



SONDAY NEWS

# TV WEEK

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**THE CARPENTERS**  
MAKE YOUR OWN KIND OF MUSIC  
PREMIERING TUESDAY NIGHT

# The Carpenters, Al Hirt

## —A Winning Combination

Not too many instrumental-singing groups break into the public charts and pick up two Grammy awards in the process, but that's what the Carpenters did in just a few short months.

Richard and Karen Carpenter moved to the top of the nation's music charts when they recorded "Close to You," and quickly repeated the accomplishment with "We've Only Just Begun." Each record sold more than a million copies and brought them two Grammys, one for Best New Group and another for Best Contemporary Vocal Performance.

With this successful background, the brother and sister team, along with trumpeter Al Hirt, step in as co-hosts of the NBC Television Network's new Summer show, "Make Your Own Kind of Music," premiering Tuesday, July 20 at 8 p.m.

Richard, 24, and Karen, 21, were born in Connecticut, into what they term "a musical background." Their father was a record collector so they grew up to the sounds of Harry James, Liberace, Spike Jones, Red Nichols, Les Paul and Mary Ford, "and everything from classical, jazz and swing to dixieland," says Richard.

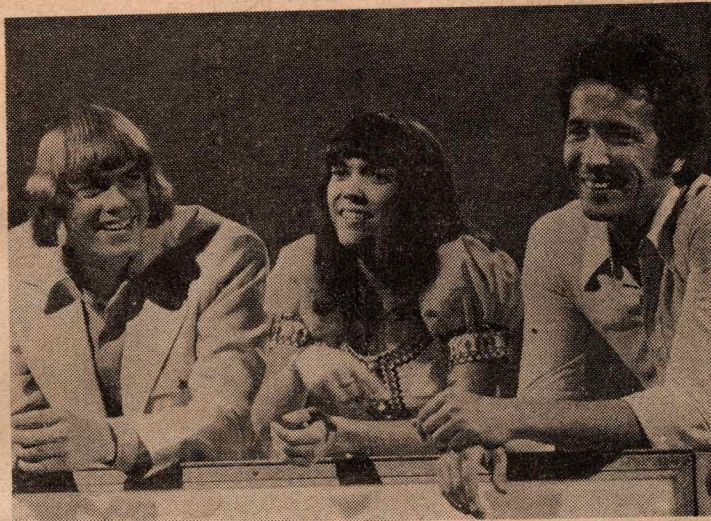
### "MAGIC AGE"

The Carpenters believe the age of 16 was "magic" for them. "I was 16 when I was invited to study at Yale as an advanced student (classical piano major)," explains Richard. "I studied there for a year and started playing clubs. By then, I could play some jazz, you know.

"I played with two other guys who were 26, but I passed for the same age because of the hair style and glasses.

"I was still 16 when we moved from Connecticut to California and I was a senior in high school. I went to USC to study piano and then later to California State College at Long Beach, where I also studied piano."

Karen Carpenter, Richard's drum-playing and singing sister, said it all began for her right after she turned 16. "It seems to a magic age or something,"



HERB ALPERT will be the first guest welcomed by the Carpenters, Richard and Karen, on their new summer show.

she says. "I always dug music when I was little but I was never a fanatic like him (Richard) until I became interested in my junior year in high school. I ended up in the marching band, and a boy I went to school with had been playing drums since he was three and he was really ridiculous! That means 'great.'"

"The drums just fascinated me," she continues, "so I decided to take them up. And the singing and the drumming kind of happened at once. But until then I was more or less a musical waste."

They launched themselves as the Carpenter Trio in 1965, with their friend Wes Jacobs on the tuba and bass. The sound was described as soft rock but the group ran headlong into hard rock music.

They formed a second group of six musicians under the name of Spectrum, but the sound didn't sell.

Then came the soft, upbeat — almost nostalgic — quality that caught two generations in its path, and with a push from Herb Alpert, Richard and Karen were on their way. Alpert heard — and liked — their soft upbeat harmony and suggested they record "Close to You."

Famed trumpeter Al Hirt, whose weight ranges from 250 to 340 pounds (depending on the year and his appetite), will join the Carpenters in co-hosting "Make Your Own Kind of Music" this Summer.

The bearded musician left his hometown of New Orleans to attend the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, but his studies were interrupted two years later by a four-year Army stint. During the 12 years following his discharge, the big man played with name bands all over the country. He began doing club dates of his own, and finally got his big break in television on Dinah Shore's show in the early sixties.

Tours, concerts, recordings, and his own television show in

1965 have made the name Al Hirt synonymous with the trumpet. With two big names like the Carpenters and Al Hirt, "Make Your Own Kind of Music" should be one of the bright spots in Summertime television.