

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## NORMAN SYLVESTER

### The Boogie Cat

BY DAN BELL

Born in Bonita, Louisiana, long time Portland resident Norman Sylvester brings to the stage an exciting and soulful presence. Playing what has been termed "original N.W. Blues." Sylvester and company have been playing professionally in the Portland area since 1985.

Sylvester's musical odyssey began in 1957 when his parents bought him an \$11.50 acoustic guitar, they told him when he learned three songs they would buy him an electric guitar.

A school mate at Jefferson high school taught him the three songs and more. That school mate was Isaac Scott now a well known Blues musician in his own right living in Seattle.

Sylvester gain further experience playing for the Faith Tabernacle Church of God in Christ band, playing with Danny Osborne and his friend and mentor Isaac Scott.

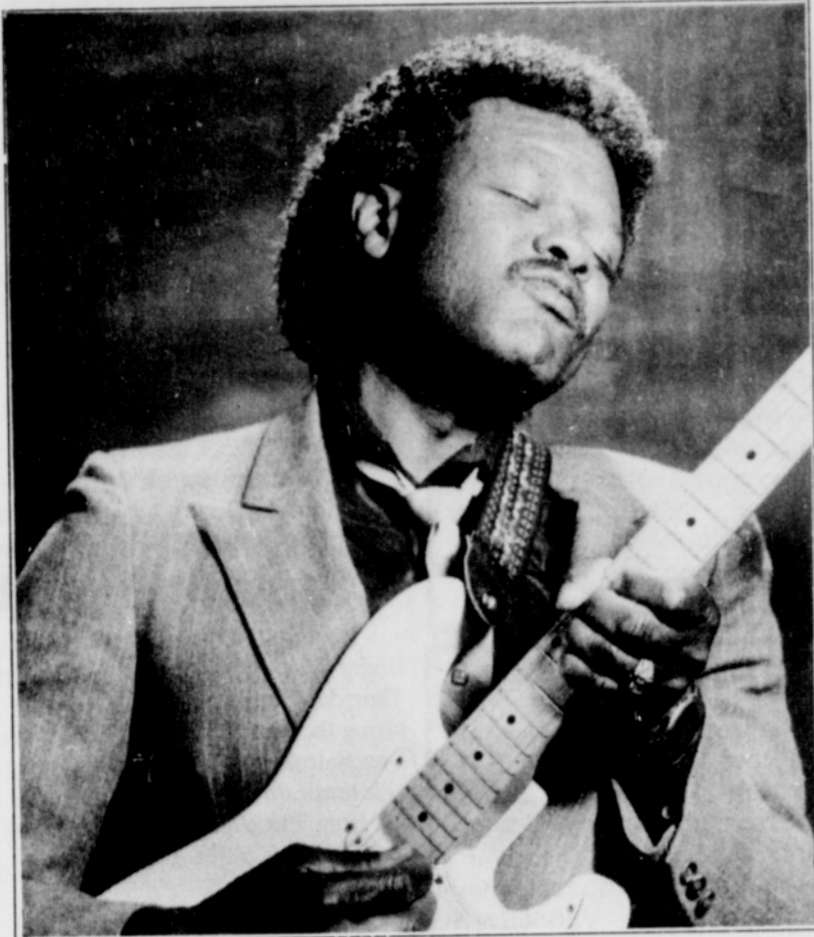
When Sylvester graduated from High school his parents bought that electric guitar they had promised him two years earlier.

After high school he looked for permanent employment, getting married in 1965. In the fall of the same year he attended a Buddy Guy concert at Reed college. He got a chance to talk to Buddy backstage and while talking to him he was surprised when Buddy ask him to play a couple of songs before he came on. This was his first taste of performing for a Blues audience. Sylvester says from that moment on he was a Blues Junkie.

In 1968 Sylvester obtained steady employment at P.I.E. a local trucking firm. He was to stay with them 22 years until they collapsed from a succession of leverage buy-outs.

During this time music became more of a hobby for Sylvester. However in 1985 he became acutely aware after the first sale of P.I.E. that his livelihood was in jeopardy. So he fell back on the only other thing he really knew - music.

P.I.E. finally collapsed in 1990 when the third and final owner liqui-



dated all their assets.

Between 1985 and 1990 Sylvester created a production company called Boogie Cat Productions, and recorded at cassette album on his own label. An indicator of his business savvy is that he markets his cassettes via catalog to Europe where it is well received. You can also pick his cassette up at Locals only, Music Millennium, and at the bandstand when he performs.

