

ENTERTAINMENT



CHARLIE PARKER

Carnegie jazz band plays Charlie Parker

NEW YORK (AP) — When the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band played "The Music of Charlie Parker," it took a big leap — and landed where it wanted to be.

Charlie Parker was one of the creative giants of bebop, which still informs jazz improvisation, as it takes a known tune and creates a new melody from its chords. Parker's special innovation was to improvise a new melody line off the top rather than the middle of the informing chord.

The final three numbers last Thursday had the evening's best arrangements

for band, all three by Frank Foster. "Quasimodo" uses the harmonic structure of "Embraceable You." The challenge for Parker, of course, was to create another attractive, upbeat, romantic tune. He did, and guest alto saxophonist Charles McPherson, a Parker disciple, brought it out with beautiful tone.

This was followed by "Parker's Mood," a Kansas City blues in bop, and "KoKo," one of the masterpieces of the bebop revolution. Instrumental sounds swirled around each other and McPherson's solo

was classic. "KoKo" made an exciting end to the evening.

Earlier in that set, Slide Hampton's arrangement of "Yardbird Suite," with tenor saxophonist Frank Wess soloing, provided the band with an opportunity to stretch out, from dissonance through rich melody.

The first half of the concert recreated part of a famous concert of May 1953 at Massey Hall in Toronto, by Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, Charles Mingus and Max Roach.

Trumpeter Jon Faddis, music director of the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, said he was

18 and joining Mingus' band when he first met Charles McPherson, who became like an older brother. Other musicians last Thursday were pianist Renee Rosnes, bassist Todd Coolman and drummer Dana Hall.

They started strong with "Perdido," with the tune in trumpet and piano and accents from saxophone. Gillespie's famous, saucy "Salt Peanuts" came next, with fast instrumental bits flying all over the place. After "Wee" and "Hot House," McPherson put an edge on his tone in Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia."

Della Reese receives Gabriel achievement award

Tammy D. McMahan
Sentinel-Voice

Della Reese is a woman of many talents. She's one of the stars of CBS' hit television series Touched by Angel. She has starred in a number of films, including Harlem Nights. Reese was a headliner on the Strip during the 1950's.

She's also the minister of a Los Angeles church. Reese's many talents were celebrated when she received

the 1999 Gabriel Award for Personal Achievement at the 34th Annual Gabriel Awards ceremony, held Oct. 16 at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

The Gabriel Awards are sponsored by Unda-USA, a Catholic Church affiliated national organization for communicators. The awards ceremony honors individuals, television networks and radio stations creating and

broadcasting programs that dispatch faith, hope and wisdom.

When asked about the meaning of the award Reese stated, "Somebody appreciates what I've done. That's the meaning of a personal achievement award. I appreciate that."

Reese's receipt of the award in Las Vegas also represents a triumph in the area of racial progress. During the 1950's and 1960's, black entertainers such as Reese could not stay in the hotels where they performed. In 1990's Las Vegas, black entertainers are welcomed and lauded.

The confident and unabashed spiritual Reese and her husband and agent, producer Franklin Thomas Lett, discussed the changes in Las Vegas, her award and their plans in the entertainment world with Unda officials, their guests, church representatives and other honorees.

Reese spoke with honorees Kathie Farnell and Tonia Stewart who won a Gabriel Award for their radio documentary Remembering Slavery. Remembering



DELLA REESE

Slavery is a two-part program featuring restored 1930's voice recordings of interviews with former slaves discussing their lives.

These first-person accounts compel the listener from the start with the words: "We were slaves. We belonged to people. They'd sell us like they sell horses and cows and hogs."

Although the subject matter concerns one of history's most horrific chapters, the courage and compassion of the former slaves shine through amidst the inhumanity.

for the former slaves to talk about their lives and for us to hear it."

Stewart stated, "the strength of our ancestors is recognized with this award." For further information about this project visit the www.rememberingslavery.org website. Other award winners included the short feature Hoop Dreams, a community awareness campaign entitled Facing Race and television series Any Day Now.

The work of Reese, other Gabriel honorees and Unda-USA establish that programming doesn't have to appeal to the baser instincts of humankind to be captivating. Instead, programming can uplift individuals with its encouragement, honesty, wisdom and dignity.

The Hungry One

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Hungry One is still eating at the Paris Hotel. The buffet serves breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. Long lines at both demonstrate that the Paris buffet is a popular dining experience.

Featuring regional dishes from all over France, it is laid out in a vast area arranged to look like a small village with some dining areas inside cottages or houses, others outside in what look like sidewalk cafes or small squares.

The buffet includes soft drinks, coffee and tea. Wine and beer are available for an extra charge. The Hungry One was able to experience authentic French dishes from many regions of France.

The hostess and wait staff greet you in French and set you up at a table. We started with French onion soup and a wonderful wild mushroom soup, followed by an array of salads and marinated vegetables and olives. There were shrimp, king crab legs and shellfish as well.

There was a fabulous beef bourgignon (a version of stroganoff cooked in red wine), a creamy veal stew from Normandy, duck with green olives, venison, salmon and sole in delicate sauces, real Alsatian sauerkraut with sausage and smoked meats, braised in white wine and herbs. Side dishes included scalloped potatoes, camembert mashed potatoes, baby vegetable medley and spicy eggplant and tomato stew from Provence.

There was a carver slicing up turkey and roast beef as well as chicken and lamb dishes. For dessert we had delicious lemon tarts, raspberry tarts and chocolate cookies. There were many other cakes and pastries, a crepe station, bananas foster, and French cheeses. Even the coffee was wonderful ... just the right body and aroma, not too bitter or too watery.

The Paris' chefs have succeeded in recreating the authentic flavors of France here in Las Vegas. This food doesn't just remind you of France, it takes you there. The Hungry One enjoyed the buffet and will be dining in Paris quite often. 3755 Las Vegas Blvd. South, 946-6346.

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