

PULSE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT...

Ten days of tunes

Featuring African-American styles, the Oregon Festival of American Music begins today

By Edward Yuen
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Festival of American Music is coming to town again.

The festival is well known for featuring themes of American music in different perspectives. This year, in its eighth season, the OFAM celebrates African-American music specifically and offers a choice of gospel, swing, spirituals and symphonies to audiences.

The festival starts today and ends August 14. During the 10 days of events, the festival will feature both free and charged music performances in the Hult Center, Cuthbert Amphitheater and the University's EMU Ballroom.

The festival divides into two parts. This week's programs focus on gospel music; starting Monday, the festival will feature swing music.

The individual headliners in this week's programs are Dick Hyman and James Paul.

Hyman, the jazz advisor of the festival, is a composer and arranger for more than 100 discs and has worked on the music in most of Woody Allen's movies. Paul is the artistic advisor for the program.

Hyman, Paul, the festival Orchestra and Chorus, the Age of Swing, Cullum Jazz Band and Topsy Chapman take the stage in tonight's American Traditions/Classical Concert, which starts at 8 p.m. at Silva Concert Hall in the Hult Center.

Other performers, including the Eugene Sacred Harp Singers, baritone Kevin Deas, the Treble Honor Choir and musicians from the Young Artists Academy, will be featured in events later this week.

Starting next week, more musicians are performing.

Violinist Fritz Reinhart, pianists John Owing and Janice Scroggins, tenor David Howell and soprano Marilyn Keller will be on stage Wednesday night. These artists represent

traditional and classical repertoires as well as young and professional.

Swing music will be the main theme of next Thursday's performances.

Ruth Brown, a legend in the blues and gospel music, joins forces with the Blind Boys of Alabama, a jazz and heritage music group formed in the 1930s, in Thursday night's concert. Other performers include The Swing Wing, clarinetist Kenny Davern and Bob Seeley.

Oregon Festival of American Music

Week 1 Schedule of Events:

The Roots of Gospel: Thursday, August 5

- 3 p.m. Heritage Concert
- 5 p.m. UO Seminar 1
- 8 p.m. Traditions/Classics Concert

Friday, August 6

- 3 p.m. Heritage Concert
- 5 p.m. UO Seminar 2
- 8 p.m. American Tradition Concert

Saturday, August 7

- 1 p.m. Spirituals & Sacred Harp Sing
- 3:45 p.m. Video: Amazing Grace
- 5 p.m. UO Seminar 3
- 8 p.m. American Classics Concert

Swing music will be the main theme of next Friday's program. The Festival has organized a dinner-dance program at the EMU Ballroom for that night. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., and the dance begins at 7:30 p.m.

This year's festival concludes next Saturday night at Cuthbert Amphitheater. Mavia Staples, accompanied by Luckey Peterson, will perform in a tribute to Mahalia Jackson. Other artists performing include Willis DeVone and the Catholic Community Gospel Choir of Tacoma.

The Festival is family oriented, so the programs are suitable for both adults and children. Student discounts are available and children younger than 5 are issued free to most of the events.

For more information, the OFAM can be reached at 687-6526.



Trombone player Mike Pittsley practices with fellow members of the Jim Cullum Jazz Band Wednesday evening.

Catharine Kendall/ Emerald

Lynyrd Skynyrd still rockin' on 'Edge of Forever'



Lynyrd Skynyrd, which made its recording debut in 1973, is set to release a new album August 10

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

The good don't always die young.

Sometimes the good rise as immortal figures, masters at reinventing themselves, able to take on the challenges of a harsh new world and come out on top.

Then again, maybe not.

OK, the new Lynyrd Skynyrd album "Edge of Forever," released August 10, isn't a mind-blowing, innovative look into the soul of an ancient group that made its first recording in 1973. It's just

not as good as the old stuff, but it's it not too feeble of an attempt to get back on the charts.

Fans from the good ol' days will enjoy Skynyrd's latest endeavor, but it probably won't create any new, younger fans. It certainly doesn't contain hits like "Sweet Home Alabama," recorded in 1974, or "What's Your Name," which debuted in 1977.

Most of the tracks found on "Edge of Forever" are energetic, inspirational pieces geared toward the little people. When yer down and out, listen to "Through It All," "Workin'," and the album's title track, "Edge of Forever," to boost yer spirits.

The lyrics do their best to remind you that

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Although its chart-topping days of the late-1970s are history, Lynyrd Skynyrd still demands respect on annual summer tours. Skynyrd plays in Portland on Oct. 27.

Courtesy