

Caribbean Jazz hits Cuthbert

Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Oregon Daily Emerald

Three all-star musicians come together Wednesday at the Cuthbert Amphitheatre to premiere their new self-titled debut album.

The Caribbean Jazz Project features Dave Samuels, Paquito D'Rivera and Andy Narell, intertwining the sounds of Latin, Afro-Cuban and Caribbean jazz.

The members bring their own personal histories and playing styles to the project. Dave Samuels is considered the most versatile vibes and marimba player in jazz. He discussed the group's unique sound.

"We want the music to express the rhythms and the spontaneity of the moment by painting a picture that's really a composite of all three of us. We love to play," Samuels said.

The Caribbean Jazz Project formed last summer as a special project and presented a concert in New York's Central Park.

Since then, they've put together their new release. The Cuthbert concert marks the beginning of a five-week tour from Los Angeles to Canada. Later in the year they plan to travel in Europe.

Each member stands out as a leader. Samuels was a member of Spyro Gyra from 1977 until 1994. He first worked with Nelson in 1988.

Nelson may be the best known steel pan player around today, even gaining regard in Trinidad, where steel pan instruments were invented.

D'Rivera defected from Cuba in 1981. He is known worldwide for his ability to combine jazz



The Caribbean Jazz Project, featuring Dave Samuels, Paquito D'Rivera and Andy Narell, plays at the Cuthbert Amphitheatre Wednesday.

Caribbean Jazz Project
Wednesday, June 28
7 p.m. at Cuthbert Amphitheatre
Admission is \$10, \$12.50 day of show

with classical and traditional Caribbean music. Samuel said "we all three knew each other or of each other's work and from the beginning we really clicked."

"Onstage each one of us is part performer, part audience. The music is very infectious, with a lot of movement, content and intensity. The component of jazz is about improvisation and the Caribbean side is part of the world," Samuels said.

Samuels said the Caribbean Jazz Project finds response to their music depends on "the beauty of instrumental music, which allows people to participate on a lot of different levels."

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