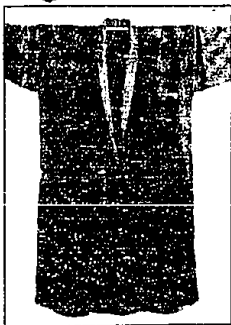


FRIDAY



Sue Walton of Bloomfield Hills is one of 115 artists exhibiting works at "Art at the Pavilion," a fine arts and crafts show, at Southfield Civic Center Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. Tickets for the opening night benefit, and art preview 5-9 p.m., are \$15, call 1-(800)-834-9437.

SATURDAY



The 8th Annual Southfield Gold Cup Polo Competition brings old-world charm to Southfield 2 p.m. at Duns Scotus, Nine Mile Road at Evergreen. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$6 at the gate, (810) 354-4854.

SUNDAY



Tom Saunders & Detroit Jazz All-Stars, are among the 89 musicians performing at the Second Annual Michigan Jazz Festival, noon to 10:30 p.m. at Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills. Admission is free, (810) 474-2720.



Hot tip: Sample a "Taste of History" this weekend at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Participate in a pie eating contest, cake walk, or visit historic homes where cooks will be preparing foods over a coal range, wood stove, or open hearth, (313) 271-1629.

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

KEELY WYGOONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1996 • PAGE 1 SECTION B



## Jazzfest features metro Detroit all-stars

BY MATT JACIMAN AND KEELY WYGOONIK

**B**irmingham's fourth annual Jazzfest offers a heavy-hitting lineup of Detroit-area jazz all-stars. Alexander Zornig & Friends will kick off the festival 7-9 p.m. Thursday, July 25 at Shain Park.

Three of the biggest local legends — Marcus Belgrave, Orthea Barnes and Norma Jean Bell — will appear together 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, July 26, for a free concert in Shain Park.

The program will highlight each performer in his or her *metier* — Belgrave on flugelhorn, Bell on saxophone and Barnes on vocals — for 25 minutes or so, Belgrave said. "We all know each other's style," Belgrave said. "So a whole lot of magic will take place. ... We'll feature each one in their own context."

Offstage, Belgrave could be reunited with a former student, whose star is rising in the jazz world. Pianist Geri Allen-Roney, now based in New York, will wrap up Jazzfest with a 6:30-8 p.m. appearance in Shain Park on Saturday, July 27. She will be joined by bassist Ralphie Armstrong and drummer Eric Allen.

Belgrave remembers Allen-Roney well. He taught her at Cass Technical High School in the 1970s and led a tour to Europe with Allen-Roney and several other young Detroit jazz artists in the early 1980s. "They were all just babies then," he said.

He is proud of his former pupil. "Her (music) writing has become her forte. She was quite a find," he said. "A lot of us had the good fortune to study with Marcus Belgrave," said Allen-Roney who recently became the first woman to win the international JAZZAR Prize. "He was like a musical father for me. I've learned so much from him. By the time I got to New York I was ready."

Allen-Roney, who won a Soul Train Lady of Soul Award for best jazz album for "Twenty One," released in 1994 by Blue Note, is a new mom and busy working on new recording due out this fall. She was recently featured on the front of "Billboard" in an article about "Women in Jazz." Her son, Wallace Vernell Roney, was born just three weeks ago.

"It's an exploratory album," she said about her newest project, which features trumpeter Wallace Roney, whom she married in 1995, and percussionist Cyro Baptista. "I'm trying to find my space. It's all original music, the idea was to reach for the stars. I think that's what makes this record special — a lot of records are being released, but you don't hear much original writing on new releases. I feel fortunate that my company,



Pianist Geri Allen-Roney

### JAZZFEST 1996

Fourth annual jazz festival, July 25-27 in downtown Birmingham features free concerts at Shain Park. Jazz musicians will also be performing in Birmingham restaurants (see related story on dining page). For more information, call (810) 433-FEST.

#### Concerts at Shain Park

##### THURSDAY, JULY 25

Alexander Zornig and Friends  
7-9 p.m.

##### FRIDAY, JULY 26

Marcus Belgrave, with Orthea Barnes and Norma Jean Bell  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

##### SATURDAY, JULY 27

Wayne State Jazz Band  
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Wendell Harrison and the  
Clarinet Ensemble  
12:30 - 1:15 p.m.

Alma Smith Quintet  
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.

Tom Saunders & Detroit Jazz All-Stars  
2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Larry Nozaro Quintet with  
Patti Richards  
3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

The Bird of Paradise Orchestra  
4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Western Jazz Quartet  
5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Geri Allen-Roney, Eric Allen  
and Ralphie Armstrong  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Blue Note, has allowed me to take chances. I'm really excited about it. I'm taking my time working on it to pull in all the right things."

She promises Birmingham Jazzfest audiences will be "pleasantly surprised," by her concert. "We'll do a combination of classics and original music. It's a culmination of every-

thing I've learned. It's my goal to mix it up.

Allen-Roney said she's looking forward to visiting metro Detroit. "I have family there, and it's always good to come home," she said. "My dad lives in Detroit. He and my mom, who passed in 1982, were my great inspiration. They were very supportive of my musical development. Hopefully, he'll come to the concert."

Like another Detroit jazz veteran, Wendell Harrison, Belgrave sees a great love for jazz overseas. "Detroit artists especially are respected around the world."

Preparing for Jazzfest will require coordinating the busy schedules of Belgrave, Bell and Barnes, Belgrave said.

