

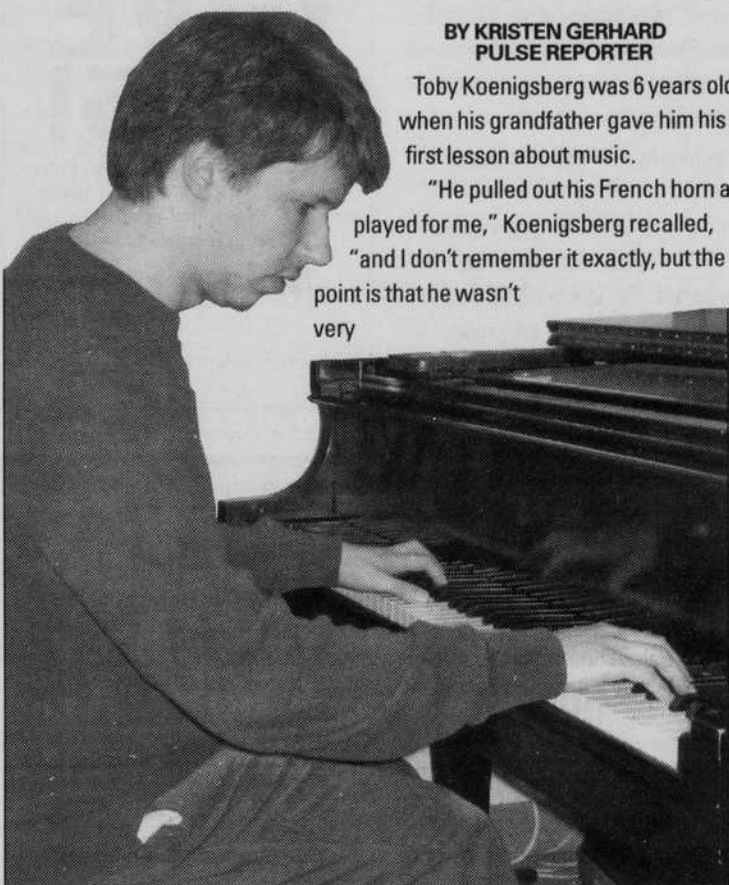
Jazz trio puts a spin on improvisation

The University-based group will employ 'creative jazz' with a set inspired by the late Elliott Smith in a show at Luna tonight

BY KRISTEN GERHARD
PULSE REPORTER

Toby Koenigsberg was 6 years old when his grandfather gave him his first lesson about music.

"He pulled out his French horn and played for me," Koenigsberg recalled, "and I don't remember it exactly, but the point is that he wasn't very



KRISTEN GERHARD | PULSE REPORTER

Toby Koenigsberg, assistant professor of jazz piano at the University, warms up in the School of Music and Dance on Sunday.

good. And he said something like, 'I've been playing for five years and this is all I can do, so if you're going to play music you should start when you're young.'"

And so began Koenigsberg's 24-year relationship with the piano, an experience that has taken the University graduate around the country, from New York to California, and right back to Eugene again, where he now serves as assistant professor of jazz piano and associate director of jazz studies in the University's School of Music and Dance.

Since his return to Eugene about two years ago, Koenigsberg has formed a strong connection with Luna, the jazz-based nightclub attached to Adam's Place restaurant. His monthly performances at the venue last year went so well that the club requested Koenigsberg do a similar gig on a weekly basis.

With his first performance a solo act, tonight will mark the Toby Koenigsberg Trio's second weekly performance at Luna. This evening's trio will be composed of Koenigsberg on piano, graduate student Jason Palmer on drums and junior Dorian Crow on bass guitar. Koenigsberg, who has been leading jazz piano trios for almost 13 years, said this sort of group has a very rich

history within the jazz genre.

"There have been a lot of great jazz piano trios that have built off of what earlier jazz piano trios have done," he said. "So there's this great tradition and it's given someone like me, who's playing jazz a hundred years after its birth, a lot of stuff to work with."

Tonight, the trio will feature the music of Portland-native, folk-punk artist Elliott Smith. The singer/songwriter was probably best known for his song "Miss Misery," which was nominated for an Academy Award in 1998 for its appearance in the film "Good Will Hunting." To the great sadness of his loved ones and fans, however, the artist committed suicide on Oct. 21, 2003 while working on his sixth album, "From a Basement on a Hill," which was released posthumously.

