

Trinity University's KRTU 91.7 FM

Sound Check



Lester Young



Charlie Parker



Count Basie



Bill Evans

Featured Artists

August 2004

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Evening DJ, AAA Intern

Jenny Swanson
Drive Time DJ, Jazz Calendar

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From the Booth

Greetings,

As you well know, summertime is much more than just a great Gershwin ballad, it's a time for fun in the sun, vacations with the family, and a general relaxation of the usual routine. Here at KRTU, nothing could be further from the truth. With our usual corps of students dispersed for three months, the staff has stepped in to fill the void as best we can.

You may have noticed hearing certain voices more than usual, or perhaps some of your favorite on-air personalities have been absent from your daily radio routine. These students are a vital element of the KRTU equation, and nothing brings this into greater focus than their temporary absence.

The good news is that the students will be returning soon, both your familiar favorites as well as new additions to the KRTU team, adding further to the diversity of talent that makes KRTU the unique radio experience you've come to love. Until that time, the staff will tighten their collective belts and continue providing you with the highest caliber of jazz programming.

As the weather heats up, so does the activity here at KRTU. August looks to be an exciting month of jazz in San Antonio with lunch features on some of the biggest names in Jazz, and the all-day broadcast on August 21st celebrating Count Basie's centennial birthday. But this August cannot be contained just on the radio, with two nights of jazz concerts put on by Musical Bridges in cooperation with KRTU on August 13th and 14th.

The students may be gone, but that's no reason for you to miss out on the great jazz that August has to offer. Keep tuning in for great jazz all day long, and don't forget to check the Jazz Calendar before heading out for your evening's entertainment.

-- Ryan Weber

Sound Check

July 2004

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Sound Check

Count Basie Birthday Cen

August 21, 2004 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great pianist and big band leader, William "Count" Basie, and KRTU is going to devote a full day of programming to his music. Now, when they hear about KRTU's 17-hour marathon "birthday broadcasts", some people quizzically wonder, "But is there that much music to play? Even if there is, won't it just be the same stuff over and over again?"

Such questions are understandable, even welcome: they serve as convenient straw men to knock over. The artists we choose for our monthly tributes aren't just the greatest musicians of the past jazz century, they're also the pioneers whose breakthroughs served as the example for all who followed. These modern-day prophets, they carried a message that communicated with listeners at a deep level, while fellow musicians deferred to them and followed their path through emulation. While some of these pioneers were short-lived and did not record much, many had long and productive careers full of important recordings that only solidify their standing as grandmasters of a burgeoning art form.

Happily, Count Basie is an example of the latter case. He made his first recordings in 1929 at the age of 25 and his final records were made in 1983 just before he died in 1984. In these 54 years of recording activity, there are hundreds of hours of music, full of variety that makes it difficult to decide what to fit in and, more pertinently, what to leave out



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in the confines of a mere 17 hours. Because Basie was a big band leader, the package includes not only Basie and his piano, but a host of jazz greats along for the ride. Star soloists like Lester Young, Jo Jones, Buck Clayton, Don Byas, Lucky Thompson, Clark Terry, Serge Chaloff, Frank Wess, Frank Foster, Thad Jones and, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis permeate Basie's records. In addition to the codifying big band recordings of the original Basie band of the 1930s and the famous "Second Testament" band of the 1950s, there are abundant collaborations with stars like Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Sarah Vaughan, Joe Williams, Joe Turner, Milt Jackson, Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Oliver Nelson, Ray Brown, and too many others to mention. Enough music? Variety? Basie's recording catalogue is a horn of plenty, so let the musical feast commence as we celebrate 100 years of Count Basie. -- Aaron Prado

Bill Evans Lunch Feature August 9 - 13

Bill Evans is a god among pianists. No other pianist, perhaps with the exception of McCoy Tyner, has had as powerful of an influence over pianists in the last forty years. Bill Evans brought to the piano the lyricism of the classical romantics, the harmonic sophistication of the classical impressionists, and the mad swing of the beboppers. A huge influence on Miles Davis, Evans' ideas are the primary basis for one of the greatest (and best-selling) jazz albums of all-time, Davis' *Kind of Blue* (CBS – 1959). Evans' piano trio concept established a new standard in intergroup communication through Evans' emphasis on simultaneous improvisation and interplay. Evans remained a powerful force in jazz until his death in 1980, turning out consistently fresh and exciting performances and recordings even with decades-old material. For fans of jazz piano, or fans of jazz in general, this will be a week of gourmet lunch offerings.



