

25TH ANNIVERSARY
TRI-C
JAZZFEST
CLEVELAND
NOW THAT'S A PARTY



jazz & blues report

Published by Martin Wahl Communications

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Jazz Report was founded in Buffalo New York in March of 1974 and began in Cleveland in April of 1978. We are subsidized solely through advertisement and ask that you support our advertisers.

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COVER PHOTOS: Left to Right TOP

Joe Zawinul, Diana Krall,
Tommy LiPuma

BOTTOM:

Dr. John, Regina Carter,
David Sanborn

25TH ANNIVERSARY TRI-C JAZZFEST CLEVELAND NOW THAT'S A PARTY

Cleveland's jazz festival – 25 years and still swingin'!!



For 25 years Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland has been presenting the brightest jazz luminaries – from young lions to the legends. Beyond

world-class performances, JazzFest is nationally recognized as a dynamic force for jazz education, reaching more than 20,000 students annually through clinics, workshops and in-school performances.

In celebration of our "silver" anniversary, Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland will pay tribute to the legendary Horace Silver and award-winning record producer and Cleveland native Tommy LiPuma.

Highlighting the season are two gala concerts with special performances by Diana Krall, George Benson, Joe Sample, Dr. John, Christian McBride, the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, and a host of others. In addition, we acknowledge Cleveland's contributions to the jazz world through performances by Joe Lovano, Jimmy Scott, and an exploration of the works of composer Tadd Dameron.

Our 25th anniversary season truly offers something for every jazz palate, along with our offering of world-class educational events. Come be enlightened, enriched and entertained. Here's to America's most dynamic art form and to 25 swingin' years at Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland!

Terri Pontremoli, Managing Director
Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland

THE MAIN EVENTS

The Main Events listed below are national acts presented at various venues throughout the community. Tickets are on sale now and advance purchase is definitely advised.

Thursday, April 15 - 7:30 p.m. Sam Rivers Trio

Uncompromising and adventurous, with a career spanning more than half a century, Sam Rivers is a formidable artist. His saxophone style has been described as "slippery", coming out of the "snake school" of sax playing represented by players like Coleman Hawkins, Lucky Thompson, Benny Golson and Lockjaw Davis, with a sound that is immediately and uniquely identifiable as his own. Fea-

turing Anthony Cole (drums) and Doug Matthews (bass)

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, 8501 Carnegie Avenue, Phone: 216/421-8671. Tickets: \$25 tickets.com

Presented with the support of WRUW Radio

Friday, April 16 - 8:00 p.m.

GALA BENEFIT CONCERT

"Silver on Silver" features the music of the "Hardbop Grandpop," Horace Silver, whose work with Art Blakey's Jazz

Messengers sparked the beginning of the hard-bop era. His profile as a leader and composer rose for the next two decades, especially with his signature tunes including, "Doodlin'," "Opus De Funk," "Sister Sadie" and "Song For My Father."

Performing the music of Horace Silver: **John Clayton, Al Jarreau, David Sanborn, Joe Sample, The Brecker Brothers, Joe Lovano, Christian McBride, Geoffrey Keezer, Lewis Nash**, and 2003 DownBeat Reader's Poll Big Band of the Year, **The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra**.

Friday, April 16 – 8 p.m.

Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square
Tickets: \$85/100 At all tickets.com outlets. Online at www.tickets.com. By phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048

Presented with the support of Daimler Chrysler, Jeep, The Plain Dealer, The Verve Music Group and WNWV 107.3

Saturday, April 17 - 8:00 p.m.

GALA BENEFIT CONCERT

"The Art of LiPuma" honors Tommy LiPuma, a Cleveland native who began his music career here and has worked for over 40 years to become one of the music industry's most innovative and uniquely creative forces. With twenty-one gold and platinum records to his credit, thirty Grammy nominations, and three Grammy awards, he is one of the most successful pop and jazz producers ever!

Performing in tribute to Tommy LiPuma: **Diana Krall, George Benson, Jimmy Scott, Dr. John, David Newman, Joe Lovano, Christian McBride, Geoffrey Keezer, Lewis Nash**, and **The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra**.

Saturday, April 17 – 8 p.m.

Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square
Tickets: \$85/100 At all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, by phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048

Presented with the support of National City Bank, The Verve Music Group, and WNWV 107.3.

Jazz Meets Hip Hop, Pt. 2

Directed by drummer/percussionist Bill Ransom, who has worked with Najee, Patrice Rushen and Gerald LeVert.

Hip Hop jazz artists mix it up onstage, focusing on the early fusion music of the 70's, including Weather Report, Herbie Hancock and Miles

Davis.

Featuring charismatic genre-bending saxman Mike Phillips, the psychedelic funky grooves of DJ Logic, Joe Miller (trumpet), Bill Ransom (drums), Walter Barnes (bass), Rodney Hubbard (keyboards), and Frank McComb (vocals).

Saturday, April 17

Beachland Ballroom
15711 Waterloo Road
Phone: 216/383-1124, web info at www.beachlandballroom.com

Tickets: \$15/advance \$20/at door
At all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, by phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048

Presented with the support of Coors Light, Urban Dialect and WENZ Radio

Wednesday, April 21 - 7:30 p.m.

Don Braden Organ Quartet

Composer, arranger and stellar saxman, 2004 JazzFest Artist-in-Residence Don Braden (saxophone), swings in concert with Cecil Brooks, III (drummer), Kyle Koehler (organ) and Conrad Herwig (trombone).

"Cookin' Jazz" – The audience will also sample a recipe from Cecil Brooks, III

HealthSpace Cleveland - Auditorium
8911 Euclid Avenue
Phone: 216/231-5010, web info www.healthspacecleveland.org

Tickets: \$20 At all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, by phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048. Parking on site: \$4.

Thursday, April 22 - 8:00 p.m.

Regina Carter Quintet

Regina Carter is considered to be the most significant violinist in jazz since Stephane Grapelli. In a rare feat, Regina recently topped the classical and jazz charts with her cd, "Paganini: After A Dream." She was the first non-classical artist and the first black musician to play Paganini's world famous violin. Regina currently leads her own quintet, with which she has toured extensively. The concert celebrates the Museum's exhibition of Tommy LiPuma's private collection of American Modernism.

The Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Blvd.

Tickets: \$30/22 at the Cleveland Museum of Art box office, y phone: 216/421-7350, online: www.clevelandart.org

Presented with the support of SBC and WCLV Radio

Friday, April 23 - 8:00 p.m.

Joe Zawinul and The Zawinul Syndicate

Now in his 70's, Joe Zawinul shows no signs of slowing down artistically. With a band Zawinul describes as his best since Weather Report, the ever-prolific keyboard virtuoso and bandleader explores an expansive pan-global vision. The Syndicate's international cast features Etienne Mbappe (bass/vocals), Amit Chatterjee (guitar/vocals), Paco Sery (drums/kalimba), Sabine Kabongo (vocals/percussion), and Manolo Badrena (percussion). Winner of 2003 DownBeat readers poll as Best Electric Keyboard/Synthesizer player.

CCC Metro Auditorium

2900 Community College Avenue
Tickets: \$25 At all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, by phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048

Presented with the support of Forest City Enterprises

Saturday, April 24 - 8:30 p.m.

The Spanish Harlem Orchestra

The festival's always popular Latin Night this year moves the audience out of the seats and onto the dance floor for a combined salsa concert and dance! Spanish Harlem Orchestra is a power packed 12-piece all-star band of alumni from the great salsa bands of Tito Puente, Ray Barretto, Willie Colon and Ruben Blades. They have been Grammy nominated and are 2003 Billboard winners in the New Artist Tropical/Salsa category. Dance the night away to high-energy salsa spiced with blaring horns, peppy percussion and exuberant vocals. Free pre-concert salsa dance lessons begin at 8 p.m.

LaCentre

25777 Detroit Road in Westlake
Tickets: \$25 At all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, by phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048.

Presented with the support of Metro Toyota and Bravo!

Sunday, April 25 - 7:30 p.m.

Brian Auger's Oblivion Express

Blending jazz, rock and funky R&B into his own musical hybrid, Brian Auger has had a musical career stretching over four decades. He has been hailed as "The Godfather of Acid Jazz." Auger's newest version of The Oblivion Express is a family affair, featuring Brian on B-3 organ and keyboards, his

son Karma on drums and percussion and daughter Savannah on vocals. Chris Golden (who grew up in Cleveland) plays bass.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum
One Key Plaza

Tickets: \$20 at all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, y phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048

Presented with the support of House of LaRose, Jo Ann Stores and WNCX Radio

The Party Continues

The following events run from March to May at locations all over Cuyahog County. Some are free, others have a cover charge, some are local, some are national acts.

