This Weekend

BALTIMORE

Angela Bofill is currently at Baltimore's Blues Alley, 1225 Cathedral St. through Sunday, October 30. For showtimes and admission price, call (301) 837-2288.

The Eva Anderson Dancers and **The Baltimore Dance Theatre** will hold an open audition for dancers to join the company as Apprentices. The audition will take place on Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 pm. st the Wally Saunders Dance Studio, 4173 Patterson Avenue, in the Petterson Village Shopping Center. All aplicants should be experienced in either Ballet, Modern or African Dance. For additional info, contact Ms. Anderson at (301) 997-3899 in Columbia.

Baltimore's Morris Mechanic Theatre presents George C. Scott in **"Clarence Darrow"**, a play by David W. Rintels based on "Clarence Darrow For The Defense" by Irving Stone. Call (301) 625-4230 for details.

Tickets are still available for the October 29 **Navy/Notre Dame** football game at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium. For ticket information, call 1(800) US4-NAVY. Kick-off is at 12 noon.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ramsey Lewis is currently at Blues Alley in Georgetown, 1073 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. through October 30. For showtimes and admission price, call (202) 337-4141.

Velvet-voiced **Lou Rawls** is also currently in performance at Anton's 1201 Club, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. through Saturday, October 29. For more information, call (202) 783-1201.

The Studio Theatre, located at 1333 P Street, N.W., has announced an updated schedule for the second play in their Fall Repertory, **"Shooting Magda"**. It will play Wednesday through Sunday at 8:00 pm with a Sunday matinee at 2:00 p.m., now through November 6. For information, call (202) 332-3300.

'The Gospel Truth' at Lyric

JOHNNY BROWN in a rousing scene from "The Gospel Truth."

"The Gospel Truth," the original new musical production, that won rave audience and reviewer responses will open at the Lyric Opera House in Baltimore on November 1 for a two week engagement through November 13th.

"The Gospel Truth," stars stage and television veteran Johnny Brown ("Good Times", "Laugh In" and on stage in "Golden Boy" with Sammy Davis Jr.) and gospel superstar Tramaine Hawkins of the Edwin Hawkins family.

It centers around the Reverend Taylor and his newly-ordained son, whose outspoken theological ways and views clash mightily with those of his conservative father.

"The Gospel Truth" has music and lyrics by William Mickey Stevenson and a book by Stevenson and Cliff Roquemore. Stevenson is one of the creators of the Motown sound.

Stevenson has penned innumerable hits, including "Dancing in the Streets," "Beachwood 4-5789" and "Devil With the Blue Dress."

He was also an instrumental producer and writer for such superstars as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, and The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Martha and The Vandellas and The Marvelettes.

"The Gospel Truth" also features Herbert Rawlings, David Whitfield, Peggy Blow, Ricke Howell, B'Anca, Linda Broadus Miles, Kenny Parker. Directed by Cliff Roquemore, it has sets by Art Johnson, Lighting by Shirley Prendergast, and costumes by Frank Billecci.

The production is at the Lyric for two weeks only, closing after the Nov. 13 performance.

Coming Soon

BALTIMORE

Mezzo-soprano **Marietta Simpson** is a guest soloist for the opening concert of the Baltimore Choral Arts Society's 1988-89 season on Saturday, November 5 at 8:00 pm in Kraushaar Auditorium, 1316 Park Avenue. Music by Handel and Haydn is featured. For more information, call (301) 523-7070.

Baltimore's favorite daughter **Ethel Ennis** is scheduled to perform on Friday, November 4 at 8:00 pm during the Montpelier Jazz Series taking place in Laurel, Maryland through December 16. For directions and ticket prices, call (301) 953-1993.

BARBARA COX (right) as Sharon and Valerie Kershaw as Linda co-star in "Play It Again Sam."

Sarah Vaughn is scheduled to dazzle audiences from November 15 through November 20 at Blues Alley in Baltimore, 1225 Cathedral St. For information and admission prices, call (301) 837-2288.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Columbia Community Players are presenting **"Play It Again Sam"**, by Woody Allen on November 11, 12, 18 and 19 at Slayton House in the Wilde Lake Village Center located in Columbia, Maryland. Curtail is 8:30 pm. For reservations, call 992-9634 or 730-3987.