His rise on the local music scene has meteoric. Starting in 1985 he opened for James Cotton. By the 1986's Rose Festival he had incorporated his own original music into the bands repertoire.

A major break come when he opened for B.B. King and received favorable press from the Oregonian in 1987.

After this performance and consequent review he was thrust into a higher degree of exposure and the demand for his work became greater.

Sylvester is still in demand and has worked in Washington, and California, as well as through out Oregon.

His style is unique, he's definitely not an imitator, he does his own thing. He is backed by a seasoned band who really get down: They are; Frankie Redding; keyboard, Patrick Lamb, reed and brass Nick Christmas, drums; Lenanne Sylvester, featured vocalist, and Rob Shoemaker, bass.

In a word you call Norman Sylvester's music soulful and straight ahead blues.

Sylvester will produce the music portion of What's Good For The Hood Multi Cultural Festival at the Holy Redeemer Area School campus, to be held outside. Holy Redeemer is located at 127 N. Portland Blvd. This event will be held on Friday July 9 from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday July 10 from 12-9 p.m.

For further information call 283-5197.

## GEORGE BENSON

"Versatility has always been what I'm about and on this album I had the chance to really stretch out and try a lot of different approaches."

So says George Benson on the subject of his extraordinary new Warner Bros. Records release, Love Remembers. George's guitar, vocal and songwriting style has, over the course of a pioneering three-decade career, effortlessly bridged the gap between pop, jazz and soul. Now, on the dozen dazzling tracks of Love Remembers, he brings them all together for a sumptuous stylistic feast.

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Recorded in New York, the Love Remembers sessions likewise called together a diverse list of supporting talent. Aside from George himself, producers included the renowned Bob James, Stewart Levine, David Gamson, mixer Gary Henry and others. Supporting musicians read like a Who's Who of modern music: bassists Abe Laboriel and Nathan East, saxophonist Kirk Whalum, flautist Hubert Laws, keyboardist Richard Tee, guitarist Wah Wah Watson,

drummers Harvey Mason and John Robertson, trumpet player Chuck Findley... the list, as they say, goes on.

But there was one guest artist George was especially proud to play with. "My son Steven Benson Hue, played some of the keyboards, did some programming and co-wrote the track 'Come Into My World,'" George beams. "We've actually been working together for years, but this is the first time we've ever actually put something down. I hope we can do a lot more together."

The result of this very special mix of talent, song and musical styles stands as one of the most accomplished and accessible albums of George Benson's remarkable career.

"The idea for this album came to me after I finished working with the Count Basic Orchestra," explains the multi Grammy-winning musician and composer. "Getting in touch with my



jazz roots helped me to see more clearly just how my music had branched out over the years. I wanted to have the opportunity to bring all those different facets into one album."

The Benson-Basic project was, of course, Big Boss Band, the critically acclaimed collaboration between George and the Count Basic Orchestra, released in late 1990 and followed by a headlining tour of Japan in the summer of 1991. "It was one of the great thrills of my life," George enthuses. "To share the stage with a band of that caliber was like nothing I'd ever been a part of before. It was perfect." Perfect, too, was the music created by George and his own backing ensemble on a subsequent tour, that included an appearance at the Montreux Jazz Festival with the legendary Quincy Jones and famed ar-

range Frank Foster. "I'd recorded with Quincy for his Back On The Block album," explains George, "and Frank Foster, who was a key part of the Big Boss Band project. Working with them both also helped me to understand the variety and stylistic spread of my music."

It was a creative strategy that bore fruit on Love Remembers, a project that has taken up most of his attention over the course of the past two years.

From the sheer beauty of such ballads as "Lovin' On Borrowed Time" and "Love Of My Life," to such standout tracks as "I'll Be Good To You," "Come Into My World" and a remake of the Jackson classic "Got To Be There," Love Remembers is a work that reveals the many sides of George Benson, creating, in the process, one unforgettable whole.

## Yachats Music Festival



Yin Cheng Zong - Pianist



Jean Louis Steuerman - Pianist



Veronica Tyler - Soprano

The Thirteenth Annual Yachats Music Festival will take place July 8-11 at Yachats, Oregon. The Festival's founder/director, Dr. W. Hazaiah Williams, began the Yachats Music Festival in 1981. He is also the founder and current director of the Festival's sponsor, Today's Artists Concerts, the international concert organization based in San Francisco and Berkeley, California. Music Festival concerts are scheduled at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church at 8:00 PM Friday, July 9; Saturday, July 10; and Sunday, July 11; and at 3:00 PM on Sunday.

