; tickets are available at the door, prior to the concert.

The second major musical event takes place at 8:15 p. m. Monday and Tuesday at the Civic Center Theatre when the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra in its second concert pair of the 1980-81 season presents as guest conductor, the distinguished conductor and arranger-composer of the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra, Richard Hayman. Hayman's conducting embraces many orchestras coast to coast and his work has included composing and arranging for stage and screen scores. He first came to light as composer for the famed Borrah Minneville Harmonica Fancals some time back.

His concert on Monday-Tuesday will include a wide variety, ranging from classical works through popular and show business music. Tickets for the concert pair are still available for either night and will be at the box office in the Civic Center prior to performances.

The drama event this weekend will be the Texas Tech University Centre Theatre production of Arthur Kopit's "Wings." It will open at 8:15 p. m. Friday in the campus installation and will be on view at that time through November 25.

"Wings" traces the recovery of a woman, Emily Stilson, as she deals with a language disorder as a result of a stroke. The difficult role of Emily Stilson has been assigned to Freda Williams. The play has been directed by Ronald Schulz.

This recent production of the Broadway musical fantasy, "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever," by the Lubbock Theatre Centre at the Lindsey Center of the Performing Arts downtown was a mixture of sorts that reminded one of the fabled "little girl." You remember, "when she was good, she was very, very good; when she was bad, she was awful." No great shakes in its initial Broadway bow and lesser so with Barbara Streisand badly miscast in the movie version, the Lubbock essay followed that pattern. Brightest star in the on again-off again constellation was Tech Music Department's P. R. Phenix, in her first lead role in the dual role of Daisy Gamble and Melinda, shining as actress-comedienne and fine singer. Around her the whole show pivoted and she walked away with top honors, indeed. Ron Chancey was the psychiatrist and performed well, though as a singer he is a kind of Rex Harrison "sail along with me" vocalist. The rest of the large cast was adequate and certainly, sole accompanist, pianist Susan Blinderman Carter, covered herself with glory in an onerous task. Set design by Richard Talley and John A. Packard was uniquely workable, while Packard's direction was also workable.

There is a marital comedy of casual infidelity on view at the U. A. South Plains Cinema, entitled "Loving Couples." It stars a miscast James Coburn, a delightful Shirley MacLaine and Sally Kellerman in a smallish part. The result is a slick, surface comedy that has its moments, even if few and far between. I forget to mention there is a winning performance by Susan Sarandon, too. And an Eve Arden kind of role played with chuckles by Nan Martin, veteran players. "Loving Couples" is a feather weight entry, but it may amuse you if you like popcorn enough.

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