

MUSIC

Wendell Harrison offers workshop

Veteran Detroit musician Wendell Harrison will offer a free jazz improvisation clinic for young music students 11 a.m. Saturday, July 27, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham.

The workshop is for students of all instruments. It was originally designed for high schoolers, but younger musicians are also encouraged to attend, said Mary Alice Bankert of The Community House's special events department.

"We'd like to get kids from all over metropolitan Detroit to

come out for this," Bankert said. Harrison, a clarinetist and saxophonist, performs and teaches around the world. In his presentation, he will emphasize experimentation with scales, chords and rhythm.

The hour-long workshop will be followed at 12:30 p.m. with a performance by Harrison and his

Clarinet Ensemble in Shain Park in downtown Birmingham. They will be joined by New York City clarinetist Don Byron.

The workshop and concert are made possible by a grant from New Initiatives for the Arts, a state organization working to make works by minority artists

more accessible. The NIFTA program is supported by The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and is managed by The Arts League of Michigan Inc.

To sign up, or for more information, call The Community House special events department at (810) 644-5832.

Jazzman from page 1B

that well," he said. But Harrison wants his concerts and his workshops — such as the one planned for The Community House — to spark enthusiasm for jazz, especially among young people. "Everywhere I go they want me to do workshops in conjunction with my performance," he said. Harrison and the Ensemble — five clarinetists, a drummer, a keyboard player, a percussionist and a bass player — opened rehearsal by painstakingly going

over a new arrangement of Charlie Parker's "Ko Ko." Harrison moved easily between sax and clarinet as he helped the players get familiar with the structure.

Harrison has 16 recordings to his credit, three with the Clarinet Ensemble. He went to New York City as a jazzman at 18, but has long been based in Detroit.

Clarinet Ensemble members are: Paul Onachuk, clarinet; Greg Kolyck, clarinet; Harold Orr, bass clarinet; Paul Auster-

litz, bass clarinet; Ernie Rodgers, contrabass clarinet; Pamela Wise (Harrison's wife), piano; Marion Hayden, bass; Renell Gonsalves, drums; and Akunda Hollis, percussion.

Wendell Harrison and the Clarinet Ensemble will play in Shain Park, in downtown Birmingham, 12:30-1:15 p.m. Saturday, July 27. They will be joined by New York City clarinetist Don Byron.

Francke from page 1B

He and his wife Julia also have a daughter Tess, 2.

"The hardening of the sound was nice. Since the birth of my son I feel like rockin' more," Francke said with a smile.

Tess's birth "was really like a mind blower. It altered all your perceptions. When the other one came along, I felt like rocking out."

"Where The River Meets The Bay" (Schoolkids Records) proved to be a successful trek for Francke. "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" and "Expecting Heroes" were featured in episodes of "Melrose Place," while the song "The Beautiful Go Blameless" made its mark on the "Young and the Restless."

"It was a great entree for me and it allowed me to make some money," Francke said with a laugh. "We're all in the perception business. It created a differ-

ent perception for what I was doing and the level I was doing it at. In that area it really helped but actually it's really contrary to what I'm putting forth in the album. The whole sleazy soap opera — it's not really anything I was particularly interested in."

The songs were referred to the Aaron Spelling soap opera through a friend of a friend.

"It was really painless. After 15 years of struggling with this beast, it was pretty painless. It was exciting."

Many exciting things have happened to Francke since his first album was released March 1, 1995. He won the Motor City Music Award for best Rock Act at the ceremony in December, he was nominated for three Detroit Music Awards, and recently he won an ASCAP Special Songwriting Award.

"They give it to people who

make less than a certain amount of money from royalties but their catalog shows a lot of movement and a lot of promise. It was mostly from 'Melrose Place.' There was a nobody in the middle of America getting songs placed on major TV shows."

Prior to signing a management deal with the New York-based Wild Justice company, Francke had already opened for the likes of Steve Earle, Shawn Colvin, Dave Mason, Warren Zevon. The management deal and the new album are bound to open up new doors for Francke, a Huntington Woods resident.

"It's been great. I've worked with better musicians. Ambition's a funny thing because you continually want more but in a certain sense I've already done better than I thought."

Art, magic combine for weekend fun

It's a weekend of fun that would make Picasso and Houdini proud as Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, hosts two special events designed to spark the imagination.

Eco-Art Workshop for Families 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 20, gives budding young artists an opportunity to create art out of unusual recyclables. Visitors to Environmental Magic 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, July 20, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, July 21, will be amazed by a bewitching mix of science and sleight-of-hand. Both events are

part of the institute's spectacular environmental exhibit, "EarthQuest."

The Eco-Art Workshop, taught by Cranbrook Academy of Art graduate Lauren Griffin, shows participants how everyday throwaway items such as film canisters, metal pie plates and vinyl cutouts can be used to create one-of-a-kind art objects. Artists of all ages and skill levels will be able to express their creativity and ecological responsibility in this unusual event.

The workshop is \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. Advance registration is required

as space is limited. Call (810) 645-3233 for reservations.

Environmental Magic will thrill and enthrall as magician and educator Doug Scheer puts an environmental spin on the world of magic.

Environmental Magic is free with museum admission, which is \$7 for adults, \$4 for youngsters ages 3-17 and seniors age 65 and older, and free for children under age 3.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Call (810) 645-9200.

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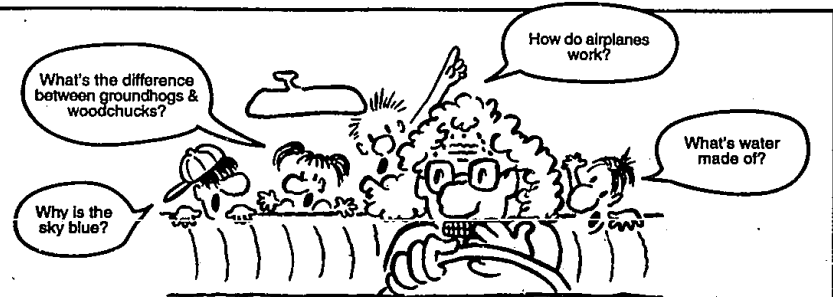
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