Throughout March & April

Tri-C JazzFest – A Visual Retrospective: 25 Years of JazzFest by Cleveland Artists

Hopkins Gallery – Sponsored by The City of Cleveland

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport **FREE Event**

March 19 – April 10, 2004

“Five Guys Named Moe”

The Beck Center for the Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood
For tickets and information, call 216/521-2540

Presented with the support of Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland

March 19 – April 18

Mary Deutschman and The Jazz Exhibit – jazz paintings

The Beck Center for the Arts – main lobby

17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood
For more information or schedule, phone 216/521-2540 **FREE Event**

March 28 – July 18

Modern American Masters: Highlights from the Gill and Tommy LiPuma Collection

An exhibition highlighting the private collection of Cleveland native and Grammy-Award winning record producer, Tommy LiPuma, featuring selected pieces by leading American artists of the 20th century. Reflecting the personal taste of a man who has a deep passion for experimental American Modernism, the LiPuma collection features works spanning the years 1906-1946 by Alfred Maurer, Marsden Hartley, John Marin, John Graham and Arnold Friedman.

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Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Blvd. in University Circle
For more information, go to www.clevelandart.org or phone 216/421-7340 **FREE**

April 9 - 30

“Its All About Jazz” -exhibition and sale of jazz-themed artworks

The Contessa Gallery
Playhouse Square Center
1501 Euclid Avenue – Suite 112
For information and schedule, phone 216/861-9280

Tuesday, April 13 - 5-7 p.m.

JazzFest 2004 Kickoff Party

Live Jazz Music - Win tickets, cds and t-shirts

Night Town
12387 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights
Phone: 216/795-0550 **FREE Event**

Tuesday, April 13 - 8:00 p.m.

Holly Hofmann/Bill Cunliffe

Night Town
12387 Cedar Road in Cleveland Hts.
Admission charge. For tickets, call 216/795-0550

Wednesday, April 14 - Noon

Opening Ceremonies for Tri-C JazzFest

Tower City Center
Music by The Tri-C JazzFest High School All-Stars; Artist Hector Vega will sign free JF25 posters; Win JF tickets and prize packages! **FREE Event** - the public is invited to attend!

Wednesday, April 14 - 8:00 p.m.

“Lenny & Steve Rediscovered”: The Music of Bernstein and Sondheim

Red {an orchestra}

In 1957, two of America's most remarkable composers, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, created magic with “West Side Story,” but their musical lives flourished separately as well. This program offers a unique opportunity to hear Sondheim's non-vocal music and Bernstein's two great works for the clarinet featuring Cleveland Orchestra principal clarinetist Franklin Cohen.

CCC Metro Auditorium
2900 Community College Avenue
Tickets: \$55/37/26/15
Phone: 440/519-1733, website www.redanorchestra.org

Wednesday, April 14 - 8:00 p.m.

Orrin Evans: “Song For My Father”

The New York Times has called Orrin Evans “a singular young pianist” in

whose sound “You hear an adventurous mind with a refreshing aversion to cliché.” Evans will pay tribute, in words and music, to his late father, Don Evans, a playwright whose works centered on the African-American experience. Among Don Evan's best-known plays are “It's Showdown Time,” “One Monkey Don't Stop No Show,” and “A Lovesong For Miss Lydia.” Don Evans served for several years in the 80s as Artistic Director of Karamu House.

Karamu House

2355 East 89th Street

Presented with the support of WCPN Radio and The CCC Office of Diversity and Community Outreach

FREE Event

Thursday, April 15 - 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Dukes of Wail

Tri-C JazzFest Stage

Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Friday, April 16 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Cats On Holiday

Tri-C JazzFest Stage

Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Saturday, April 17 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Eddie Baccus Quartet

Tri-C JazzFest Stage

Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Sunday, April 18 - 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WNWV Smooth Jazz Brunch

Pickwick and Frolic

2035 East 4th Street

\$24.95 per person

Reservations, call 216/241-74255

Sunday, April 18 - 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.

New Orleans Swingin' Jazz Ensemble

Tri-C JazzFest Stage

Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Sunday, April 18 - 3:00 p.m. The Song Is You: “I Love The Blues – She Heard My Cry: The Impact of the Blues on American Popular Song”

Music historian and radio personality, Bill Rudman, with pianist Joe Hunter, conclude their second season of their popular series on The Great American Songbook. This program features Evelyn Wright on vocals, singing “Stormy Weather,” “Mood Indigo,” “Black Coffee” and more.

CCC Metro Main Stage Theatre

2900 Community College Avenue

Tickets: \$10 at the door on day of show

Presented with the support of WRMR

DIANA KRALL AL JARREAU DR. JOHN
 JOE SAMPLE DAVID SANBORN GEORGE BENSON
 THE BRECKER BROTHERS PAT METHENY
 THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA
 CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE SAM RIVERS DAVID NEWMAN
 JOE ZAWINUL SYNDICATE NEW YORK VOICES
 THE SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA
 REGINA CARTER QUINTET JIMMY SCOTT
 DON BRADEN QUARTET ORRIN EVANS WINARD HARPER
 LEWIS NASH GEOFFREY KEEZER JOE LOVANO
 BRIAN AUGER'S OBLIVION EXPRESS
 JOHN CLAYTON MIKE PHILLIPS DJ LOGIC

CELEBRATING THE MUSICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF
 HORACE SILVER AND TOMMY LIPUMA

OTHER CLEVELAND TEAMS WISH FOR LINE-UPS LIKE THIS!

Tickets on sale NOW at all tickets.com outlets • Online at www.tickets.com

By phone, toll-free at 800-766-6048

For a full schedule of JF events: www.tricjazzfest.com or call 216-987-4400

Get Cleveland info and travel packages: www.travelcleveland.com

25TH ANNIVERSARY
TRI-C JAZZ FEST
CLEVELAND
 NOW THAT'S A PARTY!
 APRIL 14 - 25 - 2004



Friday!
 in
 THE PLAIN DEALER

National City



FOREST CITY
 ENTERPRISES



Continental
 Airlines



DOWN BEAT
 Jazz, Blues & Beyond



Radio

Monday, April 19 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Sammy DeLeon Y Su Orquesta
Tri-C JazzFest Stage
Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Tuesday, April 20 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Tri-Tones
Tri-C JazzFest Stage
Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Tuesday, April 20 - 7:30 p.m.
“Dameron’s Dance”

The music of Cleveland native, Tadd Dameron, is celebrated in this concert featuring Kenny Davis (trumpet), Don Braden (saxophone), Winard Harper (drums), Eric Gould (piano), Robin Eubanks (trombone), Glen Holmes (bass), and Derrick Gardner (trumpet).

Kenny Davis will receive the 2004 Cleveland Jazz Legend Award.

CCC Metro Main Stage Theatre
2900 Community College Avenue
Tickets: \$20 at all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, y phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048

Presented with the support of Bonnie Speed and WCPN Radio

Wednesday, April 21 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

UpEnsemble
Tri-C JazzFest Stage
Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Wednesday, April 21 - noon
Don Braden and Tri-C Jazz Studies Students in Concert

Trinity Cathedral Brown Bag Series
2021 East 22nd Street **FREE Event**

Wednesday, April 21 - 7:30 p.m.
Bernstein Swings! “On The Town” In Concert

Coneived by Bill Rudman and Ernie Krivda. Music adapted and arranged by Ernie Krivda. Features music by swing City with vocalists Bob Becker, Erin Kufel, and Kyle Primous. Choreographed by Pamela Langevin, and danced by Pamela Langevin, Mark Tomasic and Sean Cronin.

“New York, New York – a helluva town!” It’s 1944- wartime. Three young sailors are on 24-hour-leave in NYC, where they find adventure, loneliness and romance as the clock ticks away. Creators Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden, Adolph Green and Jerome Robbins were still in their 20s when they made their Broadway debut with On The Town. Now, 60 years after the premiere

of this trailblazing musical comedy, Tri-C JazzFest will celebrate the Great American Songbook by showcasing the music and lyrics in a one-night-only jazz concert hosted by Bill Rudman.

The Beck Center for the Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood
216/521-2540 **FREE Event**
Presented with the support of WRMR Radio

Thursday, April 22 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.

High School Instrumental Performance Workshops

Main Stage Theatre
CCC Metro
2900 Community College Avenue
FREE Event

Thursday, April 22 - 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Annual Field Trip

“Roads to Freedom”: A celebration of the civil rights movement.

“Move to the Groove”: A history of jazz through dance, visual art and music.

