

Jazz group plans concert to honor Brad Felt

JAZZ

The Detroit jazz scene is still mourning the sudden death of tuba and euphonium master Brad Felt, who passed away in October from cancer that was diagnosed in August. He was 55.

Put simply, Felt was a magnificent musician and a gentle soul. He took big, cumbersome instruments and made them sound fleet and airborne. He was a vibrant post-bopper, playing with an expansive harmonic knowledge and no-prisoners attack that could stun an audience into silence. Felt toured internationally with tuba hero Howard Johnson's Gravity and contributed to all manner of local groups, reaching a new creative peak in the past few years with his NuQuartet Plus, which was devoted to his sturdy original compositions.

The NuQuartet Plus is reconvening for a Sunday afternoon concert and jam session to celebrate Felt's memory and perform his compositions. The group includes saxophonist Steve Wood, pianist Gary Schunk, bassist Pat Prouty and drummer Bill Higgins, along with trombonist Terry Kimura. The second half of the concert will open the stage for a jam session.

4-7 p.m. Sunday, Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave.,

Detroit. 313-961-2543. www.cliffbells.com. \$10.

THE DISTINGUISHED AND VERSATILE PIANIST Terry Lower leads a trio with bassist Ray Tini and drummer Jim Ryan, with vocalist Edye Evans-Hyde along for the ride. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. 734-453-1780. \$10.



Mark Stryker

CLASSICAL

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra welcomes back the rewarding guest conductor Hans Graf, music director of the Houston Symphony, for the next round of neighborhood concerts. The

soloist this weekend is the DSO's own outstanding principal French horn Karl Pituch, who will tackle Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 4. Graf also leads the DSO through music by Carl Maria von Weber and Schumann's Symphony No. 2. Four performances, four locations:

■ 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell Road, Southfield.

■ 10:45 a.m. Friday, Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

■ 8 p.m., Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit.

■ 3 p.m. Sunday, Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. Thirteen Mile, Beverly Hills.

\$25, general admission for all concerts, except Saturday at Orchestra Hall, \$15-\$50. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS to think about the great French modernist Olivier Messiaen's "Des canyons aux étoiles" ("From the Canyons to the Stars"). Completed in 1974, the piece records the composer's sensory impression of the American West, specifically Utah, which he visited in 1972. On another level, it is a de facto piano concerto of immense proportions — more than 90 minutes long and scored for a healthy chamber orchestra. It is also a catalog of Messiaen's mature style, with birdsongs, nature and religious mysticism informing a score of remarkable color and expression.

Given the work's tactile imagery and specific visual inspiration, it's a natural for a multimedia presentation. Conductor Jeffrey Tate and the Hamburg Symphony, in collaboration with Israeli filmmaker Daniel Landau, have created a new cinematic realization of the piece, with a film projected on multiple screens as the orchestra performs. The demanding piano part will be played by Francesco Tristano.

4 p.m. Sunday, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538 or 800-221-1229. \$10-\$65. www.ums.org

MORE CLASSICAL PERFORMANCES

Detroit Camerata: "Mozart Birthday Celebration," with violinists Kypros Markou and David Ormai, violist Constance Markowicz, cellist Judith Vander Weg and pianist Kazimierz Brzozowski, 11:45 a.m. Fri. Schaver Music Recital Hall (WSU), 480 W. Hancock, Detroit. 313-577-1795. Free.

Huron Valley Council for the Arts 2012 Classical Music series: With pianist and composer Waleed Howrani. Performing his own compositions and works by Grieg and Chopin, 7:30 p.m. Sat. Highland Station House, 205 W. Livingston, Highland Twp. 248-889-8660. \$50, \$40 HVCA members.

Les Violons du Roy: Featuring conductor Bernard Labadie, with Maurice Steger on recorder, 8 p.m. Sat. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. \$22, \$48.

MSU Symphony Orchestra: Featuring conductor Leon Gregorian and tubist Philip Sinder. Performing works by Stravinsky, Newman, Debussy and Ravel, 8 p.m. Fri. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall (MSU), Bogue and Shaw, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free under 18 or with student ID.

Meadow Brook Music Society: 5 p.m. Sun. Meadow Brook Hall, Oakland University, 280 S. Adams, Rochester Hills. 248-370-3140. \$20, \$10 OU staff and students.

OU Percussion Faculty: 6 p.m. Thu. Varner Recital Hall, Oakland University, Auburn Hills. 248-370-2030. Pay what you wish.

Piano Potpourri: With pianist Dr. Carl Angelo. Performing works by Brahms, Beethoven, Bach and Mendelssohn, 4 p.m. Sun. First Congregational Church of Saginaw, 403 S. Jefferson, Saginaw. 989-754-6565. Free.

— Compiled by Angela Lopez

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Tuba and euphonium player Brad Felt died of cancer in October. Felt's former group, NuQuartet Plus, will perform his compositions at a memorial concert and jam session on Sunday at Cliff Bell's.