ALL THAT JAZZ

By Bob Matthews

By now, you are well aware o Ahmad Jamal's appearance at Ethel's Place, where he'll be through Saturday night, but have he just grinned, and started to nights. The action starts here at listened to a lot of mainstream jazz lovers who feel Ahmad has moved into the more esoteric forms of jazz.

This is to say, 'tain't so. Ahmad is back in that groove —if he ever left—that most older jazz lovers remember, such things as "Poinciana," "But Not For Me," and some of the other tunes done on that famous "At the Pershing"

It's still a distinct pleasure to watch Ahmad in action, for his performace spells class and dignity—you really should check him out—if you haven't.

Sunday, Jan. 30, the Baltimore Jazz Workshop hosts jazz vocalist Janet Lawson in a concert at the Eubie Blake Cultural Arts Center, 409 N. Charles St.

Originally from Baltimore, she now lives in the Delaware Gap area of Pennsylvania, and has two albums to her credit. One, "The Janet Lawson Quintet earned a Grammy nomination.

In addition to the concert scheduled for 7:30, there will be an open workshop entitled "Playing With Your Voice," from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

All is a part of the Maryland Center for Creative Music promotions. It is a non-profit corporation based in Baltimore that promotes jazz and the arts in Maryland. Further information 467-4001

Leave it to Rosa Pryor to continually come up with special projects, and this time, in conjunction with the Woodshed Lounge, she is headlining a tribute to Walter Carr, Sr.

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Walt, of course, is the founder, editor and general factotem of the Nitelifer Magazine, which has been keeping Baltimoreans abreast of the night club scene for more years than Walter would like to count.

At any rate, there will be a tinue to bring in their axes and session honoring Walter Sunday, jam, so that things really cook, January 31 at the Woodshed starting at about 7 p.m. Lounge, 6067 Moravia Park Dr. Lounge, headed up by Ronnie over on N. Monroe Street. (in Frankford Plaza).

It goes on from 5 - 9 p.m., and Strickland, is also cooking on It's all happening on Saturdays according to Rosa, there will be Monday night, reviving the tradi- from about 1 p.m. until 5 or so, champagne, food and live enter- tion that was once a mainstay at and Gerry has been pulling out tainment, featuring Sir Thomas that E. Baltimore spot. Hurley and the Diamond 'n the Oddly enough, the Dave Ross Ruff Band, along with Vocalist Trio has been headlining on Mon-Nikki Cooper and other special day nights, with Arnold Sterling of the Saturdays, but he's back guest artists.

It may not be generally known, but Walter is a former big band styled singer. Remember a few and once again, musicians drop years back at the old Point After in to jam.

club, when an impromptu jam session got started, and Walter got a chance to exercise his pipes the Northwood Shopping Center, attendance. - kinda surprised all of us.

tell us about his singing ex- 9:30 p.m.

What is being billed as the batwho now have two venues from Sunday. which to choose.

* * *

tinues to present jazz jam ses- information, 233-6193. Featured sions on Monday nights, headed at these jazz sets is the Reggie and Claude Ligon. Musicians con- as vocalist.

Jazz lovers have constantly

bemoaned the fact that there

is very little jazz music pro-

grammed on television, so

everyone should spread the

Thus it is that we exhort

everyone who loves the music

to get to a tv set, or fire up the

VCR Tuesday, February 5, for

"On Stage at Wolftrap" series

First up, is a splendid hour-

long presentation by vocalist

Tony Bennett airs at 10 p.m. on

PBS, and will be carried by

Maryland Public Television

channels 22/67 in Baltimore,

program, and it is absolutely

gorgeous. Tony is in fine

voice, and swinging to a

farethewell. And, as he points

out during the presentation,

as one of the last two great

In case you wondered,

Frank Sinatra is the other,

which brings up another point.

Sessions begin at 8 p.m. here,

demonstrates why.

singers-

Got a chance to preview the

and 26 in Washington, DC.

on that day, the

when it comes along—

which is featuring vocalist Bill

we promise we will—talking weekend. We'll keep you about the Gentlemen 10 in the informed. tle for Monday night continues— 2100 block Edmondson Ave., actually to the benefit of jazz fans which is featuring jazz every

Usually, things are scheduled The Sportsmen's Lounge con- to begin at 5 p.m., but for further

Tony performs one of the

songs made famous by

Sinatra, the soulful "How Do

You Keep the Music Playing?"

and although he does a

creditable job, comparisons

with the original as done by

Sinatra are inevitable—and

Tony comes off second best,

All in all, Bennett performs

22 songs during the hour, and

you can be sure all of the ones

he made famous are included.

