

Jazz blues guitarist Larry Carlton plays Las Vegas

Guitar 'sings' in his hands

by Rick Nielsen

In what was a perfect blend of comfort, style, acoustics and superb music, premier jazz blues guitarist Larry Carlton proved himself once again last Wednesday at the Palladium.

Backing up Carlton was a group of exceptional musicians, including John Ferrano on drums, who has beat out the rhythms with Carlton for 12 years. On tenor sax was Albert Wing, who has been playing with Carlton for about two years. Also included was the mind-boggling bassist Steve Bailey, playing a 6-string as though he invented it.

Bailey was allegedly suffering from jet lag after flying in from a gig in Taipei with renowned pianist David Benoit. The newest member of the band was keyboardist Matt Rollings, hailing from Nashville and formerly with the Nashville Network.

At the second of two shows, Carlton opened with a couple of hot jazz numbers, "Sunny" and "Bubble Shuffle," to immediately get the crowd's attention. Proceeding to thrill the crowd, he did the Michael McDonald classic "Minute by Minute," for which he won a Grammy.

Slowing up the tempo but not

the talent, he brought out the electric acoustic guitar and let his mastery shine as he manipulated virtually every chord and progression imaginable for "Smiles and Smiles to Go."

Getting back to his unique style of fusion he played "Sleepwalk" and "Strikes Twice," both to the delight of the entranced and responsive crowd.

From the subtle coaxing of the audience, he slammed out a gut-wrenching blues number called "Blues for TJ," which climaxed with the crowd jumping to its feet.

The show progressed in style with "All the Good Time," and "Point it Up," a song from 1978, which ended the show temporarily. Without much hesitation the band returned for one last song, "Room 333," to officially end the show.

"I enjoy playing Vegas, and usually try to play here once a year," said Carlton, a Southern California native, after the show. He also said he comes here often because he likes to play craps.

Last year he played at Spring Mountain Ranch. From here he was heading to Shea Stadium, where he was slated to play the National Anthem for the Mets Game.

"It should be a blast; thank-

fully I don't have to sing," Carlton said.

Promoter DD Productions is hoping to carve a niche in the Vegas music scene. Initially producing comedy, the company is also making the transition into music. Their first show went off without a hitch.

Opening for Carlton was a Vegas local act, Tex Richardson and Kathy LaMar, who also gave a solid performance and had an excellent band.

The band consists of Richardson on keyboards and vocals; LaMar on vocals; Skip Martin on trumpet; Doug Ostgard on flute, alto sax and WX7 wind controller which is a woodwind synthesizer that sounds somewhat like an electric kazoo; Randy Gurele on percussion; Hugh Moran on drums; and another impressive bassist Roschon Westmoreland, formerly of After Burner.

The show opened with Sade's "Sweetest Tabu," followed by "Feel Like Making Love," and finishing with Richardson's own version of Herbie Hancock's "Watermelon Man."

Catch Richardson and LaMar at Play It Again Sams every night except Monday.

All in a day's newscast

Information for television and its public

by Chris Donovan

Channel 13's three daily newscasts contain news that they have decided their public needs to know and the news containing interesting bits of information. Daily files, news releases, newspapers, wire services, scanners and phone calls from viewers present the information that the station's reporters gather.

"We look for the news stories that viewers need to know about or that will interest them," said Michelle Gors, Executive Producer of KTNV Channel 13 news.

The reporters know upon assignment the allotted time that their stories will have on air. The newscasts, not including sports, weather and extra reports, actually amount to a short 13 minutes of complete news.

"It's not like a newspaper where if you don't understand a paragraph you can read it over," Gors said. "A television report must make sense the first time, because the news story is only reported once."

After covering a story, the reporter talks to the producers for a final decision. Reporters' packages (stories covered using the reporter's face, voice, etc.), Vo-sops (voice sound-overs on tape), Readers (stories covered with no video) and voice-overs create the

newscasts. The afternoons bring in Channel 13's production crew, who take care of "over the shoulder stories," which are stories that appear over the anchors' shoulders. The crew creates the "bumps" which are the introductions that news audiences so often hear, "Coming up next . . ." and "Later on the newscast . . ." Finally, the production crew, after finding out the stories that will be running on the next newscast, finish up by feeding the reporters' names, story labels and news titles into a machine called a Chyron.

