

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

"Master of the Walking Bass"

On Tuesday morning, May 1, 1995, a small group of friends accompanied acclaimed jazz bassist, Leroy Vinnegar to the Oregon State Capitol. He was greeted by Representative Margaret Carter, co-sponsor with the late Senator Bill McCoy of a measure known as House Joint Memorial 10.

The measure honors Jazz's Greatest Walker for his long and distinguished music career. In addition, she presented Mr. Vinnegar with a handsomely framed letter from President Bill Clinton congratulating him on attaining international recognition as "The Master of the Walking Bass" and for being an inspiration to others.

Minutes later, House Joint Memorial 10 received a unanimous Yea vote by the 68th Oregon Legislative Assembly officially proclaiming May 1st as Leroy Vinnegar Day.

"The Walker" and his trio (Mel Brown on drums and Geoff Lee on piano) made history that morning by



Oregon honors Leroy Vinnegar

being the first musicians to perform on the floor of the Oregon State Legislature.

May 1st is certainly special to Mr. Vinnegar and all his fans who have savored those limber bass lines over his 50 year career.

The day will soon have significance to young musicians who may benefit from the Leroy Vinnegar Scholarship Fund scheduled to roll out in '98.

Leroy has played with a plethora of musicians including Charlie Parker, Teddy Edwards, Miles Davis, The Doors, Louis Bellson, Les McCann, Lionel Hampton, Van Morrison,

Benny Goodman, Billie Holiday, Wes Montgomery, Dizzy Gillespie, Max Roach, Dexter Gordon, Sonny Rollins, Carmen McRae, and Shelly Mann to name a few.

Mark your calendar to hear Leroy Vinnegar perform with his trio Friday or Saturday at Atwater's. Or, catch his quartet Tuesday, May 6 at Barbati's. Either location, plan on an evening of swingin' jazz from our own jazz legend, Mr. Leroy Vinnegar, The Walker.

A Symphony of Blood, Sweat And Tears

Classic rock band Blood, Sweat and Tears, featuring original lead singer David Clayton-Thomas, will join the Oregon Symphony for a special cross-over concert Thursday, May 22, at 8 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in the Port-

land Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets may be purchased during normal business hours at the Oregon Symphony Ticket Office, 719

S.W. Alder, or charged by phone at 228-1353 or (800) 228-7343. Tickets may be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets (790-ARTS).

"Star Search" winner shines



Dawn Stern Portrays Technical Genius, Dr. Allie Farrow, in "Viper," New One-Hour Futuristic Action Drama Series

Dawn Stern joins a growing number of strong female television role models with her portrayal of technical and electronics whiz, Dr. Allie Farrow, in Viper, the ratings-winning one-hour futuristic action drama series from Paramount Network Television airing nationally in first-run syndication (check local listings).

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eric benet



Eric Benet is admittedly amused when he reads headlines claiming R&B is back. "The music never went away," says the soft-spoken singer/songwriter. "But now, all of a sudden, it's cool to do the retro-soul thing." Certainly, with new artists like D'Angelo and Tony Rich achieving recent success, the way is more smoothly paved for vocalists like Eric. Yet it wouldn't have mattered to him whether harmony-laden R&B had a home at radio today or not. This is the sound that shaped him as an artist and, living up to the title of his exquisite Warner Bros. debut solo album, True To Myself, Eric Benet has relentlessly pursued his passion for the music.

Written and co-produced by Eric with the team of George Nash, Jr. and Demonte Posey, Roger Troutman, and with Christian Warren on three tracks, True To Myself captures the blossoming of a uniquely expressive musician. "Often when we're writing a song," notes Eric, "certain ideas hit us that are not the norm."

It may be a cello part. It may be harmonies that are so tight they're almost dissonant.

But for the most part, the songwriting is the output of the influences that most strongly affected me: early 70's soul music.

Indeed, echoes of vintage Stevie Wonder, Al Green, Sly Stone, and other icons of that era can be felt in many of the album's fourteen tracks.

Yet throughout True To Myself, Eric manages to put his own contemporary spin on soul music while drawing strength from and paying homage to the great artists of the past.

The Captain's Global Grooves



photo by Rick Rose

ARTIST	CD	LABEL
LEROY VINNEGAR QUARTET	"Integrity"	Jazz Focus
THE CLAYTON BROTHERS	"Expressions"	Owest/WB
ANTONIO HART	"HERE I STAND"	Impulse
GARY BURTON & FRIENDS	"DEPARTURE"	CONCORD
TRIBUTE TO OSCAR PETERSON	"LIVE AT THE TOWN HALL"	TELARC
SHIRLEY HORN	"LOVING YOU"	VERVE
WARREN RAND DUO/QUINTET	"DAMERON"	ASEN GROVE
JIMMY MCGRIFF	"DREAM TEAM"	MILESTONE
ELIAS HASLANGER	"Miles Mode"	HEART MUSIC
K-JAZZ ALLSTARS	"STRAIT-AHEAD"	K-JAZZ
LEONARD HOCHMAN	"MANHATTEN MORNING"	JAZZ HEADS
CHARLIE HUNTER QUARTET	"NATTY DREAD"	BLUE NOTE
MICHEL CAMILO	"THRU MY EYES"	Tropi-Jazz
DIANE SCHURR	"Blues vFor Schurr"	GRP
KURT ELLING	"The Messenger"	BLUE NOTE

Captain's Mystic Voyage is now on KMH D 89.1 FM, Wednesday 10 p.m.

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