So as not to keep you in

suspense, must tell you that "I

Left My Heart in San Fran-

cisco," and "I Wanna Be

Around" come at the very end

Don't look for a lot of special

effects in this one, for except

for some thoroughly delightful

scenes showing some of Ben-

nett's paintings, the visuals

are straightforward, with

crowd shot cutaways in-

terspersed with the shifting

The sound quality is excep-

tional. It is in stereo, although

haven't heard that it will be

being handled by Gerry, who is beginning at 8 p.m.

now holding court at Sim Rae's Festivities will be held in the

from camera to camera.

of the show.

Another club now offering live horrible weather we have been jazz is the New Haven Lounge in experiencing has really hurt

He is, however dickering to When we asked him about it — Harris on Friday and Saturday bring in Stanley Turrentine, which we know will be a winner. This time, however, the plans are

For your future planning, the

* * *

up by Mickey Fields, Ralph Fisher Love Quartet, with Marlene Ross Jazz Society begins its Black sion for this one. Further infor-History Month programming with

simulcast on one of the FM

stations, which would insure

Backing up Tony is the Ralph

Sharon Trio, which features

Ralph on piano, Paul Lagosch,

bass, and Joe La Barbera,

drums. Can't say too much

about this group, for here you

get to see and hear some top

You will be especially en-

tranced by Sharon, who

generates a swinging line

which really kicks things

along, and Tony is with him

note for note—swinging 'til

the girls come home (as the

As mentioned, this is the

first of the 1988 series, and we

are eagerly looking forward to

the February 26 presentation

of the "Tribute to Dizzy

Gillespie," which is scheduled

We expect to have a chance

to preview it, and will keep

you up to date. It will be in-

teresting to see how they com-

pressed that 5-hour session in-

to a 90-minute show.—MATT.

The Hotel Washington, at 15th

and Pennsylvania Ave, NW. Fur-

Palm Court presents an analysis

and performance styles of the

will demonstrate.

ther information (202)362-0858.

to air on that date.

old Basie tune proclaims).

pros in action.

the best possible sound.

American History with the first set 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., and again at 3:30 to 4:30. Further information (202)357-2700. Oh yes-

FEBRUARY 14 - The Freddie Hubbard Quintet will be perfor-Haven't made it there yet, but to try to bring Stanley in on a ming for the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz at the Sheraton East just outside

tion 462-6028.

Don't have the exact date, but the Left Bank Jazz Society swings back into action in February with the Donald Harrison, Terence

month of February, the lineup

Feb. 4 — Guitarist Bill Frisell.

herself, will make several appearances during the month Feb. 10, 14 and 17-21.

Kinda tight on space this issue, Have been hearing great a salute to Fats Waller. Clark things about the jazz record sets Terry will lead an all-star tribute

mention that our own Gary Bartz,

trio consisting of Bross Town-It is a one-nighter, in keeping with the established policy at the send, piano; Bob Cunningham, club. Herbie Mann is the featured bass, and Michael Carvin, drums artist at the club through Sunday Sessions are held in the Palm night, Jan. 31. Further informahiatus for a bit. Elzie says the Court of the National Museum of tion (202) 337-4141.

With Freddie will be Ralph month of February looks like a Moore, tenor sax; James . real winner for jazz lovers. Here Williams, piano; Michael Foris a precis for checking — we'll manek, bass, and Carl Allen, flesh things out at a later date. drums. Might add that Ruth Bin-FEBRUARY 6 — The Charlin sky will be running a bus excurmation 542-2000.

A special Valentine's Day affair will be held at Godfrey's Famous Ballroom Sunday, Feb. 14 from 5 - 9 p.m. with Jenelle Fisher and the Paradise Band, Nikki Cooper with Sir Thomas Hurley and Diamond 'n the Ruff, vocalists Earlene Reed, and Shirley Fields. Further informa-

Blanchard group.

The session will be held at the Tawes Auditorium of Coppin State College. Further information 945-2266.

At Ethel's Place during the

Feb. 5-6 — C'est What, a New Age group; Feb. 11-13 — The John Abercrombie-John Towner group, Feb. 24-25 — Gary Burton, with Makoto Ozono.