FREE Event; reservations suggested (216/987-4444)

Thursday, April 22 - 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Jazz Giant Series

Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland is a pioneer in educational jazz festivals, featuring world-class artists, as adjudicators and instructors in daily clinics and master classes

Metropolitan Campus Cuyahoga Community College

2900 Community College Avenue

FREE Event

9:30 a.m. Conrad Herwig, III – Studio Theatre 10

11:00 a.m. Don Braden - Studio Theatre 10

12:15 p.m. Ernie Krivda directs student ensemble – Main Stage Theatre

1 p.m. Jackie Warren directs Latin Jazz Jam Session

2 p.m. Kyle Koehler – Auditorium

2:30 p.m. Cecil Brooks, III - Studio Theatre 10

Thursday, April 22 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Blue Lunch

Tri-C JazzFest Stage
Tower City Center **FREE Event**

Friday, April 23 - 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.
High School Instrumental Performance Workshops

Main Stage Theatre
CCC Metro

2900 Community College Avenue
FREE Event

Friday, April 23 – 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Annual Field Trip – free; reservations suggested (216/987-4444)

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2 p.m. Kyle Koehler – Auditorium

2:30 p.m. Cecil Brooks, III - Studio Theatre 10

Friday, April 23

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Recording Arts and Technology Program Demonstration

Theatre Lobby

Bill Hartzell, instructor and audio engineer for Recording Arts & Technology (RAT) will present projects completed by students in the college’s recording technology facilities. Some of the topics covered will include: location recording, multi-track recording and mixing, digital audio editing and microphone techniques.

Friday, April 23 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Dave Sterner Quintet

Tri-C JazzFest Stage
Tower City Center **FREE Event**

April 23 - 9:30 p.m.

The Aphrodisiatics “Live and In Colour”

The Art House

3119 Denison Avenue

Admission: \$7.00 at the door

For more information, call 216/398-8556

Saturday, April 24 - 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

The Mercurys



B. B. King and Robert Lockwood Jr. having a good time on stage. King will be appearing with Bobby "Blue" Bland at the Palace Theatre on Easter Sunday evening, April 11. Lockwood has a brand new CD out on MC Records and a reissue on Savoy. Both are reviewed in this issue. Photo by Ron Weinstock.

Tri-C JazzFest Stage
Tower City Center **FREE Event**
Saturday, April 24 - 1:00 p.m.
"Women in Jazz" – "Thanks for the Memories, Celebrating JazzFest Legends"

Featuring The Jackie Warren Trio with vocalists Evelyn Wright and Laura Varcho

Mt. Zion Congregational Church of Christ

10723 Magnolia Drive **FREE Event**
Saturday, April 24 - 3:00 p.m.

DownBeat Rising Stars Invitational Concert

See and hear The Future of Jazz! A showcase of hot young talent.. America's music lives on in these young musicians!

Featuring The YSU (Youngstown State University) Jazz Ensemble 1, The Tri-C Jazz Studies Alumni, The Tri-C JazzFest High School All-Stars with special guests, saxophonist Don Braden, Conrad Herwig (trombone), Kyle Koehler (organ) and Cecil Brooks, III (drums), and others to be announced.

CCC Metro Main Stage Theatre
2900 Community College Avenue
Tickets: \$10 at all tickets.com outlets, online at www.tickets.com, by phone at 216/241-6000 or toll-free 800/766-6048

Presented with the support of Down Beat

Sunday, April 25 - 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
WNWV Smooth Jazz Brunch
Pickwick and Frolic
2035 East 4th Street
\$24.95 per person
Reservations, call 216/241-7425
Sunday, April 25 - 2 – 4 p.m.

**jazz
& blues**

Ernie Krivda and The Fat Tuesday Band - Saluting the Centennial of Count Basie; put on your dancin' shoes and swing out at The Avenue!

Tri-C JazzFest Stage
Tower City Center
FREE Event

April 27-May 30
"Cookin' at the Cookery"

The Music and Times of Alberta Hunter By Marion J. Caffey
Drury Theatre

Cleveland Playhouse
8500 Euclid Avenue
For tickets/ info, phone 216/795-7000
Presented with the support of Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland

Saturday, May 1 – 7:00 p.m.
"Dancing to Horace Silver"
Music by the Tri-C JazzFest High School All-Stars, directed by Steve Enos. Dance performed by the North Coast Dance Collective, choreographed by Pamela Langevin.

Main Stage Theatre CCC Metro
2900 Community College Avenue
Admission: \$15.00, at the door

Sunday, May 2 - 3:00 p.m.
"Dancing to Horace Silver"
Music by the Tri-C JazzFest High School All-Stars, directed by Steve Enos. Dance performed by the North Coast Dance Collective, choreographed by Pamela Langevin.

Main Stage Theatre CCC Metro
2900 Community College Avenue
Admission: \$15.00, at the door

So there you go. Congratulations to JazzFest on a marvelous 25 years!



March/April 2004 • Issue 267

NIGHT TOWN

12387 Cedar Road
Cleveland Hts.

Reservations: 216-795-0550

JWP

SUN MAR 7 6 PM
MOYA BRENNAN
Vocalist from Clannad. Sister of ENYA. Rare Cleveland appearance.

WED MAR 10 7 PM
DOUG WAMBLE
Marsalis Music Rec. artist. Guitarist and vocalist in Cleveland debut.

THUR MAR 11 8 PM
DOMINICK FARINACCI
Featuring vocalist Ki Allen, pianist Joe Hunter, bassist Peter Dominquez, and drummer Carmen Intorre (Julliard). Playing original compositions with lyrics by Bill Finley

SUN 3/14 7 PM
GEORGE FOLEY
Pianist celebrates CD release with several special guests.

WED MAR 17 ST. PAT'S 7 PM
NEW BARLEYCORN
St. Patty's Day celebration with Irish favorites.

TUES MAR 23 7 PM
LUNASA
Dynamic Celtic instrumental group direct from Ireland

MON-TUES MAR 29-30 7 PM
WINARD HARPER
Drummer extraordinaire lights up NightTown. Savant recording artist.

SUN APR 4 7 PM
ANDY NARELL & SAKESHO
From Paris. Steel pan virtuoso with his French Caribbean group. Heads Up recording artist.

THURS APR 8 8 PM
BUSTER WILLIAMS
Master bassist leads trio with Patrice Rushen-piano, Lenny White-drums.

MON APR 12 7 PM
MADLINE EASTMAN
Vocalist in Nighttown debut.

In Association with
Tri-C JazzFest 25th Anniversary
HOLLY HOFMANN/BILL CUNLIFFE ... APR 13
DAVID BERKMAN TRIO APR 14
DAVID "FATHEAD" NEWMAN APR 18
ALEX SKOLNICK TRIO APR 22
MAY 23 FOUR FRESHMEN

PAGGE SEVERIN

Compact Discs

We only bring you the
Cream of the Crop!

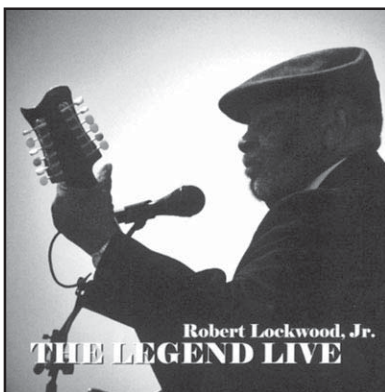
ROBERT LOCKWOOD JR.

The Legend Live
MC RECORDS

This brand-new Robert Lockwood, Jr. album on MC Records is a live solo performance recorded at The Rhythm Room in Phoenix last July. There is little in the way of surprises in the material covered, which ranges from a quartet of Robert Johnson songs (including *Sweet Home Chicago*, *Love in Vain* and *Rambling on My Mind*), and several blues standards including Leroy Carr's *How Long Blues* and *In the Evening*, plus Johnny Temple's *Big Legged Woman*. Lockwood was a sideman when Roosevelt Sykes waxed *Feel Like Blowin' My Horn* for Delmark, and he brings a bit of panache to this along with the swing classic *Exactly like You*.

Having played the twelve string nearly thirty years, it is no wonder that he is able to get such a distinctive sound to match his unique, sophisticated playing while his vocals give no indication that he was 88 when he recorded this. This is another excellent addition to his discography. It's two bad that the wonderful live Japanese recordings he made with the Aces in the 70s, along with a superb 90s Japanese album are currently unavailable in the US, but this will have to suffice for those wanting a document of his marvelous live performances.

Ron Weinstock



tracks, and they add a great deal to the overall success of this project. At times it might remind you of Weather Report, and there is even a glimpse of Wayne Shorter's *Native Dancer* album, but in the end, **These Days** has a sound all its own...and a refreshing one it is. This has a lot to due with Stern's compositions and arrangements, and all eleven here are his.

