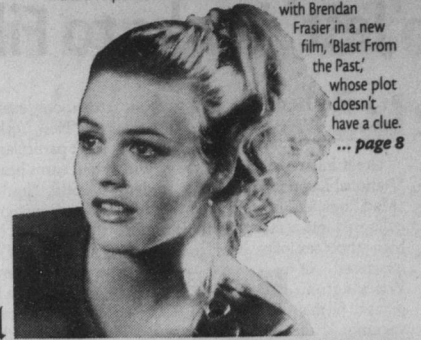


DIVERSIONS

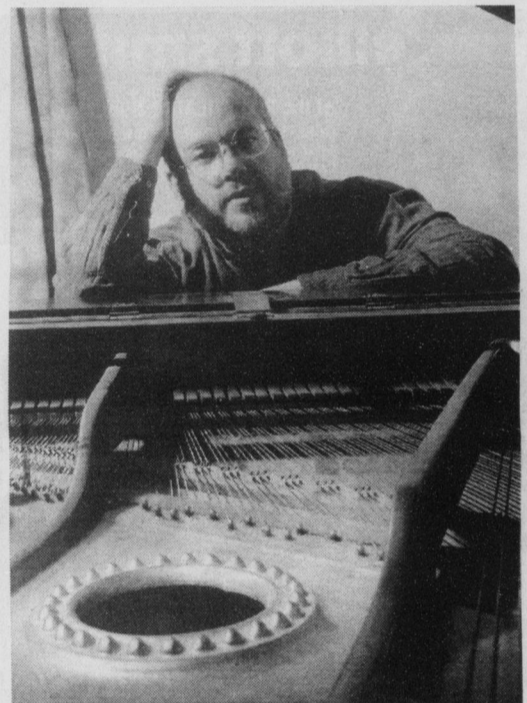
The Daily Tar Heel

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The 22nd annual Carolina Jazz Festival swings into action next week with performances and workshops.

David Berkman plays piano as a member of the John Sneider Sextet.



played bass with one of the most recognizable names of the bop era, the Modern Jazz Quartet. In 1959, Jimmy Heath briefly replaced John Coltrane in the Miles Davis Quartet before forming his own group. And Tootie Heath played drums and recorded with Coltrane in the early 1960s and Herbie Hancock in the late '60s before the three brothers formed the Heath Brothers Quartet. The group's style ranges from hard bop to ethereal funk.

"It's going to be a very accessible concert," Ketch said. "They're (concert-goers) going to see a very powerful performance."

The Diversions Editors can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

ALL THAT JAZZ



GRAPHIC BY TED BASLADYNSKI

By JOSH BAYLIN
Staff Writer

With 1999 marking the centennial of Duke Ellington's birth, this year's Carolina Jazz Festival will feature concerts, workshops and jam sessions honoring the late performer's legacy.

Next week, the UNC-CH Department of Music plays host to the 22nd annual Carolina Jazz Festival. This year's festival celebrates the impact Ellington's life and music have made in the musical community during his 50-year career.

The festival will feature up-and-coming and established jazz players and combos including The Heath Brothers, Kevin Mahogany, The John Sneider Sextet and Galen Abdur-Razzaq.

James Ketch, professor of music and a festival organizer, said the festival held its own in comparison with

other festivals around the country. "From the programming standpoint, it competes very well on a national level," he said.

The weeklong festival has its share of concerts, but to set it apart from other jazz festivals, it also offers educational experiences both for players and the general public.

"The festival is a great opportunity to not only hear jazz, but to learn from world-class players," said Andrew Shapiro, a sophomore business major from New York who plays in one of the music department's jazz combos on campus.

Ketch said the educational components of the festival, from the high school jazz festival to "cutting-edge" research seminars, made the UNC-CH's festival more "unique" than other performance-driven festivals around the country.

The Carolina Jazz Festival began as a one-day event in 1978. Since then, it has grown into a six-day affair with backing from campus and community groups. Local businesses provide hotels, transportation and free airfare for the artists. The festival also receives financial support from private patrons, the Carolina Union Performing Arts Committee, the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center, the Institute for African-American Research, the Center of the American South, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice Provost and the UNC-CH and NCCU music departments.

"If you take out any of those players (who financially support the festival), we're in a lot of trouble," Ketch said.

But the festival does not just run on financial support, Ketch said. The students in the UNC-CH jazz studies program also dedicate time, not only performing, but setting up equipment and monitoring the high school jazz festival. However, the students also receive a lion's share of the guest artists' time, he said.

