

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, April 21, 1988 O&E

(O)7C

*"The room holds approximately 300 people or a little bit better than that. On opening night, I would assume we had better than 200 people, which wasn't a bad turnout, considering that's the first one we had."*

— Johnny Trudell



Johnny Trudell is co-producer of the jazz series. His big band kicked off opening night at the Bloomfield Hills hotel.



The Marcus Belgrave Sextet was the second week's attraction on the new "Musical Monday Nights" series of offering live entertainment. Big bands or smaller musical groups play for listening and dancing in the Kingsley Grand Ballroom, which has a sunken marble dance floor.

## Jazz fills the scene Monday nights

By Victor E. Swanson  
special writer

A **BENEFIT CONCERT** hosted by the Kingsley Inn on a Monday night several months ago has turned into "Musical Monday Nights," a weekly concert series in the Grand Ballroom of the Bloomfield Hills hotel.

The evenings are devoted mostly to the music of big band jazz, such as the Austin-More Big Band with vocalist Danny Asenzo, who appeared last week, or the Jimmy Wilkins Orchestra with a vocalist, coming up next Monday.

"We get a cross section of people," said bandleader Johnny Trudell, who with Phil Wooldridge is co-producing the Monday events for the Kingsley.

"There have been people who are 20-

25 all the way up to people who are 60."

"Big band jazz — that's the primary focus," Trudell stressed. "It's for listening and dancing." Good, local, smaller groups, such as the Jack Brokenkha Quartet, who played last Monday, also are being booked in. The Marcus Belgrave Sextet headlined the second of "Musical Monday Nights."

"The room holds approximately 300 people or a little bit better than that. On opening night, I would assume we had better than 200 people, which wasn't a bad turnout, considering that's the first one we had," Trudell said.

THE FIRST "Musical Monday Night" on March 21 featured Trudell's orchestra with guest vocalist Orletha Barnes. (The orchestra has been together for more than 20 years and has played at nightclubs and all the big venues of the area, even performing at the Montreux-Detroit International Jazz Festival.)

Inspiration for that first night and the nights that follow occurred a few months earlier. Involved in a benefit concert were Trudell; Phil Wooldridge, a promoter who handles such entertainers as the Spinners; Layla Zawideh, director of marketing for the Kingsley; and Jerry Zawideh, the hotel's director of food and beverage.

"It all got started after a benefit concert for Woody Herman several months ago," Trudell said. "The Kingsley Inn brought in his orchestra and some other folks."

Because the night was successful, the planners thought: Wouldn't it be nice if we could do it every Monday? Trudell and Wooldridge began



JOHN STORMZANO

Phil Loleta (left), Gail Romano and Nancy Harvey relax during an evening of jazz music at the Kingsley.

talking with the owners of the Kingsley Inn — the Zawideh family — about putting on Monday night concerts. A lot of purposes came to mind. For example, one was to build business in the Kingsley's restaurant and another was to supply an entertainment atmosphere on an off-night at the hotel, which is Monday night.

THEY ALSO wanted to showcase local talent.

"We have so much entertainment coming in (to the Detroit area) from the outside. There's a lot of national entertainment here all the time. The local people suffer because of liquor

**Music for 'Musical Monday Nights' at the Kingsley begins at 7:30 and continues until 11 p.m.**

dinner really served in that room or any food served there. It's strictly beverage. They can come and dance and listen to the music."

In the room, people can get light snacks, however. Music for "Musical Monday Nights" at the Kingsley begins at 7:30 and goes on till 11 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person.

ADMISSION IS really inexpensive, he said, considering nearly three hours of music are presented ("three good sets"). The Zawideh family wanted to keep the cost low so that people would return again and again.

Another concert date set is the Brookside Jazz Ensemble, May 2. Local personalities have been featured as master of ceremonies at the series, including CKLW morning-music-man Jay Roberts (who was the all-night radio voice of WJR for 20 years) and Gene Elzy, music director of WJR.

"Hopefully, we can create enough interest," Trudell said, believing the concerts are the only such type of musical event regularly scheduled on a Monday night in the Detroit area.

"People can have dinner in the restaurant in the hotel. There is no

Please turn to Page 6



Guest vocalist Orletha Barnes sang with Johnny Trudell's big band on the first "Monday Night."

**Bernard's RESTAURANT**  
FRESH SEAFOOD • PASTA • COCKTAILS  
5TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL  
**20% OFF** TOTAL FOOD BILL WITH THIS COUPON  
Served Mon.-Thurs. 8:00-9:00 Does not include alcoholic beverage  
Fri.-Sat. 6:00-11:00 Offer expires April 30, 1988  
APPLIGATE SQUARE, NORTHWESTERN AT INKSTER, SOUTHFIELD  
FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS CALL: 353-2757

Since 1883  
**GROBBEL'S**  
CORNED BEEF • PASTRAMI • COOKED BEEF  
QUALITY PRODUCTS DESIGNED TO SATISFY ALL YOUR SNACK, PARTY AND LUNCHTIME NEEDS.  
**"IT'S GROBBELICIOUS"**  
FOR THE GROCER NEAREST YOU, CALL (313) 567-8000.

??  
**ATTENTION TRIVIA FANS**  
Do you watch Jeopardy? Play Trivial Pursuit?  
Know a little about a lot? Play the Trivia Challenge Mondays at 5pm-7pm at Yesterdays lounge in the Southfield Hilton. Just show up to play.  
No fee. Lots of fun. Lots of prizes. FREE hors d'oeuvres.  
To enter team competition call Yesterdays, the Southfield Hilton, 557-4800 Ext. 2256  
YESTERDAYS HILTON  
10000 SOUTHFIELD AVENUE, SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033

**Worth the Drive to Clarkston**  
**Sunday Brunch Buffet**  
Round of Beef, Spiral Ham, Poached Cod Dijon  
Many hot entrees to choose from, Smoked Fish, Fresh Fruits, Homemade Assorted Danish & Pastries, etc.  
\$9.95 Adult  
\$4.95 Children  
Children 4 & Under Free  
**20 Depot Street**  
CLARKSTON MILLS MALL ONE BLOCK OFF MAIN ST.  
**625-5959**  
For information Or Reservations.