Also on hand on various cuts are saxophonists Kenny Garrett, Bob Franceschini and Bob Malach; percussionists Arto Tunchoyacyan, Don Alias and Richard Bona (doing triple duty as he also plays bass); Jim Beard on piano and synthesizers and Vinnie Colatua on drums. Also on hand for the pensive ballad "I Know You" is banjo kingpin Bela Fleck.

With all the above-mentioned twists and turns in tempo and musical colorings, there is no way you'll become a bit bored with this one. Just pass GO and keep your finger off the *next* button. In fact, you might just let it play again in the end. Ohhhh...and play it relatively loud for maximum impact to enjoy all the subtleties.

Bill Wahl

RENEÉ AUSTIN

Sweet Talk

BLIND PIG RECORDS

Sweet Talk, Reneé Austin's Blind Pig Records debut, astounds the listener with 11 tracks that showcase the passion and power of this rising blues singer/songwriter.

While the sultry singer clearly feels the most comfortable belting out the blues,

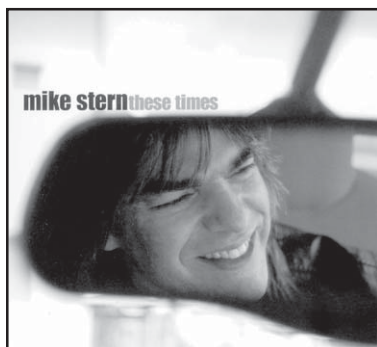
Sweet Talk features well-written songs that range in style from jazzy ballads ("Fool Moon") and Motown memories ("Black Pearl") to gospel gems ("Ain't Nobody,") and in your face rockers ("Not Alone.")

The highlight is the second track "Pretend We Never Met." Renowned keyboardist Bruce McCabe wrote this bluesy, sensuous break-up song. Here, Austin is joined by contemporary blues great Delbert McClinton (a Grammy-Award winner in 1992 for his duet with Raitt) in a dynamite duet.

"Pour the Sugar Slowly," is a grinding, swampy song that highlights the lower levels of the sexy songsmith's five-octave vocal range.

With a voice as powerful as Tina Turner's and as polished as Bonnie Raitt's, Reneé Austin's *Sweet Talk* is sure to satiate the palate of soulful blues lovers everywhere.

David McPherson



MIKE STERN

These Times

ESC RECORDS

From the opening moments of "Chatter," you will know you are in for something different. Quite different. The Middle Eastern groove happening on this opening cut is just one of the

many twists and turns you'll be experiencing before the disc is over. Guitarist/leader Mike Stern, who I first heard with Miles many moons ago, continues to offer fresh up-to-date music and now brings us jazz fusion of the new millennium. While I have not heard his previous album, *Voices*, this is said to be a continuation of that project; and the wonderful vocalise of Richard Bona and/or Elizabeth Kentomanou are heard on many of the

ARTHUR BLYTHE

Exhale

SAVANT

Before the invention of the acoustic bass, there was the tuba. And on this album, you'll hear what we've been missing. Alto saxophonist Arthur Blythe teams up with tuba player Bob Stewart, pianist John Hicks, and drummer Cecil Brooks III on this 2002 studio session containing a mixture of 14 standards and originals.

While Blythe is fluent on uptempo pieces such as Coltrane's "Cousin Mary," his raspy sound and warm tones reign supreme on slower pieces such as the head of the nine-minute version of Coltrane's chestnut, "Equinox" where everyone excels to make it one of the best-ever interpretations of the warhorse classic. Other gems include a boogie-woogie reading of "Night Train," a boppish take on "Just Friends," a drawling "All Blues" (which Stewart makes his own), a lightly swinging sax-piano duo version of "Straighten Up And Fly Right," and more. Giving these

top-notch musicians a little more stretching room, the 11-minute "Exhaust Suite" comprises four tunes, two by Blythe ("Surrender" and "Phase Two"), one by Stewart ("Nonette") and one by Brooks ("LC"), with Hicks switching to organ improves on two pieces.

Prime material, ace musicianship and plenty of imagination and skill make this one of the best recent quartet recordings.

Nancy Ann Lee

MUDDY WATERS

Muddy 'Mississippi' Waters Live SONY/LEGACY

This Sony/Legacy release has blues history stamped all over it. All liner notes are by blues historian Robert Gordan and Bob Margolin. The double set begins with the Disc One; the original album. A 'Medley - 'After Hours/Stormy Monday Blues' commences the action. 'She's Nineteen Years Old', a fave of Buddy Guy, ensues, and the superstitious howl, the 'Howling Wolf', was and still is eerie.

Muddy's 1978 band was equipped with Pinetop Perkins on the piano, guitarist Bob Margolin, guitarist Luther 'Guitar Jr.' Johnson, Calvin 'Fuzz' Jones on bass, Jerry Portney on harp, and Willie 'Big Eyes' Smith on the skins. The original Disc One was produced by Johnny Winter.

Disc Two is definitely live and previously unissued. Disc Two featured Johnny Winter on the axe, Charles Calmese on the bass, Bob Margolin, Pinetop Perkins, Luther Johnson, and Willie Smith. Background vocals are by Perkins and Johnson. This disc illuminates an eleven minute dual solo by Muddy and Pinetop, and a five minute 'Pinetop Boogie Woogie'. The closer/encore is his theme song 'Got My Mojo Working'...appropriate!

The post-war blues patriarch Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield) lives again.

Mark A. Cole

CARIBBEAN JAZZ PROJECT

Birds of a Feather CONCORD PICANTE

Led by vibist Dave Samuels, the Caribbean Jazz Project follows up last year's Grammy-winning CD (*The Gathering*) with an album of Afro-Cuban and Brazilian fare given greater punch and fire with the addition of a trumpet.

Recorded in two separate sessions at Bennett Studios in Englewood, NJ, the 10-tune CD contains seven songs spotlighting Samuels on vibes & marimba with Ray Vega (trumpet), Dario Eskenazi (piano),

Dafnis Prieto (drums), Roberto Quintero (percussion), and Ruben Rodriguez (bass). Three tunes from the second session substitute special guest artists—Randy Brecker (trumpet), Romero Lubambo (guitar), Mark Waller (drums), and Café (percussion) with Samuels, Eskenazi and Rodriguez.

Samuels is a master composer-performer. He and other core CJP musicians contribute most of the tunes and there's not a dull one in the bunch! They've also nicely re-arranged Herbie Hancock's "Tell Me A Bedtime Story" which is played as an Afro/Cha-cha and Charles Mingus' "Weird Nightmare," executed as a 7/4 bolero-cha. Lubambo contributes the melodious samba, "Valencia 1."

These musicians generate exhilarating four-star fare full of percussive and rhythmic complexity. *Nancy Ann Lee*

Catch the **Caribbean Jazz Project** in a live Jazz On the Circle performance on Saturday, March 13 at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

SAVOY BLUES 1944-1994

SAVOY 3CD SET

The historic Savoy catalog has been reissued numerous times over the past few decades, making available seminal reissues of blues, jazz, and rhythm and blues. The catalog may now be in new hands and it seems the label is being mined yet again. One of the new releases is **Savoy Blues 1944-1994** which is a three disc sampler that not only includes classic recordings by Joe Turner, Johnny Otis, Little Esther, Little Miss Sharecropper (Lavern Baker), John Lee Hooker and Big Maybelle, but also recordings by Eddie Kirkland, Robert Lockwood and Charles Brown that reflect the acquisition of the Muse and Trix catalogs to supplement the Savoy classics.

Opening with Hot Lips Page's *Uncle Sam's Blues* and closing with Charles Brown's *I Got a Right to Cry*, the three discs cover a wide spectrum of music including Billy Eckstine's classic *Jelly Jelly*, Gatmouth Moore's *Walking My Blues Away*, Billy Wright's *Stacked Deck*, Doc Pomus' cover of Joe Turner's *Hollywood Bed*, Turner's *My Gal's a Jockey*, John Lee Hooker's *Miss Pearl's Boogie*, Joe Williams' *In the Evening*, Nappy Brown's *The Right Time*, Big Maybelle's *Blues Early, Early (Parts 1 & 2)*, Eddie Kirkland's *Snake in the Grass*, and Robert Lockwood Jr.'s *Selfish Ways*.

A review of these titles should give an idea of the range of material presented

March/April 2004 • Issue 267

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MARCH

Fri. 5 - The Soul Of John Black

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Sat. 6 - Travis "Moon child"

Haddix Record Release Party - Cleveland's answer to B.B. King

Fri. 12 - Magic Slim And The Teardrops - Topsy Chicago BLUES!

