

MUSIC BOULEVARD

MT. HOOD JAZZ FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW WINTER CONCERT SERIES

It's "winter home" to McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Street (1 block north of Killingsworth), Portland, and it will present two concerts and a free workshop in early 1999. After two successful seasons of winter concerts at Persimmon Country Club in Gresham, Mt. Hood is moving the series to the more expansive and relaxed facilities of the Kennedy School, a newly renovated former elementary school that has become one of the McMenamins' most popular brewpubs. Concerts will be held in the former school auditorium, which screens films on a regular basis, with a seating capacity of approximately 400 on an eclectic assortment of comfortable living room furniture.

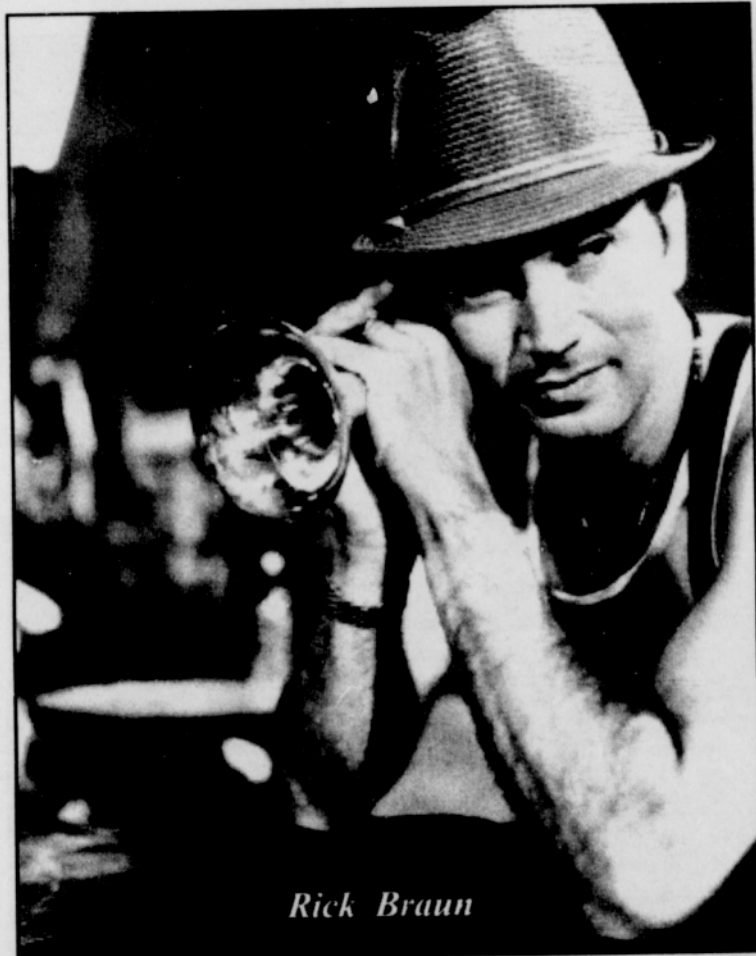
"We're excited about our association with the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival," states the Kennedy School's Liz Robbins. "It adds another creative component to this exciting facility, and aids in our efforts to offer an artistic, community outreach program."

RICK BRAUN OPENS SERIES TO CELEBRATE KKJZ'S 5TH BIRTHDAY

In celebration of KKJZ Smooth Jazz 106.7 5th anniversary, the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival Winter Concerts will present Rick Braun, with special guest Everette Harp, on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Over the past two years, trumpeter Braun has a Mt. Hood favorite, appearing with his own band 15 months ago at Persimmon Country Club, as well as performing as part of the "Smooth Jazz All-Stars" at the 1996 Mt. Hood Festival and in 1997 as a special guest with guitarist Peter White.

In two weeks after last November's release, Braun's newest album *Full Stride* reached #1 on the Contemporary Jazz charts where it still comfortably sits nearly two months later. This comes as no surprise to his growing number of fans after Braun was twice named "Contemporary Jazz artist of the Year" (1996 & 1998) by both Gavin and Jazzele magazines. His two previous albums, *Beat Street* (1996) and *Body & Soul* (1997) also reached #1 on sales charts, and were both



Rick Braun

named "Contemporary Jazz Album of the year" by both publications.

Earlier in his career, Braun was a member of the rock band War, and toured extensively with both Rod Stewart and Sade. As musical director for Sade, Braun received a Grammy nomination, which became the catalyst for his successful solo career.

Appearing as a special guest with Braun at the February 14 concert will be saxman Everette Harp, one of the most popular acts at the 1998 Mt. Hood Festival of jazz.