Tuesday nights will be devoted to Latin music with various groups appearing. Feb. 16 will be the Sal Samba group. Ethel

so haven't had a chance to comment on the fascinating jazz weekend in Hershey, Pa., or the Jazz Heritage Society's presentation of Max Roach at Ethels. Plan to cover them both in this Tuesdays edition of the AFRO.

OOOOPS! Almost forgot to fresh from his abbreviated Euro-FEBRUARY 7 — Jazz in the pean tour, is the scheduled feature artist at Blues Alley over in Georgetown, Monday night, Harlem stride piano school. A Feb. 1.

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

RONNIE LAWS "All Day Rhythm" (Columbi

Ronnie Laws' second Columbia album, "All Day Rhythm," was produced by Ronnie along with his buddy Wayne Henderson, who was a founding member o The Crusaders.

Earth, Wind And Fire before they Doug Feiger. scored their first hits like "Evil." In 1976, he released his "Pressure Sensitive" album, one of his most popular records.

If you're a fan of Laws, I hope you have 1984's "Classic Masters" on Capitol, which includes "City Girl," "Always There," "Love Is ed number 7 in 1981. Here," "Every Generation," "(You Are) Paradise," "Friends And Strangers," "In The Groove," "Stay Awake," and "Saturday

"Smoke House" finds Ronnie's smooth sax wailing over a bland, derivative synth-percussion dance track. "The Dreams nie's daughter Michele sings background on the mellower "Still" (not the old Commodores

THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER "Soul Food To Go" (Atlantic)

be heard on this single from their wrote all seven tunes here. last week with "Love Over- singles charts this week. "Brasil" album.

The 5-minute tune, which Ronnie, the brother of re- features island rhythms, was nowned jazz and classical flutist written by Djvan, who appears as Hubert Laws, was a member of guest vocalist. The lyrics were by

> The Manhattan Transfer, known for such albums as "Vocalese" and "Extensions," have only had one single in the top ten on the pop singles charts: "Boy From New York City" reach-

JOE SAMPLE "Roles" (MCA)

Joe Sample was a member of The Jazz Crusaders in the late 50's and his abilities on the I Fender Rhodes piano became Dream" could make it as a pop more well-known throughout the single, it's got all the necessary 60's. After Stix Hooper left the hooks. Sister Debra Laws sings group in the early 80's, Sample on the uptempo title track. Ron- continued to provide fans with such solo efforts as "Rainbow Seeker" and "Oasis."

Playing with Sample on "Roles" is Abraham Lamboriel on bass,

Edward "Sonny" Emory III on drums and Bobby Hutcherson on

The album includes "Woman number one black chart single satile vocal harmony quartet with You're Drivin' Me Mad," a slick this week, "I Want Her." Gladys Cheryl Bentyne, Tim Hauser, pop/fusion number that ranks Knight And The Pips, who were Earth, Wind And Fire's "Thinking Alan Paul and Janis Siegel, can among Sample's best. Sample number one on the black chart Of You" debut on the black

Wilton Felder co-produced. ON THE CHARTS

Keith Sweat scores his first pop charts this week.

board," remain afloat by debuting into the top 40 on the

Atlantic Starr's "Thankful" and



He sees the things we wish we'd seen.

You are looking at images of an era, photographs taken over 30 turbulent years of challenge and change. They are part of an extraordinary exhibition titled "Moneta Sleet, Jr.: Pulitzer-Prize Photojournalist" at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library of the District of Columbia Public Library from January 28 through February 29, 1988.

Since 1955, Sleet has been a working photographer for Ebony and Jet magazines, with an insider's ticket to great events and a magician's trick of snatching the timeless moment from the stream of time. It was he who isolated and rescued, from the devastating tragedy of the death of Martin Luther King Jr., an unforgettable image of enduring serenity and, from the terrors of the March from Selma, the forever blithe spirit of the woman marcher, clapping hands to the sound of singing in the rain. Wherever he goes, he sees things we would like to have seen, and now we can.

Martin Luther King Memorial Library • 901 G Street, NW Monday-Thursday, 9am-9pm; Friday & Saturday, 9am-5:30pm; Sunday, 1pm-5pm



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Jazz at 5-Mile House will be on

some of the gems from his vast

Understand that he missed one

Also, the Tuesday Night Live

collection of jazz albums.

know that we will.

and his Neutron Band doing the and well worth checking out -

Ronnie Laws