

First Baptist Church B'Jazz Vespers features Teddy Harris Quartet

The First Baptist Church of Birmingham-sponsored B'Jazz Vespers will feature the Teddy Harris Quartet at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, in downtown Birmingham.

Teddy Harris Jr. has attracted a varied group of admirers whose taste, like his talent, cut across conventional lines, which separate jazz, soul, blues and the Motown sound. Many people recognize Teddy as a "Jazz Master" who has performed with jazz greats and has penned his own hit compositions. Others remember Teddy from his years with Motown as musical director, conductor and arranger, helping the careers of

"The Supremes," Aretha Franklin, Martha Reeves and Kim Weston. Still others know him for the work he has done with the award-winning New Breed Be Bop Society Orchestra, an orchestra he founded and is comprised mostly of young jazz musicians. Teddy's principal instruments are piano, and soprano and alto saxophone.

Teddy Harris has performed on six continents in 35 countries, including a command performance before the Emperor of Japan, the Princess of England, for King Hussein and the Princess of Jordan; and for the U.S. ambassadors of the Ivory

Coast, Senegal, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey and Syria. He scored the musical arrangements for the title song to the movie, "The Ballad of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, I Must Learn How To Fly." He has written musical scores for the theater, for Off-Broadway and for musicals. He has performed with many jazz greats, including Eli "Lucky" Thompson, Miles Davis, Thad and Hank Jones, Ellis Marsalis, Milt Jackson and the Lionel Hampton Orchestra.

For 16 years, Harris was the musical director, conductor and arranger for the Supremes. His band opened the Supremes shows, playing his original jazz

compositions. During his Motown years, Teddy served as musical director of Aretha Franklin. He served as musical director for 16 Motown artists. Today, he is the music director for the "Michigan Jazz Masters Band."

In 1994, Harris was presented the Detroit Music Awards Jazz Hall of Fame. In 1995, he represented President Clinton traveling as "Music Cultural Ambassador for the President of the United States." In 1997, he was asked by President Clinton to perform at one of the inaugural events.

Accompanying Harris will be Dwight Adams, trumpet; Don

Mayberry, bass; and George Davidson, drums.

On the third Sunday evening of each month (except December) from 6 to 9 p.m., B'Jazz Vespers is held in the gothic sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Birmingham, between the two Jacobson Department Stores at the corner of Willis and Bates, one block north of Maple and one block west of Old Woodward Avenue. Free parking is available in the adjacent municipal lot. B'Jazz Vespers is free. Future performances are Nov. 16 and Jan. 18.

All performers with B'Jazz Vespers are of the highest professional standard.

The caliber of the performance is unusually high given the "concert-like" nature of the evening, the acoustics and high-tech sound system at the church, and the attentiveness and enthusiasm of the audiences.

B'Jazz Vespers features 100 minutes of jazz performance and 20 minutes for a worship interlude between the two jazz sets. The intent of the non-sectarian worship is to celebrate life.

For information, call (248) 644-0550. Admission is free; an offering is taken for the musicians.



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has ever been done for a popular audience," said Wine, when discussing the colloquium. "I've been a student of this historical approach for years, and my great frustration has been that we've had all this new information and most people didn't know about it."

The scientific study of the world is basic to Wine, who established Humanistic Judaism in Oakland County one year after founding the Birmingham Temple with eight families in 1963.

"He is the founder of a movement that was predicated in part by just this kind of approach to distinguishing fable from historical accuracy," explained Kotch, of Wine. "He's immersed in it. He wants to bring the information beyond our movement."

Most Humanist Jews take an agnostic position in regards to God. The three most important elements focus on the discovery of one's own personal power, ethical living and a deep attachment to the Jewish experience and culture.

Though it was perceived by mainstream Jews as controversial, the movement gained momentum very quickly. In response to followers across the country and around the world, the Society for Humanistic Judaism was formed in 1969 and the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism was formed in 1986.

Both the national and international societies are headquartered adjacent to the temple, which was built on a seven-acre site in Farmington Hills in 1971.

Today, there are 50 congregations in major cities of the

United States and Canada and societies in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, England, Israel, France, Mexico, Russia, and Uruguay.

As he nears his 70th birthday in January, Wine is looking to shift his focus from congregational life to a strictly involvement in the international movement.

In June, Wine will begin a three- to four-year transition period while he trains three rabbis now serving as assistants. Once he has a successor to head the Farmington Hills congregation of 500 families, Wine will concentrate his efforts internationally.

Since 1987, the movement has trained 40 "Midrikh" or leaders in North America. A rabbinical training program was initiated in 1992 and will graduate its first students in 1999.

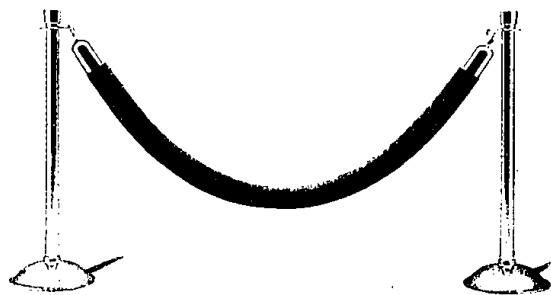
"The future of our movement depends on training leaders and rabbis," said Wine. "I've reached the stage where I'd like to devote more time to the movement."

Even before the success of Colloquium '97, Wine has already begun planning Colloquium '99, though the topic is yet to be determined.

Is a full-fledged retirement on the horizon for Wine, a long-time resident of Birmingham?

"I will most likely be here until I expire," answered the founder of the Humanistic Jews.

To register or request additional information on Colloquium '97, call (248) 478-9532 or visit the Internet web site at www.shj.org.



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