

Toby Koenigsberg Trio



No Sense Missing This Show

To really get a feel for **Toby Koenigsberg's** new CD, *Sense*, you have to hear it. It's smooth jazz piano that, to my ears, is reminiscent of early Miles Davis transcribed for piano, bass and drums. Koenigsberg is assistant professor of jazz piano at the UO, where he earned his undergraduate degree in music before furthering his education at both Eastman and the Peabody Conservatory.

He formed a new group in January, after the recording of *Sense* was complete, but the CD release performance features the same guys as on the CD, drummer Jason Palmer and bassist Tyler Abbott. Koenigsberg has two tracks on *Sense* called "Stellaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa! (one)" and "Stellaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa! (two)." I got Koenigsberg on the phone and asked him about those songs plus his love for musician Elliott Smith.

"There's this jazz standard called 'Stella By Starlight' and shorthand among jazz musicians, it's referred to as 'Stella,' Koenigsberg said. 'We had this version where we would improvise freely at the beginning from elements of the song, and that would be an intro to the song. Then we would play the song, then at the end we would play a vamp, which is a repeated short phrase. So both the beginning and the end didn't sound like the tune on their face, but they were using elements of the tune.'"

When they recorded "Stella" for *Sense*, they felt the beginning and end worked, but "Stella" itself didn't. "So we cut off the beginning and the ending and made them those two tracks," Koenigsberg explained.

He has plans for a future CD of jazz renditions of Elliott Smith's music. "He's one of my favorite musicians," Koenigsberg said. "His music really works well in a jazz sense, because the harmonic material is really rich ... and jazz tends to have harmonic material that is also really rich, so it's easily adaptable." Koenigsberg promised to play some of that material at the show.

Toby Koenigsberg Trio plans a CD release party at 8 pm Friday, June 9 at Luna. \$5. - *Vanessa Salvia*

The Lonesome Diva

Throughout her ten years in the Seattle music scene, **Carrie Clark** has simply been known as, well, Carrie Clark. Even with her band in tow, she was always, simply, Carrie Clark. If you think about it, it sounds lonesome.

So Clark has decided to share the lonesomeness with band mates Dayna Smith on bass, Greg Fulton on guitar and Michael Cotta, drums, by dubbing them The Lonesome Lovers. Hopefully, every-

one will be happier now.

Currently touring in advance of the release of their new CD, *Seems So Civilized*, Carrie and crew will bring their "alt-country cabaret" stylings to a June 10 stop in Clark's hometown of Corvallis in preparation for a national tour. Yes, we know Corvallis is 45 minutes from Eugene. But we're here to tell you Carrie Clark and her lonesome crew are worth the drive.

Raised on the classic Americana of Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash and Crystal Gayle, Clark is self-taught on piano and guitar. Her winsome voice is expressive and versatile enough to take her through plaintive love songs to old chanteuse standards. Most of the band's songs are contemplative meditations about one-night stands, love lust divas and other dark lullabies.

"I am a generally happy person," Clark says, "But songwriting seems to bring out the dark side of my emotions. You have to have both, so in order to stay happy, the darker side of me is given to the songs I write."

Carrie Clark and The Lonesome Lovers will cry out in the wilderness at 9 pm Saturday, June 10 at Bombs Away Café in Corvallis. \$5.

- *John Ginn*



Slightly Stoopid

Only Slightly

Hey kids. Do you like pre-sellout 311? How about smoking weed? How about *Telephone Free Landslide Victory*-era Camper Van Beethoven? Never heard of them? Well, they never heard of you either. But if you never heard of **Slightly Stoopid**, you should go to the McDonald Theatre in a few days. These guys were teen prodigies discovered by almost-legendary deceased Sublime frontman, Bradley Nowell. Now they've been touring hard for ten years, resisting artistic pressure from mainstream labels and selling a few albums along the way to hippies, hipsters, gangsters, surfers, Rastas and Pizza Pockets all over the country.

You know Pizza Pockets. Those vacant-eyed, twitchy-thumbbed basement dwellers who subsist on cheese-filled microwave pastries and *Grand Theft Auto*? But despite Slightly Stoopid's appeal to the lowest common denominator ("they sing about spliffs ... dude, that's cool"), their longevity and the technical expertise of their music manages to elicit respect from connoisseurs in the punk, reggae, funk, hip hop and even acoustic scenes.

You have to be able to put up with fusion and you have to be tolerant of improvisational jams. But if snarky, self-important music critics like myself can see past their moniker (is it irony? God, I hope so) and enjoy their latest offering, *Closer to the Sun*, chances are you might like them too. My bet is Miles Doughty and Kyle McDonald can fill the room with more than testosterone and second-hand smoke. Now go buy a ticket and that old Camper album while you're at it.

Slightly Stoopid plays 8 pm Saturday, June 10 at McDonald Theatre. \$15 adv./\$18 dos. - *Adrienne van der Valk*



Carrie Clark