Sat. 13 James Armstrong-High Tone recording artist in vion of Robt. Cray

Wed. 17 St. Patrick's Day After the parade (3pm-til ?) The Jimiller Band + Kevin McCarthy. Drink deals & Free Corned beef Sandwich Sub 1-2-3-Free - FREE Admission

Fri. 19 - John Primer - Raw Chicago Blues

Sat. - 20 The Ark Band - Reggae from the south

Thurs. 25 - JT & The Clouds (Formerly The River men)

Fri. 26 - Soul'd Out Record Release Party

Sat. 27 - Debbie Davies Former Albert Collins Guitarist

Sun. 28 Honestly (in from showcasing at SXSW, opening for Third Eyed Blind)

Tues. 30 - Mountain Of Venus with special guest Sean Mullins

Wed. 31 - Roomful Of Blues With special guest Blue Lunch

APRIL

Sat. 3 The Michael Rotman Trio Steely Dan meets James Taylor

Saturday 10 Curtis Salgado Think Bobby "Blue" Bland

Sun. 11 - Joe Deninzon & Stratospheerius - Record release party w/sp guest Jann Kloss-"amazing vocal range...smart pop/jazz sensibilities..." -

Mon. 12 Home Opener Party

MAY

Sun. 2 - Michael McDermott Award winning singer/songwriter out of Chicago

Fri. 14 - Anthony Gomes The new generation of blues guitar GOD!

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here from the swing and uptempo mood of Hot Lips Page and Gatemouth Moore, to John Lee Hooker's delta blues boogie and Eddie Kirkland's mix of soul and delta blues. With good sound and good notes on the performers by compiler Billy Vera, this serves as a solid overview of the riches of the Savoy Catalog and is value priced as well.

Ron Weinstock

DAVE BRUBECK

For All Time

COLUMBIA/LEGACY BOXED SET

Columbia Records/Legacy has been doing a fantastic job of reissuing the catalogues of Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis Thelonious Monk and others either as single discs or boxed sets over the past few years. This Dave Brubeck 5-CD set is their latest offering.

During his time with Columbia Records, Brubeck and his quartet often experimented with odd time signatures outside of the norm for jazz at that time -namely 4/4. They did many jazz waltzes in 3/4, but especially on the five albums in this set, they traveled into other territories...namely 5/4, 6/4, 10/4, 9/8, 11/4 and whatever else would strike their fancy. Then they might change time signatures several times throughout a song to make things even more interesting. The most famous of the songs from these albums is Paul Desmond's "Take Five," played in 5/4 time which was a major jazz hit from their most popular album, 1959's **Time Out**. This quartet was not just a leader with sidemen, but rather a cohesive unit with an instantly recognizable sound all its own. Brubeck, along with Paul Desmond/alto sax, Eugene Wright/bass and Joe Morello/

drums made such timeless (no pun intended) music some 40 years ago that is just as fresh and enjoyable today.

These five albums should be in every Brubeck fan's collection, and these remastered discs with fantastic sound, original and updated liner notes, original cover art and anywhere from one to three bonus tracks (except for the **Time Out** album) collected together in this set would be the best way to acquire them for those who don't already have them on CD (which would be quite a trick...read on). The other albums in the set are 1961's **Time Further Out**, 1962's **Countdown: Time In Outer Space**, 1964's **Time Changes** and 1965's **Time In**. The last three of these are issued here for the first time on CD. An Exceptional set!

Bill Wahl

ANA POPOVIC

Comfort To The Soul

RUF

Living under a repressive relationship will give you the blues. So imagine how magnified that would be if you're living under a repressive government for decades in, let's say, Yugoslavia. That's where 26 year old guitarist Ana Popovic comes in via her second release **Comfort To The Soul**.

Popovic took advantage of the changes in Eastern Europe and relocated to Holland in 1999 to study jazz guitar. Since then she's done a lot of European festivals and touring, which gives even more backbone to **Comfort To The Soul**.

If looking for straight, eight bar blues, this isn't it as Popovic mixes styles left and right, opening with the sonic blast of "Don't Bear Down On Me (I'm Here To Steal The Show)." While her jazz education is put to good use during "Love Me Again" and "Jaco," the title piece and "Change My Mind" both lean into the funkier side of Popovic as she switches gears again during the lighter "Recall The Days."

A lot of time you can read an artist's mind by listening to their pick of cover tunes and Popovic takes on the old Howlin' Wolf classic "Sittin' On Top Of The World," with her slide guitar, plus a smooth remake of Steely Dan's "Night By Night" and a high strung take on Delbert McClinton's "Need All The Help I Can Get."

Popovic is way too young to put in the same breath with Bonnie Raitt, but, if **Comfort To The Soul** is a peek of things to come, then maybe the first impression wasn't that far off.

Peanuts

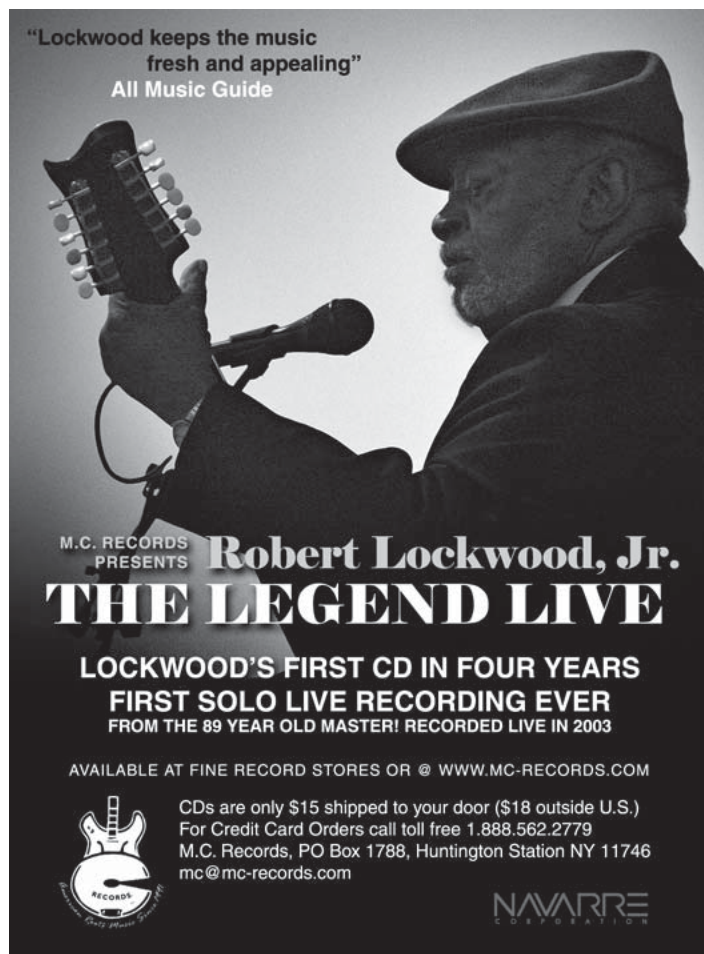
CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE BAND

Vertical Vision

WARNER BROS

Experience and lineage...in the past ten years 31 year old Christian McBride has been featured on over 200 recordings and has toured with such artists as David Sanborn, George Duke, McCoy Tyner, Bobby Hutcherson, Chaka Khan, Joe Henderson, Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln, Milt Jackson, Peabo Bryson, Ray Brown, Natalie Cole, George Benson, Benny Golson, Johnny Griffin, and Isaac Hayes; not to mention gracing the big screen in director Robert Altman's 1940s period piece, "Kansas City". Now let's add in his father, Lee Smith, who played bass for everyone from local Philly Soul superstars like the Delfonics and Billy Paul to Cuban conguero, Mongo Santamaria. Then there's his uncle, Howard Cooper, who played bass with members of the jazz avant-garde, including Sun Ra and Khan Jamal. Needless to say YIKES!!

Vertical Vision is the 6th CD by McBride and the first for the quartet. Keyboardist Geoffrey Keezer, horn player Ron Blake and



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NAVARRÉ CORPORATION

Terreon Gully on drums, the Christian McBride Band weaves through a fusion jazz landscape once visited by such musical favorites as Weather Report, Brand X and more recently Chick Corea's Elektric Band II. Mostly original tunes were written by the various band members with additional contributions by guitarist David Gilmore and percussionist Danny Sadownick. This clearly qualifies as "They just don't make 'em like that any more" and, needless to say, I like it. As an added extra bonus the CD contains two QuickTime movies, one a interesting interview with McBride and a live version of Joe Zawinul tune "Boogie Woogie Waltz" thrown in the web links. All in all, this is a very well put together package.

