

# Dutch band puts the fun back into jazz

They play circus music and chachas, free form and Spike Jones. On any given night, you can find band members playing while lying on their backs, shing-a-linging Motown steps (while wearing lederhosen) and parodying self-indulgent jazz musicians by playing long-winded scales while sneaking peaks at their watches.

They are the Willem Breuker Kollektief, a Dutch 10-piece band that puts fun back into jazz, even if it means making fun of their colleagues.

The 14-year-old Kollektief visits Vancouver for the first time on March 12, for a performance at the New York Theatre.

"Dutch post-free-jazz with elements of European theatre, street and contemporary music," is how one member describes the Kollektief's music. During one American tour, the band played cocktail music (think of it: a 10-piece band playing Feelings), Basie, Ruby and the Romantics, Dixieland, the theme from *The Good The Bad and the Ugly*, free jazz and military marches. Did we mention the rendition of *Oh You Beautiful Doll* played on champagne bottles?

The band is the brainchild of saxophonist Willem Breuker, who wanted to merge new music forms with theatre. Some musicians in the group are classically trained, others come from a jazz background. All share an interest in turning concerts into events that incorporate vaudeville, musical satire and more serious music.

Saturday's concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15.

On a more serious note, the Vancouver's New Orchestra Workshop begins a 12-concert series Thursday at the French Cultural Centre, 795 West 16th.

Brass Roots, an eight-piece brass band, kicks off the series Thursday. The rest of the lineup includes the Claude Ranger Trio (March 11), vocalist Kate Hammett-Vaughan (March 12), the Coast Quartet (March 17), a special concert with American jazzmen Jay Clayton, Julian Priester and Jerry Granelli (March 18), Bruce Freedman and Chief Feature (March 19), the Michael Blake Quartet (March 24), Lunar Adventures (March 25), the Graham Ord Trio (March 26), Themba Tana's African Heritage (March 31), the Paul Plimley Trio (April 1) and Creatures of Habit (April 2).

All concerts begin at 8:30. Tickets are \$4 advance (from Black Swan, Highlife and Zulu record stores), \$6 at the door for all but the Clayton/Priester/Granelli date, which is \$10. A series pass is \$25.

- MARKE ANDREWS