Aaron Prado

Kansas City Jazz Lunch Feature August 16 - 20

Before jazz was institutionalized, before the days of 'play along' records that made all jazz students sound alike, before nationwide jazz education was homogenized according to one or two schools of pedagogy, there was a time when geographic centers of jazz activity yielded musicians with an identifiable sound or style. Detroit, the West Coast school, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Texas, and Kansas City, to name a few, all boasted musicians with a distinctive flavor. Of these, Kansas City contributed one of the strongest traditions of swing. Chief among the Kansas City exports was the Count Basie orchestra, but there were many others as well: Andy Kirk, Mary Lou Williams, Jay McShann, Ben Webster, Frank Wess, and Kevin Mahogany all came of age in the fertile Kansas City jazz scene. We'll also feature Eddie Durham, a native of San Marcos, Texas, who helped define the Kansas City sound as primary composer and arranger for the original Count Basie Orchestra. And, speaking of the Count, this exciting lunch feature leads up to the Count Basie centennial birthday broadcast on Saturday, August 21.



Aaron Prado

Top Spins of July

IN 7

McCoy Tyner

Illuminations - Telarc

McCoy Tyner always sounds great. One of the most consistent musicians of the last forty years, Tyner never fails to wisely assemble the essential, if sometimes elusive, elements that hold the promise of a successful recording: a powerful band of musicians, fresh repertoire, and an impassioned, ferocious approach to music-making. These elements and more are present on Tyner's latest release on Telarc. Alto saxophonist Gary Bartz has intermittently appeared on McCoy's records going back to 1969, and his presence here provides a seasoned spiritual buoyancy that contrasts nicely with Terence Blanchard's down-home, gut-bucket trumpet sophistication. With Christian McBride and Victor Lewis on bass and drums, respectively, the rhythm kicks by turns funky and lightly swung. This, like all McCoy's records, is worth picking up.

Bobby Watson

Horizon Reassemble - Palmetto

An unabashed keeper of the bebop flame, Bobby Watson has one of the more distinctive alto saxophone sounds in jazz. He has led a band called Horizon for nearly the last twenty years, but it has been relatively inactive in recent days. As the title would suggest, this new record brings back a band of the Jazz Messengers tradition, full of hard swinging and tight arrangements. The personnel goes back to 1991, with Terell Stafford on trumpet, Ed Simon at the piano, Essiet Essiet on bass, and Victor Lewis playing drums. While a reunion, this is not a rehash of old material. If anything, this record outshines all previous Horizon efforts.

Birthday B

August

Count Basie
5 a.m. - 1

Lunch Fe

Monday thro
11 a.m. to

August

Trumpeter Lou

August

Pianist Bi

August

The Kansas

August

Alto Saxophonist
Tenor Saxophoni

Upcoming

Musical Bridge
pres

August

Modern Jazz fron

August

Jacky Te

Both shows st
in the Stiere
at Trinity U

For tickets, ca

For a complete program schedule visit www

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Birthday Broadcast

August 21

Count Basie Centennial
5 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Lunch Features

