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Sounds Like Ours: Fine tunes

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Jazz pianist Jon Glazer performs during a press conference announcing Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame's

spring concert series. Glazer will perform during Sunday's 'Simply Swingin' concert.

STEPHEN HOLMAN / Tulsa World

Below: Jam sessions at Uncle Bently's or IV Play may feature Big Daddy or Balinda Cross and Steve Purple (bottom).



Correction

This "Sounds Like Ours" column incorrectly reported the names of two musicians for a Sunday concert at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. Bill Crosby will play bass. Russell Grant will play drums.

Annual piano jazz concert brings together new and familiar faces

If you fine-tune a piano concert, is that called piano-tuning?

Whatever it is, that's what the Tulsa Jazz Society's done for the latest installment in its popular annual jazz-piano concert series, set for 5 p.m. Sunday at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, 322 N. Greenwood Ave.

"We have decided to do away with the piano jam at the end of the program," says organizer and participant **Gayle Williamson**. "Frankly, with everybody up there, it was just overcrowded; we felt like it was kind of overkill for one number. So we'll have the regular 15 minutes of playing from each pianist, with or without the rhythm section."

Dubbed "Simply Swinging," the concert will feature performances by returnees **Sonny Gray**, **Donald Ryan** and **Pat Moore**, joined by first-timer **Jon Glazer**, the former **Judds** keyboardist who moved back to his hometown of Tulsa last year.

"Jon Glazer is brand-new, and **Chuck Gardner** is new in that he's been away from Tulsa for four years, and now he's come back," notes Williamson. "And I'll be playing this year for the first time in several years."

Rhythm section for the evening will be a couple more Tulsa A-list players: **Jon Cummins** on bass and **Ken Leverette** on drums. Performer and Jazz Hall of Fame CEO **Chuck Cissel** will co-host with Williamson.

Admission will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for college students and seniors, and \$3 for all other students. Refreshments will be available.

-- *J.W.*

A musical journey

With a variety of programs happening almost weekly, it seems, the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame has become one of the city's busiest venues. In addition to Sunday's "Simply Swinging" piano concert, the Hall will also host a production of "From Sea to Shining Sea: A Musical Pilgrimage." Written, directed and produced by Chuck Cissel, in collaboration with **Arthur Thompson's** Dredd Drum School of Rhythm, "From Sea to Shining Sea" uses song, dance, and multimedia presentations to tell the story of the passage of African-Americans from the shores of Africa to the shores of America, emphasizing the musical forms born as a result.

"Working with the talented Arthur Thompson is a joy and his kids are terrific," says Cissel. "We take this particular arts program to area Tulsa Public Schools during Black History Month, and the kids have a blast with the African drums, jazz and hip-hop music. It's an uplifting experience for everyone."

The show's set for Thursday (to night) at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, with youth admitted free. Call the Hall, 596-1001, for more information.



-- *J.W.*

Ben.Ben been busy

Want to be immortalized on CD? The upside is that you don't even have to know how to rock like a hurricane or fit into tight leather pants. Yes, you become apart of music history . . . at least for Ben.Ben fans. Whether it's a howl or maybe just that phlegmy cough of yours, you can be included on Ben.Ben's forthcoming EP to

be recorded live at Deadtown Tavern on Saturday.

Founding members **Jeff Davis** and **Jonathan Taylor** will be joined by special guests **Matt Leland** (formerly of **Fuzz** and the **Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey**), **Keefe Jackson** and **Nick Broste**.

The fun begins at 11:11 p.m. Leave the leather pants in your closet.

--*M.G.*

Posthumous blues jam

Initially, the Sunday concert in Joplin, Mo., for longtime bluesman **Ace Moreland** was a benefit, helping the terminally ill musician with his medical bills. Though Moreland lost his battle with cancer last Saturday, the show will continue, with proceeds benefiting his family.

"Ace was from Miami, and a lot of people are going to play from that Miami-Jay-Joplin area," says Tulsa's **Jimmy Markham**, a longtime Moreland friend and collaborator. "They'll have **Gary Hutchison** from **Oreo Blue**, **John 'Moose' Moss** from **Smoot Mahuti** -- Ace's old group -- **Don Shipps, Polly Ess, Darrell Buzzard & the Karltons, Jackie Jacquegaroutte & Levee Town, Annie Walser** and myself and my band.

"There'll also be an auction," he adds. "One of the items is an '82 custom Stratocaster, and there's a lot of other various musical equipment and memorabilia."

