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Frolic at Raleigh's festival

By DAVIS TURNER
Staff Writer

The 3rd Artsposure Jazz and Heritage Music Festival will take off at 5 p.m. Friday, September 22, with a street dance led by Rebecca and the Hi Tones at the Raleigh Civic Center Plaza.

The three-day event will expose area residents to a variety of sounds from 16 musical acts, including star performances by Branford Marsalis at 7:30 and 10 p.m. Saturday at the Stewart Theater on the NCSU campus. Other acts will feature jazz, folk, gospel and New Orleans Cajun-style music.

Local visual artists will show and sell their original works of basketry, sculpture, jewelry, pottery, clothing, photography and painting in the 400 block of the Fayetteville Street Mall on Saturday and Sunday.

The festival organization, which was incorporated in 1980, held the first Artsposure in the spring of 1979 to showcase Raleigh's arts and talents in accessible settings. The festival has grown to include arts, music, dance, drama, sculpture, food and entertainment.

In the past, Artsposure has included performances on buses, in churches, and in business lobbies, and has featured acts including Chuck Mangione

on the capitol lawn. Because of unexpected growth and interest in the celebrations, the Jazz and Heritage Festivals have been combined to strengthen and broaden the offerings to Triangle residents.

Artsposure has included performances on busses, in churches, and in business lobbies

Rebecca and the Hi Tones will kick off the festival at 5 p.m. Friday at the Raleigh Civic Center on Fayetteville Street Mall. Saturday's music begins with traditional gospel fare at 2 p.m. with The Void Brothers. Hot Rize boogies forth later in the afternoon with its hot pickin' and soulful bluegrass vocals, followed by Zachary Richard's energized but 'gentrified'

Cajun dance music. Paquito d'Rivera, an alto saxophonist known for his sensuous jazz that combines hot Latin rhythms with the "high-flying horns of Charlie Parker and John Coltrane," is the featured performer on Sunday.

Branford Marsalis will sparkle on his tenor sax at the Stewart Theater on Saturday night. Marsalis, a versatile and resourceful performer who began playing piano at age four and alto sax at age fifteen, believes that "it's more of a challenge to do what Bird did than to do what Chuck Berry did" — so jazz remains his first love. He has toured from New York to New Orleans and performed with such greats as Herbie Hancock, Dizzy Gillespie, the Neville Brothers and Miles Davis; he now tours with Sting.

Friday, Sept. 22

5 p.m. Rebecca and the Hi Tones

Saturday, Sept. 23

2 p.m. The Void Brothers — gospel
3 p.m. Ad Vielle que pourra — French/Canadian

4 p.m. Liz Caroll — Irish music and dance

5 p.m. Howard Armstrong — Tin Pan Alley

6 p.m. FEATURED PERFORMER: Hot Rize — bluegrass

7 p.m. FEATURED PERFORMER: Zachary Richard — Louisiana Cajun

7:30 p.m. BRANFORD MARSALIS at NCSU's Stewart Theater

8 p.m. Red Knuckles and the Trailblazers — Western swing

10:30 p.m. BRANFORD MARSALIS at Stewart Theater

Sunday, Sept. 24

2 p.m. The Golden Echoes — gospel

3 p.m. Mojo Collins — blues

4 p.m. The Wild Blue/The Jim Crew Group — jazz

5 p.m. The Matt Kendrick Unit — jazz

6 p.m. The Jon Metzger Group — jazz

7 p.m. Group Sax — jazz

8 p.m. FEATURED PERFORMER: Paquito d'Rivera — Latin jazz
For information on the Artsposure Jazz and Heritage Festival, call 890-3196.

For information on Branford Marsalis, call 737-3104.



CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24, 1989

Branford brings on the night

By MATTHEW McCAFFERTY
Staff Writer

Saxophonist Branford Marsalis is one musician who has certainly taken the high road to artistic achievement. Traveling alone and with his exceptionally talented siblings, he searched for higher musical ground and found it, and managed to become a minor pop star along the way.

