

Focus



A summer concert series at the Oregon Zoo will feature entertainer Aimee Mann, a renowned singer-songwriter who has achieved great success independent from major record labels.



Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir performs Thursday, July 31 midway through a week of summer concerts at the Oregon Zoo, sponsored by Wells Fargo bank.



Oliver "Tuku" Mtukudzi will bring African sounds and socially conscious content to a special summer concert series at the Oregon Zoo.

Aimee Mann to Ignite Summer Concert Series

Top performers to fill zoo lawn on three consecutive nights

Top national entertainers will fill the terraced lawn at the Oregon Zoo with music lovers for three consecutive nights this month as part of the Wells Fargo Summer Concert Series.

Oliver "Tuku" Mtukudzi performs on Wednesday, July 30, fol-

lowed by Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir on Thursday, July 31 and Aimee Mann on Friday, Aug. 1.

Tuku is noted for uplifting and hope-infused performances. With 40 albums to his credit, he performs in the Shona language of Zimbabwe as well as English. His lyrics invariably deal with social and economic issues. In the face of political turmoil and a horrific AIDS epidemic that has swept the African continent, Tuku's humor and optimism creates an appeal that crosses

generations.

Bonnie Raitt, one of Tuku's biggest fans, has not only called Tuku "a treasure," but has also used his music as inspiration for the song "One Belief Away" on her album Fundamental. The Utne Reader has described Mtukudzi and the Blackspirits as "One of the Giants of African pop."

Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir will bring African American sounds to the concert series. Tillery is a veteran vocalist, percussionist, producer and cul-

tural historian. Since the 1960s, her powerful, shimmering alto voice has been showcased in such groups as The Loading Zone, Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, the Solid Sender's and Bobby McFerrin's Voicestra. The choir's collection includes intoned sermons, folk tales and dance.

Singer-songwriter Aimee Mann has achieved recognition in the music industry for both her talents and her notorious independence from major record labels. A crusader for the fight of unfairly treated

artists against corporate labels, Mann has found success in her own way. Critics gushed over her 1993 debut, Whatever, and mainstream attention has followed her through contributions to TV show Melrose Place ("That's Just What You Are"), the soundtrack to Paul Thomas Anderson's Magnolia, and the theme song for Jerry Maguire ("Wise Up"). Mann has also taken a turn on the Lilith Fair tour.

The Wells Fargo Summer Concert Series is Portland's longest running outdoor series.

Tickets for Mann's performance are on sale for \$15 at Safeway TicketsWest outlets. Tickets for Mtukudzi and Linda Tillery are \$9 and can be purchased the day of the show after 4 p.m.

Sax Sensation to Perform at Mt. Hood



Saxophonist Greg Osby will perform at the Mt. Hood Jazz festival on Sunday, Aug. 3. Osby is considered one of most important bandleaders and record-makers in Jazz today. He has produced 13 acclaimed Blue Note albums and performed at clubs, concert halls and festivals around the world.



Jazz great Benny Carter's career spanned more than six decades.

Legendary 'King' Benny Carter Remembered

(AP)—Jazz great Benny Carter hardly ever looked back. He enjoyed whatever he was doing at the moment — composing or arranging, improvising on the alto sax or trumpet, leading a band or making opportunities for other black musicians.

"I don't look back at the good old days," Carter once said. "The good old days are here and now." Carter died July 12 at age 95.

In a career that spanned more than six decades, Carter performed

with or wrote music for nearly all of jazz's swing-era greats, including Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller.

Carter's compositions, which include "When Lights Are Low" (1936) and "Blues in My Heart" (1931), became jazz and big band standards, and many saxophone and trumpet players continue to measure their work against his solos.

Bennett Lester Carter was born Aug. 8, 1907, in New York.

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