

Lively Arts

SECTION H
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SOUL

At a dingy studio near the airport, a soulful stable of performers has created a style of music that is surging on the pop charts. Some of the singers are stars, but everybody pulls together.

By **BILL COSFORD**
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When you're talking soul records, charting rhythm-and-blues, following the disco sounds, you run into the same names, the shining lights: Motown, Memphis, the Philadelphia Sound, the Miami Sound . . .

The what? Miami's own musical signature, something unique to — and from — the area? Well, the British press thought so as much as a year ago, touting the sound in a series of articles. Here in the States, Rolling Stone conferred legitimacy on the label only last month in a review of Miamian Betty Wright. And the nation's pop and soul charts are sporting unprecedented numbers of Miami soul and blues artists.

Of course, good music coming out of Miami is by no means a new thing. Criteria Studios has been shepherding rock performers such as Stephen Stills, the Eagles, the Bee Gees and Eric Clapton through sessions for chart-busting records for years. But Criteria's clients are mostly out of town.



— KENT BARTON / Miami Herald Staff

Surrounding K.C. and the Sunshine Band, clockwise from bottom left: Latimore, Betty Wright, Gwen McCrae, George McCrae and Timmy Thomas.