

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

## Dave Matthews Band

There was a time when every rock'n'roll movement sprung from the grass roots. While much has changed over the years, a band working entirely on its own -- outside the parameters of current trends -- can generate the kind of organic electricity that marketers spend a fortune trying to create. Case in point: Charlottesville, Virginia's Dave Matthews Band.

In the three years since Matthews put together the genre-blending quintet, its charged live performances have come to pack clubs, theaters and arenas across the country. "It's been a very natural, very low-key progression," says Matthews. "I don't feel like we've had this drastic, overnight success. It's basically been a matter of word-of-mouth -- people liking what they've seen and bringing some friends with them the next time around."

Those die-hard fans have also snapped up copies of the band's self-released debut, *Remember Two Things* (over 130,000 copies since its fall 1993 release) -- a remarkable feat, considering the album was independently distributed. While the band notes that the first release may have hinted at their potential, they are satisfied that *Under The Table And Dreaming*, their RCA debut --



Dave Matthews Band

produced by Steve Lillywhite (U2, Talking Heads, Rolling Stones) -- captures the nuances of the intricate interplay that marks the band's complex live shows. The critics agree: *Rolling Stone* called it "one of the most ambitious releases of the year." With singer/guitarist Matthews' vulnerable, expressive voice at the fore, the band (reedman LeRoi Moore, violinist Boyd Tinsley, Bassist Stefan Lessard and drummer Carter Beauford) weaves a mesh of sounds that Details described as "unpeggable and totally addictive." Each member

showcases a highly individual approach, making the Dave Matthews Band a truly eclectic ensemble.

"The way I look at it, we have five lead voices in this band," Matthews says. "I may be the first thing people notice, since I do the singing, but there are times when LeRoi's sax is the voice, and times when Boyd's violin is at the front. And in Carter and Stefan, we have something that goes far beyond a simple rhythm section. There are very few times when the audience has just one thing to listen to."

One exposure to the twelve songs on *Under The Table And Dreaming* imparts the sense that this band is original enough to defy pigeonholing.

Evocative melodies soar over compact grooves on tracks like "Satellite" and "Jimi Thing," while the band airs its more visceral nature on edgy rockers like "Rhyme & Reason" and "What Would You Say." Such stylistic shifts occur within songs as well: the propulsive "Warehouse" boasts a richly-textured fusion-styled break, while "Ants Marching" weds straight-up funk and a lively country fiddle.

"In the beginning, I didn't have a fully-formed idea of what I was going for," Matthews admits. "I just set out to assemble my dream group of musicians -- people I'd been listening to locally for years -- and much to my surprise, they all agreed to join. And even after all this time, we still work the same way. There are no rules in this band, no one to say, 'Wait, you can't do that.'"

With its independent refusal to recognize borders, the Dave Matthews Band proves that they have what the *San Francisco Chronicle* said to be "a means of expression free enough of cliché to be an authentic alternative."

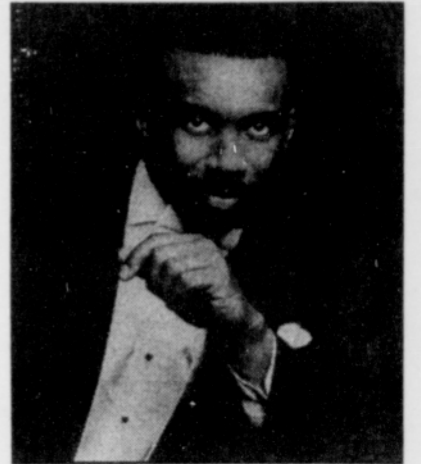
## Pianist Bates Gives Concert At PSU

The final concert of the 1994 PSU Piano Recital Series is given Sunday by internationally renowned artist Leon Bates. The event begins at 4 p.m. in the Lincoln Performance Hall at 1620 S.W. Park.

Bates will perform works by Johannes Brahms, Ludwig van Beethoven, Arthur Cunningham, Samuel Barber and George Walker. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$13 for senior adults.

Bates loves to challenge stereotypes at schools and gyms throughout the country. As an African American male who is an internationally renowned classical pianist, Bates is a rarity; add that he is classical pianist who can bench-press 300 pounds, and the mind boggles.

The Philadelphia native loves to talk with people about his career and his avocation, maintaining that body building helps him as a pianist and the discipline required for both is what has helped propel him to suc-



Pianist Leon Bates will perform in concert Sunday at 4 p.m. at Portland State University.

cess. Bates says that the stereotypes held about African-American males and about classical music and musicians always need challenging. His work in that regard includes featuring works by contemporary African American composers in his program.

*Remember Mother Dearest on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th.*

### St. Johns Parade

The St. Johns Parade Committee is pleased to present the 33rd Annual St. Johns Parade Saturday, May 13, from noon to 2:00 p.m.; starting at N. Burr, traveling west on N. Lombard through downtown St. Johns, turning right at N. New York, and disbanding at N. St. Johns Street next to St. Johns Park.

It's the city's third largest parade with lots of floats, bands, clowns, and the first appearance of the 1995 Junior and Senior Rose Festival courts.

What: 33rd Annual St. Johns Parade

When: Saturday, May 13, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Starting at N. Burr, Traveling west on N. Lombard

Theme: "We Build The Community"

Grand Marshall: Captain Dave Sprando, Fire Station 22

Contact Persons: Lila Estes (286-1550) or Joan Brown (286-3570)

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## New York Voices

"New York Voices lives up to its reputation as the most exciting vocal ensemble in current jazz." - *Boston Herald*: January 1994

With their critically acclaimed self-titled debut on GRP records in 1989, the Voices established themselves on the cutting edge of vocal ensemble singing, breathing new life into a vocal genre pioneered in the late '50's by Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross. Tight arrangements, intimate voicings, and dare-devil scatting are all New York Voices trademarks, and are beautifully showcased on three additional GRP albums: "Hearts of Fire", "What's Inside", and most recently, "The NYV Collection"

Long-time fans of the Voices will notice that the original five Voices are now four. A Manhattan perfor-

mance in February of 1994 previewed the new Quartet concept for the first time to a very receptive audience. The New York voices are: Darmon Meader, Peter Eldridge, Kim Nazarian (founding members of the group in 1987), and Lauren Kinhan (who joined the Voices in May of 1992).

The voices continue to tour intensely with their stellar instrumental trio, and are in constant demand from Moscow, Russia to Moscow, Idaho. In addition to their concerts and clinics, the Voices have recently embarked on several new projects, including performances with symphonies and big bands. Their latest success with a large ensemble occurred at Carnegie hall in September of 1994, when they performed with the great Count Basie Orchestra on a spectacular program featuring the legendary Lena Horne.



New York Voices

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