

# Jazz from page B1

vals every summer including The Community House's JazzFest in Birmingham (July 18-20) for which he serves as artistic director.

Zonjie's Detroit Smooth Jazz All-Stars play music from his latest CD *Reach for the Sky* 2 p.m. Saturday.

"It's the caliber of talent that comes into the festival," said Zonjie, the morning show host on Smooth Jazz radio. "It can be pouring rain and these folks stay."

"There's a camaraderie that happens performing on the same stage with so many musicians you have respect for, Rick Braun and Boney James. I'll be there the whole weekend meeting the tenors, people who listen to me every morning. I'm putting together a super group with my existing band. There are so many great musicians who live in this area, to be able to showcase other musicians who have their own careers. Dave McMurray, Tim Bowman. We'll have nine people up there. It's going to be exciting."

"Every time they told me who they chose for the festival I said great, such an amazing lineup, so many different kinds of jazz and they're all viable and smooth jazz gets showcased."

Mention the *Taxi Theme* and everyone knows Bob James's name. The pianist along with Larry Carlton, Nathan East and Harvey Mason perform as Fourplay on Sunday. The group kicked off their tour June 6 in Raleigh, North Carolina. By the end of the year they'll have played in most of the major cities in the country.

At the Smooth JazzFest the audience will hear music from earlier albums as well as from



**Saturday headliner: Boney James is one of two headliners at the Smooth JazzFest this weekend. Five-time Grammy Award winner Al Jarreau performs Sunday night.**

their new CD *Heartfelt* on the reactivated Bluebird label. Fourplay, which previously had been with Warner Brothers, recorded *Heartfelt* earlier this year in Los Angeles.

"I'm especially excited about *Let's Make Love*, which Nathan East wrote and sings, to see

what Detroit audiences think of it," said James.

"My close friend Alexander Zonjie has invited me a number of times to Detroit. The University of Michigan is my alma mater. Even though I wasn't born there, I live in Traverse City."

"I'm a Michigander in heart."

## Ann Arbor turns up the heat with summer events

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Shawnee, Mich. homecomm.net  
If Evy Warshawski had to choose just one of the events taking place during the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, she couldn't. From the Flying Karamazov Brothers' humorous new show to a concert by Corndaddy at Top of the Park, the 19th season promises to be a hit with classical guitar aficionados, fans of the late Harry Chapin, and Shakespeare lovers.

The River City Brass Band, pianist-composer Ahmad Jamal, Ronnie Harris Puremovement (hip-hop), Rockapella, and Manhattan Transfer are just a few of the acts that will take to the stage of the Power Center for the Performing Arts and the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre for paid events.

At Top of the Park, audiences will enjoy a variety of sounds including The Raisin Pickers (folk), Gemini (children's music), The Couriers (big band), Sheila Landis Trio (jazz), and Jeremy Kittel (Celtic fiddle), as well as movies such as *Shrek*, Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, *Chocolat*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, and *Snail Dogs*.

"I love them equally," said Warshawski, festival executive director. "I have two daughters and if I had to pick just one, I couldn't. The festival has such wonderful artistry. It's eclectic. Twenty-two shows in 24 days. The Top of the Park is outside with 24-nights of bands, and movies that run Sunday to Thursday, and it's free."

"At the Power Center Steven Berkoff will bring Shakespeare's

**Ann Arbor Summer Festival**  
**What:** The annual series spotlights music, dance and theater at various locations  
**When:** Friday, June 14 to Sunday, July 7  
**Where:** Power Center for the Performing Arts, East Huron and Fletcher; Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, North University and Fletcher, and Top of the Park on top of the Fletcher Street Parking Structure next to the Power Center  
**Tickets:** Prices vary but average \$20-\$30 for events at the Power Center, \$20 Mendelssohn Theatre. Call (734) 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229. Top of the Park concerts and movies are free.

villains to life. The New York Times gave him fabulous reviews. And the festival commissioned Peter Sparling to create a work about a dancing man at age 60."

Sparling danced with the Martha Graham company for eight years before moving back home to Michigan. He is a professor of dance at the University of Michigan and founder of the Peter Sparling Dance Company which opened the Treetown Festival at the Performance Network in Ann Arbor in late May.

**Bodytalk: A Vaudeville for Dancing Man at Middle Age** premieres at Power Center for the Performing Arts Tuesday, July 2.

"It follows the tradition of a one-man Vaudeville show and is strung together by a script, anecdotes, stories about my life, the way I see the world. I use a video background, text, and music brought together on DVD and I dance to keep up with it," said Sparling who created all of the choreography and video editing for the show.

**Dossin Variations**, part of an installation at the Detroit Institute of Arts last year, illustrates his elementary school days. Spar-

ling spent his teen years in Plymouth before becoming a professional dancer. He's been in the festival as a dancer or as choreographer for members of his company every year but one since 1992. In fact, the Peter Sparling Dance Company debuted at the festival in 1994.

In addition to rehearsing every day for the Ann Arbor Summer Festival premiere, Sparling is creating two new works for a concert at the Performance Network in fall, and a dance set to Chopin's Nocturnes with video highlights of six areas of Michigan. The work premieres Dec. 27, at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"There are 11-acts or short episodes, dance poems, with poetry by myself, Charles Baxter and Linda Gregerson," said Sparling. "A duet with Janet Lilly is a dialogue between a man and woman in a long term relationship. It shows the subtleties of the balancing act. *Studio 54* shows my brief fling in the celebrity set. There's everything from light humorous skits to deep reflection like that found in *The Man and the Mirror*. It illustrates the idea we as human beings are unique."

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