

# entertainment

## Local rhythm and blues band relies on obscure composers

By Meg Greene

The Megatones, a local rhythm and blues band, made its Lincoln debut at The Zoo late last December.

Since then, they've played several Lincoln bars and also played as backup group for Freddie King and Willie Dixon at Pershing Auditorium last month.

All the members have played in other bands. Charlie Burton, lead vocalist, guitarist and harmonica player, has with him two ex-members of his Star-Spangled Wranglers: Bill

Dye on guitar and drummer Dave Robel. Rounding out the band is Walt Warnsholtz, saxophone; Gary Spaultie, bass, and Butch Berman, keyboards.

Burton picks the group's music, usually searching for music by such unknowns of rhythm and blues as Mickey Gilley, Jimmy Patton and Billy Lee Riley.

"Obscurity is essential," Burton said. "It's more like we have an awareness of artists who weren't advertised like others. All have been a great influence."

Burton says he believes that rhythm and blues is as new today as when it started. Burton and Warnsholtz also write music.

Burton said it's not necessary to put on an act in order to play good music. In their music, he said, the Megatones strive to play rhythm and blues as it should be played.

The band isn't concerned with hitting it big. Burton said he would like to broaden their circuit, however, and is in the process of talking to out of town people.

As far as performing rhythm and blues, Burton said, he and the Megatones are "sharing their music with everyone. Performing is one of the best ways to tell people that this music is alive and well."

The Megatones will play Saturday at The Zoo.



Megatone Charlie Burton

## Callas' 'Un Ballo' substitute for tour

*Un Ballo in Maschera*, by Verdi

In the wake of Maria Callas' tour of the U.S. and Canada, comes her Seraphim recording of Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*. For those of us who are unable to hear her on tour, this record is a fine substitute.

Tenor Giuseppe di Stefano, who also has been heard rarely in the U.S. in the last decade, plays Riccardo to Callas' Amelia. Di Stefano and Callas make a great team, already evidenced by their 10 other recordings made together for Angel Records at La Scala.

*Un Ballo in Maschera* (A Masked Ball) is one of Verdi's finest vehicles for dramatically skilled singers, and the entire cast is worthy. The story is one of the good old eternal triangle. An American colonial governor loves his best friend's wife, in spite of himself. It's an exciting story, full of intrigue, and Verdi's mature scope provides the frame for a lot of beautiful singing.

This is not a new recording; it's been remastered from an old one. But it's a good one.

*Keep Your Soul Together*, by Freddie Hubbard

Tasteful is a good word to describe Freddie Hubbard. Every release he has made with CTI since his first, *Red Clay*, has been chock full of good taste.

*Keep Your Soul Together* is no exception. While he formerly recorded with such veteran sidemen as Herbie Hancock (in whose band he started his jazz career), Hubert Laws, Joe Farrell and others, this new release has Hubbard working with his own small studio group. The difference is immediately evident; it's neither better nor worse. It's just that this newer album, although cleverly wrought, sounds a little more natural and less rehearsed.

Personnel include Ron Carter, of course, on bass; George Cables, who plays a dynamite electric piano; Junior Cook, whose name I don't recognize, but whose terrific tenor saxophone I will from now on; Ralph Penland on drums; Aurell Ray on guitar; and Juno Lewis on dahka-doom/dahka-de-bello.

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## hot town tonight

Cinema 1: Blazing Saddles, 1:30, 3:08, 4:46, 6:24, 8:02, 9:40 p.m.

Cinema 2: A Touch of Class, 1:45, 3:35, 5:25, 7:15, 9:05 p.m.

Plaza 1: American Graffiti, 1:30, 3:03, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

Plaza 2: Serpico, 2:15, 4:30, 7:15 p.m.

Plaza 3: Mean Streets, (times not available).

Plaza 4: The Last Detail, 1:20, 3:15, 5, 7, 9 p.m.

Cooper/Lincoln: The Legend of Franchise King, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

Douglas 1: The Way We Were, 1:30, 3:29, 5:28, 7:28, 9:32 p.m.

Douglas 2: The Sting, 2, 4:55, 7:09, 9:20 p.m.

Douglas 3: Cinderella Liberty, 1:30, 3:28, 5:26, 7:25, 9:26 p.m.

Stuart: Men of the East, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

State: The Exorcist, 1:15, 4, 6:40, 9:15 p.m.

Friday, March 22, 1974



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