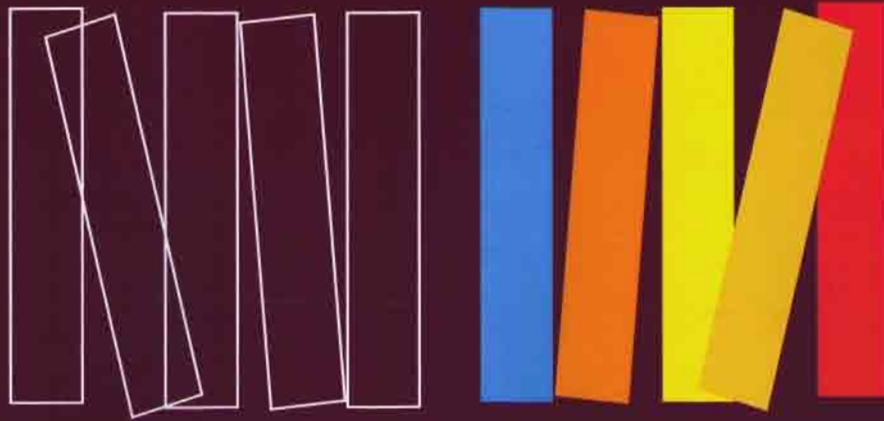


UNIVERSITY of
NORTHERN COLORADO



35th Annual UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival

APRIL 21 - 23

Jazz Festival 2005

The Idea of North • Peter Eldridge • Northern Colorado Voices • Benny Golson • Alan Pasqua
UNC Jazz Lab Band 1 • John Abercrombie • Gary Burton/Makoto Ozone Duo • Bob Sheppard
Vince Mendoza • University Symphony Orchestra • Jazz Festival All-Stars • Peter Erskine



The Tribune
If You Live Here, You Get It.



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Jazz has been performed in America and all over the world for over 100 years now. Jazz is a native American art form with elements taken from at least three distinct musical traditions: African, African-American, and European. Jazz is all around us. As a musical language of communication, jazz is the first indigenous American style to affect music in the rest of the world.

We know where jazz has been. Where is jazz today, and where is it going? And what does Greeley have to do with this?

Jazz, in today's world, is not your parents' jazz. It reflects the global nature of today's society and the ever emerging cultures we have come to know.

Jazz music is an ongoing history of the world. It links the past with the future. It is not, as once thought, to be shrinking and folding into itself with each passing year. It is expanding, exponentially, throughout the world.

Norman Mailer rightly speaks of the "knife-like entrance of jazz." For it had more to do with a confrontation of dissimilar, even antithetical musical cultures that would have repercussions beyond the U.S. on an international scale. Although initially labeled an affront to music as a whole, jazz satisfied more of the high cultural prophecies and avant-garde desires of modernism than any single one of the classic arts. In the beginning, the music spoke to the agendas of futurism, surrealism, radical democracy and multiculturalism, Berndt Ostendorf of Munich wrote.

The incorporation of differing styles and the use of new ways of making music have been hallmarks of many of the Festival's featured performers. And, as they were its history, diversity and assimilation are also the future of jazz. More people from all corners of the globe are learning to play jazz, and it is taking on a new sound. "[It is] music from the edge. [Whether] from the Far East or the Far North, the edges move to the center," ECM Records executive Manfred Eicher said.

Jazz of today includes Sharkiat's Arab/jazz fusion, Turkish artist Burhan Ocal, and Spanish-born Carlos Nunez. Orchestral jazz. Latin jazz. Mainstream. Avante-Garde.

Some of the most innovative sounds coming into the music scene today are from a movement known as the Asian Improv. The music draws on a range of traditional Asian musics that are updated and infused with modern jazz.

"The future of jazz may well be in Asia," said Dr. Gene Aitken, Deputy Director of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in a recent interview. "As we see in other areas such as technology and education, there is now stiff competition as higher education undergoes a rapid globalization. And music is at the front of Asia's redesign process with new concert halls, conservatories of music, and music training schools."

"Many know of the commitment Japan has made to American jazz, but little is known about the new jazz offerings in the Philippines at the University of the Philippines-College of Music, the University of Santo Tomas-Conservatory of Music, in Thailand at the Rangsit Conservatory of Music, or in Vietnam at the Hanoi Conservatory of Music...American jazz is extremely popular and is becoming an integral part of the Asian culture and their educational institutions," Aitken said.

From bebop to improvisational and from jazz-rock fusion to today's seeming global fusion, the music just keeps getting stronger.

American poet, Stanley Kunitz, wrote these words about poetry, but it also seems that they can be just as easily applied to jazz.

"The moment is dear to us, precisely because it is so fugitive, and it is somewhat of a paradox that poets should spend a lifetime hunting for the magic that will make the moment stay. Art is that chalice into which we pour the wine of transcendence. What is imagination but a reflection of our yearning to belong to eternity as well as to time?" Insert "jazz musicians" where he writes "poets." Jazz is poetry in harmonic motion.

Join us at the UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival. Look at the people who have come from all over to a town in the high plains to hear the music that stirs them. Look at the artists who have dedicated their lives to the craft. Look at the dedicated teachers who strive to pass on the tradition to their eager students. Look and see the future. ♪