

Entertainment

Jazz Month Celebrated At Flamingo Library

Jazz — the word seems to have originated in Chicago about 1914, but the music evolved from earlier Black spirituals, its rhythmic style was inherited from Ragtime, and its melodic and harmonic style was affected by the "blues." The arrival of the first gramophone records in 1917 boosted jazz's popularity and it has been growing ever since.

In Las Vegas, May is celebrated as Jazz Month. In recognition, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District presents "Celebration of Jazz," on Saturday, May 17 at 3 p.m. at the Flamingo Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd.

Featuring Tres Jazz, the concert offers such modern jazz pieces as "Django" and "Woody 'n You." Other selections include "Evedence" by Theolonious Monk, John Coltrane's "Naima" and the concert version of "Delilah."

Comprised of local musicians, Roy James, Larry Rockwell and Stuart Aptaker, the trio is dedicated to the performance of jazz as an art form. According to Rockwell, "Tres Jazz is the dream of a lifetime for us. We all have the same degree of commitment."

James, the groups' musical coordinator and drummer, admits their strong love of jazz demands the best from them. "We rehearse three and four times a week. Tunes such as "Django" take that kind of preparation."

"I grew up with music," James states. "My dad was a trumpet player. An opera singer lived next door and I began playing trumpet at age two. But one day I watched a parade and that was it for me — drums!"

Bassist Rockwell's professional involvement with jazz dates back to 1954 when he became affiliated with Gene Normans' "Just Jazz" series. He has played with Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan, Zoot Sims and Woody Herman.

Aptaker, pianist, trained with Alton Jones at the Juillard School of Music in New York. He has performed with a variety of performers, including Pete Barbutti, Gordon Macrae, and Larry Storch. A classical pianist as well, he has

Singing star Patti LaBelle headlines the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom May 23 through 28.

A touring artist since the early '60s, Patti performed for more than a decade in trend-setting "girl groups" like The Ordettes, Patti LaBelle and the Bluebells and the '70s rock group LaBelle. Best known among her early recording successes are the multi-million seller "I Sold My Heart to the Junkman" (with the Ordettes), Laura Nyro's hit with the Bluebells "It's Gonna Take a Miracle" and LaBelle's million-seller "Nightbirds."

Patti launched her career as a dramatic actress to critical acclaim with a role in Norman Jewison's smash movie "A Soldier's Story." Her newest effort is a made-for-TV movie "Unnatural Causes," starring John Ritter and Alfre Woodward. "Causes," which focuses on the use and effects of Agent Orange, is scheduled for release this fall.

At Caesars Palace, Patti was co-headliner with Luther Vandross in a popular outdoor concert two years ago. She returned to the Las Vegas resort last year to tape part of her own network television special with friend and fellow-Philadelphian Bill Cosby; the special aired last Thanksgiving. This will be her debut as headliner in the Palace's main showroom.

She just completed taping a cable special called given a number of recitals in the southern California area.

A second "Celebration of Jazz" concert featuring the Capricorns will be held on Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Patti LaBelle Headlines Caesars Palace May 23-28

"Sisters In the Name of Love" with Gladys Knight and Dionne Warwick. And she is basking in the success of her newest album, which, because of advance orders, has already gone gold when it was shipped to distributors. The LP, "Winners And You," features a duet with Michael McDonald, "On My Own," written by Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager. The single has already reached number 13 on the pop charts, number two on the dance charts.

But more than television, movie and personal appearances, Patti prizes the time she can spend with her family, managing her home. She'll tell anyone that people shouldn't be surprised to see her in the laundromat or the supermarket. "I'm just like you," Patti says. "I just make records."

Sharing the Caesars

'Black Champions,' three-part chronicle on Channel 10

"Black Champions," a three-part documentary mini-series providing a vivid account of black athletes and their accomplishments throughout the 20th century, is currently being aired on consecutive Wednesday evenings. The series started May 14 and can be viewed at 9 p.m. on Channel 10.

From the early 1900's in Galveston, Texas, home of boxer Jack Johnson, to the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, "Black Champions" brings to life the skills, challenges and triumphs of not only those black athletes whose achievements are well-known, but those whose names are less familiar.

Palace stage with LaBelle is comedian Arsenio Hall. Hall, a graduate of Kent State University, broke into show business at the Comedy Cottage, a Rosemont, Ill. nightclub. Nancy Wilson discovered him there and brought him to Los Angeles. Now he boasts of appearances with more than 20 major headliners, among them The Pointer Sisters, Joe Williams, Aretha Franklin, and LaBelle. A television guest of David Letterman and Johnny Carson, Hall has also entertained in many of the nation's prestigious showrooms and concert venues.

Patti LaBelle and Arsenio Hall will perform at Caesars Palace in cocktail shows

nightly at 8:30 and 11:30 702-731-7333 or 800-445-p.m. For reservations phone 4544.

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