

MYSO Jazz Combos Perform In New York's JVC Jazz Festival

DOWN BEAT magazine invited MYSO's "Bronzeville Jazz Quartet" and "Apex", Milwaukee Youth Symphony Jazz Studies jazz combos, to perform at the JVC Jazz Festival in New York City held June 12-24, 2006.

The **JVC Jazz Festival** in New York is one of the most prestigious professional jazz festivals in the world. The **JVC Festival** grew out of the **Newport Jazz Festival**, the world's first jazz festival, created by George Wein in 1954.

In 1998, three college jazz combos, as selected by *DOWN BEAT* magazine, were invited to perform at the festival. In 1999, *DOWN BEAT* invited the Milwaukee High School of the Arts Jazz Lab Combo, under the direction of Clifford Gribble, to share the opportunity with two college groups. **MYSO Jazz Studies, Clifford Gribble, Program Director, is only the second high school jazz program ever invited to perform at the JVC Jazz Festival in New York!**

Members of MYSO Bronzeville Jazz Quartet were **Kellen Abston**, alto sax, **Spencer Jenich**, piano, **Ben Foldy**, bass and **Fred Boswell**, drums. Jenich attended Marquette University High School and the others were students at Milwaukee High School of the Arts.

Members of the other MYSO jazz combo, Apex, were **Sam Neufeld**, trumpet; **Quinten Farr**, piano, **Rob Lundberg**, bass and **Fred Boswell**, drums. All were Milwaukee High School of the Arts students, except Neufeld, who attended Maple Dale Middle School.

Wednesday, June 14

MIDWEST AIRLINES, Leave Milwaukee, 7:40 AM, Arrive NY 10:38

Lodging: Hotel Wolcott, 4 West 31st Street, between 5th Ave & Broadway (4 nights) near Empire State Building, Macy's and Madison Square Garden.

Musical Highlights

Tenors Galore

***Houston Person Quartet** with Stan Hope, Chip White & Per-Ola Gadd

***Eric Alexander Quartet** with Harold Mabern, Joe Farnsworth, John Webber & Harry Allen

Kaye Playhouse @ Hunter College East 68th Street (between Park & Lexington Avenues), 8pm

Thursday, June 15

DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE PRESENTS: JAZZ COMBOS

*Milwaukee Youth Symphony

Bronzeville Jazz Quartet (2-2:45 PM)

Apex Jazz Quartet (2:45-3:30 PM)

with New Jersey City University - Graduate Jazz Combo (1-1:45 PM) and

Kansas City Community College Jazz Combo (2-2:45 PM)

St. Peter's Church 619 Lexington Avenue (at 54th Street), 12:30pm FREE

*An enthusiastic crowd attending the outdoor concert on a beautiful day in midtown Manhattan lavished praise on the MYSO combos and departed with almost all of the hundreds of MYSO Jazz Studies programs we brought for distribution.

*Edward Ellington, Duke Ellington's grandson, said that MYSO pianist, Quinten Farr, reminded him of Mulgrew Miller, the famous jazz pianist, in his youth. Edward attended the concert with his sister, Gaye.

*Similarly, the concert's M.C. was amazed that the other MYSO pianist, Spencer Jenich, incorporated the comping styles of several jazz masters into his own compositional approach. Virtually all MYSO combo member elicited similar reactions and comments.

*Fred Boswell, drummer for both MYSO combos and designated "Winner" in the *Jazz Soloist* category of the 2006 *DOWN BEAT Student Music Awards*, earned audience adulation throughout the concert.

* After the concert, Seth Foldy, Ben's father, sponsored a reception at St Peter's for MYSO students, family, friends and concert personnel including Tom Alexios, DOWN BEAT Special Projects.

~~Avishai Cohen Trio~~—(cancelled the day before we went to New York)

In lieu of the cancelled concert the MYSO delegation attended:

* a **FREE jam session** in the men' department on the third floor of **Macys** which had not been previously advertised. Among those featured in the session were Roy Hargrove, trumpet, Hank Jones, piano and George Mraz, bass!

*Guillermo Klein, renowned jazz pianist, band leader and composer from Argentina, at the **Village Vanguard**, one of New York's most famous jazz clubs.

Friday, June 16 (the students chose between the concerts below.)

***Marcus Miller Band, Roy Hargrove's RH Factor**

Irving Plaza 17 Irving Place (at East 15th Street) 9PM

(OR)

New Century: Same Genius

***Ornette Coleman Quartet** with Greg Cohen, Denardo Coleman & Tony Falanga
Carnegie Hall, 57th Street & 7th Avenue, 8pm,

Saturday, June 17

***Jim Rotondi Quartet** featuring Joe Locke, vibes, and Rich Germanson, piano - a

Milwaukee Native at the Kitano, jazz club, 66 Park Avenue (at 38th Street), 9:45pm

Sightseeing – During the non concert hours, sub groups of students and chaperones experienced a wide variety of tourist attractions: The Empire State Building, Greenwich Village, Central Park (including pick up games of soccer and basketball), Macy's, Lincoln Center and the new Jazz at Lincoln Center complex, South Street Seaport, the World Trade Center site, various jazz clubs, China Town, Little Italy, Union Square, Radio City, Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall and much more!

Sunday, June 18

Leave New York, 11:20 AM, Arrive Milwaukee, 12:24 PM

**“In short, it was a wonderful experience! It could not have gone better!” Mr. Gribble
Clifford Gribble, MYSO Jazz Studies Program Director**