

Jazz is in the forefront at Nicky's

Continued from Previous Page

Since then, Walker has worked with Jack Brokensha, Bess Bonnier, Johnny Trudell and Alex Kallao as well as with Jimmy Clark and the WJR orchestra. She's become a favorite around the Bloomfield Hills area because of her annual performances with the Brookside Jazz Ensemble at the Cranbrook cabaret concerts.

BUT, NO matter with whom she sings, she's well known for her sensitive and creative interpretations of every kind of song — from tender ballad to hard-driving jazz tune.

Influenced by singers like Sarah Vaughn and Carmen McRae, Walker said the words are always important to her when singing. "Anyone can get up and sing words," she said, "and it might mean nothing. A good singer knows how to tell a story."

Working regularly with her pianist-husband, Buddy Budson, Walker can be heard not only at Nicky's but frequently as well at Galligan's (Jefferson at Beaubien, Detroit) and at the New Center Park during the New Center Swings free concerts this summer.

SHOO BEE DOO, otherwise known as Reginald Fields, is back in town with a regular gig. The bass player who sings and tosses out humorous vocals and stories, is playing at the Place on Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak.

Fields, who was born in Detroit, is a graduate of Oakland University near Rochester, where he got the nickname Shoo Bee Doo. He has been in Europe for a couple of tours and

has appeared, in 1982 and 1983, at the Montreux Detroit Kool Jazz Festival.

HE HAS always enjoyed putting on a musical show and has never been content to stand on the bandstand and communicate with his music. That's why he generally calls his band the Shoo Bee Doo Show.

And when he performs, what he does can be anything from bebop to avant-garde music — often with some philosophy, poetry or a monologue or two thrown in for good measure.

Fields will be at the Place through June 1.

TWO BIG BANDS, one local and one international, will be playing in the area in May.

The Austin-Moro Band, one of the prestigious local big bands, will be appearing in concert at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday evening.

Around the Detroit area since 1988, the Austin-Moro Band has played in Switzerland at the Montreux Jazz Festival and for the last 12 years has appeared every summer at the P Jazz concerts in Detroit.

THE FOLLOWING week, the Woody Herman band will be at Jamie's on 7 in Livonia on Monday, May 13. It's hard to believe that the Herman Thundering Herds have been thundering and playing big band jazz for about 51 years, but it's true.

For information about Austin-Moro Band at Macomb Center, call 286-2222. For information about Woody Herman at Jamie's on 7, call 477-9077.



Ursula Walker and Buddy Budson entertain Mondays at Nicky's in Troy.



Shelley Berman will play the role of the father who wants his daughter to marry a man he has chosen for her in the musical "Kuni-Leml," coming to the Birmingham Theatre.

upcoming things to do

• 'KUNI-LEML'

Comedian-actor Shelley Berman will star in the musical comedy "Kuni-Leml," opening a four-week run Thursday, May 30, at the Birmingham Theatre. The production, which has been running in New York for almost a year, will play the Birmingham through Sunday, June 30. Based on a universal folk tale, "Kuni-Leml" concerns a headstrong daughter and the man she loves, and her father and the man he's chosen to be her husband. Berman has the pivotal role of the father. Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 12. For ticket information, call the box office at 644-3533. Tickets also will be available at all Ticket World outlets.

• SUNDAY CONCERTS

Orchestra Berman sings the blues, with Jimmy Donnell at the piano, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Somerset Mall in Troy. Other free Sunday concerts in the mall's Center Court feature Mark Bisso, classical and jazz piano, May 12, and the Max Davey Singers in a spring concert, May 19.

• COMEDY COMING

"A Gentleman and a Scoundrel," comedy by Jack Sharkey, will open Friday, May 10, at Somerset Dinner Theatre at Somerset Mall in Troy. Performances will be given Fridays-Saturdays through Aug. 24. Doors open at 7 p.m., with dinner at 7:30 and curtain at 8:45. A sit-down dinner will be provided by Cafe Jardin. For reservations at \$18.95 per person inclusive, call the cafe at 849-1359.

