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1999 The Portland Observer

Darrell Grant

Portland's Answer to Quincy Jones

Celebrated Portland jazz artist Darrell Grant has brought a new groove to the city's streets with the recent release of "The Flow (A 3-Point Play)."

The CD release coincided with the start of the NBA playoffs, and marked the launch of a new community-building initiative spearheaded by Grant with the support of Self-Enhancement Inc. "This endeavor is about using the power of music as a means by which to inspire people to support community," says Grant. Proceeds from the CD's sales will support the Flow Project, an initiative to empower Portland's youth in realizing their ideas for community change.

"The Flow (A 3-Point Play)," highlights a different side of Grant's musical vision. Bringing together the talents of instrumentalists, vocalists, and rappers under the auspices of PMP (P-Town Music Project), the CD, produced by Grant and released on his label Lair Hill Records, features original songs drawing on jazz, soul, funk & hip-hop sounds.

The idea for "The Flow" was inspired by the dominating mid-season play of the Portland Trailblazers. "The NBA is a lot about stars," Grant says, "but the Blazers, even with all their talent, live or die as a team. At their best," Grant continues, "their magic can inspire all of us to find that groove where we work together for something greater."

The CD's second track, the Tower of Power-influenced, 70's era groove 'House of Soul' is a tribute to the club Jimmy Maki's, where Grant performed on Wednesday nights in 1998-99. "It's about how music opened up a place of acceptance for me in this community," Grant states. "It's also about having a place to hang out with friends."

The CD's closer "Fortune Rains," is a blend of jazz, soul, and spoken-word reminiscent of pre-rap poet Gil-Scott Heron. Written as an expression of the good things that just seem to rain down on us

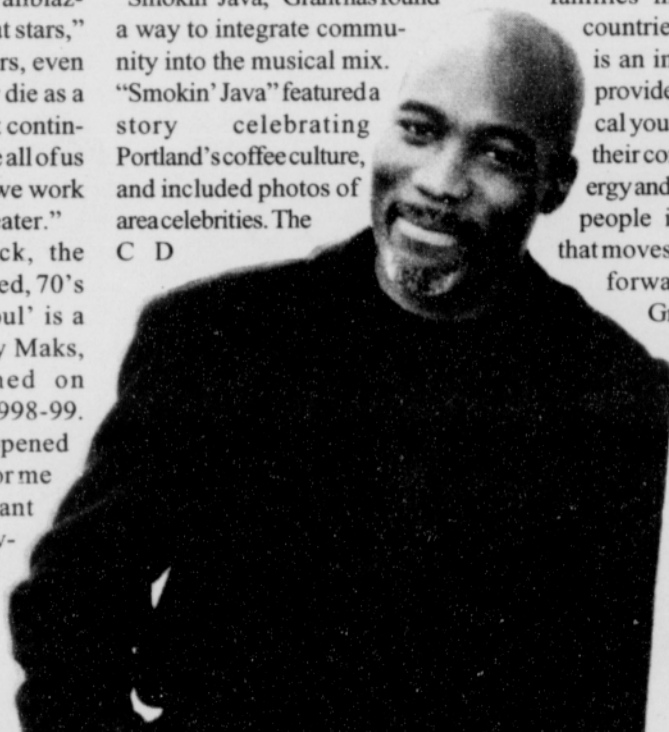
here."

As with his 1999 jazz release, "Smokin' Java," Grant has found a way to integrate community into the musical mix. "Smokin' Java" featured a story celebrating Portland's coffee culture, and included photos of area celebrities. The

CD

also supported Coffee Kids, an organization assisting children and families in coffee-producing countries. The Flow Project is an initiative intended to provide opportunities for local youth to spark change in their communities. "The energy and clear vision of young people is often the engine that moves the rest of the world forward," Darrell says.

Grants awarded by The Flow Project would fund proposals conceived by young people to positively affect their neighborhoods, schools and communities. Self Enhancement Inc. will provide administrative support and guidance for the project, as well as being the vehicle for administering grants once awarded.



Local jazz artist Darrell Grant inspires us to work together like the Portland Trailblazers through his new CD entitled "The Flow (A 3-Point Play)."

Get Ready for the Battle of the Local Bands

The Portland Rose Festival Association selected 10 teen bands from across the Northwest to perform at 94-7 NRK presents Rose Festival MusicFest, a battle-of-the-bands style competition at the Roseland Theater, located at N.W. Sixth Ave. on Saturday, April 28. Preliminary auditions are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and finals begin at 5 p.m.

The Portland Rose Festival Association and 94-7 NRK reviewed more than 40 applications and audition tapes from Northwest teen bands and selected the best of the submitted bands to perform live at MusicFest. At least half of each band's members are currently enrolled in high school. A variety of music styles are represented at MusicFest this year including pop, rock, alternative, jazz and blues.

Bands selected for MusicFest perform live on the Roseland Theater stage and receive constructive feedback from a panel of local music professionals.

The best of the 10 auditioning bands perform at the Pepsi Waterfront Village and other Rose Festival events this June. Bands may also win tickets to various Rose Festival events and 94-7 NRK's Big Stink 6. Grand prize is an interview on 94-7 NRK's specialty show "Something Cool" with host Jaime Cooley.

Students, fans and other music enthusiasts are encouraged to attend this all-ages event and support their favorite bands. Proceeds from the event go towards the winning band's high school music program.

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