

**Fair** from page E1

with Sonny Rollins, among others.

"Every possible groove on this thing was used. There's 16 tracks on there. It was awhile in the making because we come from such different backgrounds," said Mueller, whose band recorded at North Bay Audio in Clarkston and Paradise Productions in Walled Lake.

"He's worked with some heavy, heavy hitters and he lives right here in Detroit."

Williams is a longtime friend of Jazodity bassist Joe Sachs, who also plays with the II V I Orchestra swing band, and trumpet player Cary Heller, both of West Bloomfield. All of them studied with trumpet player

Marcus Belgrave.

Mueller, who grew up in St. Clair Shores and graduated with degrees in philosophy and psychology from the University of California-Santa Cruz, honed his skills by listening to jazz recordings.

"My whole jazz collection is old Blue Note recordings. Freddie Hubbard, Leo Morgan, Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock — those are the guys," he explained.

"When I listen to Art Blakey, I listen and rewind the tape and listen and rewind the tape and try to figure out how he did it. My studying was completely on the street."

**Longtime friends**

Jazodity was formed in October 1997 but "the nucleus of Jazodity was born 15 years ago," when the keyboardist Lance Loisel, formerly of the funk band The Bucket, and his brother, trombone player Jay Loisel, met Heller and Sachs through their participation in competitive marching bands. Heller was friends with Mueller's brother. The Loisels, Plymouth residents and the sons of the city's former mayor Ron Loisel, along with Sachs and Heller met guitarist Marcel Fouch of Livonia at his gig.

Vocalist Jessica Cauffiel, of Ann Arbor, recently left the band

to perform on Broadway but will perform on selected dates.

The road leading to "In the Mix," was a hard one, Mueller explained.

"We were all musicians coming from different backgrounds. We were in the studio for 10 months getting that thing together. It was really a long, hard road."

That drive included headlining Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac for its first gig, opening for Charlie Hunter at the Magic Bag in Ferndale, Groove Collective at the Majestic, and on Tuesday Jazodity will open for Ray Charles on the first day of the Michigan State Fair.

Mueller said he's hoping that Jazodity will soon find a manager and land a record deal. If that doesn't happen by the spring, the band is planning on moving to New York.

"I hope somebody will pick it up, dig it, and say 'Let's get you guys here for a real session.' We're all jazz musicians. Jazz is music in its purest form, really," Mueller explained.

"We acknowledge the fact that music is a lifelong endeavor. When you play life, your whole life comes through you on the stage."

Jazodity performs Thursday, Aug. 20, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, during

a benefit for the Heidelberg Project. The benefit runs from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT or visit <http://www.961melt.com>. The band also opens for Ray Charles at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit; and plays free, all-ages shows at 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Music Menu Cafe in Detroit. For more information, call the Jazodity hotline at (248) 420-6355 or write the band at 29730 Hathaway, Livonia. Under construction now, the Jazodity web site — <http://www.jazodity.com> — should be up and running at the end of September.

**Rivers** from page E1

have to get over this myth that it's wonderful to live to be 200. It's not. Let's get real."

In her book she tries to help women get through it. "Let's stop the hole in the dam, and fight it as much as you can. Women will say, 'what should I get, a new car or a face lift?' Get the face lift. It's better to have a great face coming out of an old jalopy."

She also has a lot to say about mother-daughter relationships. Rivers and her daughter, Melissa, are close now, but there was a time when they weren't.

"It's easy to give birth, taking care of it is hard," said Rivers. "My pediatrician told me you're there to listen, don't judge. Also, remember what you did at their age. Whenever Melissa would want to do something, and I'd

say 'no,' she'd say, 'why not.' I'd ask her, if you had a daughter, and you were in my place, would you let her do that?' she'd say, 'that's not fair!'"

Melissa is Rivers' number one priority. She even has her own special phone line. "When the middle button lights up, I drop whatever I'm doing," she said. Wedding plans are causing some "insanity. There's so much to do. She's in California, I'm in New York."

For more good advice, look for Rivers new book. "It's a letter to my daughter who's getting married," she said. "McCall's is printing excerpts of the book in November."

A jewelry designer, Rivers enjoys helping women look good, and commenting on those who

**■ 'It's easy to give birth; taking care of it is hard. My pediatrician told me you're there to listen, don't judge. Also, remember what you did at their age.'**

Joan Rivers  
On motherhood

don't. Surprisingly she's quite gentle. Who are some of the best dressed women in Hollywood? Vanessa Williams, Sigourney Weaver, Julia Dreyfuss and Nicole Kidman.

"I guess that these girls just love clothes," she said. "The ones that aren't as well dressed get told what to wear and end up looking wrong."

Creating the Joan Rivers Classics Collection line of fine jewelry wasn't something Rivers decided to do on a whim.

"I still sketch, and when I draw, the women always have jewelry," she said. "It was always there, I just never realized it. It's so much fun. You draw heart-shaped, blue earrings, and someone makes them. It's instant gratification."

Telling the truth, being a good mom, and entertaining people, are only part of what Rivers is about. She's the national spokesperson for the Cystic

Fibrosis Foundation, and a champion for many other causes.

"Guide Dogs for the Blind, God's Love — we deliver meals for AIDS patients, no questions asked, adult literacy — reading frees you, everything is worthwhile," she says naming some of her favorite charities. "JOB — Just One Break, offers opportunities for the handicapped."

Besides Melissa, whom she dearly loves, are her other "children" — Spike, Veronica, and Lulu — the dogs who "are great."

"Spike is 14," she said. "I was invited to a party for Tom Hanks, but Spike was operated on for cancer, and I couldn't leave him home alone with a bandage."

Spike is fine now, and Rivers is looking forward to performing at Pine Knob. She's been there before. "It's a wonderful place," she said. "Come and sit under the stars. We'll have a great time."

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