

# Be Moved

Jazz bassist Dave Friesen brings spirited holiday concert to Eugene.

**W**orld-class. It's an adjective you could use to describe any performer you're trying to play up. But jazz bassist David Friesen is the real deal.

He's played in Vienna, Moscow and Carnegie Hall. His face has graced the cover of almost every jazz publication that matters. He's gigged with a list of musicians that reads like a "Who's Who" of jazz: Stan Getz, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bill Evans and more.

Every December, he globetrots back home to Portland to play with Jennie Hoffman of San Francisco for their annual series of Christmas concerts. They've been doing it for the last 32 years and for Friesen, it's as much a part of his own holiday traditions as it is for the people who attend the sold-out shows in Portland.

"It's so spontaneous and so fun," Friesen said in a phone interview. "I look forward to it every year. One of the things that makes this concert so enjoyable for people is that we're having fun with it and people can see that."

This year they've teamed up with two other impressive musicians: Rob Davis, an

up-and-coming tenor saxophone player who's turning heads with his rich, varied improvisation; and drummer William Thomas, highly regarded for his creativity and fresh style that pushes boundaries.

While Friesen performs all year, the Christmas concert is quite different from

his solo shows. Having Hoffman in the mix creates an entirely different dynamic. A natural performer born for the stage, she has a presence and warmth that makes you

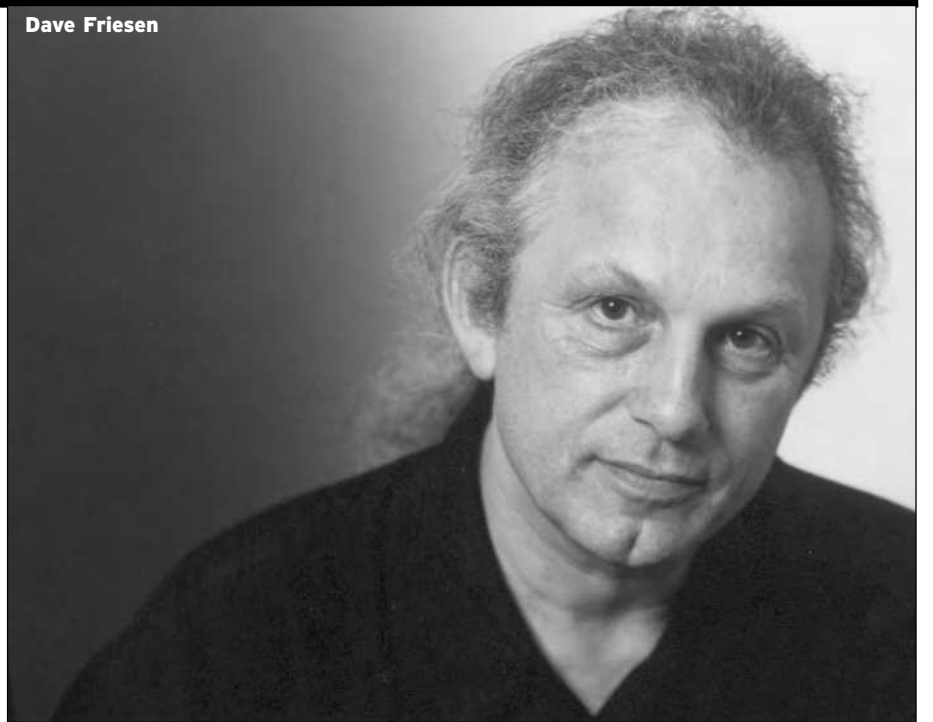
feel like she's singing just for you. The music itself is spirited, light and full of joy. It leaves you with a sense of well-being, as though you're connected to everything and everything is good.

"It has a way of entering into a person's heart more easily than words," Friesen said. "Music is able to get through the cracks of the walls people have in themselves, touching people's lives."

Friesen's gentle, teacher-like nature is quickly apparent in conversations with him. Jazz writer Herb Wong of Jazz Times wrote Friesen's biography for him and describes him as "compassionate ... his music founded on integrity and the pursuit of excellence."

**DAVID FRIESEN AND JEANNIE HOFFMAN**  
**The Spirit of Christmas**  
**Sunday, Dec. 19, 7:30 pm**  
**Luna. \$12.**

Dave Friesen



He sees music and all the arts as a way to strip away the hype we deal with on a daily basis — advertising, hyperbole, PR and spin. Music, he said, brings us back to the core. It heals. It gives hope and encouragement. It touches people in a way nothing else can.

His music is also a perfect fit for Eugene, almost embodying our community's best characteristics. It flows with grace. It moves with humor. It is utterly unique.

But for some reason, Eugeneans haven't quite realized what an amazing op-

portunity it is to have a chance to see Friesen play, especially with Hoffman. Last year, the audience at the holiday concert got an intimate show.

It's ironic considering how accessible the music is to everyone, regardless of personal musical tastes. This is music that rises above musical genres. It incorporates classical and jazz but in a way that transcends musical molds and refuses to be bound by narrow categories and definitions.

The melodies flow, the rhythms mingle and weave. The event is an adventure you don't want to miss. **EW**

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