

Jazz Locals to Watch For

A bevy of Vancouver players complements imports

In all the excitement over the big names and rarely seen exotics that are coming to this year's du

Off Beat

ALEX VARTY

Maurier International Jazz Festival, it might be easy to overlook the scores of festival performances by Vancouver-based musicians.

Jazz Festival organizers feel that part of their mandate includes introducing local performers to audiences that have so far shown a reluctance to venture into the often obscure venues where Vancouver's creative music is being made year-round. And so they've tapped local groups to open for most of the more visible big-name concerts on this year's schedule, in addition to pro-

gramming several open-air venues where the idly curious can sample local talent for free.

Actually, the festival's parent organization, the Coastal Jazz and Blues Society, is almost unique among festival programmers in the depth of its commitment to original, creative music in its home territory. Working with the New Orchestra Workshop (a local

musician's co-operative), the now sadly defunct Cafe Transit, and with the Western Front and grunt gallery arts centres, the society has actively campaigned to raise the profile of Vancouver's modern jazz musicians, and more plans are in the works for year-round events outside the scope of the festival's 10-day stretch.

Ken Pickering, a founding member of the society and the jazz festival's artistic director, says the time is right for his organization to more actively promote Vancouver talent. "The level of playing, especially of those players involved in the New Orchestra Workshop, is on a par with the best improvising or jazz playing happening in this country. Or in America," he says. "I don't think these musicians have to take a back seat to anyone at this juncture.

"It's the maturity factor. These players have all been working on their music for a number of years, and that work is now paying dividends. There are also young players coming up, who are also sounding good, but it's the players that are now in their late 20s and their 30s who are dealing with really original musical concepts. If you had listened to somebody like [Lunar Adventures' tenor saxophonist] Coat Cook a few years ago, he would have sounded just like the next guy. Now he's got his own sound. Same with Graham Ord, Rob Frayne, and those guys: they're dealing with some really interesting ideas, and they don't sound like they've been stamped out with that retro-jazz cookie cutter."

Pickering says the Vancouver jazz scene is distinct from those elsewhere because of the high degree of co-operation among players. "That's unique, to a certain degree. In other scenes there's more of a scattershot approach, a lack of co-operation and organization. Here, where there are so few venues that book jazz of any sort, let alone creative improvisation, musicians work in the face of adversity: either you organize and cooperate or you die.

"It's harder to pinpoint a specific Vancouver style of playing; stylistic differences are trickier to define. I would say that there's a level of energy here that's unusual, perhaps because of the influence of Ornette Coleman and Cecil Taylor. There's a concern with high-energy projection. And some of the playing has been very much influenced by Celtic music, which is unusual, and by various strains of world music as well. There's a lot of diversity, but those are the main streams of influence."

Vancouver jazz may still be hard to pin down, but at least it's out of the basements and bedrooms and on to the streets, where its evolutionary processes will be much easier to trace. Given this increased visibility, and the determination of players and concert producers alike to make Vancouver a real "jazz city", 1988 may come to be seen as a watershed year, one in which a previously overlooked aspect of our cultural conglomerate emerged to claim its rightful place as one of the most dynamic of the arts. ■

TIME OUT MUSIC

► Third Annual du Maurier International Jazz Festival

170 performances by 350 musicians from around the world, June 24-July 3 at venues below, plus the Landmark Jazz Bar, the Hot Jazz Club, Isadora's, the Classical Joint, Hogan's Alley, the Granville Island Public Market, Pacific Centre TD Plaza, and Oakridge Centre. In addition, Jazz at the Plaza offers free admission to hear 40 bands and enjoy an international food fair, July 1-3, at the Plaza of Nations. Concert tickets and festival passes on sale at VTC/CBO outlets, Black Swan and HighLife Records. Info 280-4444.

EXPO THEATRE ► YOUSOU N'DOUR ET LE SUPER ETOILE DE DAKAR/ITHE ZAWINUL SYNDICATE (N'Dour leads a 12-piece high-energy dance band from Senegal, West Africa. Weather Report co-founder Zawinul joins his new jazz-fusion-R&B-funk band) June 24, 8:30 pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE ► J.J. JOHNSON QUINTET (Jazz trombone innovator) June 26, 8 pm

