

jazzAVENUES



Chad Carter Appears at the Smithsonian Jazz Cafe March 21

BY STEVE MONROE

Winds of March

We are fortunate that the winds of March in the past have blown our way some of the most talented legends of our jazz heritage.

This is the month we celebrate the birthdays of icons such as bassist Jimmy Garrison, the longtime John Coltrane band mate, along with McCoy Tyner and Elvin Jones, on classic recordings like "My Favorite Things" and "Impressions." Garrison also played extensively with March's Ornette Coleman, the innovative saxophonist, composer and virtuoso musician who some credit with "reinventing" jazz and signaling the birth of avant garde and free jazz with his late 1950s recordings like "The Shape of Jazz to Come."

Reshapers of jazz would also include March's Cecil Taylor. "Unit Structures," "Conquistador," and "The World of Cecil Taylor," are some of this listener's favorites that feature Taylor's ability to create mind-freeing asymmetrical melodies that are classics all to themselves.

March also gave us pure melody purveyors, like Ben Webster, the master of bluesy sax and Sarah Vaughn, the queen of sass, Nat King Cole, a dazzling piano player whose musicianship became overshadowed by his crooning ability which rocketed him to fame, and George Benson, a gritty guitar player whose vocal ability also took him to fame.

And then there's saxophonist George Coleman, courtesy of March, who helped open this listener's ears to the world of jazz particularly on Jimmy Smith's "House Party" recording from 1957. Those are only a few of the legends March brought us, with Eddie "LockJaw" Davis, Terence Blanchard, Bobby McFerrin and Charles Lloyd other notables.

March dreaming

One of our area stars, guitarist Jerry Gordon, brings another March legend to life with a special tribute at Westminster Church on March 28.

Gordon's "A Tribute to Wes Montgomery" date promises to be another gem in his lifelong homage to the Indianapolis guitarist -- born John Leslie Montgomery. Montgomery is considered by many, along with Grant Green, as the standard by which all other jazz guitarists are judged. Says one of Montgomery's former bandmates, drummer Jimmy Cobb, in an article on the Verve Music Group Web site: "I've played all over the world, from Hong Kong to Italy to Australia, and everywhere I've met guitar players who ask me about Wes, how he played and what he was like."

Montgomery is known for swinging, blues laden guitar on classic tunes like "Four on Six," "Moanin'," "No Blues," and "Unit 7." He became famous with Verve when he was combined with strings and lush orchestration on recordings like "California Dreaming," "Bumpin'," "A Day in The Life," "Down Here on the Ground" and many others. Then there were his recordings with Jimmy Smith, "The Dynamic Duo," and "Further Adventures of Jimmy and Wes." Montgomery

Gordon, who grew up in Northeast D.C., has done Wes Montgomery tributes in this area and along the East Coast, including New York City clubs for several years. For the tribute date, he is scheduled to play with Thad Wilson on trumpet, Emory Diggs, bass, and Johnny Jones, drums.



Chad Carter

Free Jazz at Twins

A special opportunity to enjoy some of that free jazz that people like Ornette Coleman and Cecil Taylor popularized comes March 16 at Twins Jazz. Young trombonist Reginald Cyntje is the featured performer.

An island boy, Cyntje was born in Dominica and raised in St. Thomas. According to Twins' promotional information for the March 16 date, Cyntje says, "I love life and I illustrate that every time I play my horn. I want the audience to experience all of me; my love, anger, sorrow, or joy. I open up myself so that they and I can embark on a spiritual journey together." ■

March Highlights:

Jerry Jones Experience, March 14, Westminster Church ... Gato Barbieri, March 14-16, Blues Alley ... Reginald Cyntje, March 16, Twins Jazz ... David Bond, Andrew White, March 18, Blues Alley ... Larry Willis, Michael Hawkins, March 21-22, Twins Jazz ... Larry Coryell, March 27-30, Blues Alley ... Chad Carter, Bootsy Barnes, March 21, Smithsonian Jazz Cafe ... Winard Harper, March 21, Kennedy Center ... Jerry Gordon, A Tribute to Wes Montgomery, March 28, Westminster Church ... Allyn Johnson, March 28-29, Twins Jazz

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March Birthdays:

Benny Powell 1; Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Doug Watkins 2; Jimmy Garrison 3; Ricky Ford 4; Wes Montgomery 6; George Coleman 8; Herschel Evans, Ornette Coleman 9; Bix Biederbecke 10; Leroy Jenkins, Bobby McFerrin 11; Terence Blanchard 13; Quincy Jones 14; Cecil Taylor, Charles Lloyd 15; Tommy Flanagan 16; Nat King Cole 17; Harold Mabern, Charles Thompson 21; George Benson 22; King Pleasure 24; Ben Webster, Sarah Vaughan 27; Thad Jones 28; Michael Brecker 29; Freddie Green 31.



Department of Housing and Community Development

Notice of Public Hearing

"Draft Fiscal Year 2009 Consolidated Annual Action Plan for the District of Columbia"

Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

DHCD Headquarters
801 North Capitol Street, N.E.
9th Floor Boardroom

Come out and provide comments and recommendations on the Draft Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Action Plan!

The Plan is available for review at DHCD (8th Floor), all public library branches, all Advisory Neighborhood Commission offices, and several community-based organizations.

Call for exact locations!

Call 442-7250 or email dhcdevents@dc.gov for more information or if you wish to provide public testimony.

Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

Neil O. Albert, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
Leila Finucane Edmonds, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development

What Kind of Library Do You Want?

Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library

Hopes & Dreams Community Listening Meeting

Join us to discuss your hopes and dreams for your neighborhood library. With remodelling of the library scheduled to begin soon, your input and feedback are important.

Where:

Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library
3160 16th Street NW
(near Lamont Street, NW)
Washington, DC 20010

When:

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
6:00-8:00 pm



Getting There:

The Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library is located on 16th Street, NW between Irving Street, NW and Lamont Street, NW and is accessible by the S1, S2, S4, H1, H2, H3, H4, H8, 42, 52, 53, and 54 Metrobuses and the Green or Yellow Line to the Columbia Heights Metro Station.

For More Information:

- Log on to www.dclibrary.org
- Contact Archie Williams, DC Public Library at archie.williams@dc.gov or (202) 727-1437
- Persons with special needs (hearing or sight impairments, non English speakers, etc.) should call (202) 659-1414 x102 as soon as possible to have their needs accommodated

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For more information on how you can participate in the *Next Step Program*, call 202-722-2280, email info@samaritanministry.org or visit one of our offices between 9:00 and 11:00 any weekday morning:

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A Program of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington

The *Next Step Program* is sponsored by Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, a community partnership supported by more than 40 Episcopal and other partner parishes throughout the Washington metropolitan area. There are no religious requirements for participation in the *Next Step Program*.

The District government has millions of dollars in unclaimed property, and we would like to return it to you - *its rightful owners.*



For more information on this FREE government service, call the D.C. Unclaimed Property Unit at (202) 442-8181, e-mail us at DCUnclaimed.Property@dc.gov or visit us online at www.cfo.dc.gov.



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