

Blind jazz pianist brightens small stage at University Hills

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON HILLS—Jazz pianist Beta Bonnier walked slowly to the small stage area of University Hills Church of Farmington Hills on the arm of her guitarist, Mickey Stein.

Although blind, she quickly sensed the intimate atmosphere and rapt attention of the 100 or so audience.

"This is going to be a shared experience," she said smiling, mentioning that frequently on club dates the musician is playing only for himself.

But this series of small concerts, arranged by Mrs. Nancy Bates, sponsored by the church and John Wesley College, is different. The acoustics are reasonably good, the lights pleasantly dim, and in last week's case, the audience respective, bordering on reverent.

The first set was predominately music with snatches of introductions between the pieces. After intermission, Ms. Bonnier moved into the conversation segment of the evening which was called "Concert and Conversation."

SHE USED "Sing a Song" from Beane Street as the vehicle for illustrating the jazz idiom. First came the unadorned tune, the count and the variations.

Then, the "head arrangement" as she called it, the improvisation which the musician makes up as he goes along.

"What makes jazz jazz is that you as a musician can improvise in chord changes. One of the most beautiful words we musicians have is options—we have options."

She demonstrated options and explained the jazz musician also does more than play music as it is written.

"There's a line of eight notes, but they're not just eight notes, we give some more accent than others—a touch of syncopation."

TO A QUESTION from the audience about the appeal of jazz, she explained it as "always challenging."

"I emulate what I hear and add myself into it."

Describing her background as classical, she added, "A great many jazz musicians like ourselves have very eclectic tastes."

This easy, salon type presentation will continue with the appearance of pianist Tim Doot, at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

The Doot program of classical and contemporary will include Bach,

Beethoven, Brahms, Scott Joplin and Delle Jolo compositions.

The tickets are available at the door, University Hills Church is on Farmington Road just south of Twelve Mile Road.

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Farmington High plans Vonnegut play

FARMINGTON—Welcome to the Henley House. "A play by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. will be staged March 6-7 at 8 p.m. in the Farmington High School auditorium. Tickets may be reserved by calling the High school.

Main characters include Doris Sawyer played by Sue Lockhart, Dana Larkin playing Newt, Deb Neimshak as Helene Shaw and Rob Stormont as George Helman.

Also acting are Kathy Matmueller, Sheryl McAlain, Cathy Liasie, Teresa McCormick, Paul Breeding, Randy DiPiazza, Lynn Keen, Midge McKee and Eric Kalin.

Other characters are portrayed by Deb Steele, Dirk Bond, Dave Andree, Jan Doolittle, Marann Felton, Tina Jack, Denise Knapp, Randy Kelpinger and Cheryl Prochaska.

Producer is Tracey Jacobs, and director is Mike Brennan.

In the beginning was the word (obviously not printed). It was vibration. And with the word came tone, tension and intention, pitch and the infinity of variation. And thus the word became speech; the variations, music; and the expansion of music, the machine of thought. And to those who could hear, there was light. If that's not the way it was, maybe it's the way it is. For hi-fi sound (hi-fi not to be confused with the appliance-store thing they call stereo) let's the sunshine in your ears to fill out living like nothing else can. And as you check our sale price you'll see we're dealing with the times as no one else is. Hurry to where the sunshine is, now. These get-it-today prices will be off the boards by 9PM, Monday. At Michigan's most progressive hi-fi shop, Audioland.

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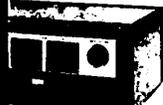



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