WESTERN FRONT ► HORACE TAPSCOTT (Solo concert by one of the most fluent voices in post-bop piano) June 26, 5:30 pm ► **GEORGE LEWIS** (Chicago composer performs interactive computer music) June 27, 5:30 pm ► **JOHN OSWALD & ALEX VARTY** (Radical saxophonist-composer Oswald is joined by alternative guitar stylist Varty) June 28, 5:30 pm ► **HAL RUSSELL'S NRG ENSEMBLE** (Chicago ensemble reflects strains of Ellington, Ornette, European folk melodies, and free improvisation) June 29, 5:30 pm ► **TOM CORA** (Solo concert by New York-based "mega-technician" of the cello) June 30, 5:30 pm ► **ROBERT LERICHE TRIO** (One of Canada's finest saxophonists, joined by drummer Claude Ranger and bassist Clyde Reed) July 1, 9 pm ► **CONCRETE** (Jazz, folk, classical, and fusion elements, showcasing an unusual cello-vibraphone frontline) July 2, 9 pm

86 STREET MUSIC HALL ► MANTECA (Award-winning jazz-funk-fusion band from Toronto) June 25, 10 pm ► **RANDY BRECKER QUARTET/OUT OF THE BLUE** (Veteran trumpet great, plus Blue Note recording artists that perform in the hard-bop tradition) June 28, 10 pm

COMMODORE BALLROOM ► SALIF KEITA/THEMBA TANA'S AFRICAN HERITAGE (Salif Keita is a sophisticated African pop star from Mali with strong Arabic influence. Themba Tana draws on musical experiences in Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Mozambique) July 1, 10 pm ► **BILL BRUFORD'S EARTHWORKS** (Influential British drummer from Yes is joined by remarkable lineup of English modern jazz musicians) July 2, 10 pm ► **ORNETTE COLEMAN & PRIME TIME/LUNAR ADVENTURES** (Coleman is recognized as one of the most influential saxophonists, composers, and bandleaders in jazz history. Lunar Adventures perform everything from jazz and harmonic funk to celtic and calypso music) July 3, 10 pm

VANCOUVER EAST CULTURAL CENTRE ► ANDREW HILL/UNITY (Solo performance by acclaimed pianist Hill. Saxophonist Graham Ord leads the spirited quartet Unity) June 25, 8 pm ► **STRING TRIO OF NEW YORK WITH JAY CLAYTON/JOE BJORNSON QUARTET** (String Trio's music ranges from swinging Hot Club of France-style string-band jazz, to echoes of Western Swing, ballads, blues and modernist compositions. Trombonist Joe Bjornson and his quartet perform creative, experimental jazz) June 26, 8

pm ► **SIX WINDS/CHIEF FEATURE** (Six Winds' is a world-class, all-saxophone ensemble. Chief Feature is a marriage of traditional and avant garde elements) June 27, 8 pm ► **MASQUALERO/VIDEO BAR-B-QUE** (Masqualero is an internationally acclaimed quintet from Norway with a highly developed group sound and original compositions. Video Bar-B-Que is a seven-member Vancouver ensemble that creates a post-modern electro-acoustic brew of improvisation within a framework of original compositions and arrangements) June 28, 8 pm ► **CHARLIE HADEN'S QUARTET WEST/CLAUDE RANGER QUINTET** (Haden's quartet includes sax great Ernie Watts, pianist Alan Broadbent, and drummer Paul Motian. Ranger is one of the premiere drumming talents in Canada) June 29, 8 pm ► **MICHELE ROSEWOMAN QUINTET/TURNAROUND** (Rosewoman is a pianist whose solos are inventive, rhapsodic, and fastidiously constructed. Turnaround is a local, interpretive jazz quintet featuring vocalist Kate Hammett-Vaughan) June 30, 8 pm ► **SEMANTICS/IRENE LUSSIER, JEAN DEROME & TOM CORA** (Semantics is a long-running collaborative group from New York featuring Elliot Sharp (guitar, bass clarinet), Ned Rothenberg (reeds, flutes), and Samm Bennett (drums). Lussier and Derome create a unique blend of jazz, Quebecois folk reels and rhythms, free improvisation, and post-Hendrix sonics. They appear in trio form with cellist Cora) July 1, 8 pm ► **GARY BURTON QUINTET/JOHN RAPSON QUARTET** (Burton is a Grammy-award winning vibraphonist several times over. Rapson is a trombone virtuoso and inspired composer) July 2, 8 pm ► **ARCHIE SHEPP & HORACE PARLAN/ICELSO MACHADO** (Shepp and Parlan are veteran tenor sax and piano players. Machado is an acclaimed Brazilian guitarist from Bahia) July 3, 8 pm

DISCOVERY THEATRE ► JEFF JOHNSTON QUARTET noon ► **HAL RUSSELL NRG ENSEMBLE** 5 pm

DISCOVERY THEATRE ► JEFF JOHNSTON QUARTET noon ► **MICHAEL BLAKE QUARTET** 1 pm ► **DAVID FRIESE TRIO** 2 pm ► **REFLEXIONEN** 3 pm ► **THIN MEN** 5 pm ► **LORRAINE DESMARAIS TRIO** 6 pm