"I play his songs well because I have such a deep feeling about his music, because I love it so much," Koenigsberg said. "I've also found that it's especially adaptable to jazz settings. The harmonies are really intricate and varied, which is more like jazz and less like a lot of pop music."

Tomorrow's two-year anniversary of Smith's death, however, was not a factor in the trio's decision to play his music at tonight's event.

"It was just a strange coincidence," said Palmer, who has performed with

JAZZ, page 7

EVENTS MOVIES BOOKS MUSIC



Today
Peter Mulvey at
Sam Bond's Garage
8:30 p.m., \$7

Friday
ALO: Animal Liberation
Orchestra
WOW Hall
8:00 p.m.
\$12 at door

Saturday
Eddie Spaghetti (of the
Supersuckers)
John Henry's
9:00 p.m., \$8



TOP 5 MOVIES

- 1: "The Fog" (\$12.2M)
- 2: "Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit" (\$11.7M)
- 3: "Elizabeth-town" (\$11M)
- 4: "Flightplan" (\$6.47M)
- 5: "In Her Shoes" (\$6.1M)



NYTIMES TOP 5 FICTION

- 1: Michael Connelly, "The Lincoln Lawyer"
- 2: Nora Roberts, "Blue Smoke"
- 3: Diana Gabaldon, "A Breath of Snow and Ashes"
- 4: Gregory Maguire, "Son of a Witch"
- 5: E. L. Doctorow, "The March"



ITUNES TOP 5

- 1: Kanye West (feat. Jamie Foxx), "Gold Digger"
- 2: Black Eyed Peas, "My Humps"
- 3: Nickelback, "Photograph"
- 4: Chris Brown (featuring Juelz Santana) "Run it!"
- 5: Ashlee Simpson, "Boyfriend"

In my opinion



KRISTEN GERHARD
WHOLE LOTTA WOMAN

TV shows on DVD are a hot commodity

I've finally come to terms with a miserable aspect of my personality: I am an extremely lazy bum. There are few things in life that make me happier than when a television station runs a marathon of one of my favorite shows. I can curl up on the couch with a bag of candy and a bottle of soda and barely move for at least four hours.

I also have an addictive side, especially when it comes to buying entertainment products like CDs and DVDs. Set me loose in a Best Buy with a credit card and I will love you for the rest of my days, just ask my mother — I love her and her credit card very much.

But combine those vices with the recent upsurge in TV-on-DVD sales in the United States, and you've got a very concerned (not to mention, very fat from all that candy) Kristen.

In June, Variety magazine reported on a study conducted by Adams Media Research and Screen Digest. The analysis found the amount Americans were spending on DVDs of television shows had jumped from \$160 million

GERHARD, page 11

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The (International) Noise Conspiracy, "Armed Love": "O Bailan Todos, O No Baila Nadie!" The (International) Noise Conspiracy has these words of wisdom, meaning "either everyone dances or no one dances" in Spanish, written across the first page of their CD booklet for their fourth CD, "Armed Love." Used as a revolutionary expression, this Swedish quartet urges everyone to have the courage to stand up and dance, especially in troubled times, which the world has seen too many of in recent years.

Following in the footsteps of musicians like Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Bob Marley, all of whom demanded political revolutions, The (International) Noise Conspiracy, with their mix of classic '70s rock, catchy pop and intense lyrics, are desperately dissatisfied with the way this world is headed and they want you to know it.

"Make no mistake about it, we are a revolutionary, anti-capitalist, Marxist, Communist rock band," says lead singer Dennis Lyxzén. The (International) Noise Conspiracy proves this in their twelve-track CD, which includes politically rebellious songs like "Let's Make History," "This Side of Heaven," "Guns for Everyone" and — of course — "Communist Moon."

"Armed Love," produced by Rick Rubin, who has worked with artists such as Johnny Cash, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Weezer, is a strong, catchy and rockin' CD that will make anyone want to get up and dance. The (International) Noise Conspiracy shows its ability to pen politically powerful lyrics as well as the typical love song, such as "The Way I Feel About You" or the upbeat and intense "Black Mask."

All in all, The (International) Noise Conspiracy's "Armed Love" proves to be a fun and upbeat rock CD, but many of the songs tend to sound the same and remind me very strongly of Lenny Kravitz' sound. Nevertheless, this album is definitely worth checking out.

—Amy Lichty



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Comics



Music inspired by the
Northwest