

JAZZ

Musician overflows with Latin rhythms

Jim Stefanson sits intently at a computer. Everyday he works on composing and arranging new works for his Latin Jazz Combine. So much music that it seems to overflow.

"I've got so much music to play," he said.

Though he is reluctant to talk about it, or to make an issue of it, Stefanson has had to make some adjustments in his life and his music.

"Multiple sclerosis has confined him to a wheelchair and he's had to replace his saxophone for a chromatic harmonica. But for Stefanson, the music comes first and he never stops creating."

The Jim Stefanson Latin Jazz Combine will perform at the Michigan Jazz Festival at the Botsford Inn in Farmington, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 19, on the patio stage. The concerts are free.

The current group started in 1988 and has performed at seven Montreux Detroit Jazz Festivals and other gigs. But Stefanson has been performing since he was 15 with a variety of different groups.

"I fell into it," he said. "I always loved jazz."

His first influence was Charlie (Bird) Parker, the legendary bop sax player.

"He was my biggest inspiration. But I was also attracted to exotic rhythms. I studied Afro-Cuban for a lot of years from a friend from South America," he said.

He became co-leader of a salsa band, La Combinacion or The Combination, which played for years around Michigan and Ohio.

Despite Stefanson's love for jazz and Latin music, when asked to name his favorite composers he mentions Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and modern

composers Stravinsky and Bartok.

"I can't pinpoint any arrangers that influenced me, they all have. Arrangers are the unsung heroes, they don't get much mention," he said.

The move from saxophone to harmonica, an instrument usually associated with blues and folk music, hasn't been easy, but it was necessary.

"I try to play it like a sax," Stefanson said. "I can't play it as fast, but I'm just glad I can play something. I don't have the dexterity needed to play the sax. For the harmonica you don't need fingering."

He has listened to some jazz harmonica players like Howard Levy and, also, to the great blues players.

"But I just try to play straight jazz. We do blues, but it's a jazz blues," he said.

Stefanson's group on Sunday will include some of the best area jazz performers. The group includes Russ Miller on alto sax, Steve Wood on tenor sax, Bob Melicia on trumpet, Sven Anderson on piano, Paul Keller on Bass, Tom Brown on drums and Al Naeif on congas.

"Everybody in this band is an excellent soloist, and I like to give them room for solos. Everybody gets a chance to put in their improvised conception," he said.

Playing festivals is fun, but Stefanson wants a more permanent setting for his voluminous compositions.

"There are a lot of places popping up in Birmingham and Royal Oak," he said. "I wish I could get a once a week gig."

Toward that end, the Latin Combine will be recording a CD later this year.

"Once you get at CD, that's your calling card. Hopefully, this will get me more concerts."

**Michigan Jazz Festival**

When: noon to 10:30 p.m. Sunday, July 19.

Where: Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills.

Admission: Free. All ages. Call (248) 474-2720 or (734) 459-2454 for information. Food and beverages offered for sale.

Shuttle: Round trips every 15 minutes between Claronville High School and Botsford Inn. Park your car in the lot at Claronville High School (20155 Middlebelt between Seven Mile and 8 Mile Road. Cost \$2 per car).

**Schedule**

**Innart Group Stage (Patio)**

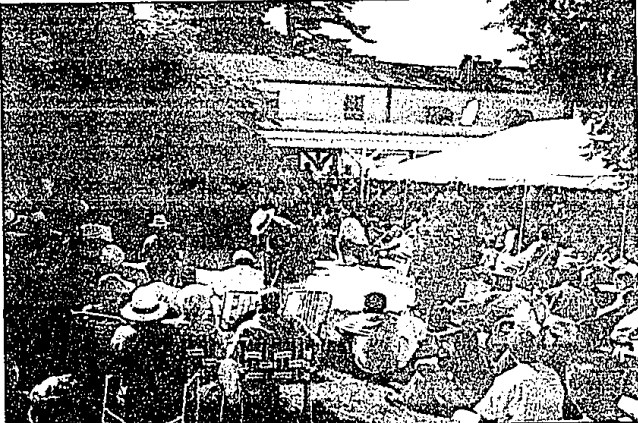
School Jazz Prime - noon-1 p.m.  
Jim Stefanson's Latin Jazz Combine - 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Russ Miller Quintet - 3-4 p.m.  
Matt Michaels/Jack Brokensha Quartet, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
George Benson Quartet - 6-7 p.m.  
Larry Nozero Quartet - 7:30-8:30 p.m.  
Paul Vorn Hagen Quintet - 9-10 p.m.