► Jazz at the Plaza

FRIDAY, JULY 1

PLAZA STAGE ► LOEK DIKKER QUINTET noon ► **JIM CHIVERS QUARTET** 2 pm ► **PANTA REI** 3 pm ► **JOHN RAPSON QUARTET** 5 pm ► **SKYWALK** 6 pm

COMEDY CLUB ► THIN MEN noon ► **SIX WINDS** 1 pm ► **ROBERT**

PLAZA STAGE ► PANTA REI noon ► **WIZARDS OF OZ** 2 pm ► **LOEK DIKKER QUINTET** 4 pm ► **MOIRE MUSIC** 6 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 2

COMEDY CLUB ► CONCRETE noon ► **SILK STOCKINGS** 1 pm ► **JOHN RAPSON QUARTET** 3 pm ► **ROBERT LERICHE SEXTET** 4 pm ► **LUSSIER-DEROME-CORA** 5 pm

DISCOVERY THEATRE ► JEFF JOHNSTON QUARTET noon ► **MICHAEL BLAKE QUARTET** 1 pm ► **DAVID FRIESE TRIO** 2 pm ► **REFLEXIONEN** 3 pm ► **THIN MEN** 5 pm ► **LORRAINE DESMARAIS TRIO** 6 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 3

PLAZA OF NATIONS ► SHANNON GUNN noon ► **BOB MURPHY QUARTET** 1 pm ► **BRASS ROOTS** 2 pm ► **ERIC VAUGHN QUARTET** 3 pm ► **HUGH FRASER QUINTET** 4 pm ► **LOUISE ROSE** 5 pm ► **RICH HALLEY & LIZARD BROTHERS** 6 pm

COMEDY CLUB ► JOHN RAPSON QUARTET noon ► **ROBERT LERICHE TRIO** 1 pm ► **CONCRETE** 2 pm ► **SILK STOCKINGS** 3 pm ► **JUNE KATZ** 5 pm

DISCOVERY THEATRE ► KATHY KIDD TRIO noon ► **BILL EMES QUARTET** 1 pm ► **REFLEXIONEN** 3 pm ► **TRICHY SANKARAN/VINNY GOLIA** 5 pm ► **V.E.J.I.** 7 pm

► Free Concerts

GRANVILLE ISLAND MARKET STAGE (12 noon-2 pm) ► **CAMPBELL RYGA QUARTET** June 24 ► **ROBIN SHIER QUINTET** June 25 ► **SAUL BERSON QUINTET** June 26 ► **BUDGE SHAKTE QUINTET** June 27 ► **SIX WINDS** June 28 ► **LINTON GARNER TRIO** June 29 ► **HAL RUSSELL NRG ENSEMBLE** June 30 ► **PHILIPPE LAPOINTE QUINTET** July 1 ► **VINNY GOLIA TRIO** July 2 ► **BOB BELL BAND** July 3

PACIFIC CENTRE (11:30 am-1:30 pm) ► **MICROSCOPIC SEXTET** June 27 ► **PERRY WHITE QUARTET** June 28 ► **CREATURES OF HABIT** June 29 ► **SIX WINDS** June 30 ► **COAST QUARTET** July 1

OAKRIDGE (1:30-3:30 pm) ► **CASABLANCA COWBOYS** June 25 ► **DARYL JAHNKE TRIO** June 26

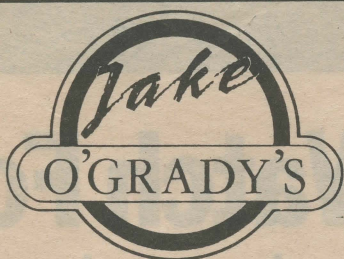
STRAIGHT CHOICES



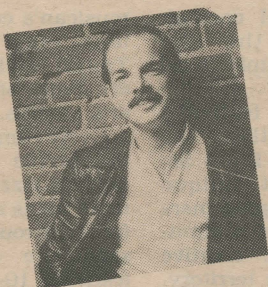
Charlie Haden

If you see only one concert at this year's du Maurier International Jazz Festival, you should see the opening show at the Expo Theatre this Friday (June 24). European jazz pioneer Joe Zawinul, best-known for his work with Weather Report, will open with his new band the Zawinul Syndicate, while African pop superstar Youssou N'Dour will close the show.