Jim Martin

Christian McBride will be appearing at the **Tri-C JazzFest** on Fri. & Sat., April 16 & 17. See page 4.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Mid-Priced Mood Pieces

BLIND PIG

Back in the early days of Hi-Fi, "theme" albums were everywhere. Music for lovers, music for dinner, music to excite or soothe you. The artist could be some studio group with some trendy name stuck on or the album could have featured various artists. Blind Pig has drawn on this concept and come up with a rather interesting trio of budget-priced discs culled from their vaults. The results are some nifty sets that work either as background or as tasty up-front variety listening. *Bare Blues* is an all-instrumental set that is varied in sound and mood. Jazz-tinged numbers like the manic or the "Ethel's Place" from Deanna Bogart and Danny Gatton or Chris Cain's sly, mellow "Gin & Soda" brush up against soulful outings like Bill Perry's "Morning Spiritual" and down-home tracks such as Charlie Musselwhite's "Chicago Sunset".

The standards stay high on for-cruisers-only *White Line Play-*

ers and the for-the-lovelorn *If This Is Love I'd Rather Have The Blues*. Past and present label stars represented here include Jimmy Thackery, Tommy Castro, Debbie Davies and Big Bill Morganfield. And like those LP's of yesteryear, the artwork is out to prove that sex still sells.

Duane Verh

PAT METHENY

Selected Recordings

ECM :rarum

ECM's :rarum series continued in February with six more titles from John Abercrombie, Tomasz Stanko, Eberhard Weber, Jack DeJohnette, John Surman, and this Pat Metheny disc. The series offers cuts hand picked by the featured artists from their ECM recordings over the years offered at a sale price.

While some may certainly disagree, I still feel that Metheny's ECM recordings are his finest. Opening with "Bright Size Life," the title cut from his recording debut in 1975 with Jaco Pastorius and Bob Moses, through to another title track, 1984's "First Circle," Metheny has picked a total of nine songs for this set. All are originals by the guitarist, or were co-written by pianist Lyle Mays, except for Horace Silver's "Lonely Woman," the last song on the disc taken from his trio collaboration with Charlie Haden and Billy Higgins titled *Rejoicing*.

He's got so many great cuts from the ECM years that it would be hard for anyone to pick just nine for a retrospective such as this. Good thing he's the one who did it. The other songs heard are "Phase Dance" from **Pat Metheny Group**, "New Chautauqua" from the album of the same name, "Airstream" from **American Garage**, "Every Day (I Thank You)" from **80/81**, "It's For You" from **As Falls Wichita, So Falls**

March

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SAT 6 COLIN DUSSAULT'S BLUES PROJECT
FRI 12 ARMSTRONG BEARCAT BAND
SAT 13 CRUISIN (DANCE, MOTOWN)
FRI 19 KINGBEES
SAT 20 TEENY TUCKER & DRIVIN' WHEEL
(COLUMBUS, OH)

FRI 26 MY THREE SONS
SAT 27 COLIN DUSSAULT'S BLUES PROJECT

April

FRI 2 TONY KOUSSA JR. BAND
SAT 3 COLIN DUSSAULT'S BLUES PROJECT
FRI 9 SAM GETZ BAND
SAT 10 TRAVIS HADDIX BAND
FRI 16 HEART & SOUL
SAT 17 CRUISIN (DANCE, MOTOWN)
FRI 23 DAVE C & THE SHARPTONES
(DANCE & OLDIES)
SAT 24 COLIN DUSSAULT'S BLUES PROJECT
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IN APRIL WED 14 FRAID NOT (MARY BRIDGET DAVIES DANCE BAND)
WED 21 FOREVER RHYTHM & BLUES WITH DiDi WILLIAMS
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Wichita Falls, and the live version of "Are You Going With Me?" from **Travels**.

The first time I heard the Pat Metheny Group I thought it to be incredibly uplifting music that could bring anyone out of a slump. I still feel that way. A must have for any Metheny fan who can't afford all his ECM albums, or a perfect gift for a friend you wish to turn on to some fine music. **Bill Wahl**

ROBERT LOCKWOOD JR. The Complete Trix Recordings SAVOY

The word legend is overused, but it is an appropriate one when discussing Robert Lockwood, Jr. Perhaps best known for his relationship to Robert Johnson, Lockwood was a pioneering electric blues guitarist in the Mississippi delta who played with such legends as Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter, Eddie Boyd, and Roosevelt Sykes, and was a session guitarist in demand in Chicago. Living in Cleveland since the sixties, an appearance at the second Ann Arbor Blues Festival in 1970 led to his reemergence in the National blues scene, although this time as the leading figure of his group.

Savoy Jazz has just reissued **The Complete Trix Recordings** which makes available his 1973 album **Contrasts** and his 1975 session, **Does 12**. This was previously issued on Muse-Trix around 1978 and it's great to have this back in print.

Contrasts included 14 tracks, some with just bassist Gene Schwartz and others with a full band which included tenor saxophonist Maurice Reedus and drummer George Cook. Opening with the stunning slide guitar of *Little Boy Blue*, the album includes a remake of Robert Johnson's *Dust My Broom*

(which Lockwood initially recorded prior to Elmore James although it was not issued until after James') along with St. Louis Jimmy's *Come Day, Go Day*, his uptown *Hold Everything*, and the wistful *Forever on My Mind*. The progressive boppish tinge to the music is evident on the instrumental *Majors, Minors and Ninths*, which is a feature for Saxophonist Reedus.

Does 12 refers to the fact that Lockwood had started using a twelve-string guitar that his wife Annie gave him. Guitarist Mark Hahn is added and Jimmy Jones replaces George Cook on a session that swings and drives hard. From the opening funky reworking of Rosco Gordon's *Just a Little Bit* to the cooking reworking of the radio theme from the King Biscuit radio show, *King Biscuit Time*, the album again shows the breadth of the musical reach of Lockwood and band. There are band reworkings of several Robert Johnson numbers including *Terraplane Blues* and *Walkin' Blues*, a nice feature for Reedus on Gene Ammons' *Red Top* and a choice blues ballad, *Selfish Ways*. Listening to the subtle nuances in Lockwood's tone and his mix of chord and single note runs is a refreshing break from the dime a dozen Stevie Ray clones out there. This is very nice stuff indeed. **Ron Weinstock**

URI CAINE/GUSTAV MAHLER Dark Flame WINTER & WINTER

This album, mostly inspired by German composer Gustav Mahler, provides a strong glimpse into pianist-composer Uri Caine's astoundingly broad talents. Numerous musicians contribute to this unique listening experience, a mixture of European classical, jazz, spoken voice and more.

Philadelphia-born and classically-trained, Caine's been described as "one of the more gifted and intuitive sidemen" working New York's Downtown jazz scene. He's been a frequent collaborator with clarinetist Don Byron, who appears on this 14-track album, Caine's 12th release for the label since 1996. Among other familiar artists on the album are violinist Mark Feldman, bassist Michael Formanek, drummer Jim Black, and trumpeter Ralph Alessi.

Vocalist Barbara Walker provides one of the album's high points on the gospel-tinged "Only Love Beauty," backed by the Kettwiger Bach Choir. Caine stretches out with a rousing jazz solo on nearly 10-minute Mahler-inspired, "Two Blue Eyes," which also includes strings and spoken words (in German). Tunes range in length from 11 minutes to slightly over one minute. Alessi's talents and plump tones are well-displayed in his improvisations on Caine's melodious "Shining Trumpets."

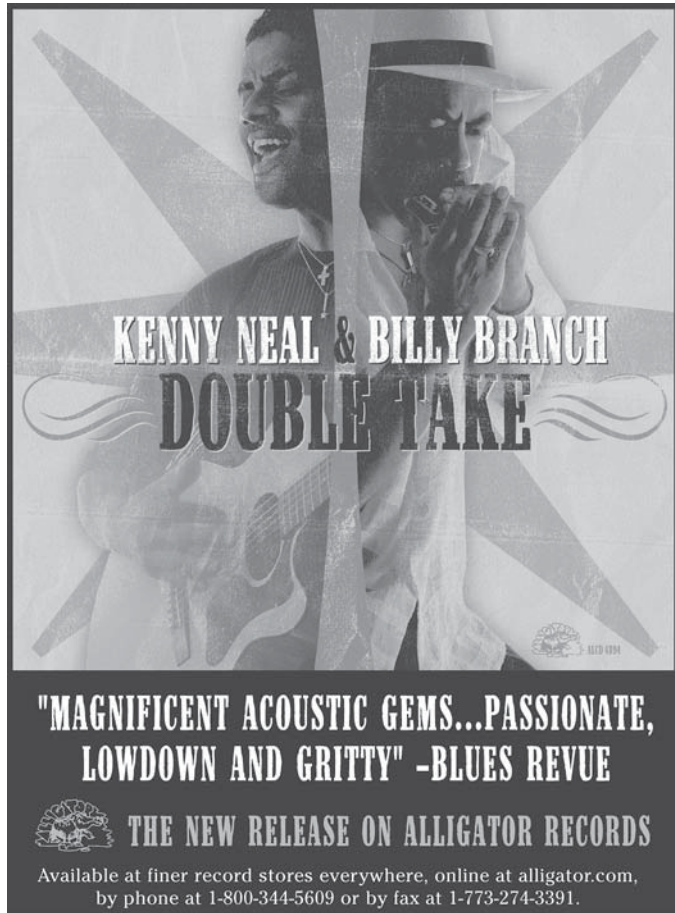
While you won't hear a lot of swinging fare on this album, Caine and colleagues strive to stretch the form, merge global sounds with jazz, and steer listeners in enjoyable new directions.