Although Moreland always returned home around Christmas, he'd been based in Florida for the past couple of decades, working with the blues label King Snake Records as artist, studio musician, producer and engineer. In addition to his own four solo discs for the label, he worked on the albums of such acts as **Sonny Rhodes**, the **Rev. Billy C. Wirtz, the Beat Daddies, Big Shirley** and Markham himself. Moreland produced, engineered and played guitar on Markham's 1999 CD, "Wound Up Tight."

"I can't tell you how I feel about him in my heart," Markham says. "He was a dear friend, just a wonderful talent, and he'll really be missed."

The benefit show begins at 4 p.m. in Joplin's Kitchen Pass. There'll be a \$4 cover charge. On the same evening, **John Henry's** "Smokehouse Blues" program, airing over KMOD (97.5 FM) at 8 p.m., will feature a Moreland broadcast recorded in 1997.

-- J.W.

Valentine's Day concert

Singer, songwriter and producer **Anthony Mason** is set to headline a Valentine's Day program at the Greenwood Christian Center, 1519 W. Pine St. The impressive entertainment roster for the 7:30 p.m. Friday concert -- titled "It Must Be Love: An Evening of Love and Romance" -- also includes **Toni Estes, Crystal Williams, Wayman Tisdale, Nicole Jackson, Vince Gibbs, Morris Rentie Jr., Jason Bereal, Cottrell Dawson, Wallace McNary, Carter Vaughn, J.B. Handy** and **Quedon Baul**.

Tickets are \$20 per couple or \$10 single in advance, \$25 and \$15 at the door. For more information, contact the Greenwood Christian Center at 582-3580.

-- J.W.

The never-ending jam

When musician **Steve Purple** wandered into a Tuesday night jam session at Uncle Bently's a year and a half ago, he probably had no thoughts of hosting one himself. Now, however, he's got two of his own to deal with -- a Sunday night event at IV Play and, beginning Thursday



(tonight), another one at Uncle Bently's.

"I just came out to one of **Don Morris'** Tuesday jams and kept coming back, just as one of the players," recalls Purple. "Then I got to know the IV Play owner, Doug Watt, and he proposed we do a Sunday jam."

The weekly IV Play sessions, always at 8:30 p.m., began in November and started slowly. Now, however, the number of people wanting to perform each night is usually in the double figures, and the audience has increased, as well.

"I'm really happy," he says. "We have singer-songwriters and people who front bands, like **Big Daddy of Big Daddy and the Blueskickers**, and **Franklin Birt** from (the band) **Slick Fisher**. I've been really impressed with the quality of musicians coming out. People have come out and supported us and helped us a lot. T.L. Daniels, a singer-songwriter, is a big part of it, too. He's there every night, helping move a lot of equipment, and he actually plays the flute and sax, too."

Purple figures that his regular presence at the Don Morris-hosted Tuesday jam sessions led to Uncle Bently's owner **Patty Komarek** asking him to do his own Thursday event at the club.

"What's so exciting to me about these jams is that people'll come in and play who don't get a chance to play anywhere else," he says. "They'll get up there and be all nervous and have no self-confidence the first couple of times, and then when they find out they can do it, their confidence goes up and they rock. Without these (events), they wouldn't have been able to do that."

Thursday night's jam at Uncle Bently's is set for 8:30 p.m. Patrons will also get a chance to hear the veteran musician Purple, who's been working with singer **Balinda Cross** recently, do his own set, as well.

-- J.W.

Rejects return

The great Clearasiled masses converged on the Cain's Ballroom Sunday night to see the All-American Rejects play their first gig back in Tulsa since the band's hit single "Swing, Swing" debuted on MTV.

Not every year does an Oklahoma rock band make it on the hallowed national airwaves, so in honor of the occasion it seemed as if a few high school and middle school classes took a late-night field trip to the Cain's. It sure beats going to the zoo. Instead of lions or monkeys there were Okies making the loud, happy music complete with infectious hooks about mean girls who break hearts at will.

Perhaps there were even some loyal fans who went out to the Cain's in hopes of one day bragging to their buddies, "Hey, I was a fan back when the Rejects were still playing tiny venues in Oklahoma. Sure the L.A. Coliseum is great, but back in the day is when they really knew how to rock."

OK, so the Rejects still have a lot of work to do, but the good news is that they're not much older than than all those adoring teens who screamed the lyrics to "Swing, Swing" at the top of their lungs.

It goes without saying that the Rejects are just beginning their assault on the national airwaves. By the way, kudos to Rejects front man **Tyson Ritter** for having the crowd give a little love to the shirtless guy who jumped up on stage only to be tackled by security.

--M.G.

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