

Felt makes tuba sound graceful

The Brad Felt Quartet appears 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday, June 23, Baker's Keyboard Lounge, 20510 Livernois at Eight Mile Road, Detroit, (313) 345-6300.

BY MITCH GENOVA
SPECIAL WRITER

Jazz on the tuba? Sounds like a late night show gimmick like stupid pet tricks. However, in the hands of Birmingham resident Brad Felt, the tuba is not a gimmick but an instrument capable of pleasant mellifluous music. Felt has just released his first CD, "Exordium," and we now have a permanent record of these smooth and mellow sounds to convince skeptics.

If you are tired of the upper register shrillness of the soprano saxophone and the piercing electronic squeals of guitar and synthesizer, you will find the mellow, low-register sounds of Felt and his tuba a pleasant change of pace.

Felt attended Oakland University on a music performance scholarship and then launched a performance career.

In 1989 he performed in California's Hollywood Bowl as a finalist in the Hennessy Cognac Jazz Search, and in 1990 his quartet was the first group to appear on WDET's Jazz Alive radio pro-

gram. Felt has appeared in every Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival since 1981, and he has appeared in the New Music Festival in Moers, Germany.

The tuba looks like a lumbering elephant of an instrument, and it is very difficult to play. But Felt has such a clear intonation and clean articulation that he extracts from the tuba a melodic line of surprising grace and agility.

The CD shows Felt's skills as soloist on the baritone horn and the euphonium as well as the tuba, and it also highlights his accomplishments as a composer. Five of the eight tunes on the CD are Felt's original compositions "Don't Hold On" is an interesting medium-tempo romp. "Portrait of Teresa" has a beautiful and intriguing theme in 3/4 meter. And "Blues to Nasir" is a twisting 12-bar bop line.

Felt has more than enough original material to fill a CD, but for his first CD, he wanted to include some standards and jazz classics to demonstrate his mastery of the traditional jazz repertoire. The stop-time theme of Benny Golson's "Whisper Not" and the beautiful Van Heusen & Burke ballad "It Could Happen to You" are good choices and elicit great performances from the group.

The little-known "Minima Moca (Young Lady)" by Luis An-

tonio is a happy Brazilian samba, which recalls carnival time in Rio.

Felt recorded this CD with his regular working quartet, which includes Gary Schunk on piano, Jaribu Shahid on bass and Gerald Cleaver on drums.

While this is Felt's first CD as a leader, he appears as a sideman on two other CDs: Pamela Wise's "Songo Festividad" and Wendell Harrison's "Live In Concert."

Felt has a sense of humor about being considered the "mad scientist" of jazz in using the tuba as a front-line instrument. Early in jazz history, the tuba was used in the rhythm section, keeping an oompah two beat. But the tuba gave way to the string bass and has seldom been heard from since.

Felt titled his CD "Exordium," which means "to begin," because he views this CD as "the first volley in a quest to extend and expand the role of the tuba in modern music."

"Exordium" is available at Street Corner Records on 13 Mile Road at Southfield and at Repeat The Beat on Washington Street in Royal Oak. For updated information on availability, call (810) 851-2838.

Mitch Genova of Troy is a freelance writer who specializes in jazz.

SINGLES CALENDAR

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax (313) 591-7279.

SINGLES

• CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB

The Catholic Alumni Club is a non-profit organization comprised of single Catholics age 21 and older who have a bachelor's degree and are free to marry in the Catholic Church. Indoor volleyball at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Birney Middle School. \$3 members, \$5 non-members. (810) 557-6183 or (810) 682-1807

• LOVE INC.

Love Inc., a group of special needs singles, meets 8 p.m. Saturdays at 23865 Rockingham, Southfield. (810) 358-1875.

• SINGLE MOMS

"Unexpected Friends," a Bible study and prayer group for single mothers, meets 7 p.m. the second Monday of the month. (810) 443-2967.

• UNITED METHODIST SINGLES

The Area Wide United/Methodist Singles meet for dinner 5:30-7 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, in Birmingham, and the third Friday of the month for a fish dinner at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 165 E. Square Lake Road, in Bloomfield Hills. Cost for each is \$5.50. Reservations can be made for First United at 646-1200 and are not required for St. Paul. (810) 338-8233.

• DANCE STUDIO

DanceArt Dance Studio in Keego Harbor

offers weekly Singles Dance Parties, 9 p.m. to midnight Fridays at 3080 Orchard Lake Road. Snacks and beverages provided (\$5 donation requested). (810) 681-4101.

• THE ACTIVITIES GROUP

The group is composed of single professionals who enjoy participating in group and individual sports on a regular and organized basis. (810) 624-7777 or (810) 624-8888.

• BETHANY ROCHESTER

Bethany Rochester meets at 8 p.m. every Wednesday in the lower level of St. Andrews Catholic Church Activity Center, 1234 Inglewood in Rochester. (810) 254-4004 or (810) 652-6290.

• TRAVELING SINGLES

A social and travel group catering to college educated, professionally employed, single, divorced, widowed ages 30-65 offers discounted trips and interesting travel companions. 1-800-867-0888.

• RIDE THE CREEK

Selective Singles, 35-65, will take an easy pace ride on the Paint Creek Trail at 3:15 p.m. every Sunday for interested single bikers. (810) 377-0888 or (810) 375-0518.

• NAIM

The Rochester Chapter of NAIM, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, meets the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Third and Walnut, Rochester. Live music and dancing. (810) 652-8185 or (810) 656-9444.

• FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

A nonprofit social group for singles ages 25-40, who share common interests and want to form new friendships. It's

not limited to the Farmington area and members participate in more than 200 activities per year. (810) 478-9181.

• EUCHRE NIGHT

Farmington Single Professionals sponsors a regular Euchre game night 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays, at the Historic Longacre House of Farmington Hills, 24705 Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile roads. Casual attire and a \$5 admission is required. Munchies and something to drink should be brought along. (810) 478-9181.

• INLINE SKATING/ROLLERBLADING

F.S.P. meet for inline skating or rollerblading at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the lot behind the Farmington Post Office on Slocum Street (south of Grand River, east of Farmington Road). Lessons provided 6-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-7 p.m. for \$5 per person per session. Beginner and intermediate skate every Wednesday. Vivian or Cheryl at Skate Away In-line Skate School (810) 473-2008.

• GOLF CLUB

The Activities Group, Monday Golf Club sign-up meets 5:30 p.m. at the New Pontiac Municipal Golf Course at Crystal Lake, 800 Golf Drive, west of Telegraph and south of Orchard Lake Roads. Golfing begins June 26 then every Monday beginning July 10 with tee time at 5:30 p.m. and continue through 6:30 p.m. Season price is \$140 prepaid; or \$14 per outing. (810) 624-7777.

• RUNNERS/WALKERS

Farmington Single Professionals meet 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays in the parking lot by the tennis courts at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Road just south of I-696. (810) 478-9181.