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A Q-and-A WITH JAZZ LEGEND TOM GRANT

Tom Grant
Jazz musician
Tom Grant.

By **R.J. MARX**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Pianist Tom Grant is a longtime leader on the Portland music scene, an award-winning jazz and New Age music star with an international audience.

After graduating from the University of Oregon, he traveled to New York City in 1970 with Native American saxophonist Jim Pepper. This led to Grant touring and recording with jazz greats Woody Shaw, Charles Lloyd and Tony Williams before launching into his own decades-long experience as band leader, recording artist and mentor.

Guitarist John Orr and I will be opening for Grant's upcoming performance with singer Shelly Rudolph at the Astoria Golf and Country Club on Feb. 2. In the run up to our show, I caught up with Grant at Bill's Tavern in Cannon Beach.

R.J. Marx: Tell me about growing up in Portland.

Tom Grant: I was born in 1946.

IF YOU GO

Tom Grant & Shelly Rudolph

When: Saturday, Feb. 2

5:30 p.m. Doors

6 p.m. Opening show with saxophonist R.J. Marx and guitarist John Orr

7:30 p.m. Main event

Where: Astoria Golf and Country Club

For tickets and more info, visit astoriagolf.com

My dad's name was Al Grant — his original name was Abraham Goldbaum. He was a drummer and tap dancer in vaudeville. I started on drums and tap-danced a little myself when I was 4 or 5.

My older brother Michael turned me on to all the hip s**t, like Miles, Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, Horace Silver, so I listened to all that stuff, too. We both took lessons from the same person, Gene Confer. He was

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I was very much influenced by the Tony Williams Experience. He could rock with the best of them. Everything was possible and nothing was impossible.

Tom Grant