

Jazz

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travelling, professional musician: from his humble beginnings in 1938 with Johnny "Scat" Davis, penner of the famous "Hurray for Hollywood," to his times with Gene Krupa, Ted FioRito and the famous Count Basie Septet.

With his great sense of humor, DeFranco recalled his sojourn with Tommy Dorsey, who he played with for five years. He recounted a time that "Opus I" was a hot song, and Dorsey required DeFranco to play it exactly the same way each time.

DeFranco, not wanting to play it the same way, changed a few notes. Dorsey fired him, advising he could play with someone else who didn't mine him changing things around. One of DeFranco's colleagues consoled him, "Don't feel too bad, Dorsey fires Buddy Rich every three months."

Winslow then took the ensemble into "Blues into the Night" and "Skyliner." DeFranco went to town on Henry Mancini's immortal "Mr. Lucky," playing faster than

the eye could see.

Fans were more than enthusiastic about the performance. Cam Usher, a fan since the '60s, introduced herself to DeFranco after the concert. The two reminisced about a concert that Usher attended in 1962, when DeFranco opened up for Stan Kenton at San Diego State. DeFranco was late, due to a flat tire enroute.

Felix Viscuglia, conductor of the UNLV Orchestra and a fellow clarinetist enjoyed the show as well. "He's a living legend," Viscuglia said. "It's a privilege to have him here; he's the last great of the swing-bebop era."

Both Gagliardi and Winslow were pleased with the performance. "It was wonderful; the band played great," Gagliardi said. Winslow agreed, citing "lots of musical intensity." "He was pleased the band sounded so good, given they were a little nervous playing with such a legend.

The Jazz Ensemble will give their spring concert in May. As it's Gagliardi's final appearance as conductor, it should be an event you won't want to miss.

Chestnut Brass brings museum of music and instruments to the stage

BY JAMES KIM
STAFF WRITER

The Chestnut Brass Company performed their unique brand of music at the Judy Bayley Theatre on Saturday.

Part of the UNLV Performing Arts Center Chamber Music Southwest Series, the evening featured an eclectic mixture of musical selections performed flawlessly by the five-member group. In addition to the music, the audience was treated to a brief, often humorous explanation of the history behind each piece and the accompanying instruments.

The company performed music from the Renaissance and early 19th century on period instruments such as the keyed bugle, corneopean, natural trumpets, sacbuts and ophicleide.

In an unusual piece entitled, "Portrait of a Civil War Soldier," the music was interegrated with the narrative from a disillusioned soldier. They also performed an original piece written exclusively for them by the award-winning composer Leslie Bassett. The evening then ended with the music of Cole Porter.

The Chestnut Brass company began as a Philadelphia street band in 1977. Since then, they have evolved into a professional touring and performing organization, giving over 100 performances every year in the United States, Mexico, France, Germany, Italy,



The Chestnut Brass Company performed its unique brand of Renaissance music Saturday at the Judy Bayley Theatre.

Canada and the Caribbean.

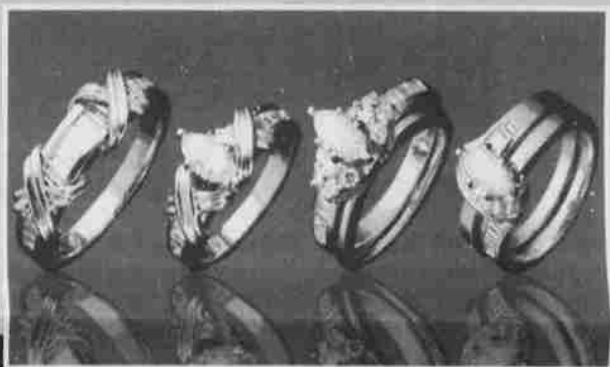
They are highly renowned for their expertise in modern and historical brass instruments and have received many awards. The group has also been featured on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air," "All Things Considered" and "Performance Today."

Upcoming performances by artists who are scheduled to

appear as part of the Chamber Music Southwest Series include Steve Caplan on Dec. 7, The Walter Naumburg Competition winner on Jan. 10, and violinist Teresa Ling on Feb. 5.

For more information on this and other performing arts events, call the box office at 895-3801.

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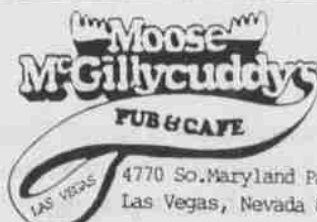


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