

KITAEV TO PLAY KEY(BOARD) ROLE IN LIONEL HAMPTON'S - Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) - April 19, 1993 - page C06

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Portland pianist Andrei Kitaev definitely picked up some good vibes playing at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Idaho this year. Or you might say the good vibes picked him up.

Kitaev has been hired by Hampton himself to join the venerable vibraphonist's 17-piece big band for an upcoming tour of Europe. The tour, expected to be the 84-year-old Hampton's last visit to the continent, covers the first three weeks in May, with shows in Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

``It's going to be very intense," Kitaev says. ``We'll just go from place to place. And I'm sure there'll be lots of TV appearances in the day. And I expect we'll rehearse every day as well."

Ironically, it was in Moscow, Idaho, that Kitaev -- a native of that other Moscow -- got this break. In February he worked as the house pianist for three nights during the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the University of Idaho. He played in an international band with musicians from Russia, Brazil and Canada, sat in with guitarist Herb Ellis, backed singer Vanessa Rubin and even played with a collection of ``the Golden Men of Jazz" including Hampton, Ellis, trumpeter Harry ``Sweets" Edison, bassist Milt Hinton, drummer Grady Tate and trumpeter Clark Terry.

``Lionel Hampton told me I was one of the easiest piano players to work with," Kitaev recalled proudly. ``The first time I worked with him I just played very little and listened carefully to what he plays and try not to be all over the piano. He liked that."

Beyond the thrill of touring Europe with a jazz legend, Kitaev is hoping his own career will get a boost. He's planning to bring copies of his recent CD ``Global Innervations" to leave with business contacts there, and also hopes he can convince Hampton's manager, Bill Titone, to work with him.

Portland guitarist John Stowell, a Hampton Jazz Festival regular, also will join the band for part of the swing through Europe. He'll already be over there playing dates in Paris in late April and later working in Germany and Finland.

Sweet Honey at the podium

Bernice Johnson Reagon, founder and artistic director of Sweet Honey in the Rock, will speak Tuesday at Lewis & Clark College's Gender Symposium.

Johnson, who has led the Washington, D.C.-based gospel group for 20 years, will base her talk on ``We'll Understand It Better By and By: Pioneering African American Gospel Composers," a book she edited which was published last fall. In addition to singing, Reagon works as a curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and was a consultant on the acclaimed civil rights documentary series ``Eyes on the Prize."

Reagon will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the Agnes Flanagan Chapel, and afterward will sign books in the Stamm Dining Room. There is no admission charge.

Studio fire destroys miles of tape

Don't go into your local record store any time soon looking for a copy of the new Snow Bud and the Flower People album. It won't be there for a while.

Though the Portland band's latest project, ``Ripped Van Stinkle," was nearly completed, the tapes were lost in a March 24 fire that destroyed **Dogfish** Studios in Newberg.

Snow Bud wasn't the only victim. Jaghara, another Portland band, Eugene's Sow Belly and Seattle's Mindive also lost recordings. Drew Canulette, **Dogfish**'s engineer, producer and co-owner, said about 5,000 hours of tapes were in the studio at the time of the fire. ``It's a big wall of plastic bricks now," he says.

The fire apparently was started by a kitchen stove wire that may have been pinched in the recent earthquake and eventually overheated.

Dogfish isn't, or wasn't, a conventional studio -- which both helped and hurt it in this situation. It actually was a house and a mobile recording truck. Luckily, at the time of the fire the truck that contained the recording console was in Portland, where Canulette was working on a project with Hitting Birth. But because the house (where the musicians worked) was insured with only a standard homeowners' policy, much of its contents weren't covered.

Canulette, who's known for his Grammy-nominated work on Soundgarden's ``Ultramega OK" and who has also worked with Nirvana, Neil Young and others, figures he lost \$15,000 in personal property, including a piano and a drum kit.

Upstanding guy that he is, though, he's redoing the lost works-in-progress for Snow Bud and the others at his own expense.

Some of Canulette's many friends in town are organizing a benefit for him, slated for May 16 at La Luna.

Chris Newman: Portland's multimedia empire

Meanwhile, if you're really looking for something new from Chris Newman (the man behind Snow Bud, in case you didn't know), there's the new Napalm Beach album ``Curiosities." The record-release party for that is Friday night at Satyricon.

Or, if you're in Locals Only, 2nd Avenue Records, Eeek Records or Finnegan's toy store, check out ``Phillip's Dream World," a sincerely odd but charmingly innocent coloring book that Newman wrote and drew, initially for his young nephew.

Daltrey takes another shot at acting

Roger Daltrey of Who fame is taping an episode of HBO's ``Tales From the Crypt.'" Daltrey plays a photojournalist who has lost his artistic edge.

CITATION (APA STYLE)

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