The New York-based John Sneider Sextet,

the festival's artists-in-residence, will kick off the festival's performance schedule. As accomplished band leaders, members of the sextet have performed with jazz legends such as Max Roach, Curtis Fuller, Cab Calloway and newcomer Joshua Redman.

In addition to its Wednesday concert, the sextet will hold workshops with UNC-CH and NCCU jazz studies students as well as members of UNC-CH's Jazz Band, Jazz Lab Band and Jazz Combos. It will also visit area high schools. Ketch said these activities fulfilled the festival's mission to reach out to students across North Carolina.

The N.C. Jazz Repertory Orchestra, headed by Ketch, will perform a concert entitled "Billy Strayhorn's Music for Jazz Orchestra." The 16-member orchestra will perform many of Ellington's orchestra's mainstays as well as newfound tunes of Billy Strayhorn, Ellington's chief arranger, co-composer and "musical alter ego."

The orchestra, comprised of educators from UNC-CH, UNC-Greensboro, NCCU, East Carolina, Pembroke and Duke Universities, specializes in presenting the work of Ellington, Count Basie, Stan Kenton and others. By trying to authentically present works from classic jazz repertoire, Ketch said, the orchestra distinguished itself from many other jazz ensembles around the country. He said fans would have to travel to more urban areas like New York City and Chicago to find programming of similar quality. "There's not many groups in the country tackling works like ours," he said.

The jam session featuring the UNC-CH and NCCU Jazz Bands and The John Sneider Sextet, under the direction of Ketch and NCCU director Ira Wiggins, gives the festival another dimension.

NCCU's band has performed overseas at several jazz festivals as well as at the White House.

"Jamming with such great players really reinforces what we're saying," said Scott Warner, professor of jazz studies. "It supplements what we're already providing here in a big way. The festival is something special for everyone here, but it's really special for all the players," he said. "Last year we were up all night jamming; the chemistry was just fantastic between everyone."

Co-headliners the Heath Brothers and the Kevin Mahogany Quintet will play the main concert Saturday. Mahogany, called "the standout jazz vocalist of his generation" by Newsweek, opens up the show with his blend of down home blues, contemporary rhythm and blues, and swing.

The Heath Brothers have shared the stage with several jazz greats. Percy Heath



The Heath Brothers — Jimmy, Percy and Albert — will co-headline the festival.



In addition to jamming with the John Sneider Sextet, flutist Galen Abdur-Razzaq will give a lecture at the Union Cabaret.



The North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra will play the music of Billy Strayhorn.

Swing to Strings, Kick to Keys, Bounce to Brass All Week Long at the Jazz Festival

The 22nd annual Carolina Jazz Festival runs from Feb. 22-28; mark your calendars and don't miss the six days of performances, lectures and talks.

Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. — The John Sneider Sextet: Hill Hall Auditorium — \$5 general public, \$2 students

Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. — Lecture: Calen Abdur-Razzaq on Women in Jazz: Union Cabaret — Free admission

Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. — Jam Session: Calen Abdur-Razzaq, flute, with The John Sneider Sextet and members of the UNC and NCCU jazz ensembles: Union Cabaret — Free admission

Thursday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. — Lush Life: The North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra Plays the Music of Billy Strayhorn: James Ketch, music director: Memorial Hall — \$12 general public, \$6 students (reserved seating)

Friday, Feb. 26 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Symposium: Beyond Category: The Life and Musical Genius of Duke Ellington: Featuring Mark Tucker, Robert O'Nealy, Kiri Cabbard, Andrew Hornzy, Ingrid Monson, David Berger and others: Person Recital Hall — Free admission

Friday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. — The John Sneider Sextet with Britt Woodman, trombone, and the UNC and NCCU jazz ensembles: Memorial Hall — \$6 general public, \$3 students

Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. — High School Jazz Festival: Hill Hall Auditorium — Free admission

Saturday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. — The Heath Brothers with The Kevin Mahogany Quintet: Memorial Hall — \$24/\$20/\$16 general public, \$12/\$10/\$8 students (reserved seating)

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. — Collegiate Jazz Festival: Featuring UNC Jazz Band, UNC Jazz Lab Band and UNC Jazz Combos, James Ketch and Scott Warner, directors, and jazz ensembles from North Carolina colleges: Great Hall in the Student Union — Free admission