The breaking news stories that occur right before a news broadcast are handled by pulling a reporter off one story and sending the reporter and a live truck to the scene. "It is always exciting to get to a story first or to have the first news crew at the scene," Gors said.

Spot news affects the outcome of the newscast, and if one story is dropped from the news lineup, it will most likely appear on another broadcast. "Many stories that are covered are never used, but it is good to have the option," said Gors.

Producing a newscast is exceedingly hard work, but Gors said, "The busiest news times are the best, because the newsroom pulls together as a team."

Thomas G. Leslie—Leader of the band

by Stephanie Penner

Thomas G. Leslie, director of bands at UNLV, sits behind his desk speaking quietly, explaining the numerous responsibilities his profession entails. Behind him is a bookcase filled with tapes, albums and videocassettes, numbering in the hundreds and meticulously aligned. Plaques, certificates of achievement, and pictures of friends adorn his walls. His pressed slacks, oxford-cloth shirt and carefully knotted tie parallel the organization of his office.

Aside from teaching, recruitment and keeping the band program in top condition are major concerns, Leslie said. Leslie teaches or administers all five bands on campus, and also teaches a conducting class and a marching band techniques class to graduate students. To undergraduates he teaches a class in music education.

The teaching aspect of his career is just one side of his profession. One of his primary responsibilities includes traveling to high schools throughout the Southwest to meet students for recruitment purposes, Leslie said. The university has also encourages him to do guest appearances with honor bands and to do clinics with high school bands. Leslie also finds time to judge band contests and festivals outside of Nevada.

Leslie has set many goals to keep the band program in top condition. One of his immediate goals is to take the University Wind

Ensemble to perform at the western and northwestern regional convention of the College Band Director's National Association. They will most likely perform at the convention next fall.

The students will perform in front of an audience trained in music so bigger demands will be expected of them, Leslie explained. This visibility helps with recruitment and brings notoriety to the school.

"One of the primary aspects of developing a top-notch college band program is to make sure that they get good visibility and that people from all over can hear them play," Leslie said.

Keeping the marching band up to date with the rest of the nation is another concern. Leslie said that when he first came to UNLV the marching was not a contemporary one. In the past six years he has worked hard to change that. Now the band plays more current music including jazz and popular, and the visual image of the band has been improved through more contemporary drill design and uniforms with more color and less military impact, Leslie said.

"We changed the visual image of the marching band by using free-form drill design where the drill is written to the musical phrase and then interpreted visually," he said. "It's the standard in our industry that's being done competitively in the high schools. It is what the rest of the country is doing, but it wasn't happening when I first got here."

After he graduated with his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, Leslie went to Indiana State University where he received his master's degree in a year and a summer. He began teaching high school band that same year.

Leslie remained at the high school level for 11 years before coming to UNLV, where he has been for the past six years. The band program has been growing ever since. Six years ago there was less than a half a dozen music education majors in the entire department; now he teaches a class of 14 juniors who specialize in instrumental music.

The marching band has grown from approximately 60 members to the 115 members that marched last fall. Leslie said there are more talented players now, and as a whole, who can play harder literature better than the easier literature they were playing when he first came to UNLV.

Behind the neatly-organized desk and the polished attire is a man dedicated and in love with the only profession he's ever known.

"If I won the California lottery today, I'd probably still be here tomorrow," Leslie said. "If I can't do this I don't care to do anything else of prime importance. I believe in this activity so much because I believe in music. I also believe in students tremendously. I try to make them realize what we do is so important and so good."

Comedy Night at Tarkanian's

Friday May 10, Tarkanian's Celebrity Sportsclub will present the "Bad Boys of Comedy." The show will feature local comedians Al Tryferis, Paul R. Brown, Doug Stanhope and Rob Rock, with special guest MC "The World Famous Rocket." Showtime is at 10p.m. Tickets are \$3 (\$2 for students).



She shows all the signs of having HIV.

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