Rooted in soul

Local jazz singer influenced by her deep Motown roots

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Kathy Kosins' still talks about
meeting singer Jackie Wilson at
10 years old. It's one of the experiences she believes led to her
choosing a career in music early

choosing a career in mose care.

Kosins lived until age eight in
Detroit where her father owned a
clothing store. Harry Kosins
ferssed all of the Motown stars,
first at his downtown location and
later in Southfield where Kathy
spent her teen years. By the time
she graduated from Southfield
High School, Kosins was determined to sing her way to the top
even though she'd only had two
lessons in her life.

That was 28 years ago and even

though she's not a household name, local audiences recognize the sound of Kosins' sultry voice from her two CDs. Kosins will per-form selections from the latest release, Mod Suings, Saturday, July 6, at the Comerica Tastefest in downtown Detroit, and July 12-13, at the Bird of Paradise in Ann Arber.

13, at the Bird of Paradise in Ann Arbor.

"I can't say when I started singing," said Kosins, a Birming-ham resident who didn't start out sa jazz singer. 'It felt very natu-ral to sing. I grew up with Motown and Isane Hayes, I loved soul music before soul music was R & B.

"I think there's definitely a transition in the jazz seeps today

transition in the jazz scene today to think outside the box. People

from my generation want to hear things familiar to them, not Gershwin from the 20s and 30s. They want to hear Janis Joplin, Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix.
Hendrix's Foxey Lody is one of the cuts Kosins gives her take on. Released in February after it was recorded in Ann Arber and Chicago, Mood Swings features nearly all originals by Kosins plus the Hendrix tune.
"I started auditioning in my early 20s for top 40 bands, playing six nights a week with bar bands, said Kosins." I always wanted to do songs like the record. I was they ched who would always get fired. I was always interested in taking it in a new artistic direction." I was always interested in taking it in a new artistic direction." Kosins eventually did move in a

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new direction. In the mid 1980s he began writing commercials for Cadillac and Ford and doing weekend band work until heading out to Los Angeles where she kept an apartment. It was destroyed in the 1994 earthquake and she returned to Birmingham when she's lived since the early 1970s. Kosins' had gotten of taste of writing— and performing soon took a

Kosins had gotten of taste of writing — and performing soon took a back burner. She released her first CD, All in a Dream's Work, in 1995 on Schoolkids. Recorded in New York, the album set the tone for Mood Swings on Chiaroscuro.

"I really enjoyed song writing and connected with a woman April Lang, who I met in New York. April had a deep love for Jazz. We ended up writing nine originals together and then I did a demo on my own so I could pitch the songs."

demo on my own so I could pitch the songs."

Kosins pons a drawer filled with tapes she's cut of her original songs. It's obvious she's a prollife composer as well as artist upon looking at the paintings covering the walls of her home. As with her singing, she's solf taught, the acrylic abstracts created during painting sessions with an independent group at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.

The question is where does she find the time. Kosins spends sixelight hours a day calling universities and colleges all over the courty trying to line up work. Next year's andemic tour includes giving seminars and performing in

years academic tour includes giv-ing seminars and performing in jazz festivals in Indiana, Ken-tucky, Arkansas; West Virginia, Washington and Mississippi. She's passing on what she knows about "Hustling the Gig" and per-

about Trusting the Signature of Forming.
"I work hard," said Kosins.
"This is a business. I tell them I'm in sales. I'm a one woman army for getting gigs for myself."



Jazz singer: Kathy Kosins puts heart and soul into her music. Here she performs at the Ford Detroit Interna-tional Jazz Festival last Labor Day in Hart Plaza.

And she's "not content to be locally known." While she enjoyed singing at the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival and The Community House Jazzfest in and Clorkston Cafe last week, Kosins enthusiasm for the business is most evident when talking about playing the Blue Note in New York and Jazz Baktery in Los Angeles. She now in the midst of Booking a European tour for next summer.

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'The Faust Project' cast trades work for play

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
[Schomlindow-homecomm.net]
Producer Marcy Walsh will go to just about
any length to make sure the members of the
Michigan Youth Theater have an opportunity to
spotlight their work.

Earlier last week she was running out the
door to wash cars in order to raise funds for
upcoming productions of The Faust Project, a
modern adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's
story about a man who sells his soul to the devil
in exchange for power and knowledge. The play
premieres 7 p.m. Friday-Saturdoy, June 28-29,
at Grace Hill Church, 3821 South Adams Road,
Rochester Hills.

Rochester Hills.
Tickets are \$7 adults, \$5 students/seniors, and available at the door or in advance by calling (248) 634-5614. For more information, check out the Website at www.michiganyouththe-

ater.org.

"We researched Faust who conquered everything in science until he gets an offer he can't refuse," said Walsh. "The kids developed and wrote the entire production. It's a practice run so we can go to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland:

After playing in Rochester Hills, The Faust Project will be revised to meet requirements for the Canadian opening at the London Fringe Festival in August, and then it's on to Scotland where they plan to travel in 2004. But before then the Michigan Youth Theater porforms during the 50th anniversary of the Stratford Festival in Ontario this summer. After that the troupe tours Michigan high schools as part of a program to develop responsible youth capable of making decisions. Based in Holly, the theater trains young people in the Oakland and Genessee counties area.

Chill out with hot cars and cool music at Pontiac's weekend fest

Wheels and lots of them will et Pontiac's second annual Cool lights festival rolling this week-

Nights festival rolling this weekend.

The downtown Pantine street
fair, concert and firework display has added a ear and truck
show to this year's festivities
and changed its anne to Hot
Wheels, Cool Nights.

Classic cars, concept vehicles,
rods, street machines, musel,
cars, recing vehicles, sports cars,
sport trucks and compacts will
be on display from Friday, June
28-Sunday, June 30. Winners in
various vehicle competition
classes will share a total \$16,000
in cash prizes.

classes will share a total \$15,000 in cash prizes.

The Sports Celebrity Car Competition will include athletes from Detroit and other cities as their vehicles go head-to-head in a car contest. The event will donate \$5,000 to charity.

The festival also will include the Miss Hawaiian Tropic Michi-

gan Summer Regionals competition, with guest celebrity spokesmodels.
Racing fans of all ages can test their skill with Goodyear's Dale Jarrett NASCAR simulator and the Goodyear 'Pit Crew Challenge' competition. The simulator allows visitors to sit in a standard size Ford Taurus, complete with sound and motion effects. The pit crew competition pits teams of three against the clock while they change a tire. Toams use an authentic NASCAR jack and electric impact wrench.
More than 30 musical acts,

NASCAR jack and electric impact wrench.

More than 30 musical acts, including LL Cool J and Johnny Rivers, will perform on two stages during the three-day festival.

tival.
Children can play in the popular NBA exhibit, Rhythm and Rims, an 18-wheel trailer containing an interactive basketball theme park. Or visit the Kids

A life-size Hot Wheels car Twin Mill, will be on display and Hot Wheels designer, Michael Kellins, will be on hand to sign

Cool Nights food and beverage sales will benefit Habitat for Humanity of North Oakland and

other charities. Fireworks will light up the sky at 9:30 p.m., on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29.

Festival hours are 5-11 p.m. Friday, June 28, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, June 29 and 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, June 30, at the top of the Phoenix Center, in parking lot #9 (at the foot of Phoenix Center) and on surrounding

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