Concertgoers have the opportunity to experience the musicality and personality for which Marsalis is famous when he brings his quartet to the Stewart Theatre on the campus of N.C. State University this Saturday night at 7:30 and 10 p.m. The show opens the second season of WUNC Jazz at Center Stage, and is part of the Artsposure Jazz and Heritage Music Festival.

While Marsalis' rise to his current position of popularity and acclaim was rapid, it was not overnight.

Before *Trio Jeepy*, his latest solo release on Columbia Records, before Sting's *Dream of the Blue Turtles*, before brother Wynton Marsalis' Grammy-winning solo efforts, before his roles in *Throw Mama From the Train* and *School Daze*, before three other solo albums of his own, there was Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. This legendary ensemble has been both a proving ground and a launchpad for some of the world's finest jazz musicians, Marsalis among them. Experience in Blakey's big band served as the first significant accomplishment on a resume that would later include Grammy nominations, platinum pop albums, and major film roles.

After Blakey, Marsalis went on to perform with the Herbie Hancock Quartet and VSOP II, which led to session work with no fewer than a dozen major artists, including jazz visionary Miles Davis. Record producers continue to summon his talents, as his extreme versatility makes

him a cost-effective sideman.

Branford's younger brother Delfeayo, who produced *Trio Jeepy* and is an accomplished musician in his own right, offers this description of the oldest male child in an uncommonly gifted musical family:

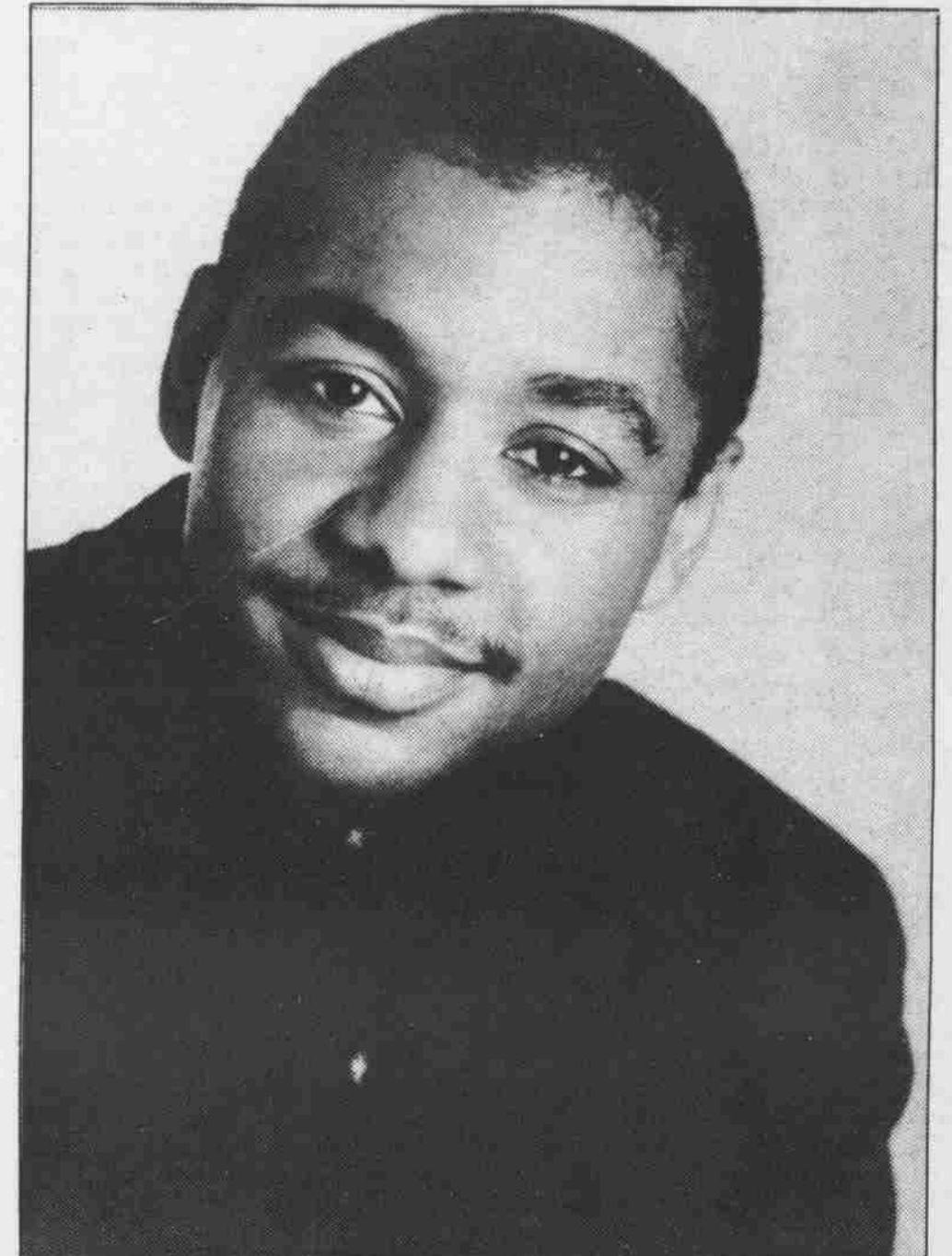
"He is the first soloist to my knowledge whose contributions to music openly display the multifarious qualities of all major saxophone stylists in the jazz idiom, in addition to his own. While most hommen his age search frantically for an autonomous voice in the jazz world, Branford has first chosen to understand in full the logic, inventiveness, and personalities of his predecessors, thus greatly enhancing his creative awareness."

