

Jazz Group Returns to Traditional Sound Violent Protests Shake May Day Celebrations



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL STILES

Medeski, Martin and Wood's new album, *Tonic*, explores an electric sound rather than its traditional acoustic style.

By **RUSS LANE**
Staff Writer

Jazz fans take note – Medeski, Martin and Wood return to the fundamental things on *Tonic* and produce an amazingly supple live recording in the process.

Triangle residents can sample the trio's creative sound tonight at Durham's Carolina Theater.

Trading acoustic instruments for an electronic sound early, MMW spent the '90s exploring synthesized soundscapes with abandon.

On this effort, the band returns to a traditional piano/bass/drums setup.

True to the album's title and the bar for which it is named, *Tonic* has a refreshing, intimate quality. While many "unplugged" albums (both within and beyond the jazz genre) suffer from a forced "intimacy," MMW's live, acoustic sound is both relaxed and focused – and above all else, very much alive.

A mixture of new songs and arrangements of Duke Ellington, John Coltrane and Bud Powell compositions, each of

CD REVIEW

Medeski, Martin & Wood
Tonic



Tonic's eight songs are stamped by MMW's own inventiveness. Ellington's "Afriqué" trades the famous composer's rhythmic "less is more" style for blistering lines more in Oscar Peterson's image than the Duke's.

MMW's recasting of "Afriqué" is typical of the album's style-bending tone. *Tonic's* songs are unafraid to entwine the many subspecies of jazz into one seamless style.

With traces of Miles Davis' cool audacity and John Coltrane's "sheets of sound," pianist John Medeski switches from modal to free jazz styles without awkwardness.

On "Thaw," Medeski turns from the melodic playing of several tracks and heads toward a loose, free sound. While Free Jazz is often criticized for its sprawling, "noise as beauty" aesthetic, Medeski somehow maintains his focus during these extended improvs.

Encompassing many influences and styles, the band places its unplugged album into jazz's 100-year history.

Like Wynton Marsalis, Cassandra Wilson and other modern jazz artists, MMW's work builds upon jazz's past while maintaining the genre's only rule – strive for something new.

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Demonstrators vandalized businesses and monuments across Europe to publicize anti-capitalist messages.

Associated Press

LONDON – Anti-capitalist protesters clashed with police Monday in central London, tearing down the golden arches of a McDonald's and spray-painting a hammer and sickle on a statue of Winston Churchill in a May Day protest.

In Berlin, a march against "capitalism and imperialism" Monday night erupted into violence in the Kreuzberg neighborhood, a stronghold of leftist activism. More than 100 police officers were injured as they used water cannons, tear gas and nightsticks against a crowd of 10,000 anarchists. At least three dozen leftists were arrested.

Elsewhere in Europe, the workers who are usually commemorated on May Day took a back seat to the far right, as neo-Nazis rallied in German cities and nationalist parties demonstrated in France.

The riots erupted in London when a group broke away from a peaceful demonstration held by protesters planting seeds in front of the Houses of Parliament.

Demonstrators threw stones and other objects near Prime Minister Tony Blair's official residence at Downing Street, where a dozen officers in riot gear took up positions. The protesters then stormed a nearby branch of McDonald's, breaking windows, tearing down the large "M" sign and distributing food.

The demonstrators tried unsuccessfully to storm St. Martin's in the Field Church, daubed anti-war slogans on the Cenotaph war memorial and defaced a Churchill statue by putting red paint on his mouth to look like blood and spraying the communist symbol on his jacket.

They also covered the lower part of Nelson's Column, the slender white

tower that anchors Trafalgar Square, with anarchy symbols and scrawled "Reclaim the Streets 2000" across it.

As darkness began to fall, about 2,000 protesters corralled in the square were allowed to leave, resulting in more violence. They smashed car windows and severely damaged several businesses before being pushed across the Waterloo Bridge to the south bank of the Thames, where authorities once again penned them in.

"The people responsible for the damage caused in London today are an absolute disgrace," Blair said.

"To deface the Cenotaph and the statue of Winston Churchill is simply beneath contempt," he said. "It is only because of the bravery and courage of our war dead that these idiots can live in a free country at all."

Three police officers and nine civilians were taken to the hospital and nine other policemen suffered minor injuries. Forty-two people were arrested.

Earlier in Berlin, about 1,200 neo-Nazis rallied in a depressed eastern neighborhood. The young crowd, many with shaved heads, waved German imperial flags and listened to speeches calling for "Germany for Germans." There were no outbreaks of violence, as police kept a group of more than 100 counter-demonstrators separated. More than 100 people from both right- and left-wing groups were detained.

About 1,800 more neo-Nazis held rallies in other cities around Germany.

In Hamburg, Germany, several hundred rioters threw stones, broke windows and set bonfires early Monday, until the melee was broken up by police using water cannons. Twenty-one police officers were injured and 134 people arrested.

Police used a water cannon against a Monday night march of about 5,000 leftists through Berlin's Kreuzberg district after demonstrators lit a barricade on fire and threw stones, bottles and fireworks. Several dozen people were arrested.

"It is only because of the bravery and courage of our war dead that these idiots can live in a free country at all."

TONY BLAIR
Prime Minister of Great Britain

State Seeks Summer Interns for Flood Relief

By **RACHEL LEONARD**
Staff Writer

College students looking to make a difference in the state this summer might be able to aid eastern North Carolinians in the flood recovery process.

To provide ongoing relief for counties battered by last September's Hurricane Floyd, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services is offering 175 paid summer internships for college students. Interns will be assigned to local health or social services departments in the 26 counties where help is still needed.

Any N.C. student at a four-year college can apply for the program, called the "Floyd Recovery Corps."

Students of any major can apply for the program, but preference will be given to those studying health or biological sciences, human services, communications, business or public administration and mathematics.

Minority and bilingual students are

also encouraged to apply.

But because the program does not provide housing, it is preferable that interns already reside in eastern North Carolina.

Floyd Recovery Corps Director Phillis Gray said a tremendous need for assistance prompted the DHHS to start the program.

"Communities are still suffering. Recovery is in process, but we are a long way away from rebuilding eastern (North Carolina)," she said.

Student interns would work in the areas of physical and mental health, housing and community services, Gray said. Most jobs would focus on research and public outreach.

"For instance, a student might be asked to help in making contact with elderly residents who applied for emergency assistance at the beginning ... to see how they're doing," she said.

Students can benefit from the positions, Gray said. "You get to put theo-

retical models into place."

Rachel Stevens, director of the N.C. Center for Public Health, said the internships provided great opportunities for students.

"It will help make their learning in the classroom real," she said.

"It would be a great experience."

Stevens said the program would help counties provide adequate relief services to residents.

Evelyn Dawson, director of the Halifax County Department of Social Services, said the internships would benefit the county's residents.

"This is really needed," Dawson said. "It might not feel like people are being helped as much as they were initially – many feel isolated."

Floyd displaced many Halifax County residents, a large portion of whom still have no permanent residence, Dawson said.

Her department also has seen an increase in the number of people

referred to psychological services and in food stamp applications.

In a county of only 57,000 people, an additional 4,000 households applied for food stamp benefits in the wake of the storm.

Dawson said interns were especially needed for community outreach. "People don't always know what services are available," she said.

Full recovery in Halifax County is still a future goal, Dawson said.

"People certainly did rally around their neighbors and still do," Dawson said. "These funds and this program will allow us to rally even more."

Interested applicants can receive information online at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/floydcorps.htm.

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