

The classics come alive

Great names come together for Charles Vanda Master Series Concert

Many of the greatest names in classical music—George Philipp Telemann, Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard Wagner, Felix Mendelssohn, and Gustav Mahler—have served as music director of Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig. This historic orchestra, currently under the direction of Kurt Masur, will present a Charles Vanda Master Series concert at 8 p.m. April 17 in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

Among the works that will be included in the concert are Prokofiev's "Excerpts From 'Romeo and Juliet'" and Richard Strauss's "Til Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche, Op. 28." Strauss also was a music director of the famed orchestra, as was Bruno Walter, Wilhelm Furtwangler and Sir Thomas Beecham.

Although the orchestra has a roster of 200 members, it usually tours abroad with only 150 musicians. The orchestra maintains nine string quartets, three chamber orchestras, and two four-wind quintets as well as a brass ensemble and an ensemble specializing in early instruments.

Under the direction today of Masur, the orchestra performs music from the mid-18th to the 20th century, regularly presenting premieres of works by German composers.

Tickets and further information are available at the box office, 739-3801, at Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.



Kurt Masur, Music Director of Gewandhaus Orchestra photo by Barbara Steil

An unusual afternoon' presented in library

"An Unusual Afternoon" will feature music by Gus Mancuso and incidental poetry and commentary by Joseph Delaney at the Clark County Library, April 14, 3-5 p.m. The two illustrate the relationship between the blues, limericks and Japanese Haiku, with musical and spoken examples.

Delaney, well-known Las Vegas Sun columnist, has a long list of credits including published author, producer, director, narrator and editor of six one-hour documentaries on Ireland shown on PBS locally and regionally.

Buddy Charles Concert Jazz Orchestra cooks big band jazz

Winchester Community Center, 3130 S. McLeod, will present a free big band jazz concert to be performed by the Buddy Charles Concert Jazz Orchestra Sunday, April 14 at 1 p.m.

Buddy Charles, a native of Canton, Ohio, has lived in Las Vegas since 1966 and has worked as a drummer in various lounges on the Strip. In 1978 he completely quit playing music to start a successful construction business.

After being away from music for 10 years, Charles brought together veteran musicians to form the Buddy Charles Concert Jazz Orchestra. The band started as "something fun to do," a chance to experiment with his own writing and arranging.

Soon the band found itself performing for Alan Grant's well-respected Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens. The core of the 18-piece jazz orchestra has now been together for two years. The band's repertoire includes Charles' own music along with big band standards from Stan Kenton, Woody Herman and Lionel Hampton. The band is in the process of recording its first album and plans are in the works for an overseas tour.

This free matinee concert is co-sponsored by Blanchard Construction, a State Song Grant, and Clark County Parks and Recreation—Cultural Affairs Division. For more information, call 455-7340.

KUNV 91.5 FM jazz calendar

Alan Grant's Monday Night Jazz: Four Queens French Quartet Lounge, (\$3 cover).
April 15 - Calvin 'Eagle Eye' Shields Big Band
April 22 - Roy Ayers
April 29 - Jimmy McGriff

The Hob Nob Lounge: 3340 S. Highland Dr. (1 block north of Spring Mt.), 734-2426
Tuesdays: 10 p.m.-2 a.m., Jac Montrose
Wednesdays: 11 p.m.-2 a.m., Jimmy Cook & the Jaz Boys

Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall: 739-3801
April 23 - Stephane Grappelli (7:30 p.m. \$15, discounts for seniors and students)
May 3 - Ramsey Lewis and Billy Taylor (7:30 p.m.)

Reed Whipple Cultural Center: 386-6211
April 27 - Richie Cole (8 p.m. \$8 adults, \$6 students, seniors and handicapped)

Le Bistro Lounge: Riviera Hotel, 734-5110

Lon Bronsonall and Starband, Mondays, 1:30 a.m.

Tarkanian's: 795-4667
Jazz happy hour Mon.-Fri., 4-7 p.m. (music and drink specials)

Casino Lounge: Hilton Hotel, 732-5111
Tom Ferguson Trio, Mondays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.; Tues.-Sat. 7:30-10 p.m.

Big Al & Eddie's Restaurant and Lounge: 4632 S. Maryland Pkwy., behind Warehouse Records. 736-7808
Mike DiBari and Street People, Thurs.-Sat., midnight-6 a.m.