MARIETTA SIMPSON — Mezzo-Soprano

Ladysmith Black Mambazo is scheduled to raise the roof on November 20 at 8:00 pm at the Warner Theatre, 13th and E Sts. For details and ticket prices, call (202) 626-1050.

"OOOHH YEAH!!!" — Harry "Sweets" Edison, Kenny Burrell, Ron Carter, Sir Roland Hanna, and Frank Wess will be joined by Michael Hanna, Frank Perowsky, and Bob Johnson in concert on Thursday evening, November 3, at Howard University's Crampton Auditorium.

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628 N. Eutaw St.
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(301) 728-8200
John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board/Publisher
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Robyn-Denise Yourse
Denise Dorsey-Production Coordinator

JAY McSHANN:

Historical Flashback

The man who gave Bird a start

BOSTON — Anyone who thinks the blues is a musical form restricted to the heartache and hard luck hasn't heard Jay McShann.

This Kansas City Jazz and blues legend finds the joyful side of the music when he stomps and swings his way up and down the keyboard on riff-filled jump tunes.

McShann led one of the last great big bands to come out of Kansas City in the late 1930s and early '40s, when the Missouri city was a thriving jazz capital.

He is best known these days not so much for his amazing music, but as an asterisk in the career of alto saxophonist Charlie Parker. Bird apprenticed in McShann's combo and his band on and off between 1934 and 1942.

Jay McShann

McShann can tell Bird stories by the hour. But to focus on those anecdotes is to miss the importance of this bandleader, whose music draws from styles so diverse and so old that they sound new again.

McShann, who says he is 72, was born in Muskogee, Okla. As a teenager, music drew him to Kansas City, much as light attracts a moth.

"I had never played any blues before I came to Kansas City. The blues is something that rubbed off on me," McShann says. "I was impressed with players like Pete Johnson and Joe Turner.

"When I had the big band, we didn't have any blues in the repertoire. We had things like 'Yardbird Suite,' which used to call 'What Price Love?' Tunes like those. Then I got a chance to record for Decca.

"A week before, I happened to be in one of the joints one night and heard Walter Brown singing the blues. I heard something that really struck me and realized I ought to take this cat with me.

"When we went down to record, we did damn nearly everything in the band book. The man from Decca said he like it but couldn't sell it. 'Your're ahead of your time. I'll never sell that.' he told me. 'Can you do any blues? Do a boogie woogie."

"Then we recorded 'Hootie's Blues." It was a take the first time down. The record man was smiling. He said do another. So we recorded 'Confessin' Blues.' "

In 1942, McShann's big band came roaring our of Kansas City and hit the jazz big time with runs at the Savoy Ballroom and the Apollo Theatre in Harlem.

Today, McShann plays either solo piano or hires local rhythm sections for gigs in Europe or U.S. clubs.

McShann plays the piano like it is a swing band, with each hand setting up call and response patterns of the riffs. His sophisticated style is rooted in boogie woogie and the blues, and often is dominated by walking bass line figures.

The resulting sound tends to be playful, as he mixes flashy arpeggios with intense passages in the Art Tatum tradition. Fat chords played by his right hand are offset by a guitar-like strum from the left.

Just as a listener hones in on that teasing sound, McShann jumps into the stride sound of James P. Johnson, then the boogie of Professor Longhair. His light, relaxed singing, reminiscent of Fats Waller, adds to the upbeat mood.

"I like all kinds of piano music," McShann says. "I never did settle on one particular thing. Ballads, swing tunes, blues. I like then all. The piano is relaxing. And I find that I play best when I'm tired and hungry."

Now, about Bird.

Park turned jazz on its ear in the 1940s with the innovative bebop sound he forged from the swing tradition. He was a musical genius, but he was also troubled by personal demons — including heroin. When he died in 1955 at age 34, he looked 50 or 60.

"Bird knew what he wanted, but was far, far ahead of his time and time wasn't ready for him," McShann says. "He liked to live good but he didn't always have the means and ways to take care of himself. He couldn't pace himself. He figured tomorrow might not come. So he lived for today."

