

Meridian: Jazz group cuts record

Review by Viola Feix

Meridian means high-point, culmination; and clearly, something special is happening with this group. The diverse personalities and styles of the musicians create an atmosphere of tension which gets resolved on a musical level. There is just the right amount of controversy and attraction between them, the right chemistry.

Barbara Dzuro, from Cleveland, Ohio, has always been an artist; art is her life-style. As a composer and pianist she is gifted with a depth of perception that is awe-inspiring. She plays with intuitive intelligence and emotional understanding.

Andre St. James, originally from Oakland, California, has lived in Eugene for 11 years and considers himself a Eugene-man. He brings to the group an all-encompassing tone and open rhythmic concept that typifies a global spirituality.

His bass is melodic, sensual, and down to earth.

Alan Tarpinian has been trained in the atmosphere of intellectual freedom of the New York/Boston area, and also lived in Europe for several years. He has made a double career in music as jazz drummer and classical guitarist, and his play is typical of his whole personality: high energy paired with a romantic sensitivity.

Barry Deister comes from Chicago where the emphasis is on tone. He is a brilliant composer and tenor saxophone player whose vitality and love is expressed through the powerfully seductive sound of his instrument.

Barry came to Eugene two years ago. He started playing with the three others, and they soon formed a band, "Our Thing," later to be called Meridian. The music is original and inspired, and Barry

has devoted all his time to this group; he became the driving force in their musical endeavor and basically stabilized the group.

Even though Dzuro and Deister compose the music for the group, the final product is the result of a democratic process. Each composition is open to the suggestions and influence of each member of the band, and arrangements might evolve which are rather different from what the composer had in mind. The common conception of the group is the guiding force towards a musical consensus.

The material manifestation of this work is now a record, "Farewell to Fortune," to be released this weekend. Considering the way this group has evolved and worked together, the album cannot be like a slick garment with no visible seams. Each tune is about something very personal, happen-



Barbara Dzuro, Andre St. James, Barry Deister and Alan Tarpinian of Meridian.

ing right here and now. Yet, the album has a strange kind of equilibrium that leaves one satisfied—in a thoughtful and curious way. One gets the feeling of having tasted a new kind of food, and wanting to taste it again to find out what it was exactly that was so good about it.

For a Eugene-based band a record is a quantum leap: a jump to a higher energy level. Not many

bands or musicians in Eugene have done that, and none so far who are entirely committed to jazz. It has been a great effort and deserves full recognition.

There will be a record-release party at the Oregon Electric Station in Eugene October 9 and 10. These dates mark a great local event, and—who knows?—might be musical history one day.

J. Cole's Brew Pub and Restaurant
Proudly Presents

NUSHOOZ and Quarterflash
performing together as

SALMON DAVE
A 9 Piece Band

Friday, Oct. 9 and
Saturday, Oct. 10 at
9:30 pm

Cover Charge \$5
1045 Willamette 683-2268

33 Beers on Draught • Fine Selection of Northwest Wines
I.D. Required • Wheelchair Accessible
Entire cover proceeds go towards entertainment
Open Every Day 10 am-2 am

CAT'S MEOW JAZZ & BLUES CORNER
JAZZ & BLUES, REGGAE & Gospel RECORDS

SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOME

IN THE FIFTHPEARL BUILDING
Fifth & PEARL • EUGENE
686-8742

CD's, Tapes
Gift Certificates

VOLVO Owners
Take advantage of our FREE Safety Inspection
and SPECIAL

Alpine Import Service
10.50 Oil Change
includes oil & filter

Call for an appointment
Springfield • 12th & Main • 726-1808
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

The VOLVO Specialist

Car Care with a Conscience

Audi • BMW
Porsche • Volkswagen
Alfa Romeo

European Automotive Specialists
687-0040
1975 W 7th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97402
Hours 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Autopia
Fine Automotive Workmanship

Jazz

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
7:30 PM-1 AM
SUNDAY 1-7 PM

NEW AGE IN MUSIC
WEEKDAYS
9 AM-12 NOON;
12:30-4 PM

KLCC
A NEW AGE IN MUSIC

KLCC 89.7 FM
NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

Oregon Mozart Players

Robert Hurwitz, Music Director

Saturday, October 10th, 8:30 pm, Soreng Theatre
Sunday, October 11th, 2:30 pm, Beall Concert Hall

Mozart: Serenade in E Flat, K.375
Vivaldi: Concerto in A Minor for two violins
(Soloists: Lisa Bieber & Marilyn Tyler)
Rossini: Sonata #3 in C for strings
Haydn: Symphony #85 in B Flat (La Reine)

EUGENE'S PROFESSIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Soreng Tickets: \$10.50, \$8.50 and \$6.50. Call 687-5000.
Beall Tickets: \$6.50, \$3.00, and \$1.50. Call 686-4363.

SynTrack Music

Electronic Music
& Home Studio Equipment

FALL SALE
October 9-16

USED & NEW

- Synthesizers & Samplers
- Drum Machines
- Recording Equipment
- Music Software
- Atari ST Computers
- Publications

2548 Willamette St.
Behind Baskin-Robbins
Tuesday - Saturday
11:00 - 7:00 p.m.
343-7939