• FOLK MUSIC

A Folk Music Festival sponsored by the Association of Contemporary Liturgical Musicians will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 1087 E. Gardenia at 11½ Mile Road in Madison Heights. Among those participating in the festival will be church folk groups from St. Anastasia and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Troy. The concert is open to the public without charge; a free will collection will be taken.

• 'CABARET' STAR

Peter Burton of Farmington Hills will portray the clown-faced Master of Ceremonies in the musical "Cabaret" presented by the Players Guild of Dearborn, at 8 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, May 3-5 and 10-12, and Friday-Saturday, May 17-18, at 21730 Madison in Dearborn. For ticket information, call 552-5595.

• FUGUE FESTIVAL

Finland Station will join its coach, Dick Sharper, in a Festival of Fugues, a concert of topical folk songs and classical organ music, at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Central Woodward Christian Church in Troy. For tickets at \$5, call 644-0512 in Troy or 962-2770 in Detroit.

• 'GOLDEN POND'

Ridgedale Players will close its 53rd season with the play "On Golden Pond" by Ernest Thompson. Performances will be given Fridays-Sundays, May 3-5, 10-12, and Friday-Saturday, May 17-18. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays. For ticket information, call 598-8565.

• MACCABEES QUEST

The second annual Macabees Mutual Life Insurance "Quest for Excellence," a series of music competitions, will begin Wednesday, Sept. 18. Each program in the series will be broadcast at 8 p.m. Wednesdays on radio station WQRS (105 FM). The quest is being expanded to include young artists from the entire state of Michigan. Applicants must send in

tapes by Monday, July 15. For an application and repertoire list, call 833-6105.

• 'GOD'S FAVORITE'

Bobby Silberberg of Farmington Hills is in the cast of the Rosedale Community Players production of Neil Simon's comedy "God's Favorite." Show dates continue Fridays-Saturdays, May 3-4 and 10-11, in Detroit. Dinner will be served May 4 at a cost of \$12.50. Remaining performances will be cabaret-style at \$5. For tickets, call the Uptate Playhouse at 532-4010 anytime or Margaret Bross at 537-7716.

• IN 'HOLIDAY'

Danny Hixson of Southfield is Johnny Case in Philip Barry's "Holiday," at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through May 18 at the Henry Ford Museum Theatre at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Other area residents in the cast are Joyce Entekin of Troy as Laura Cram, prospective mother-in-law of Johnny Case, and Hildy Corbett of Troy as Susan. Play tickets are \$5.50, a dinner-theater combination is \$18.95, reservations required. For more information, call 271-1620.

• CUNNING STUNTS

Musical oldies will be played by the Cunning Stunts from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Saturday, May 3-4, at the Log Cabin in Lakeville. Members of the group are Kim Fox and Tom Wall, both of Birmingham, and John Miller of Clawson.

• IRISH HERITAGE

Traditional Irish music with Tanist will be featured during a Scholarship Awards reception at 8 p.m. Friday, May 10, at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall in Redford. Tanist is composed of musicians from Redford, Birmingham and Detroit. The scholarships are being presented by the James Joyce Scholarship Fund, a non-profit organization. Students competing were asked to submit one-page essays on their Irish heritage. Dancing, drinks and muckies will be available. Admission is \$5, with proceeds to the 1986 Scholarship Fund. For further information call 534-3653 or 349-5847.

• IT'S 'ANNIE'

The Windsor Light Opera Association will present the musical "Annie" as its 72nd major musical production, with performances Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5, and Fridays-Sundays, May 10-12 and 17-19, at Cleary Auditorium in Windsor. Curtain time is 8 p.m. weekdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$8 Fridays and Sundays, \$9 Saturdays. For ticket information call the box office at 519-252-8455.

• MIMES, PUPPETS

The Mime Street Mime Company and the Puppet Connection will provide free Downtown Detroit days entertainment from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, May 6-8, at the Renaissance Center's World of Shops in downtown Detroit.

• PLAZA ROCK

Radio station WRIF is bringing rock music to Hart Plaza during the Michigan Restaurant Association's Fine Foods Festival on Friday-Sunday, May 3-5, in Detroit. Local bands playing include Adrenaline, the Ergs, the Urbanites, Sun Massengers, Whistles and Domino on Friday. The Look takes the stage Saturday. Steve Kozan will broadcast live from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday from the Plaza.

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