

Greco quick to win over fans Weekend performances bring jazz legends to Winnipeg

crowds

Winnipeg Free Press
Monday, November 4, 2002
Page: D5
Section: Entertainment
Byline: Chris Smith

Reproduced with permission from the Winnipeg Free Press
<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/>

Buddy Greco

Asper Foundation Jazz Performance

Berney Theatre

Nov. 3

Singer and pianist Buddy Greco transformed the Berney Theatre into a nightclub full of fans yesterday as he pulled out all the tricks he's used in a 52-year performing career.

The voice is not as strong as in his heyday, of course, and the piano playing, and certainly the drums, are often louder than they need be, but the string of standards and the nightclub act patter were more than enough for the fans at the first of two shows yesterday as part of the **Asper Foundation Jazz Performances** series.

What would a Greco show be without *The Lady is a Tramp*, what the performer calls his bread-and-butter song: the song that made him.

He paid tribute to one of the great jazz-pop singers of all time, Nat King Cole, with a medley of tunes that included *It's Only a Paper Moon* and *Route 66*.

He trotted out an oldie, *Love*, a hit for him in 1966 that seemed to need more volume these days, and a version of *Got You Under My Skin* from a newly recorded album, a Latin-tinged effort that had the audience all but on their feet applauding.

The show was peppered with references to his many marriages (The name of my new album is *Alimony*), his friend "Mr. Sinatra" and the hit songs he's had over the years. Jokes were punctuated by a rim shot from the drummer.

He played a couple of instrumentals, including *MacArthur Park*, the Jimmy Webb tune he has used to close his shows for the past 27 years.

It was a crowd-pleaser to wrap up a one-and-three-quarter hour show.

z z z

Greco wasn't the only legend in town on the weekend. Slide Hampton, trombonist extraordinaire, performed Friday night with a quintet of hot Canadian musicians at the University of Manitoba's Eva Clare hall.

Hampton is touring with the Hugh Fraser Quintet, promoting a CD they recorded in Vancouver.

Hampton, at 70, still has good chops. Maybe Fraser blew a little harder on his trombone, but Hampton still has a style and grace that transcend lung power.

Fraser, on trombone and piano, led a band of some of the country's top players: alto and soprano saxophonist Campbell Ryga; tenor saxophonist Phil Dwyer (himself no slouch at the keyboard), bassist Ken Lister; and drummer Dave Robbins.

They opened their show with standards like *Now's The Time*, *All the Things You Are* and *Impressions*, but switched to Fraser

http://www.fpinfomart.ca/doc/doc_print.php?key=ar|wifpp|72444|200211040005|7869966|1&... 30/10/2007