"We've worked together many, many times," he said. "It's just a matter of tuning into the material we're going to do."

Birmingham Jazzfest will also feature the Wayne State Jazz Band, led by Matt Michaels, a well-known pianist who plays with many groups, the 13-piece Bird of Paradise Orchestra, Western Jazz Quartet, which recently performed for the King of Thailand for his 50th year of reign, the Alma Smith Quintet, Tom Saunders' Detroit All Stars, and Larry Nozaro Quintet with Patti Richards.

"We tried to bring together the best of what Michigan has to offer and to offer a sampling of those artists" said Allan Skorpova of West Bloomfield, who coordinated the Shain Park entertainment lineup. "The sets are 45 minutes. We wanted to keep the people interested, and to expose more people to more musicians."

Jazzfest is presented by The Community House, Birmingham Restaurant Collection, and other Birmingham/Bloomfield city organizations. Chairing this year's event are Steve Pope, general manager of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc. and Lynn Liddle, vice president corporate communications and investor relations for Vlassis Communications.

Corporate sponsors include Ford Motor Co., Esquire Magazine, and Chrysler Corp. Also contributing to make Jazzfest's free concert lineup a reality are Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, WJZZ Jazz 106, Birmingham's Principal Shopping District, American Express, a grant from New Initiatives for the Arts, Powers Real Whose Beer, Hiram Walker, Kelly Services, Kingsley Hotel and Suites, Handelman Company, AAA of Michigan, Munder Capital, Mel Farr Ford, and the Birmingham Restaurant Collection.

## Jazzman preaches clarinet gospel

BY MATT JACIMAN

STAFF WRITER

**W**endell Harrison is a jazz preacher spreading the lost gospel of the clarinet.

The veteran musician, who performs and teaches around the world, wants to boost the clarinet's status in modern music, a status he says faded in the early 1980s with the rise in popularity of the saxophone.

The clarinet is a work of art, richer in history as well as in tone, and much more difficult to play, Harrison said. Though he plays the sax too, he considers it, by comparison, ordinary.

Backed by his Clarinet Ensemble, Harrison will bring the clarinet gospel to Birmingham Saturday, July 27, for a free concert in Shain Park as part of the city's fourth annual Jazzfest. He will also lead a free jazz workshop for young musicians in The Community House that morning.

"The clarinet is not really exposed to modern music today like it was in the early 1960s," Harrison said. "We're doing something fresh with the clarinet."

Harrison spoke one afternoon last week before rehearsing with the Clarinet Ensemble. Preparing for



Wendell Harrison

Jazzfest, the group gathered on Detroit's east side at a recording studio run by Rayvee Black, a journeyman trumpeter who played with Was Not Was and was at last year's Jazzfest.

This will be Harrison's second Jazzfest, and he's looking forward to it. Last year, he was the music director as well as a performer.

"They really like jazz," he said of the crowd the event draws. "They respond great."

They also respond great in Europe, which Harrison has toured many times.

There, he said, young musicians have put jazz on a pedestal and studied it from every angle.

"It's really respected. The people are so serious."

The jazz tradition in Europe, Harrison said, is strong enough that visiting U.S. performers no longer have to bring along side players — they find plenty of talent there.

In the U.S., where jazz was born, the story is different, he said. The genre is largely taken for granted. "We don't treat our own creations

See JAZZMAN, B3

### CD RELEASE PARTY



PHOTO BY CRAIG DEER

**Celebrating release: Stewart Francke recently previewed songs from his latest album "Expecting Heroes" at the TasteFest in Detroit.**

## Francke creates fictional world with songs

BY CHRISTINA PUOCO

STAFF WRITER

Stewart Francke has the rare talent of painting a picture with his words, both as a journalist and a songwriter. His songs weave tales of life in a small town, courage and the strength to make it through trying times.

His latest album "Expecting Heroes" (Wild Justice Records) continues the stories told on his debut effort "Where The River Meets The Bay" (Schoolkids Records).

"I've tried to create a fictitious place using the elements of life around here — the land, the water, the open fields. ... But I think the most important thing is the songs have to be suggestive of another world, another reality to people to interest them," Francke explained.

It's important to Francke that his listeners lose themselves in his stories. "A songwriter, or any recording

artist, they lay

out their vision of

the world. You

either buy it or

you don't. Like

the beginning of

a concert or the

beginning of the

record, you either

buy the fact that

they're going to

take you some-

where on a trip

that's provoca-

tive, compelling

or dangerous. But

at the crux of the

songs really it's

about confidence,

self confidence.

The worst thing

that can happen

to somebody is

they lose their

self confidence.

That's the conflict

in the songs. The

settings are all

there, the descriptions are all there. The people in the songs maintaining confidence or losing confidence based on internal things or external things."

"Expecting Heroes" includes his favorite songs from "Where The River Meets The Bay" ("Kiss Kiss Bang Bang," "Expecting Heroes," "Union Town," "Where The River Meets The Bay" and "Gypsyman Fair") and five new songs including his version of Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic."

Recorded at the Tempermill in Ferndale and Showplace in New Jersey with noted NYC knob-turner Bill Klatz (Everything But The Girl, Sting), the sophomore effort shows no signs of the dreaded sophomore slump. Delicate strings wrap around Francke's soulful voice on songs like "Auto Trade," while others (the rollicking "King of the Summer Hotel," and the relentlessly hook-laden "Union Town") show his newfound need to rock. The album took Francke on a new course, thanks to the birth of his second child, Stewart III.

See FRANCKE, B5