Each evening features a varied program presenting an array of Artists-in-Residence. The following is a sample of some of the concert offerings.

Friday evening opens with The Russian orchestra and violin soloists Elwyn Adams and Pierre D'Archangeau in Vivaldi's "Winter" and "Spring" from The Four Seasons. The evening will highlight works relating to the theme of The Seasons with Berlioz' Le Nuit d'Ete (Summer Nights) and sections from

Tchaikovsky's piano work The Seasons. The evening will also feature excerpts from several major composer's repertoire such as Bach, Debussy, Schubert and Liszt.

Saturday evening features a portion of Liszt's piano transcription of Berlioz' Harold in Italy and the famous "Barcarolle" of Offenbach. Also featured will be songs by Ravel, and works by Haydn and Chopin.

Sunday afternoon, entitled "Americana et al." will feature American and English-language Music with the works of William Grant Still, Ives, MacDowell, Gottschalk, Ellington, and some contemporary composers. Also featured will be run-of-the-century religious songs.

Sunday evening will feature works by Mozart, including some Serenades by The Russian Orchestra, an aria by Abraham Lind-Oquendo and a Rondao played by violinist Elwyn Adams. Mezzo Soprano Elvira Green will be joined by violist Kenneth Edwards and pianist Dennis Helmrich in part of Brahms' Op. 91 Pianist Yin Cheng-

Zong will play Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise.

In addition to the above concerts, Festival Patrons will enjoy a private Artists' Pre-Festival Concert/Reception on Thursday evening, and daytime Festival activities which include lecture-demonstrations, open rehearsals and music appreciation seminars.

Remaining individual tickets are now available for all evening concerts and for Sunday afternoon's concert. Tickets can be purchased at the Adobe Resort Motel (503) 547-3141, at the Fireside Motel (503) 547-3636, or at the New Morning Coffeehouse (503) 527-3622.

### Artists performing during the four-day program are:

Elwyn Adams, Violinist  
William Duncan Allen, Pianist  
James Barbagallo, Pianist  
Francis Bebey,

African Guitarist/Composer  
Susheel Bibbs, Soprano  
William Brown, Tenor  
Kamala Cesar Buckner, Dancer  
Thomas Buckner, Baritone  
Pierre C' Archangeau, Violinist  
Kenneth Edwards, Violist  
Richard Fields, Pianist  
Alpha Floyd, Soprano  
Eugene Gash, Pianist  
Elvira Green, Mezzo Soprano  
Dennis Helmrich, Pianist  
Kenn Hicks, Tenor  
Harold Jones, Flutist

Joseph Kubbera, Pianist  
Rafael Levron, Baritone  
Abraham Lind-Oquendo, Baritone  
Ilya Martinez, Soprano  
Benjamin Matthews, Bass-Baritone  
Matthew Owens, Cellist  
David Sigal, Pianist  
Jeanne Stark-Iochmans, Pianist  
Jean-Louis Steuerman, Pianist  
Lorcie Stevens, Soprano  
Veronica Tyler, Soprano  
William Warfield, Bass-Baritone  
Jue Yao, Violinist  
Yin Cheng-Zong, Pianist  
The Russian Orchestra  
Alexander Vereshangin,  
Music Director and Conductor  
Yelena Lipilina, Orchestra Manager

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## KMHD Radio Focuses On Jazz Series

Fans of the Square's Monday-night jazz series, "Starbucks by Starlight," can get a sneak preview of each concert by listening to KMHD Fm 89.1

At 3pm on the Friday before each concert, KMHD musical director Greg Gomez will conduct a live interview with that week's featured musician and will play selected recordings by the musicians.

The interviews are designed to expand the public's awareness both of jazz in all its variations and the very talented jazz artist on this year's concert roster.

Interviews scheduled in July are: July 3, Alyssa Schwary; July 9, Greg McKelvey of the Wilson High School "Green Machine" Bid Band; July 16, Obo Addy and Jancie Scorgins; and on July 23, Chris Parker. "Starbucks by Starlight" is sponsored by Wilamette Week, Starbucks Coffee and KMHD.