

Jazz ensemble to blend traditional, modern pieces at Berry concert

By Severo Avila
Staff

It's time to tap your feet and snap your fingers as preparations for another jazz concert are being made. But this one, according to organizers, could be the very best.

Tom Smith, conductor of the Berry College Jazz Ensemble and assistant professor of music at the college, said the ensemble's upcoming concert will be a thrill for audience members because of the musical variety as well as the talented performers.

"I believe this is the best big band jazz group that we've had in the six years I've been at Berry," he said. "Individually, we have some very talented musicians and as a group we have an excellent ensemble sound."

The ensemble is a 20-piece big band with full instrumentation including trumpets, trombone, saxophone, piano, bass, a jazz violinist and two vocalists.

The upcoming concert will feature a variety of music, Smith said, 10 pieces in all, showcasing the group's traditional and modern repertoire.

Pieces include "Gospel John," and "Cruisin' for a Bluesin'" which features an incredible saxophone section, Smith said.

"We'll also play some Thad Jones, Antonio Carlos Jobim, and Ray Brown," he added. "So we'll be covering



photo contributed by Stan Pethel

Tom Smith, conductor of the Berry College Jazz Ensemble, said he believes this is the best big band group he's had at Berry.

everything from swing to hard bop to Latin music and then some big band Dixieland."

What makes the group's success even more enjoyable, Smith said, is that the community supports jazz.

"Our region is filled with wonderful jazz musicians. We're blessed with exceptional talent," he said. "The community is very supportive of this kind of music and that's very refreshing to see."

He's expecting a full house for this upcoming concert as well as another smaller event on Tuesday when the Berry

At a Glance:

Who: Berry College Jazz Ensemble

When: Today, 8 p.m.

Where: Ford Auditorium, Berry College

How much: Free

Jazz Combo presents in a smaller group format.

The Berry College Jazz Ensemble will be in concert today at 8 p.m. in the Ford Auditorium at Berry College. Admission is free.

Call 706-236-2289 for additional information.

Poetry contest to award over \$100,000 in prizes

The International Library of Poetry has announced that more than \$100,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest.

Poets from the Rome area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of more than 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is June 30 and entry is free.

"Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner," said Pamela Roberts, contest director. "When people learn about our free poetry contest, they suddenly realize that their own poetic works of art can win

cash prizes, as well as gain national recognition."

To enter, send one original poem, any subject and style, to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19925, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by June 30. You may also enter online at www.poetry.com.

The International Library of Poetry was founded in 1982 and is the largest poetry organization in the world.



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606 Broad St. /706.235.1662 Mon. - Fri. 7am - 5:30 pm



COURTYARD KICKOFF FRIDAY, APRIL 20th

6:00-6:45: RENEE MIXON

7:00-7:45: GARY GREENE

8:00-8:45: DAVID BELL & FRIENDS

9:00-11:00: THE BEATLESS

ADMISSION: \$5.00

Saturday, April 21st

Moons of Jupiter - 8:00-11:00 Admission: \$5.00

Friday, April 27th

Dallas Rogers - 8:00-11:00 Admission: \$5.00

Saturday, April 28th

The Psychedelic Misfits - 8:00-10:00 Admission: \$5.00

Saturday, May 5th

The Glen Phillips Band - 8:00-11:00 Admission: \$5.00

406 North Broad Street • Rome

'Battle' returns to Forum

By Daven White
Staff

The time is almost here. It's at 7 p.m. on Saturday. The place is The Forum in downtown Rome, and they're calling this action-packed event the "Battle of Rome II: Fully Loaded."

So the question is: Are you ready for "The Beatdown?"

Robi Ramey, who won his fight in last year's "Battle of Rome" in less than 30 seconds, said visitors can expect the same thing as last time — "lots of exciting fights."

He added that, like last year, he'd win again despite the much tougher competition he faces Saturday night.

Two of the best fighters in the state are coming to The Forum to battle it out, and one of them has been nominated for Marine of

the Year. "He's a pretty good athlete," said Ramey. "I hope I win at least."

The other fighters participating are John Walsh, Kevin Gittemeier, Ralpheal Assuncao, Kevin Brooks, Clay Harvison, Cory Nestlhutt, George Lockhart and they "specialize in certain things," Ramey said.

Bullet Fight Gear fighter Diego Saraiva, however, won't be there this time because of the recent success he's had in the UFC.

Ramey insists that "Battle of Rome II: Fully Loaded" is something to look forward to. Eight guys will be fighting to prove that they deserve to be where Saraiva is today. Tickets for this show, brought to Rome by Beatdown Productions, are available at www.forumevents.org, and doors will open at 6 p.m.

Visit www.myspace.com/beatdownmma for more information on the group.

Visit www.oongawah.com for more entertainment news.