



Friday, September 28, 2001

Jazz, symphony concerts highlight MTD weekend

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

As part of its **2001-2002 season**, Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** is sponsoring a jazz concert and symphony orchestra performance on Saturday, Sept. 29.

The Danny Jordan Jazz Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. at Varner Recital Hall. Jordan is a member of the OU adjunct faculty and teaches jazz improvisation, music theory and ear training. He plays piano and has been performing, arranging and recording locally and nationally for 25 years. The other members of the ensemble are saxophonist and flutist Dan Birch, drummer Max Kolomitz, guitarist Paul Abler and bassist Marion Hayden.

Birch's expertise ranges across the soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones. Kolomitz has been performing for 25 years and is a well-known studio musician. Noted jazz disc-jockey Ed Love of Detroit radio station WDET noted that Abler's playing is "on par with anything coming out of New York, right now." Hayden has studied with local jazz trumpeter Marcus Belgrave and has received glowing reviews from the New York Times.

"We've all known each other for years, but this is the first time we'll have played together as one group," Jordan said. "It's an all-star band kind of thing."

The concert will feature standard jazz compositions focusing on a wide spectrum of works such as "Alone Together," "Stella by Starlight" and "Round Midnight." The group also will perform two of Abler's original compositions.

"Abler's tunes have a bossa nova and Latin jazz flavor," Jordan said. "The other tunes we'll play are straight ahead, traditional kinds of compositions. They're the kinds of things we're teaching our students."

Tickets are \$12 for the general public, \$10 for seniors and OU staff, and \$6 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the Varner Box Office from noon-3 p.m., at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at the **Ticketmaster** Web site, or at the door one hour prior to the performance. For more information, call the Varner Box Office at (248) 370-3013.

The Pontiac-Oakland Symphony will have its season premiere at 7:30 p.m. at Clarkston High School. The symphony is conducted by Gregory Cunningham, instrumental music coordinator in MTD, and is composed of OU students, faculty, staff and various community members. The symphony regularly performs at Varner Recital Hall, various area high schools and St. Hugo of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills.

Muriel Mader, administrative secretary in MTD, has played the string bass in the symphony for three years. She's played her instrument for 36 years but became particularly interested in joining the symphony when she began working for MTD in 1995.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to perform with some very good musicians," Mader said. "We have performers from college-age to people in their 60's and 70's. Besides our college players we have professional and semi-professional players."

Among the compositions the orchestra will play is Stravinsky's suite from "The Firebird."

"It's a difficult and beautiful piece," Mader said. "It's a very well-known composition that you can really sink your teeth into."

Tickets are \$15 for the general public, and \$10 for seniors and students. Tickets may be purchased by calling (248) 334-6024 or at the door one hour prior to the performance.

SUMMARY

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