**Woodbridge Stage (Ballroom)**

Patist Allen Quintet - 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Dennis Tini Quintet with April Tini - 2-3 p.m.  
Jim Wyso Jazz Quintet - 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Alma Smith Quintet - 5-6 p.m.  
Louis Smith Quartet - 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Matt Michaels/Judie Cochill - 8-9 p.m.

**Leah Stage (Tennis Court)**

Janet Tenaj and Friends - 12:15-1:15 p.m.



**WSU Jazztet** - 1:45-2:45 p.m.  
Walter White and IFU-NU - 3:15-4:15 p.m.  
Tom Saunders' Detroit Jazz All-Stars - 4:45-5:45 p.m.  
Ron Kischuk and the Bones of Contention - 6:15-7:15 p.m.  
Beas Bonnier Quartet - 7:45-8:45 p.m.

**Moro/Cohen/Magna Stage (Coach House)**

Hamid Dana and the Detroit Jazz Winds - 12:45-2:15 p.m.  
Eddie Nuccilli Big Band - 3-4:30 p.m.  
Eric Brandon Quintet - 5-6:15 p.m.  
Brookside Jazz - 6:45-8:15 p.m.  
Johnny Trudell Big Band - 9-10:30 p.m.



Enjoying the music: The Michigan Jazz Festival at Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills this Sunday features 14 hours of classic jazz. Saxophonist Larry Nozero and his quartet perform 7:30-8:30 p.m. on the Innart Group Stage.

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

**Restaurant Specials features restaurant openings and renovations, menu specials, and anniversaries. Send announcements to: Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or fax (734) 591-7279.**

**SPECIAL DINNERS**

**PAINT CREEK CIDER MILL & RESTAURANT**

Hosts a wine dinner featuring R.H. Phillips Vineyard Thursday, July 23, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester. The cost is \$60 per person, call (248) 651-8361 for reservations/information. The restaurant is closed Mondays, and serves dinner only 5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, and 5-10 p.m. Friday. Lunch served noon to 3 p.m., and dinner 5-10 p.m. Saturday. Sit down Sunday brunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., dinner served 4-9 p.m.

The Lark

Wood-grilled Brazilian Barbecue Dinner 7 p.m. Monday or Tuesday, July 27-28, 6430 Farm-

ington Road, (north of Maple Road) West Bloomfield. The cost is \$55 per person before other beverages, taxes or gratuity. Last date for cancellations or reductions of reservations without charge is Saturday, July 18. Call (248) 661-4466 for reservations/information, or LARKREST@aol.com on the Internet.

**THEATER**

**DIRELLI'S**

"Divas Do the Movies," a musi-

cal revue, 6:30 p.m. Saturdays to Aug. 29, at the restaurant, 26125 E. Huron River Dr., Flat Rock. \$30 advance, \$35 at door, includes dinner, show, tax and tip. (313) 782-1431

**GENITIV'S**

"Pasta to Pazzia," the story of the marriage of an Italian bride and a Polish groom, through October at the restaurant, 108 E. Main St., Northville. \$39.95 includes seven-course Italian

dinner, show, tax and gratuity. (248) 349-0522

**MENU/MANAGEMENT CHANGES**

**DUET**

Now open for lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, Orchestra Place, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 831-3838. Lunch offerings feature an array of fla-

vorful appetizers, salads, sandwiches, pastas and entrees. Duet is owned by Matt Prentice of Unique Restaurant Corp.