Branford is considerably more modest in describing his current level of musical accomplishment.

"I'm confident of my ability," he said recently when interviewed for a *Downbeat* magazine cover story, "but I'm not ready to break new ground right now."

It is this characteristic unpretentiousness which has earned Marsalis the genuine affection, as well as respect, of musicians, filmmakers and audiences alike. In his first movie role in Sting's musical documentary *Bring On the Night*, he displayed a warmth and humor which instantly ingratiated him with the masses, leading to other film roles and no doubt helping to spur sales of his own record releases.

Trio Jeepy was actually recorded in January of 1988, but Columbia Records' marketing specialists delayed its release for well over a year. It is a strikingly ambitious but mature double-record set, featuring only an upright bassist and a drummer to support Marsalis' tenor sax. Mixed with a minimum of the high-tech gadgetry that so often distills modern jazz, it is a contemporary recording with a classic, time-honored sound.



Branford's sax simply has no equal

Marsalis will be bringing a slightly different lineup to Raleigh this weekend, including the current king of contemporary jazz piano, Kenny Kirkland. Kirkland was responsible for the lush keyboard orchestrations which, along with Marsalis' almost baroque-flavored horn stylings, helped elevate Sting's solo records to the status of serious music.

Expect some serious music from the Branford Marsalis quartet this weekend.

Branford Marsalis plays the Stewart Theatre on the campus of NCSU in Raleigh this Saturday, September 23, at 7:30 and 10 p.m. Tickets are available for this show, as well as for the entire Artsposure festival, by calling 737-3104.



Red Knuckles & the Trailblazers are (l-r) Waldo Otto, Wendell Mercantile, Slade, and old Red himself

The who, the what, the how, the why

How about some art to go with the music? North Carolina and East Coast visual artists will be displaying and selling everything from acrylic and watercolor jewelry to wood instruments and sculpture during Artsposure. Their original works can be found Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24, on the 400 block of the Fayetteville Street Mall in downtown Raleigh.

Janet Arnold — Baskets
Bennie Baker — Handcrafted pipes
Janet Bloch — Sculpture, jewelry
Stacy Carson — Pottery

Harry L. Davis — Oils
John Garland — Pottery
Linda Gibson — Acrylic jewelry
Patti Haskins — Jewelry
Julia Jenkins — Watercolor jewelry

Robin V. Justice — Batiked clothing

Phyllis Lang — Textiles
Dan & Nancy Lovejoy — Pottery
Rob Magnum — Pottery
Richard Montgomery — Clay extrusions

Melinda Penkava — Photography
Gayle Rancer — Jewelry
Bob Rankin — Mixed media

Rita Redd — Jewelry, accessories
Gail Ritzer — Pottery
Linda Suiter — Jewelry, accessories

Triangle Calligraphers Guild
Franklin Weldon — Wooden instruments
Britt Zaist — Painting

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