Monday through Friday
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

August 2 - 6

Trumpeter Louis Armstrong

August 9 - 13

Pianist Bill Evans

August 16 - 20

The Kansas City Sound

August 23 - 27

Alto Saxophonist Charlie Parker
Tenor Saxophonist Lester Young

Upcoming Concerts

Musical Bridges and KRTU
present

August 13

Modern Jazz from New Orleans

August 14

Jacky Terrason

Both shows start at 8 p.m.
in the Stieren Theatre
at Trinity University

For tickets, call 736-0816

For a complete program schedule visit www.krtu.org

Robert Randolph & the Family Band *Unclassified* -- Warner Brothers

Is it funk or is it blues? Maybe R&B? Well after listening to *Unclassified* by Robert Randolph & the Family Band you may not be able to answer these genre questions, but you will not care because whatever else it is, it's good. While there's not much here in the way of lyrics, the music more than makes up for it. In fact there are three true instrumentals with one sounding like it belongs on Santana's *Abraxas*. One thing interesting about the album isn't the musical focus, Robert Randolph is already well known for his signature slide guitar sound, but how well all the players work together. Each musician has his own place that creates a lush, full sound that can't help but have you grooving along with every track. A prime example of this is the single "I Need More Love," with its instantly addictive bass line and fancy guitar work. It is amazing that this song has not gotten more air play. The album does have its down points though. Two to be exact. "Smile," and "Problems," the two R&B tracks get very old, very fast. Despite the shortcomings, *Unclassified* is one of the best studio debut albums of 2003.

Recommended Tracks: 1, 2, 5, 7, 11.

Brent Evans

Leon Russell *Leon Russell and the Shelter People* -- Capitol

This album, which was originally released in 1971, has been in my stereo for about 4 weeks now and I just can't justify taking it out. I'm sure many of you are familiar with Leon Russell from his time with Joe Cocker and George Harrison, as well as certain tracks from his personal back catalogue, but this album is one that usually gets little praise. Granted, it is lacking in the way of radio singles as compared to other Leon Russell albums, but it more than makes up for it with its sheer energy and follow through. While only 7 of the 14 tracks are actually penned by Russell himself, his covers of Bob Dylan's "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall," and George Harrison's "Beware of Darkness," are sung with just as much fire and passion as any Leon Russell song. The opener, "A Stranger in a Strange Land," went on to be a semi-hit single for Russell as well as "Crystal Closet Queen." If you are a fan of Leon Russell and you have not picked this one up yet, please do so soon. You won't regret it.

Recommended Tracks: 1, 3, 4, 7, 11.

Brent Evans

Top Spins of July

IN

Beta Band

Heroes to Zeroes
Astralwerks

A.C. Newman

Slow Mouth
Matador

Blue-Eyed Son

West of Lincoln
Eenie Meenie

The Streets

A Grand Don't Come For Free
Vice/Atlantic

Morrissey

You Are The Quarry
Attack

Sondre Lerche

Two way Monologue
Astralwerks

The Owls

Our Hopes and Dreams
Magic Marker

Hang Ups

The Hang Ups
Trampoline

Simple Kid

#1
Warner Brothers

Helio Sequence

Love and Distance
Sub Pop

Live From

Thursday

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Endc

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Concert

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Va

Jack's Pati

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Ozo

Sunsei

Aug

A.C. N

The Paris

Aug

Tsunar

Sam's Bl

**At night,
comes o**

For a complete program schedule visit www

Beta Band

Heroes to Zeroes
Astralwerks

A.C. Newman

Slow Mouth
Matador

Blue-Eyed Son

West of Lincoln
Eenie Meenie

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Magic Marker

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The Hang Ups
Trampoline

Simple Kid

#1
Warner Brothers

Helio Sequence

Love and Distance
Sub Pop

Live From Studio A

Thursdays 10 p.m.

August 5

Endochine

August 12

Kubrick

August 19

Blued

August 26

Subset

Concert Calendar**August 6**

Vallejo
Jack's Patio Bar & Grill

August 13

Ozomatli
Sunset Station

August 18

A.C. Newman
The Parish in Austin

August 29

Tsunami Bomb
Sam's Burger Joint

**At night, the rock
comes out to play**

For a complete program schedule visit www.krtu.org

Sound Check August 2004



JAZZ 91.7
for San Antonio | TRINITY UNIVERSITY
KRTU

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KRTU 91.7 FM
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Featured In
September:

Elvin Jones

Jazz SAlive

John Coltrane