**JERUSALEM INN**  
Israeli-Middle Eastern Cuisine  
Dining In Carry Out Catering  
1475 S. Linden Rd. in Flint (313) 723-7170  
125 east 118, go 1 mile west to Linden Rd., turn right.

**Go Horseback Riding**  
OAKWOOD RIDING STABLES  
2391 Oakwood Rd. Orionville  
Tuesday Special Group Rates Available  
(248) 627-2826

**FRIDAY SPECIAL**  
Fish & Chips (baked or fried) All You Can Eat \$9.95  
**The Botsford Inn**  
Farmington Hills  
(248) 474-8800

**Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE 537-5600**  
2 for 1 LUNCHEON SPECIALS  
Your Choice \$7.95  
VEAL PARMESAN W/IDEAL OF SPAGHETTI  
CHICKEN STEAK W/IDEAL PLAT  
BEEF TIPS IN BURGUNDY W/IDEAL SAUCE OVER  
WOODS OR RICE PLAT  
FISH & CHIPS W/IDEAL SLAW  
R. CLUB SANDWICH  
BAKED OR REGULAR SPAGHETTI  
Includes drink & bread basket  
(No coupons, carry outs or single orders)

**WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT**  
Psychics - Mon., Tues., & Wed.  
Karaoke w/Magic Mike - Wed. & Thurs.  
Dancing to "Second Look" - Fri. & Sat.

**PRIME RIB DINNER**  
includes Salad, Potatoes, Vegetable and Hot Bread \$12.95

**EARLY BIRD DINNERS - \$5.95**  
MUS-FRI 3-6PM ONLY

**Mitch Houseys**  
EVERY TUESDAY  
OLDEST MUSIC  
New Opening...Live  
THE SHOW CASINES

**COCKTAIL BOTH MON-FRI 4-7 PM DAILY**

**FASHION SHOW**  
Thursday  
Starting at 5pm

**BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEONS**  
from \$5.95

**DINNERS**  
from \$6.95

**AMPLE LIGHTED PARKING BANQUET FACILITIES AVAILABLE**

**Mexican Gardens II**  
FAMILY RESTAURANT  
Come feast on Farmington Hills Finest Authentic Mexican Food!  
Buy 1 dinner and receive 1/2 off a 2nd dinner of equal or lesser value (Good Sun.-Thurs., 6:00pm Expires July 23, 1999)  
38600 GRAND RIVER AVE.  
between Halsted & Drake Rds. FARMINGTON HILLS  
(248) 474-8417  
CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

**DESTINATION: CRANBROOK**

Take a day to visit Cranbrook with family and friends!  
There's more to explore than ever before at Cranbrook - more exhibits, more tours, more fun. Jump-start your imagination at our newly expanded science museum. Take a three-hour tour of our National Historic Landmark campus. Stop for a picnic near the science museum or hike lush nature trails. At Cranbrook, you'll find something for everyone to enjoy this summer - rain or shine.

**Institute of Science**  
Check out our newly expanded museum and summer blockbuster exhibit, *The Robot Zoo*! Larger-than-life robotic beasts, including a giant squid with 18-foot tentacles, demonstrate how animals function in the natural world. Be sure to join us for grand opening festivities June 13 and 14!  
The Robot Zoo is sponsored locally at Cranbrook by FANUC Robotics North America, Inc.

**Art Museum**  
Explore an array of contemporary art exhibitions featuring photography, sculpture, ceramics and more. The museum also offers fascinating tours of historic Saarinen House as well as one of the country's finest outdoor sculpture collections.

**Cranbrook House and Gardens**  
Wander more than 40 acres of spectacular gardens surrounding the home of Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Scripps Booth, open daily this summer. Cranbrook House is available for guided tours on Sundays and Thursdays at various times.

For information, call toll free:  
**1-877-GO-CRANbrook**  
1221 N. Woodward Avenue in Bloomfield Hills, just a few miles north of downtown Birmingham.

**CRANBROOK**