Pogo's: 646-9735
Friday night jazz, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Gold Coast Hotel: 4000 Flamingo, 367-7111
The "Sorta" Dixie Jazz Band, Mon.-Fri., noon-6 p.m. (in the East Lounge)

Las Vegas Blues Society serves "blues" at 4th annual picnic

The fourth annual spring picnic of the Las Vegas Blues Society will be held Sunday, April 14, at Sunset Park, areas A and B. It will begin at noon and blues music will be served. Admission is free and open to the general public. The Las Vegas Blues Society will also be selling hot dogs, soft drinks and beer to help raise money for the Society.

This year's picnic is being co-sponsored by the Clark County Department of Recreation's Cultural Affairs Division, Miller Genuine Draft, and Mahoney's Pro Music and Drum Shop. Most of Las Vegas' own blues bands will be performing.

The Las Vegas Blues Society is a non-profit, Nevada corporation dedicated to the promotion and continuation of the blues music scene in Southern Nevada.

For more information, contact Bill Cherry at 734-1914.

Pogo's cultivates home-grown jazz Wynton Marsalis from a different perspective

Garden Spot of Decatur grows the "Good Stuff" by Andrea Fulton

By Roy Theiss

Pogo's Tavern is certainly not your garden-variety night club. Their uniqueness can be attributed to sticking to the basics. One patron, UNLV alumnus Warren Hill, described Pogo's Tavern as the "garden spot of Decatur." What they're cultivating at Pogo's is the home-grown stuff—jazz. No off-shoots here; just the straight-up type with roots that go back decades.

Pogo's has been featuring traditional jazz on Friday nights for the past 23 years. A plant light in the cave-like atmosphere would seem like a flood light. The only light in the main room of the tavern is either from the small red glass-encased candles on the tables or the beer signs hanging on the walls. But that's how traditional jazz clubs have been since the beginning and Pogo's Tavern certainly wouldn't want to be out of character.

It's safe to say the characters in the band have been around awhile. The median age is way past retirement, but that's to be expected when there are people who are able to enjoy their first love. Most people can only try to remember their first love—these guys are living it and playing it.

"What attracted me to music was that it's a small club of oral artists so few people hear it," Irving Kluger said.

The quartet Kluger leads now, known as the Las Vegas Jazz Band, has played with some of the best in the jazz world. Kluger, who will be 70 in July, has jammed on drums with Charlie Parker, Artie Shaw and Stan Kenton. When the occasion called for a smooth touch, Kluger could be found lending a beat to Nat King Cole's Lush Lite, Ella Fitzgerald's Flying Home, or numerous other classics.

But Kluger isn't alone when it comes to jamming with the big names. The rest of the band has also had their fair share of name dropping. So it's not unusual for other local jazz cats to join the band and start in on the bebop. Some nights Pogo's has a dozen cats swinging up on stage.

Pogo's Tavern owner, Jim Holcombe, knows what it takes to bring some of the best musicians to his bar.

"They appreciate the openness," he said. "I never infringed on their artistic creativity. I wouldn't dare interfere because I don't know that much about jazz. They run their side of the business and they enjoy it."

Jazz can be heard between 10 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. Friday nights at Pogo's Tavern, 2130 N. Decatur Blvd.

INXS goes from Down Under to on top



INXS Andrew Farriss, Garry Gary Beers, Michael Hutchence, Jon Farriss, Tim Farriss, Kirk Pengilly

By John Glynn

On Friday, April 5 more than 4,000 people crammed into Bally's Goldwyn Ballroom to hear Australia's INXS deliver an energetic show.

As a live act INXS is one of the strongest on the road. With seven album's worth of material to draw from, the band never lacks tunes to perform, although the earliest four albums usually get the back seat to the newer albums.

As Kirk Pengilly (guitar and sax) recently noted in an interview, "As a band we want to please the audience as a whole, but if we play really old songs then most of the crowd just sits and stares. So for the real die-hard fans, we usually try to add one or two fairly old songs, but most of the people come to hear popular songs so you have to draw the line somewhere."

Packing about 20 songs into the two-hour show, the band performed the obvious such as, "New Sensation," "Don't Change," "Suicide Blonde" and "What You Need." But the bulk of the material came from *Kick and X* with nearly every song played coming from those two albums.