Nancy Ann Lee

WALTER TROUT Relentless RUF

Like Coco Montoya, guitarist /vocalist Walter Trout is a John Mayall's Bluesbreakers alum. Also like Montoya, Trout is a muscle-bound blues-rocker with chops to spare and an inclination towards crossover music. On

Relentless, Trout splits his time between high-powered blues romps and power ballads that sound radio-ready thanks primarily to his very radio-friendly vocals. The latter will surely put off anyone with purist inclinations but guitar fanciers with fewer



issues in this area, and who like their blues underpinned with rock punch, should find enough good, strong blowin' on this disc to compensate. "Live" production is strong and the format is compatible CD/SACD. *Duane Verh*

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Africa Straight Ahead

HEADS UP

The latest release in the Heads Up Africa Series is this twelve song sampler of eleven bands offering an interesting and diverse program of jazz in Africa. While previous albums in the series, the Smooth Africa issues, focused more on contemporary jazz, this disc brings you the real stuff - hence the title Straight Ahead. You won't be finding any swing, bebop or standards here...all the tunes are originals written by African musicians, except for two written by American bandleaders (heard here with African sidemen) Darius Brubeck (son of Dave) and steel pan master Andy Narell. The only band to be heard twice is The Sheer All Stars, a working quintet assembled by South Africa's premier independent jazz label Sheer Sound

You'll hear a variety of stuff here, from a beautiful ballad from flautist Zim Ngqawanathe to the modal hard bop offerings from Marcus Wyatt, Hotep Idris Galeta and McCoy Mrubata and lots in between. There is not a bad cut to be found here and the set flows extremely well. Any jazz fan who is also into world music will find this to be an outstanding listen.

Bill Wahl

OMAR & THE HOWLERS

Boogie Man

RUF RECORDS

Sometimes Omar Dykes and his Howlers cast a New Orleans flavor where they light, tho' they're from Austin, Texas.

Omar hosts a bevy of guitarists on different songs; Papa Mali Westbourne, Chris Duarte, and Jon Dee Graham. Double Trouble; Chris Layton (drums) and Tommy Shannon (bass) lend a hand on a couple, too. Shannon powers most of the bottom on this cd. Guest vocalist Alejandro Escovedo does his bit, as well. Other sessionists include George Rains, George Reiff, and James Fenner.

Omar's unique voice has the handle on the others though; take 'White Crosses' and 'Shakin'. Omar and the Howlers have a killer album here.

Mark A. Cole

JOHN HICKS

Fatha's Day: An Earl Hines Songbook

HIGHNOTE

Atlanta-born pianist John Hicks, performing with bassist Dwayne Dolphin and drummer Cecil Brooks III, pays tribute to Earl "Fatha" Hines, one of the influential jazz piano stylists. This 12-tune CD is part of a HighNote series of releases by Hicks saluting jazz giants from his adopted city, Pittsburgh.

Competently supported by his cohorts, Hicks dominates this session in trio and solo settings with imagination at the ivories. He keeps his right hand busy, generating melodious lines and expressive phrasing, especially notable on the reinvented Leroy Anderson classic, "Serenata," which Hicks gives a Latinate twist.

Hicks keeps Hines in mind yet has his own eloquent style. Only three tunes are composed by Hines and, of those, the most lively and enjoyable is the track 6 swinger, "My Monday Date," which (finally!) gives Dolphin and Brooks each a little solo space. Hicks contributes five originals and plays unaccompanied on four of them. The remaining tunes are by other composers and include familiar gems such as "Poor Butterfly," "Almost Spring,"

and "Sweet and Lovely," which provide ear-appealing showcases for Hicks' ultra-lyricism.

Hicks fans will not be disappointed. This is one of his best albums. *Nancy Ann Lee*

DETROIT JUNIOR

Live At The Toledo Museum Of Art

BLUE SUIT

It's a known fact musicians wind up with some strange gigs, but, for piano man Detroit Junior, this celebration of the Toledo Museum Of Art's 100th birthday had to be one of the more unusual ones in his long career. An interesting twist is that Junior got to play one of the pieces in the museum, a piano designed by Wendall Castle in 1987 to commemorate the 500,000th piano made by the Steinway & Sons corporation.

Instead of using his band, Detroit Junior flew solo on this gig and through some standards like Little Walter's 1958 gem "Key To The Highway," Brook Benton's 1959 hit "Just A Matter Of Time" and a rolling and tumbling take on Louis Jordan's 1945 classic, "Caledonia." Included in the mix here are a couple Detroit Junior originals, including "Turn Up The Heat" and "If I Hadn't Been High," although he skipped on his most famous song "Call My Job," the latter cut best known to the public via Son Seal's version.

The only negative aspect of the disc is I hope Detroit Junior didn't pay whoever did the art work on the release in cash. The track numbering on the back is off one digit as they didn't count the introduction as track 1. Thus, "Key To The Highway" isn't cut 3, it's cut 4 and all the way down the



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line. Amateur hour, to say the least.

Bottom line on the evaluation is if you like boogie woogie piano music, Live At The Toledo Museum Of Art will give you a grin that'll put the Mona Lisa's to shame. *Peanuts*

LESTER BOWIE BRASS FANTASY

When the Spirit Returns
DREYFUS/BIRDOLOGY

Founded in 1985 by the late Lester Bowie (1941-1999), the dazzling, avant-pop Brass Fantasy band was an audience pleaser that used imaginative tone colors and seemingly subtle scoring of reinterpreted pop favorites, always fronted and led by the inventive trumpeter.

Recorded in 1997, this CD contains tunes by then pop artists such as Biggie Small and Babyface, featured along with songs by Bob Marley, Al Hibbler, and others. Perhaps the most definitively Brass Fantasy number is the percussive, oom-pah re-invention of Marley's "One Love," which spotlights long-time member Bob Stewart's tuba playing. Stewart also adds punch to the band's reinvented version of "Unchained Melody," which features Bowie's finest soloing. Both tunes were arranged by Earl McIntyre, who also arranged or co-arranged (with Bowie) four others. Trombonist Luis Bonilla contributes the beautifully reverent arrangement for the melodious ballad, "Save the Best For Last." Bowie draws on New Orleans influences for the title tune, the rousing album finale and the lengthiest number at 9:25, which spotlights guest vocalist Dean Bowman as well as solid solos from trombonist Gary Valente, and trumpeters Bowie and Gerald Brasel.

Because of different personnel and more serious material in keeping with the title theme, this Brooklyn, NY studio session lacks the fiery wit and spunk of the earlier Brass Fantasy albums which included flamboyant trombonist Frank Lacy and inventive percussionist Famoudou Don Moye. However, this outing's highly enjoyable for the tightly-blended horns arrangements and percussive touches that have become the earmarks of this band. *Nancy Ann Lee*

KENNY TRAYLOR

Tribute
TOPCAT

Guitarist Kenny Traylor started this release as a tribute to Elmore James but ended up taking a detour that resulted in the likes of B.B. King, Big Joe Turner, T-Bone Walker and others getting a nod as well. While the world doesn't really need another set of covers of such chestnuts as Jame's

Shake Your Moneymaker or T-Bone's *Travelin' Blues*, the bulk of the disc is made up of more obscure numbers and a number of Traylor originals that pay tribute by honoring the style of his heroes without covering them note for note. Traylor's fine guitar work is complimented by his soulful vocals as well as by some righteously funky b-3 that would fit nicely on a Ron Levy disc and wailing saxophone that would give Rocky Morales of Doug Sahm's band a run for his money. Overall, a pleasant surprise. *Mark Smith*

