

# 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 onto 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. ■



Local sax player Phil Dwyer is one of many participating in the jazz fest's free shows. Photo by Oraf.

## Don't Ignore the Festival Freebies

By Ken Eisner

Far be it from us to discourage anyone paying for the top-level entertainment at this year's du Maurier International Jazz Festival, but for music dabblers, or those who've already shot their big-ticket bucks, a week's worth (June 24 to July 3) of glorious freebies is available on Granville Island and at the Oakridge and Pacific Centre malls.

These lunchtime concerts (check Time Out in this paper for details) feature such established local lights as sax-man **Campbell Ryga**, piano veteran **Linton Garner** (Erroll's brother), and fusion guitarists **Philippe Lapointe** and **Daryl Jahnke**, but such lesser-known experimentalists as **Creatures of Habit** and the **Casablanca Cowboys** shouldn't be ignored. However, it's the out-of-town talent that's surprising here: look for spectacular sets from the all-saxophone **Six Winds** (featuring legendary Coltrane sideman John Tchicai), L.A. sax tyro **Vinny Golia**, New York's wild **Microscopic Septet**, and the swinging **Hal Russell NRG Ensemble** from Chicago.

But the ultimate bash is at the Expo site's Plaza of Nations. From noon to 7 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (July 1 to 3), acts from all over the world will revolve democratically around three overlapping stages at the Comedy Club, Discovery Theatre and the covered Plaza amphitheatre itself (although we should be in for sunshine this time around, unlike last year).

There will also be a concerted effort to create a real festival atmosphere, with a wide array of international food booths, displays by instrument makers and other craftspeople, record sales, exhibits of art relating to jazz, festival memorabilia, and other entertainments. The weekend will be family oriented—there's no beer garden planned this year—but those wishing to quench that particular kind of thirst

will be able to sit-and-sip plaza-side at the Unicorn pub.

Vancouver-boosters will turn out for **Skywalk**, but they should also check out keyboardist **Bob Murphy**, who's joined by three straggling Skywalkers, and encyclopaedic pianists **Louise Rose** and **Eric Vaughn**. Then there are special visits by high-powered saxers **Phil Dwyer**, with Portland bassist **David Friesen** and drummer **Claude Ranger**, and the ubiquitous **Ryga**, with super singers **Shannon Gunn** and **June Katz**. Another young horn-cat, **Ross Taggart**, moves over to piano to support tenorman **Michael Blake**, who will be showing off his recently acquired New York chops.

The festival-closing **VEJI** tribute to John Coltrane, "A Love Supreme", will unite many of these fine players, but other great one-off jams will take place when **Golia** joins Tchicai for some quintet blowing, as well as pairing off with Sri Lankan master drummer **Trichy Sankaran** for some multi-cultural excitement.

In fact, the international element in the event's title has never been more dominant. Along with increased African presence, the three-day send-off is heavy with European adventurers: Sweden's **Panta Rei**, Holland's **Loek Dikker**, and the French-Swiss-American **Reflexionen** all combine traditional jazz influences with free-wheeling improvisation. Britain's **Moire Music** and the very Australian (all right, so that's the other side of the world) **Wizards of Oz** take the Shuffle Demons/Art Ensemble approach even further into ethno-jazz-theatrical-futurism (whew!).

And, when you're ready to touch Earth again, don't miss the pure jazz roots of **Jeni Legon** and **Jazz Cinq**. The pioneering Ms. Legon was dancing with Fred Astaire and singing with Fats Waller before most of us were around to play records or go to blood-pumping, all-out concerts like these. ■

## 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 tix 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/THE 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 ► **CONTEVENT** (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 Kieta 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, 1 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/RENE 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 PARLANICELSO MACHADO** (Shepp and Parlan are veteran tenor sax and piano players. Machado is an acclaimed Brazilian guitarist from Bahia) July 3, 8 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**

**LERICHE TRIO** 2 pm ► **MICHAEL BISIO QUARTET** 3 pm ► **HAL RUSSELL NRG ENSEMBLE** 5 pm

**DISCOVERY THEATRE** ► **JEFF JOHNSTON QUARTET** noon ► **ROB FRAYNE-JEFF JOHNSTON QUARTET** 1 pm ► **JENI LEGON & JAZZ CINQ** 2 pm ► **SILK STOCKINGS** 3 pm ► **CLAUDE RANGER QUINTET** 4 pm ► **GOLIA-TCHICAI-SMITH QUINTET** 5 pm ► **MOIRE MUSIC** 6 pm

**SATURDAY, JULY 2**

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

**COMEDY CLUB** ► **CONTEVENT** 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 FRIESEN 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 ► **CONTEVENT** 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 **Yousou 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.

# MULHERN'S PUB

**RANSOM** **TWO THE MAXX**  
 Until Sat. June 25 June 28 thru July 2

**COLD BEER & WINE STORE NOW OPEN**

**THE SATURDAY AFTERNOON SPECIAL... CONTINUES**

**RANSOM** with special guests **THE F.B.I. BAND**  
 Sat. June 25 • 2 pm  
**INCOGNITO** Sat. July 2 • 2 pm  
 Come and watch major sports events on one of our 6 TV screens

## IN THE LOUNGE

### AZTEC

**DINING ROOM & LOUNGE**  
 Dancing Nightly from 9 pm to 2 am featuring



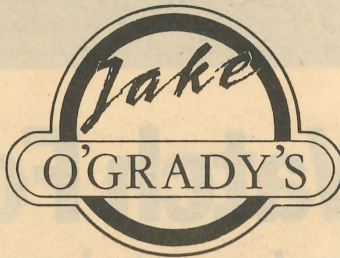
### JANE DOE

Tues. June 21 thru Sat. June 25  
 Tues. June 28 thru Sat. July 2

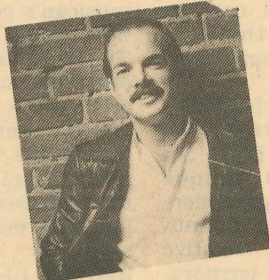
**DAILY LUNCHEON SPECIALS**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH SPECIAL**  
 11 am to 2 pm  
 \$9.95 ADULTS • \$8.95 SENIORS  
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**PRESENTS**



June 20-30

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Every Tuesday **MUSICAL TRIBUTE**

Every Wednesday **5 MINUTES O' FAME**  
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 18 Male Dancers  
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 6-Man Male Waiter 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 #4**  
 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

# SHOWCASE 86 CALENDAR



Tonight June 23 LG73 presents Vancouver Debut Performance!



Capitol Recording Artists

**STRANGE ADVANCE**  
 plus guests **Innuendo**

Tix VTC/CBO Doors 8:00 pm

Fri. June 24 1040 KICKS presents **FISH'S FABULOUS FRIDAYS** with **THE BARRACUDAS**  
 Tix VTC/CBO

Sat. June 25 Du Maurier Jazz Fest!  
 Duke Street/MCA Recording Artist

## MANTECA

Tix VTC/CBO

Sun. June 26 Sunday Services with **ASSAULT** and **GENGHIS KHAN**

Mon. June 27 **TYSON vs SPINKS**  
 Once & For All!!!  
 The Undisputed Heavyweight Championship on Satellite TV  
 Tix VTC/CBO

Tues. June 28 Du Maurier Jazz Fest!  
**RANDY BRECKER QUARTET**  
 with guests **Out of the Blue**  
 Tix VTC/CBO

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**  
 Tix VTC/CBO



Tix: VTC/CBO & all usual outlets.  
 UNDERGROUND OR VALET PARKING AT GATE ENTRANCE • EXPO SITE  
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