This Weekend

BALTIMORE

Phyllis Hyman opens Baltimore's Blues Alley on Friday, September 16 for a weekend run through September 18. Blues Alley is located 1225 Cathedral St. For more info, call (301) 837-2288.

Baltimore's own **Softones** will perform Friday, Sept. 16 at Gentlemen Ten, 2135 Edmondson Ave., from 10 p.m.-4 a.m., with their newest hit "Come Back." Special guests are the Fabulous Friends. Call (301) 566-0752 for ticket prices. Event is also BYOB!

The **Baltimore City Fair** is here! Located on The Baltimore Fairgrounds, which is situated under the Jones Falls Expressway, between Madison St. on the north, Pleasant St. on the south, Guilford Ave. on the west, and Fallsway on the east, the fair runs Friday, Sept. 16 through September 18. Times are 11:45 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday; and noon-10 p.m., Sunday. Admission price includes unlimited free rides and attendance at all entertainment.

The **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Anniversary Gala** concert and dinner dance will take place Saturday, September 17 at 7 p.m. at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. "Gala Americana is the theme for this annual opening-of-the-season fundraiser. After the concert, guests will first dine beneath one of three assigned posh pavilions, then dance to their choice of music. For tickets and information, (301) 783-8000.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The spectacular **National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica** performs Sunday, September 18, at Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 2700 F St., N.W. For time and tickets, (202) 254-3600.

THE NATIONAL DANCE THEATRE COMPANY OF JAMAICA

THE LOU RAWLS PARADE OF STARS — FOR THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND, INC.

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(Left to right) Ruth Daniels,, 1988 Telethon Chairperson; Lou Rawls, National Telethon Host; Lynette Woods, 1987 Miss UNCF

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Watch for the crowning of "MISS UNCF" "Live" on the Lou Rawls "Parade of Stars" Telethon, WBAL-TV, Saturday, January 7, 1989.

For more information contact UNCF at (301) 752-8623
Application deadline: September 30, 1988

Coming Soon

NANCY WILSON

BALTIMORE

Songstress Julie Hall will grace the stage of the newly opened Blues Alley in Baltimore on Wednesday, September 21. Call 837-2288 for more details.

Sesame Street Live featuring Big Bird, Bert & Ernie, Oscar the Grouch, Cookie Monster, and others, will perform for eight performances at the Baltimore Arena from Thursday Sept. 22 through Sept. 25. Call (301) 347-2010 for times and tickets.

Roberta Flack along with Michael Feinstein and The Nylons will be in Baltimore Sunday, September 25 for "Lifesongs '88"—A concert to benefit HERO and the fight against AIDS, 8 p.m., at the Lyric Opera House. For details, call (301) 685-1230.

"Legend II" the 2nd program in the "Legends of Jazz" Series, will take place at the University of Maryland Baltimore County's (UMBC) University Center Ballroom. Headlining will be **Jimmy Heath,** leader and tenor sax; **Jackie McLean,** alto sax; **Slide Hampton,** trombone; **Hank Jones,** piano; **Rufus Reid,** acoustic bass; **Art Taylor,** drums. Show begins at 8 p.m. For more information, call (301) 455-3458.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

McCoy Tyner and Frank Morgan comes to Blues Alley in Georgetown, Tuesday, Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 25. Call (202) 337-4141 for times and prices.

The American Jazz Orchestra with **Benny Carter** and the **Marlon Jordan Quartet** will perform at the National Museum of American History on Thursday, September 22 at 8 p.m. Dress in black tie. For information, call (202) 543-4119.

The **Capital City Jazz Festival** is scheduled to run from Thursday, September 22 through October 1 at a variety of selected venues throughout the city. Additional info: (202) 543-4119.

BENNY CARTER

Luther Vandross and Anita Baker will heat up the Cap Center on September 29, and for those who are unaware, a third show has been added on Friday, September 30 at 8 p.m. Call 432-0200 for tickets.

Dianne Reeves is in concert at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with Gospel a cappella sextet Take 6 for a Sunday Jazz/Gospel Showcase on October 2 at 8:30 p.m. Call (202) 857-0900 for details.

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Phyllis Hyman: Calm, confident, committed

Although Phyllis recalls her vocal instructor saying that she had "inherent musicality," she credits radio for much of her musical education: "I soaked up all the music on soul and top 40 stations."

As a child, she was most taken with James Brown and Nancy Wilson, but as she began to develop her range and versatility, other artists had a strong influence on her — "I learned story-telling from Nina Simone and The Last Poets; and, I learned a lot of range from Minnie Riperton."

Born in Philadelphia and raised in Pittsburgh, Phyllis started first singing in school and became a member of Pittsburgh's All-City Choir. Later, she was the first recipient of a music scholarship to a local business college.

In 1971, after two years of work at a Neighborhood Legal Services office, Hyman opted to "take her chances" and spent most of the next year in the top 40 sextet, The New Direction,

touring the country and the Caribbean. Shortly after the group split up, she relocated to Miami, where she sang with All The People, an all-male horn and rhythm band."

