

Jazz compositions featured

Allied Artists Association's orchestral jazz series "Detroit Jazz Composers Live at the Paradise Theater" continues Friday, April 27, at 8 p.m. with concert number two spotlighting the Oakland University (OU) Jazz Studies Program directed by veteran big band saxophonist Marvin "Doc" Holladay.

The concert is headlined by Sam Sanders and Visions, whose members are part of the OU jazz staff, and features the original compositions of multi-reedist Sam Sanders performed by the quartet with the 21-piece Oakland University Jazz Ensemble.

Also featured are two special presentations of contemporary orchestral jazz, "Suite for Duke" (dedicated to Duke Ellington), and Pontiac composer Thad Jones' "Suite for Pops" (dedicated to Louis "Pops" Armstrong).

Led by Doc Holladay, the OU Jazz Ensemble has been specially assembled for this concert from both top-flight students and successful alumni of the OU jazz program.

The Oakland big band will include such current stars of the Detroit jazz scene as tenor saxophonist Peter Wenger, leader of the quintet; impact multi-reedist Michael Blanchard; saxophonist Chris Pitts; and trumpeter Jim Van Dyke of the Evolutionary Jazz Quintet and jazz tuba star Bradley Fell.

The Oakland University Jazz Ensemble was hotly received when it opened Allied Artists Association jazz concert series last year, sharing the stage of The Paradise Theater with Sam Sanders and Visions, Dizzy Gillespie and the Paradise Theater Orchestra on Feb. 3, 1978.

Many members of the OU Jazz Ensemble also work with the Pioneer Jazz Orchestra which, under the direction of Sam Sanders, is currently preparing a new series of Detroit jazz presentations supported by City Arts Grant funding from the Detroit Council of the Arts.

HEADLINE ARTIST Sam Sanders, a founding member of the OU Jazz Studies staff, has performed and recorded with Alice Coltrane, Pharoah Sanders, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Four Tops and many others.

His innovative group, Visions, has been a fixture at Detroit jazz clubs for several years and is currently headlining the Detroit Jazz Artists on Tour, a statewide touring project with Grit Galaxy and The Paradise Theater Orchestra. Visions features premier bassist Ed Pickens, pianist Gary Haverkate and drummer Allen Colding.

Selections from Visions' large and varied repertoire have been specially scored by Sanders and saxophonist Peter Wenger for orchestral presentation with the Oakland University all-star big band.



Sam Sanders and Visions perform.



Doc Holladay and Oakland University Jazz Ensemble play.

concerts

ter Wenger for orchestral presentation with the Oakland University all-star big band.

Doc Holladay, head of the OU Jazz Studies Program, has recorded and worked with Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Eckstine, Dinah Washington, Stan Kenton, Quincy Jones, Mercer Ellington, Woody Herman and the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra.

THE PREMIERE EVENT in the four-concert Detroit Jazz Composers series featured Lyman Woodard, Ron English and Leonard King with the Paradise Theater Orchestra at Orchestra Hall/The Paradise Theater on March 30.

After concert number two Friday, the series will continue with concert number three May 25 featuring Teddy Harris and The Detroit Voices, the Hastings Street Jazz Experience with composers Ed Nelson and Miller Brisker, and the Jimmy Wilkins Orchestra.

Theater plans open houses

Will-O-Way Apprentice Theater, 775 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Township, is offering an opportunity to visit the new spring term classes and participate in theater games during two Open House Weekends: Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22, and Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29.

Celia Merrill Turner, director of Will-O-Way, is inviting teachers and interested summer students who are acquainted with theater training methods that aid the emotional growth of gifted children and enlarge ability to communicate.

To reserve space, call 644-4418. Age groups are as follows:

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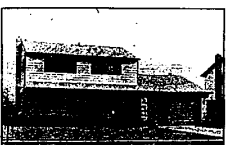
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