





Jazzfest from page E1

In addition to the band of legendary musicians, the Jazzfest also features the bluesy attitude of The Sun Messengers, the raw energy of the well-traveled Straight Ahead and the ethereal sound of flutist Alexander Zovgic. Amid a diverse program in this year's Jazzfest, there's an unmistakable common home-grown feel. But, while the musicians may have a metro Detroit address, there's no pigeonholing their music.


Accessible jazz
"It's a community event, so why not keep it in the community," said Robert Phipps, musical director of the Jazzfest. That's an approach born from necessity as much as tradition. In the last five years, the Jazzfest has continually reinvented itself. In 1993, the festival began with an indoor concert featuring the Johnny Trudell Band at the former Birmingham Theater. But in recent years, the festival had looked to artists on the national jazz scene to compete for audiences in the busiest concert season of the year. Last year's show featured international recording artists Kenny Garrett, Mahogany and alto saxophonist



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WHAT'S NEXT



THIS WEEK

TONIGHT, 7/15 **Air Supply**

TOMORROW, 7/16 **Steven Wright** w/ John Hillon

SAT., 7/18 **Kansas**

SUN., 7/19 **Bela Fleck & The Flecktones**
Alison Krauss & Union Station

MON., 7/20 **Huey Lewis & The News** w/ Box Set

JULY

23 **Art Garfunkel** w/ BR5-49

24 **The Mavericks** w/ BR5-49

25 **Kevin Nealon** w/ Victoria Jackson

31 **Detroit Symphony Orchestra**
The Great Greig Concerto • Conductor: Neeme Järvi

AUGUST

1 **Detroit Symphony Orchestra**
Bravo Beethoven! • Conductor: Neeme Järvi

2 **Summer's Fantastical!** • Conductor: Neeme Järvi

3 **Pinocchio**
Live Stage Presentation of The Children's Classic

7 **Detroit Symphony Orchestra**
"Top Gun" • Conductor: Erich Kunzel

8 **Tchaikovsky Spectacular!** • Conductor: Erich Kunzel

9 **Giants of Broadway** • Conductor: Erich Kunzel

13 **David Grisman Quintet** w/ Leo Kottke

15 **Richard Jeni**

20 **Wizard of Oz**
Live Stage Presentation of The Family Favorite

22 **Carrot Top**

26 **Michael W. Smith**
Featuring Whiskey w/ special guest Chris Rice

30 **Good Guys/ Motor City Nationals**
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Controversy from page E1

Walker at Birmingham's Fort's. "Their quality is on the level of musicianship anywhere in the world."

Forusing the musical biographies of Belgrave and Benson is like taking a stroll through the history of American jazz over the last five decades. Belgrave has toured with Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Mingus, Bud Powell, Aretha Franklin, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Dizzy Gillespie. Meanwhile, Benson has played with Tommy Flanagan, Yusuf Latef, J.C. Heard and performed on many Motown recordings.

While their contemporaries chose paths to other large cities where recording contracts were more lucrative, and opportunities to perform with headlining artists were more plentiful, Belgrave, Benson, Walker, and other world-class jazz musicians chose to stay in Detroit.

And next week, the R.I.K. Reunion Band will remind audiences that world-class musicians are not only from Detroit, but live and perform in the area.


At the end of the early July concert, Benson twisted the mouthpiece from his gold-plated saxophone, and placed it in his case.

At one time, he worked seven days a week, playing gigs in hotels and nightclubs. For a night, he's shown those at the Polish Club in Detroit why his sound continues to resonate.

Benson smiles as he lays his sax comfortably in its sculpted case.

"It's all in a day's work."

But he and Belgrave sure make it seem timeless.



Huey Lewis & The News

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MAC KINAW CROSSINGS CENTER STAGE THEATRE

ried and keeping your baby immoral!" she defiantly added.

"Polish Wedding" has its fair share of controversy, however. Dances' character, Hal, does shots of vodka while she is pregnant.

"She doesn't drink as much as the girl in 'The Shopper,'" Connolly said of "The Commitments."

"This is life. She smokes also. I don't know what to say. What do you want me to say? My mother gave me vodka when I was pregnant? Plus, it's only a little toast," she added with a smile.

The words "pierogi" and "dumplings" are used interchangeably. There is no on-screen Polish wedding. After a deep sigh, Connolly admitted that she hasn't learned to "toughen up."

Not all the reviews have been bad, Connolly added.

"I happen to have spoken to Polish people. Women practically mobbed me. They loved the portrayal of a movie about being Polish. I made a humanistic drama," she said.

Connolly was born to a Polish mother and Irish father. After briefly residing in Hamtramck, Connolly and her family moved to the Six Mile Road area of Detroit and then settled in Royal Oak where she graduated from Dondoro High School.

"Glenn Frey (of The Eagles) used to mow our lawn. It was nice to see this big, hunky guy mowing our lawn. Actually back then all the guys used to mow the lawn with their shirts off," she explained.

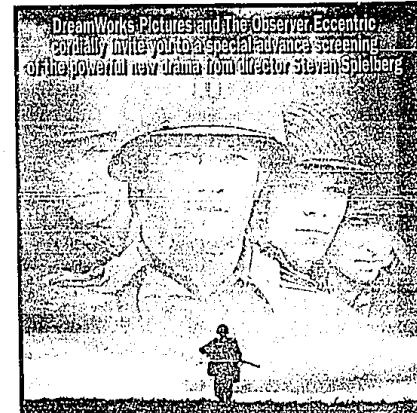
In "Polish Wedding," Connolly shares her love of shirtless men, especially with Trease.

The idea behind "Polish Wedding" began with her mother's funeral where a stranger told her that he had been in love with her mother for most of his life.

"Everybody in my neighborhood is a butcher, baker, police man or factory worker people who seem to live very simple lives. But what I suddenly realized is the epic level of life that goes on behind the appearance of simplicity - lives with great loves that have gone unfulfilled, with children that have been given up, with all kinds of poignancy, ironies and truly poetic beauty. All of it so rarely captured on film," she explained.

Connolly, who lives in Vermont with her husband and children, also explained that she wanted to capture the innocence of Michigan.

"Back then you could drive into a gas station and some kid would come over with his overalls, and he would be wearing a baseball hat. Suddenly, he would pull up his visor and expose these incredible blue eyes and beautiful face. In Michigan, there's unsung beauty every-



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SAVING PRIVATE RYAN OPENS IN THEATRES ON JULY 24