Entering its fourth year as the official radio station and promotional sponsor of the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, KKJZ is collaborating on its anniversary celebration for the second year. "Last year's bash with Joyce Cooling was a real party, but this year Rick Braun, one of the true superstars of the "Smooth Jazz" format, will be an even bigger celebration," note KKJZ Program Director Paul Warren. "KKJZ is very proud of its association with the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, and we're very happy to produce this event in order to

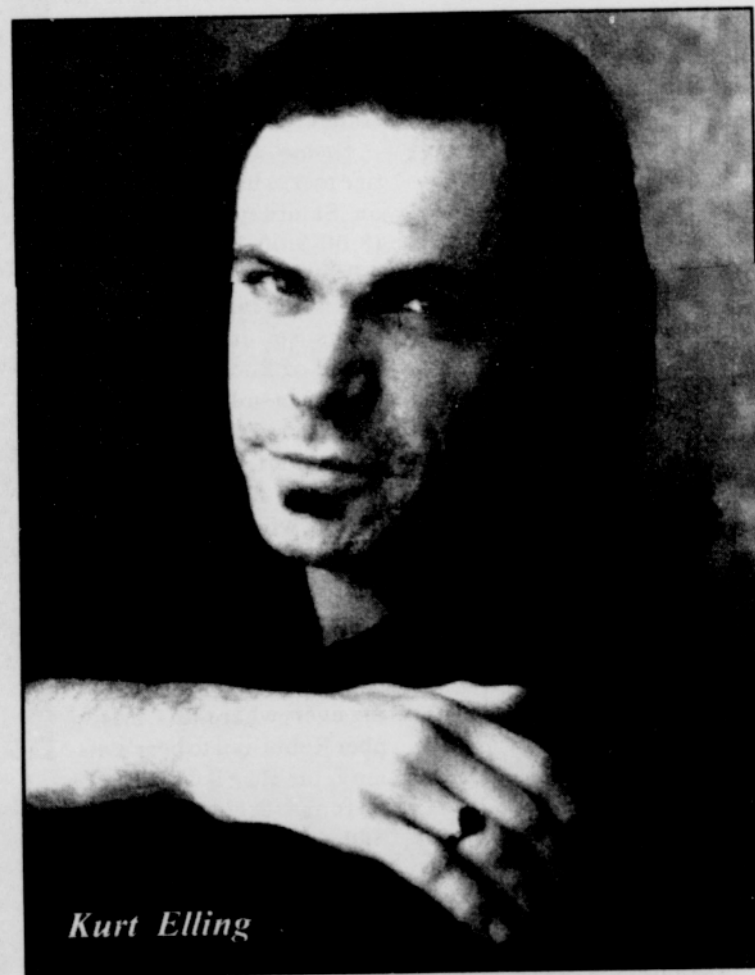
of the community. Previous educational programs have featured pianist Liz Story, violinist John Blake and drummer Steve Smith among others.

This past week, Kurt Elling received his third Grammy nomination as "Best Jazz Vocalist" for his recent release, *This Time It's Love*, his third Blue Note recording.

Another performer from the 1998 Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, Elling re-

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Kurt Elling

inaugurate Mt. Hood's new winter home' at the Kennedy School."

SECOND EVENT FEATURES KURT ELLING IN BOTH CONCERT AND WORKSHOP

Mt. Hood Jazz Festival Winter Concerts will present jazz vocalist Kurt Elling at the McMenamins Kennedy School auditorium on Sunday, March 14, at 7:00 pm.

In addition, Elling will present a free workshop on Jazz Vocalese & Scatting, as a component of the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival's education outreach program, at 2:00 pm in the Kennedy School's Community Room (the former elementary school's gymnasium) that is open to the public.

This program will be of special interest to all aspiring vocalists, and is presented as the eighth in a year-round series of jazz workshops, forums and master classes that are all free and open to the public. To date, these programs, which are sponsored by Beacock's Music with additional support from The Boeing Company, have attracted over 1,000 student musicians and interested members

received the Grammy Award for his 1997 *The Messenger*, which in turn came on the heels of his critically acclaimed debut *Close your Eyes* in 1995. All of which is remarkable for the 30-year old vocalist who left the University of Chicago's Divinity School just prior to graduation because "...of my realization that God was speaking to me through music, and, specifically from the influences of Ella Fitzgerald, Dave Brubeck and Herbie Hancock."

As a jazz vocal improviser, Elling's other major influences is Beat Poetry, which has created Elling's unique scatting style of

quickly developed a cut-like following, which includes last August's Mt. Hood performance, that also prompted commentary in the recent 1998 Critics Poll from *Downbeat Magazine* that "...Elling is not only the Best Jazz Vocalist, he is also the most Hip."

Mt. Hood Jazz Festival is presented by Equity Group, Inc. Realtors. Tickets for both the Rick Braun and Kurt Elling performances are available at the McMenamins Kennedy School front desk, and at all Ticket Master outlets including GI Joe's and Meier & Frank locations, or by calling 224-4400.