McShann has a nickname of his own. People call him Hootie.

"When I first came to Kansas City, going around to the jobs, bartenders always used to try out new drinks on the musicians. One day the cats said: 'Bartender, fix this new kid one of your specials.' It was a frosty beer spiked with alcohol. It made it taste GOOD," Mc,Shann says, stretching the word into three syllables.

"It went down so nice, I had three or four in an hour. I went to get up and go to the piano, but I never made it. They carried me out of there. They said, 'Man, this young kid sat down and got hooted,' So they started calling me Hootie."

McShann still calls Kansas City home. He lives there to be near his children and grandchildren.

"There was a time when people hadn't heard of the Kansas City blues," he says. "Now everybody is jumping on it."

CLUBS

BALTIMORE

Blues Alley
1225 Cathedral St.
837-2285
Live jazz, New Orleans Cuisine

Brice's Hilltop Inn
5440 Reisterstown Rd.
358-6928
A lively, yet casual atmosphere for young adults with live DJ music on Friday and Saturday nights and special comedy acts on Thursday nights.

Berry & Elliott's
300 Light St. (Hyatt Regency)
528-1234
Go for Happy-Hour hors d'oeuvres or casual dining. Major credit cards.

Body Factory
5442 Reisterstown Road
358-6100
Special DJ music on weekend nights. Expect an energized dancing crowd and generous drinks.

Cade's Country Club
1835 N. Port St.
276-6699
Live music weekends plus modern jazz and top 40's.

Cafe des Artistes
1501 Sulgrave Ave.
664-2200
If you are a fan for the oldies-yet-goodies . . . expect an enjoyable evening of live jazz and oldies beginning the weekend early on Thursdays.

Celebrity Club
4240 Reisterstown Road
466-6465
Exciting dance music with generous drinks.

Club R.O.F. #025
2900 Greenmount Ave.
243-8600
Live weekend dance and disco music.

Danny's
1201 N. Charles St.
539-1393
Live piano entertainment featuring jazz and request show tunes plus sumptuous dining.

Five Mile House
5302 Reisterstown Rd.
542-4895
Enjoy R&B jukebox music, special weekend entertainment and generous drinks.

P. T. Flagg's
601 E. Pratt St.
244-7377
Exciting entertainment, upbeat dancing music; call for cover.

Sportman's Lounge
4723 Gwynn Oak Ave.
664-1041
Live oldies-yet-goodies jazz plus jazz records.

Tubbs
201 N. Greene St. (Lexington Market)
727-0945
R&B and jazz music; dancing.

32nd Street Plaza
411 E. 32nd St.
366-8181
Enjoy live entertainment on First level, DJ Music and dancing.

WASHINGTON

Blues Alley
Wisconsin and M Sts. N.W.
337-4141
Live jazz music 25-40

Breeze's Metro Club
2335 Bladensburg Rd., N.E.
526-8880
Live entertainment; R&B (Fri., Sat.); oldies (Mon.) 19-25

Cates
600 Franklin St.
Alexandria, VA
549-4460
Live jazz weekends

Chaconia Lounge
5217 Georgia Ave., N.W.
829-4313
International Disco (Tues-Sun);

Chapter III
900 First St., S.E.
388-4462
Disco (Mon. Wed.-Sun); live entertainment

Classics
4591 Allentown Rd., Camp Springs
420-5353
R&B; live entertainment; dancing Minimum age 21 and over

Clubhouse LTD
1296 Upshur St., N.W.
882-7616
R&B; disco (Fri. & Sat.) Younger crowd

Eugertha's
6817 Georgia Ave., N.W.
291-1991
Jazz music No respective age

Gallagher's Penn Station
637 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.
546-8368
Live jazz music in casual atmosphere 18 and over

Georgetown Bar & Grill Restaurant
1310 Wisconsin AVe., N.W.
337-7777
Live jazz music established age group

Hogate's
9th St. & Maine Ave., S.W.
484-6301
Live jazz

Ibex
5832 Georgia Ave., N.W.
726-1800
Disco (Tue.-Sun.); live entertainment