The band squeezed their arena-sized gear and lights onto the tiny stage which made the stage seem cluttered, but the band didn't let it bother them at all. Lead singer Michael Hutchence even acknowledged the small venue and stage.

"It's finally great to see everyone's faces!" he said.

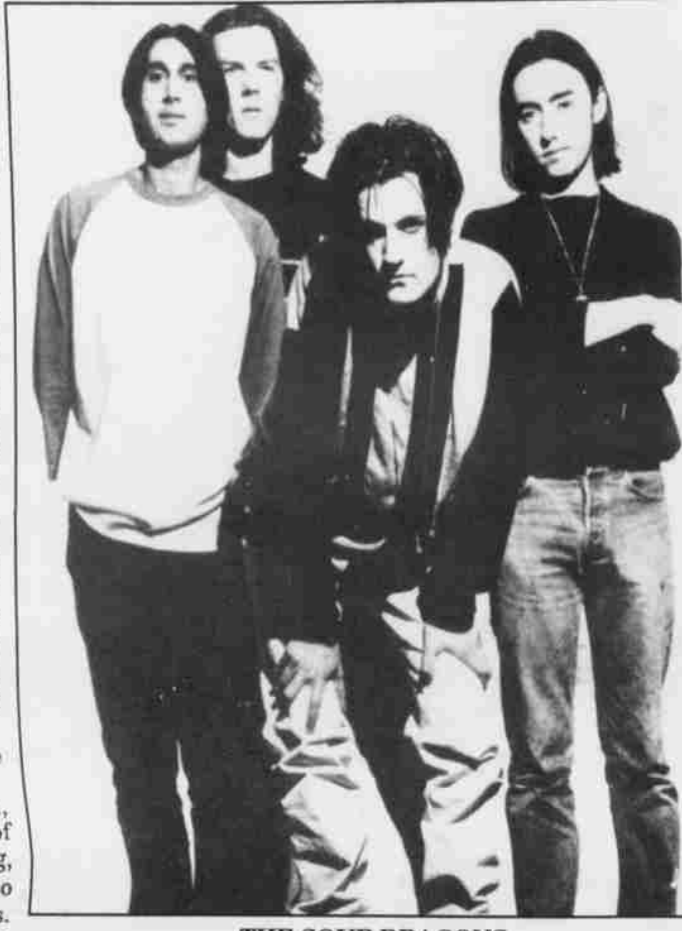
Adding that Vegas touch, the band invited a group of showgirls to dance to one song, and the compacted stage also added a few notable moments. Two women twice jumped on stage to join Hutchence in dancing to a song causing Hutchence to exclaim, "It's great to have a little audience participation."

INXS is noted for its dynamic hooks and lyrics, and their diverse songs can be heard on almost every type of formatted radio station. Their unique sound is a cross between funk and melodic rock. Pengilly described their sound as "a mix of everything that each guy in the band liked as teens growing up in Australia. The influence of jazz, funk, blues and rock therefore were all molded into the distinct INXS sound that you hear today."

After playing with the same line-up for 14 years, the band hasn't changed their formula for success one bit, and it shows in their chair-dancing wild shows.

Opening this international night of music was Scotland's Soup Dragons, and they proved to be a worthy act. This popular college band uses a '60s psychedelic sound intertwined with a '90s dance beat, and got the crowd all fired up for the dynamic evening that lay ahead.

The band is currently on tour in support of their *Louegod* album, and with the heavy sales of their shirts at the show they seem to be gaining a substantial following. Check these guys out.



THE SOUP DRAGONS Sushil Dada, Paul Quinn, Sean Dickson, Jim McCulloch

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The United States Department of Energy

Wynton Marsalis from a different perspective

Stepped into the lobby with a mellow, warm feeling. As a few more numbers rolled out, I waited in the lobby for the finish. At the end of the last number, the house cheered and clapped loudly. As people began to leave, their enjoyment was evident on their faces. One guy was even snapping his fingers as he walked out the door.

The sultry sounds of Wynton Marsalis and his band are not to be missed.

Music major Jenny Wright—an usher who watched the whole show—said she loved it.

"The music was inspiring," she said. "It was very nice to have such a wonderful artist come and perform for people who enjoy this type of music."



Wynton Marsalis photo by Ken Nahom