



Photo by Mark Pynes

The Don Latarski Trio, possessing a musical style that encompasses jazz and classical influences, will open for Dan Siegle's Farewell to Eugene Concert at the Hult Center, October 15.

The Trio, which consists of Don Latarski, guitar, Kevin Deitz, string bass, and Dan Stueber, percussion, "tries to make classical music fun," according to Don Latarski. He notes that the music they have been rehearsing for the concert is "difficult, with very unique arrangements, requiring a lot of technique and skill." Since the sound differs from Siegle's, Latarski sees the concert as a "good match of styles."

No strangers to the local jazz scene, the Trio members and the Don Latarski Group members Jeff Homan, saxophone/flute, and Max Leake, keyboards, have many projects in the works. Just released is the Group's second album, "Lifeline," which Latarski emphasizes is a "radical departure" from the preceding album, "Haven."

Latarski characterizes "Lifeline" as being "high energy and more upbeat, stronger rhythmically, and making a more powerful musical statement." He feels that the Group's style is accessible and compares it to that of jazz artists Pat Metheny and Grover Washington, Jr., who are presently enjoying commercial success.

Planning to focus on the West Coast — "cultivating the market in our own backyard" — Latarski sees a bright future for both the Group and the Trio. He is confident that each will open doors for the other. In furthering this local involvement, the Trio will be participating in this year's Oregon Bach Festival.

The album jacket for the Don Latarski Group's second album "Lifeline" was designed and photographed by fellow Eugenic, Brian Lanker. Lanker is a Pulitzer Prize winning photographer.

DON LATARSKI



*Lifeline*

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