DON BRADEN

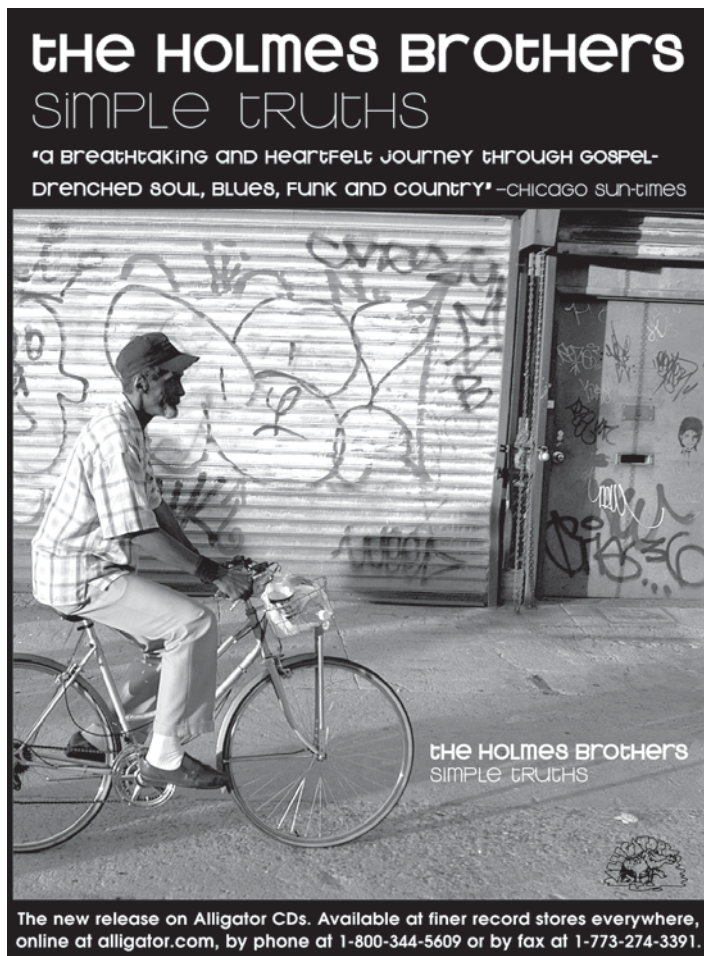
The New Hang
HIGHNOTE

On the verge of what might be a definite breakthrough, tenor saxophonist Don Braden has been at the top of the list among those more informed jazz followers, but has just skirted below the radar of the average consumer. His superb trio of Criss Cross sides in the mid '90s led to a contract with RCA Records that unfortunately didn't deliver the bang for the buck that one would have hoped for. Now he's with another small independent label and the publicity machine is surely on the small side once again, but Braden has stepped up recently with some of his best work, of which *The New Hang* is easily one of his finest records to date.

In an update of the tenor-organ combo, Braden brings on board trombonist Conrad Herwig, organist Kyle Koehler, and drummer Cecil Brooks III. Don't expect a sleepy jam session just by a perusal of the instruments on hand though; these guys wail and the emphasis is definitely on shuffles and backbeat numbers that ignite the solos of Braden and Herwig. As for Koehler, he's definitely more influenced by Larry Young than by Jimmy Smith and his own style is a tasteful mix of standard elements with his own forward-thinking sense of improvisation.

A number made popular by Chaka Khan in the '80s and first recast by Eric Alexander a few years back, "Through the Fire" sheds light on Braden's skills for adapting present-day pop numbers for jazz usage, much like what he's done in the past for his Contemporary Standards Ensemble. "Without a Song" moves at a healthy clip, with the lead horns wasting no time in getting their messages delivered. As a balladeer, Braden is at his most sublime in a duo performance with Koehler on "When I Fall In Love," the tune's extended coda yielding some technically dazzling tenor displays.

The rest of the program contains a variety of Braden originals- including an update of "Wish List"- that explore new hori-



zons within the funky outlook of this very hip ensemble. If there's but one complaint it might be that drummer Cecil Brooks III tends to be on the busy side, yet his bristling approach does tend to spur on the soloists. In the final analysis, Braden's "new hang" is one that you will definitely want to revisit often, as it holds many rewards.

C. Andrew Hovan

Don Braden is the 2004 Artist-In-Residence for the Tri-C JazzFest. The **Don Braden Quartet** will be performing at **JazzFest** on Wed., April 21. See page 3.

OSCAR PETERSON TRIO

Vancouver, 1958

JUST A MEMORY/JUSTIN TIME

Recorded at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver, British Columbia on August 4, 1958, pianist Oscar Peterson, guitarist Herb Ellis and bassist Ray Brown perform six standards and three originals on this previously unissued CD.

Ellis had replaced the group's original member, Barney Kessel, in 1953 and the trio was in peak form by this 1958 appearance, one of their last recordings together before Ellis left the group that year. This recording follows the first volume ("Tenderly") from the same concert.

The straight-ahead fare provides an attractive listen, focusing on all-around musicianship and imaginative solos. Sampling from a history of jazz piano, Peterson's playing contains elements of stride, boogie woogie, barrelhouse blues, impressionism, bebop and swing blended in a virtuosic display that can rapidly shift from filigreed finesse to thundery crescendo. Tunes include "How High The Moon," "We'll Be Together Again," "Joy Spring," "Daahoud," and more. John Lewis' "The Golden Striker," explores Third Stream expressions. Two tunes by Ellis, the ballad "Patricia" and the bopping "Pogo," spotlight the guitarist's mastery. Peterson contributes the elegant extended piece (11:15), "The Music Box Suite (aka Daisy's Dream)."

This is one of those A-plus recordings that invites repeated play for years to come.

Nancy Ann Lee

BLUES WATCH

By Mark Smith


Grammy blues..... Buried in the footnotes of the 46th Annual Grammy Awards, which took place on February 10th, were two awards for achievement in the blues. **And the winners are.....** Best Traditional Blues Album- **Buddy Guy- Blues Singer**; Best Contemporary Blues Album- **Etta James- Let's Roll....** Since both discs also received multiple W.C. Handy nominations it will be interesting to see how the votes of blues fans line up with the Academy of Recording Sciences.... **New Orleans blues awards....** While awaiting the results of the Handy voting, it is always interesting to note how things line up in the musical hotbed of New Orleans. Offbeat Magazine has just announced the 2003 Best of the Beat" awards which honor Louisiana musicians and music venues. Taking home the honors in the blues category were **Tab Benoit- Best Blues Band or Performer**; **Sonny Landreth- The Road We're On- Best Album by a Louisiana Artist**; **Eric Lindell- Best Emerging Band or Performer**. Also of note were the awards for Album of the Year- **Deacon John- Deacon John's Jump Blues**; Guitar Player of the Year- **Walter "Wolfman" Washington**; Harmonica Player of the year- **Johnny**

Sansone; Keyboards/Piano Player of the Year- **Jon Cleary**; Best Record Store- **Louisiana Music Factory**; Best Club- **Tipitina's**; Roots Rock Album and Band of the Year- **The Iguanas- Plastic Silver 9 Volt Heart.... New Release blues....Keb' Mo'- Keep It Simple**; **Omar & The Howlers- Boogie Man**; **Johnny A- Get Inside**; **Tab Benoit & Jimmy Thackery- Whiskey Store Live**; **Randall Bramblett- Thin Places**; **Rod Price (Foghat)- West Four**; **Various Artists- Good Time Blues: The Ultimate Tenor Sax Album**; **Mike Morgan & the Crawl- Live in Dallas**; **Sunnyland Slim- Highway 61**; **Various Artists** (Eddie Campbell, Charlie Musselwhite, Bill Perry, Chris Cain, Mitch Woods, Bob Margolin & others)- **Bare Blues**; **Various Artists** (Jimmy Thackery, Debbie Davies, John Mooney, Studebaker John, E.C Scott, Arthur Adams and others)- **If This is Love... I'd Rather Have the Blues**; **Various Artists** (Johnny Shines, Deborah Coleman, Hamilton Loomis, Lloyd Jones, Jimmy Thackery, Big Bill Morganfield and others)- **White Line Flyers- Mile Melting Road Raves**; **Eric Bibb, Rory Block & Maria Muldaur- Sisters & Brothers**; **Jimmy Dawkins- Tell Me Baby**; **Fillmore Slim- Funky Mama's House**; **Robert Jr. Lockwood, The Legend Live** and **Jimmy D. Lane- It's Time.... License plate blues....** Texas blues fans can soon show their colors with an "Enjoy Texas Music" license plate which features a portrait of Texas blues musician **Blind Lemon Jefferson**. The plates will feature a different Texas musician every two years. Proceeds of the Jefferson plate go to the state's musical education efforts.... See ya!


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