

Duo's CD mixes jazz, blues and gospel

BY BREKDA DOMINICK
STAFF WRITER

The duo Dee Brown and Gentry Shelby, known as Shelby Brown, recently released their first CD, *Miracle*, a mix of jazz, rhythm and blues, and gospel/inspirational music.

Their recording label is TREC Records, in Farmington Hills. "I started out in Detroit, grew up in Oak Park and moved here (Southfield) two years ago, and my wife grew up in Huntington Woods," Brown said.

"The dynamic jazz duo met at the end of November 1998, and *Miracle*, which took about eight months to record, was released last year.

"We were introduced by an acquaintance friend who was a saxophone player," he said. "When I first listened to Shelby, I was putting together my own

project as Dee Brown, looking for some kind of tang sound, so to speak."

As the duo took a stab at their first song, *It Feels So Good*, magic happened.

"When we played, we complemented each other, and I liked his tenacity," Brown said.

Another one of their songs, *Only What You Do (for Christ Will Last)*, a gospel tune, was written by Shelby and Randy Scott, a keyboard player.

"If you listen to the song, you're going to hear a little jazzy sound, and a little like Anita Baker," Brown said. "The vocals are there to catch the people who aren't used to jazz music."

Speak to My Heart, originally composed by Dominic Meeks in 1996 by Warner Brothers Records, is an especially important tune for



Brown.

"It is the song I got married to, and then we re-did it as a duo," he said.

Brown said around the sixth grade, he sang in the *Glee Club* and at school, which piqued his interest in music. But a special gift is what really hooked him. "My Grandma gave me a guitar, and some people around

showed me techniques," Brown said. "Then I organized a group and put out our own CD, similar to the Temptations, but more like Jodeci and Boyz 2 Men."

Anita Newby, a locally renowned gospel singer, sang *Only What You Do (for Him)*, the first song on the CD.

Guitar player Brown is a writer, producer and arranger and Shelby plays tenor, alto and soprano saxophone.

"His (Gentry Shelby) role is to get the band members, the audience hyped, and to express himself through the horn," Brown said. "You can see it, you can feel it. There's always something new coming out of him. That's the thing about playing live."

In addition to beginning a career in the music industry, Brown works as a registered res-

piratory therapist in cardio-pulmonary therapy at Providence Hospital, helping people who have problems breathing, such as asthma and bronchitis, as well as running the life-support machines.

Shelby, a Detroit resident, is a municipal worker for the city of Detroit.

Along with being active members of their respective churches, Shelby Brown performs often for churches and charity events throughout metropolitan Detroit.

Shelby Brown's CD is available at Street Corner Music, Tower Records, Harmony House and Amazon.com. To find out more about the group, visit www.trecrecordlabel.com.

But there's more to come with this dynamic duo. "On the next CD, what we want to focus on is all live

music," Brown said. "This is the way I envisioned it originally. We want to go back to the way music was originally made."

"I plan on doing maybe one or two songs vocal."

Brown said though he loves living in the city of Southfield, he'd like to see more jazz in it. "They used to have the Smooth Jazz Concert with V98.7 here at Street Corner Music, but now there aren't not too many places to play jazz," he said. "The jazz theme in Southfield could basically use a face lift. There's not a lot of clubs, like in Royal Oak and Detroit."

Brown explains the beauty of his work. "We can express our music through our instruments and music is the expression of how we feel," he said.

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Here's how to use filters for black and white photography

Recently, I wrote about the filters that were important with color photography. For black and white lovers,

there are important filters, too.

Similar to color photography, the right filter with black and white film can turn an ordinary picture into something quite special.

Today, I'm going to discuss the filters essential for black and

white photography.

RED-ORANGE-YELLOW FAMILY-These filters are the most important when shooting in black and white. Beginning with yellow and ending with

red, this family of filters progressively darkens the blue of the sky to add all-important impact to your pictures. With

no filter, separation between blue sky and clouds will be lost in a black and white print and the sky will appear washed out. But by using one of this family of filters, here's what happens. A yellow filter will darken the sky to light gray. The orange filter darkens it further and the red makes the sky almost black. The clouds always remain white.

So can you visualize the drama these filters will add to your shot? The way they work is that yellow-orange-red filters progressively block the blue light from the sky from reaching the film dulling exposure; yellow the least, red the most. The resulting prints therefore, show progressive darkness in the sky.

GREEN-This filter lightens its own color making foliage

such as grass and leaves lighter in the finished print. Greater contrast is achieved and a more pleasing picture results.

COMMON FILTERS WITH COLOR FILM-Three of the filters I recently discussed in my column on color filters are also very useful when shooting in black and white.

The skylight serves as protection or "insurance" for an expensive lens.

The diffusion filter softens harsh facial lines in a black and white portrait just as it does with color. And a set of close-up filters will move you in close for those in tight shots of flowers and foliage.

Filters are an inexpensive investment that will produce a high rate of return for your photography!

Monte Nagler is a fine arts photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047.



Monte Nagler used a red filter to dramatically darken and add contrast.

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