Other shows worth catching during the festival's first week include the Latin-jazz-funk of Toronto's Manteca at 86 Street on Saturday (June 25) and the straight-ahead jazz of trombone innovator J.J. Johnson on Sunday at the Vancouver Playhouse. Monday's pick is the Vancouver East Cultural Centre show by saxophone sextet Six Winds. Tuesday's pick is also at the Culch, where Norwegian jazzers Masqualero will be playing. Wednesday offers a tough choice between the sweet, beautiful and laid-back sounds of Charlie Haden's Quartet West at the Culch and the funk and rock-tinged sounds of Randy Brecker, appearing with Blue Note recording artists Out of the Blue at 86 Street. Pick up next week's edition of the Georgia Straight on Thursday for the city's most complete festival coverage and highlights of the event's closing weekend.



PRESENTS



June 20-30

AL FOREMAN

Every Monday...

BLUES JAM

Every Tuesday

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Every Wednesday

5 MINUTES O' FAME

(Amateur Night with back up band)

CORNER OF BOUNDARY & HASTINGS

3684 E. Hastings

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FREE UNDERGROUND PARKING

6 CALENDAR

Street
HALL

Wed. June 29 **UNIT E** with guests
Alien Heirs

Thurs. June 30
Start Celebrating Canada Day Early!
1040 KICKS presents

WEA Recording Artist

54 • 40

with guests
SONS OF FREEDOM
Tix VTC/CBO



Fri. July 1 Canada Day Party!
SKABOOM!!!

Sat. July 2 **SKABOOM!!!**

Sun. July 3 Direct from Germany

DISSIDENTEN

World Beat Music!

Moroccan/Arabic Rock!
Tix VTC/CBO, Black Swan,
Zulu, Highlife.
Doors 8:00 pm



Fri, Sat, July 8,9

PRISM

with guests

Living Proof

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The Commodore

SUMMER'S HERE!!!
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18 Male Dancers

10 Former Chippendales
6-Man Male Walter Revue

Doors: 7:00 pm • Showtimes 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm
RANDY (ELVIS) FRISKIE &

HIS BAND

11:00 pm to 2:00 am
Gentlemen Welcome at 11:00 pm
Saturday June 25

The Province & The Commodore present
NEW ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SERIES 14
Showcasing Vancouver's Hottest
Up & Coming Artists' Series

TIN DRUM (former members of
The Beverly Sisters & M.T. Vessels)

THE DOTS (4 gals (Country/Rock))

THE NERVOUS FELLOWS (Rock-a-Billy)
Wednesday June 29 • Advance or \$4.00 at door
Doors: 8:30 p.m.

The Golden Voice of Africa
SALIF KEITA and his 13 piece band from
Mali with special guests

THEMBA TANA'S AFRICAN HERITAGE
Friday July 1 • Doors 8:00 p.m.

JAZZ: A Special Evening with
BILL BRUFORD'S EARTHWORKS
Saturday July 2 • Doors 8:00 p.m.

du MAURIER FINALE JAZZ CONCERT '88
starring **ORNETTE COLEMAN** with
special guests **LUNAR ADVENTURES**
Sunday July 3 • Doors 8:00 p.m.

Record/Video Release Party with
Stony Plain/BMG Recording Artists
SPIRIT OF THE WEST with special guests
THE HOT TAMALES TWISTERS
Friday July 8 • Doors: 8:00 p.m.

Master-Blues/Rock Guitarists
MICK TAYLOR TOUR 1988
THE BAND: Mick Taylor Lead Guitar-Rolling Stones
Wilbur Baskum Bass Guitar-Jeff Beck/BB King
Bernard Purdie Drums-Everyone
Max Middleton Keyboards-Jeff Beck
Shane Fontayne Guitar-Lone Justice
Wednesday July 13 • Doors: 8:00 p.m.

BASTILLE DAY BASH starring
D.O.A. and THE SCRAMBLERS
Thursday July 14 • Doors: 8:30 p.m.

2ND ANNUAL MISS VANCOUVER
NIGHT LIFE PAGEANT '88 featuring the finalists
of 16 Greater Vancouver NIGHT CLUBS
An Evening of Fun and Dance
Friday July 15 • Doors: 8:00 p.m.

VANCOUVER'S 1988 LEATHER, LACE and
LATEX (you know, plastic & rubber stuff!)
COSTUME PARTY

Dress Optional - Costume Prizes Galore!
featuring 2 fantastic dance bands

WALL STREET and
C-FOX ELECTRIC LUNCH
ORCHESTRA
Saturday July 16 • Doors: 8:00 p.m.

BIG BROTHER & THE HOLDING
COMPANY
Thursday July 21 • Doors: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: VTC/CBO and all usual outlets
Info & Charge by Phone 280-4444.
870 Granville Mall
681-7838