

HAPPENINGS

Sonny Rollins at Masonic

Artichoke Music will be presenting one of the living legends of jazz, tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins. Sonny's professional career began in New York in the '40s, the heady days of early "bop." By the middle '50s Sonny had worked and recorded with virtually all the greats of that era, Bud Powell, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane and many others. He was leading his own bands and critics were already hailing him as one of the greatest living tenors, inventing new words to describe his forceful, imaginative and articulate playing. Sonny's career now spans three decades and he has continued to grow and change, maintaining his own identity while experimenting with new ideas, trends and styles.

Sonny Rollins is the most gifted living saxophonist and a player who has maintained his identity at the same time that he has made use of the various styles, trends, and materials that have surfaced in jazz over the last 35 years of his professional playing experience. The result is an approach to saxophone playing that can now move with ease from the romantic ballads of Tin Pan Alley to the dancing calypso rhythms or the yearning melodies of country and western, the street beat of rhythm and blues, a humorous reference to a cartoon score from the 1940s, all projected with the disciplined talent of the finest saxophonist to emerge since Charlie Parker. Without a doubt, Sonny Rollins is one of the most important musicians of any style, category, or school in the world.



Legendary jazz saxophonist Sonny Rollins will make a rare concert appearance on Friday, September 23rd at 8 p.m. at the Masonic Temple Grand Ballroom, 1119 SW Park Avenue. Tickets are available at Artichoke Music, all Bass outlets and Everybody's Records. Tickets are \$9.50 in advance. For info, call 248-0366.

Rollins was born in New York City, of parents native to the Virgin Islands, on September 9, 1930. Most of his brothers and sisters were musically inclined, but only Sonny veered away from classical music, after his uncle, a saxophonist, had introduced him to jazz and blues.

"It won't come as startling news to longtime fans that Sonny continues to play with the same ferocity, wit, intelligence and consummate musicality that have distinguished his career.

"Rollins' incredibly muscular playing and endless ability to improvise elaborate, long runs remains undaunted and unmatched by any other living tenor.

"He is the greatest music maker we have."

Sonny's sensational set at last year's Mt. Hood Jazz Festival provided ample proof of his continually evolving imagination and virtuosity.



WANDA THOMPSON
photo: Richard J. Brown

Musical benefits Black Ed Center

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W. — An explosion of classical Afro-American music performed by the best in local talent will occur this Sunday, September 18, at the N.W. Service Center on 18th & N.W. Glisan. It is a benefit for the Black Education Center.

Organizer Wanda Thompson said, "We have gotten together a group of Portland stars to assist the BEC. We'll be performing some nostalgic music from the '30s and '40s; music from Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald.

According to BEC's Director Joyce Harris, the Black Education Center is "a private independent school designed to meet the basic educational needs of Black children. We view the education of our children as a priority and we focus on the academics. Through our academic program we teach our students to be proud of themselves as Black people."

Harris said she doesn't believe their educational premise fosters a segregated attitude towards society. "When you teach someone to be proud of who they are, you are instilling a positive self-concept. You are teaching a child to be proud about who they are and to use that positive self-image when they encounter the world."

The musical revue is to raise revenue to help roof the Center, buy supplies, and pay teachers back pay. Harris said, "We have the most

committed teachers in the world, because not too many people will be so committed to a cause to make personal sacrifices like our teachers.

"I would like to encourage everyone to come out to the musical revue because the entertainment will be fantastic. We have performing the cream of the crop in terms of local talents. We have musicians who can see beyond their own self-interest. I think everybody in the community views the Black Education Center as something that has been able to survive because of the support we've received from the Black community."

On a personal note, the musical revue will be the last local performance of singer Wanda Thompson. "I'm going to Virginia to get my career started on the East Coast. I plan on going to school and getting a degree in music. Hopefully, I can do some recording while I'm back there."

Her last words are directed towards Portland's youth. "Follow your dreams. Leaving Portland and going back East to study has been a dream of mine for a long time. Please, never let anyone tell you that you can't achieve your dreams or your goals."

Other local talents performing include Ira Hammond, Donald Hepburn, Marianne Mayfield, Shawn Price, Janice Scroggins, Dennis Springer, Thara Memory, Sheila Wilcoxson and Niobeh Tsaba. The musical revue starts at two in the afternoon, Sunday, September 18 at the Northwest Service Center.

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Artichoke Music Presents an evening with legendary saxophonist

SONNY ROLLINS

Friday, September 23rd, 8 PM

Masonic Temple Grand Ballroom, 1119 SW Park Ave. Tickets: \$9.50 in advance, \$10.50 at the door available at Artichoke Music, all BASS outlets and Everybody's Records.

Coming October 15th: Master Indian Musician Al Akbar Khan

Ernestine at Neighbors of Woodcraft

Ernestine Anderson combines the extraordinary excitement and luscious sound of a fresh voice with the maturity and wisdom of her years in music, to create the compelling sound that makes her a favorite performer in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Ernestine Anderson handles a song as if Sarah Vaughan had just tossed it her way with instructions to be gentle. Her robust voice, never strained or affected, hugs a lyric lovingly, then sends it out with a precision that could make more widely heralded singers weep with envy.

Recently, Ernestine has become an enthusiastic participant in college and high school vocal jazz clinics, where she conducts workshops and concerts. A recent project culminated in a performance with Mark Murphy, Richie Cole and Barney McClure.



Ernestine Anderson will be at the Neighbors of Woodcraft Sept. 22, 8:00 p.m., 1410 S.W. Morrison.

Ernestine's innate swing, her brandy-mellow sound, her faultless diction and her sensuality make her stand out among the singers of jazz in today's newly vital listening world.

HAPPENINGS

Northwest Indian baskets are on display at the Oregon Historical Society Museum, Sept. 1-Nov. 13. Demonstrations will be held all day Sat., Sept. 17 at the Center, located at 1230 SW Park. Admission is free. Hours are Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m. For info call 222-1741.

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Saturday, September 17
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