Over the next three years she matured as a club singer, becoming equally comfortable with R&B, top 40, standards, and Spanish American pop. Later she formed her own group, The P/H Factor, and performed original material along with standards. This was a period of great satisfaction.

Moving to N.Y.C. proved to be a winner. There she met Norman Connors, who used her talents as a featured vocalist on the You

Are My Starship album, on which she sang "We Both Need Each Other," a duet with Michael Henderson, and "Betcha By Golly Wow."

Her solo career shifted directly into high gear with the release of her debut album, "Phyllis Hyman," which included the classic "Loving You—Losing You" and "I Don't Want To Lose You." Three albums later she was reunited with Connors and Henderson on her solo, album "Can't We Fall in Love Again."

Later she guest performed on McCoy Tyner's "Looking Out" LP. But although Phyllis thrives on work, she really would rather perform live, because as she puts it, "I love making contact with my audiences."

Explaining her intense commitment, she says, "I'm now in the most exciting period of my life, I've grown, I understand the business—what it can give me and what I can give it. With the help of my managers, we've been able to cross-collaterize my talents." Summing up, she adds, "When I'm content as a human being (at peace, calm and focused), I'm confident as a performer."

Phyllis Hyman, opening Baltimore's Blues Alley September 16 the way it should be, with class, style and confidence.

ALL THAT JAZZ

By Bob Matthews

While Baltimore area music lovers are heralding the opening of Blues Alley this week, we shed a tear for the loss of one of the area jazz lovers listening spots.

After weeks and weeks of threatening to sell out and close down, The Jazz Closet is indeed shuttered. Talked with Henry Baker last week, who reaffirmed that the club was on the block.

Then, we ran into some of the performers who were usually showcased at the club, and they indicated that there were no bookings in the future for the club.

Then, we passed by the Franklin St. location the other day, and sadly report that the Jazz Closet is no more. Maybe an angel will come along to rescue Baltimore's sole remaining authentic jazz club—but we don't have much hope.

Can only say, we'll miss it—after all, where can the national musicians go to jam after their gigs in this area. The Jazz Closet was the place where people like Dizzy, or Wynton Marsalis would show up—and play.

And having **Gary Bartz** and his group as the house band gave Baltimore a plus that no other club in this area could touch.

* * *

This is, of course, the big weekend for the Baltimore Blues Alley where **Phyllis Hyman** is the featured attraction for this premiere presentation of the club.

Freddie Hubbard

Woody Shaw

Might point out that Blues Alley is not billed as a jazz club, a label most entrepreneurs call the kiss of death. Instead, it is called a supper club, which allows a eclectic mix of musical performance.

For example, following Phyllis this weekend, **Big Twist and the Mellow Fellows** will be in place on Sept. 20. This is an r and b group, which will be followed Sept. 22-25 by **Pieces of a Dream.**

Pieces, is a group capable of straight ahead jazz, plus the funk sound of the day. The following weekend, it will be **Stanley Turrentine.** Well, you can see there will be something for all musical tastes..

We plan to be there opening night, and will give a review of the new facility next week—after all, this is being written ahead of the opening.

* * *

Got the word on the next offering of the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz, which will happen on October 9. They will be bringing into the Harrisburg site a group headed up by **Junior Cook and Bill Hardman.**

Included are **Mickey Tucker**, piano; **Walter Booker**, bass, and **Leroy Williams**, drums. More on this later.

* * *

Guess it's not too early to mention that there will be a jazz club in the new Fishmarket location. It is to be called Eubie's, and opens October 26 with **Ethel Ennis** as the premiere performer.

Not strictly for devotees of jazz, but have to pass along a tip we got the other day from Nick Mosby, the entrepreneur who has been presenting concerts in this area.

He confided that those who have been finding difficulty in getting tickets for the **Anita Baker, Luther VanDross** concert upcoming, can be patient.

They will be coming to Baltimore in concert on December 5.

* * *

There have been a batch of new releases by jazz artists recently, and have to mention just a few.

Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw have collaborated once again, this time on an album entitled *The Eternal Triangle* which is title of a **Sonny Stitt** tune.

Included on this set are **Kenny Garrett**, alto sax; **Mulgrew Miller**, piano; **Ray Drummond**, bass, and **Carl Allen**, drums. It was recorded in June 1987, and is a Rudy Van Gelder engineering production.

Frank Morgan

The album kicks off with a Hubbard tune, *Down Under* and it sets a pace which continues throughout. This, in our estimation, is a 5-star album. We call it "keeping the faith" for lovers of the hardbop sound.

* * *

The Columbia Jazz Masterpieces series continues to pump out some noteworthy reissues, with quality so improved they bear little resemblance with the original analog presentations.

There have been over a hundred reissues released, and in one of the past group was the **Miles and Coltrane** album, which was recorded at the Newport Jazz Festival of 1958.

This is the group with **Cannonball Adderley, Bill Evans, Paul Chambers and Jimmy Cobb**, and one of the tunes on the set was our particular favorite *Bye, Bye Blackbird.*

Usually request this tune, for the changes are so simple that musicians can venture out with exploratory ease, and usually do. Listened to it again just yesterday, and can say unequivocally that his is one of the best Coltrane solos extant.

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