

Much soul to go at Tempo

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The industry tries to put singers in a box, especially when she her music crosses so many genres. She's jazz, a little pop and a lot of soul.

Green said she likes to connect with the audience and will ask if they feel what she's singing. "At some point we all tread the same water and I want my fans to be in touch with my humanity," she said.

She tells a lot of her personal life in her music.

"The more you share, the more people recognize you as a human being and I am a person who doesn't mind sharing," she said.

The weekend ends with Eric Benet blowing into the city. He'll bare his soul talking about the storm his life had become over the last five years. Benet reached his

highest heights with the disc "A Day in The Life" and married superstar Halle Berry before the bottom fell out.

"The premise of this album is wrapped up in its title," Benet says on the record company's web site. "It's about how everything I knew and loved was leveled and how something real and positive and beautiful emerged from the rubble. It's a chronicle of

my life through the past five years...and coming out the other side."

Tickets are still available for all shows.

To purchase tickets for Friday night, call Groove Merchant Records at (704) 373-9820 or visit www.goodpeople.com.

Tickets for Sunday's show are available by calling Tempo at (704) 391-8909.

Coles' comedy beyond 'Single' life

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he doesn't live in LA." But maybe one day, she said, she and Harvey may become more than friends.

And what about a "Living Single" reunion?

"Not at this time," she said. "I think it will be a long time before that happens. People miss us, but they don't."

That's because the show lives on in syndication. "My mom says the show comes on

twice a day in Raleigh," she said. "But the first season DVD is coming out. I'm hoping that they call us to do a retrospective. Then again, you have to wait until everybody looks bad and we all still look

good."

For tickets call the Comedy Zone at (704) 348-4242.

Show times are Thursday at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday there are two shows at 8 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.

Mint exhibit features 'Cycles of Life'

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African pieces from the 16th century to contemporary times.

One of the most fascinating pieces here is the "Ifa Divination Tray" used by the Yoruba people of Nigeria in this century. This wooden, circular tray features a man in the moon face at the top.

A person with a concern goes to a babalawo, a father of ancient wisdom, who taps the tray to invoke spirits and he places palm nuts on the tray. Powder from the nuts creates a series of lines that can have 256 interpretations. The person with the concern selects the interpretation they want.

Also on display from Nigeria are beaded crowns which are worn by kings or those with divine powers. White beaded crowns which feature a fleur de lis design with red flowers are worn for formal occasions and yellow beaded crowns are worn for informal occasions.

The Yoruba people of Nigeria have a spiritual symbol that salutes a person having good character. "The Yoruba House of the Head Shrine" is

a box topped with a pointed crown that is covered with small cowrie shells. Because the owner of this shrine has a "good head," that is a good character, the cowrie shells are said to bring money to the owner of the shrine.

The "Hunter's Shirt" on display from Mali is made of cloth, leather and decorated with shells, mirrors, metal and tiny leather pouches. A wall label says that the hunter must not only be a master of the forests and animals but the hunter must also have spiritual powers to negotiate the dangerous supernatural realm. The tiny leather pouches of the hunter's shirt contain rolled up verses of the Quran and special plants and herbs.

The "Sande Society Mask" from Liberia made of painted wood is revealing of the role of women in this society. This large mask features a highly defined corn row hairstyle and downcast eyes.

Installed in this exhibit with these mystical ceremonial items are very fresh items labeled "Everyday Life" in contemporary Africa. The cartoon character Tintin and his white dog, Snowy, created by the Belgian artist Herge were shown in Cote d'Ivoire as an animated TV series.

African artists made wooden Tintin dolls which are on display here.

And on loan from the collection of African art historian Alice Bumeister, Ph.D, associated with Winthrop University, is a contemporary male barber shop sign featuring in hip yellow, red and blue all the haircuts the shop offers, "Mr. Lover Man," "The Boeing," "The Concord," "The Step Zip" which is a split-level haircut. Looking at this section of the exhibit, one gallery-goer was overheard saying "This is just like Pop Art!"

Also from Bumesiter's collection is a toy motorcycle and rider made of metal tomato cans and aerosol cans.

The beauty of African art is that items made for a functional purposes also contain strong aesthetic qualities. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the "Host Post Ladder" on display from Mali. Here, villages were built on narrow cliff ledges. Ceremonial men's houses are reached by these beautifully shaped ladders that contain as much aesthetic appeal as a work of sculpture by the incredible African-American contemporary sculpture Martin Puryear.

Hours at the Mint Museum

Musical short on plot, long on sass

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The choreography by Patty Bender was sharp, playful and engaging. Watching Menopause was a lot like watching the 1996 hit movie, The First Wives Club, similar characters, similar women-uniting theme, middle-aged women singing. Luckily, the bigness of Bender's choreography helped remind us we were in a theatre.

Menopause opened May 25 proving there is a market for professional commercial theatre in Charlotte. The show is scheduled to close at the end of October, making it one of the longest-running shows in Charlotte's theatre history.

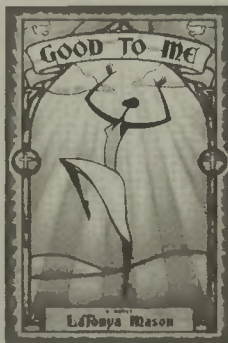
Levert, partners raise their 'Voices'

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in some background vocals. And "So Alone" is a memorable song by a totally forgettable duo called Men At Large. It's sappy, but pretty. Levert is still little more than a guest artist, but he did write the song.

This set will do until there's a more complete greatest hits package. Gerald Levert deserves much more than this.

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Lunch will be served at the symposium and attendees can choose to attend informative breakout sessions on prostate, breast, colorectal and other female related cancers along with natural therapies and nutrition. For more information call: 704-332-5819

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