

By **RENEE DORUYTER**
Music Critic

The blue, the mellow, the stratospheric — we're hearing it all during the du Maurier International Jazz Festival.

Monday night, Michael Brecker's high-powered quintet delivered 2½ hours of mind-expanding contemporary music at the Commodore, and although saxophonist Brecker is definitely the star of this group, he makes sure his remarkable sidemen get equal time.

Guitarist Mike Stern is known for his blistering attack and lived up to his billing; bassist Jeff Andrews provided a solid grounding for even the wildest flights of

Fill-in fits right in

fancy, while drummer Adam Nussbaum kept the rhythms well under control.

The man everyone — audience and band alike — enjoyed to the maximum is pianist Joey Calderazzo, a 22-year-old Brooklynite who was called in at the last minute to fill in for regular keyboardist Kenny Kirkland. Very much influenced by McCoy Tyner, Calderazzo would appear to have a great future in the music business.

REVIEW

Opening for Brecker was Michel Forman, a talented solo keyboardist who — although he does remarkable things with a synthesizer — made me wish he had a band to play with.

The previous evening, Skywalk proved once again they are a world-class group of players with wonderful original music who should have been headliners at

this festival rather than opening for New York-based guitarist John Scofield and his quartet. Scofield, however, is also a massive talent whose soaring solos and intricate melodic lines leave you in awe of his technique.

Elsewhere, Lunar Adventures at the Railway Club showed this band is aptly named; the quartet gets very far out there indeed, and listening to them is certainly an adventure. The Vinny Golia Septet at Vancouver East Cultural Centre

also spends a lot of time on the far side of the moon, and sweeps the audience along with it.

Highlights still to come: Bass-DrumBone, featuring one of the world's best trombone players, Ray Anderson, is at VECC tonight at 8; the Jean Beaudet Quartet is at Centre Culturel Colombien tonight at 9:30. Tomorrow, Abdulla Ibrahim and Ekaya are at the Orpheum (9 p.m.), John Zorn's Xu Feng is at VECC (8 p.m.) and the Shuffle Demons are at the Savoy (10 p.m.).

Mainstream fans note: There are still tickets for the Rob McConnell/Ed Bickert/Carmen McRae extravaganza at the Orpheum Saturday. Don't miss it.