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**Winnipeg Free Press**

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 **Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION**

# Jazz trio among best in the business

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Posted: 04/22/2013 1:00 AM | Comments: 0 | Last Modified: 04/22/2013 9:16 AM | Updates

BILL Charlap does many things well as a musician, but excels at leading a piano trio.

And the trio that performed Sunday in the season-closing concerts of the Izzy Asper Jazz Performances series -- Charlap, bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington -- is one of the best in jazz.

## CONCERT REVIEW

### Bill Charlap Trio

- With guest Freddy Cole Izzy Asper Jazz Performances
- Berney Theatre
- April 21
- 4 stars out of 5

Charlap is an inventive, nimble pianist and a perfect choice for a Sunday afternoon concert of Cole Porter compositions, one of three performed Saturday and Sunday.

The bassist and drummer are easily two of the most sympathetic accompanists for a pianist (just ask jazz pianist Benny Green with whom they also perform and record).

Who better then to accompany guest singer Freddy Cole than a trio so sensitive.

The concert opened with a trio performance and the musicians made it clear right from the start they are a skilled outfit on Dream Dancing, illustrating their almost telepathic interplay.

With Cole's first number, I Concentrate on You, you hear the unmistakable family voice (Freddy is a younger brother of Nat "King" Cole).

But the 81-year-old vocalist has a slightly raspier delivery than his famous sibling and maintains good chops at his age.

When he sings classics from the Cole Porter Songbook, such as I Love All of You, What Is This Thing Called Love? and I Love Paris, he captures the essence of the subject and of Porter's delightful lyrics and tunes.

A duet with the pianist on Miss Otis Regrets was a standout; Cole nailed the irony of the story as Charlap provided the perfect musical base.

Cole is also an excellent pianist, and Charlap vacated the piano bench for a few turns, such the poignant Where Can I Go Without You?

You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To, with Charlap back at the piano, was simply a great tune with great singing and great trio play. Porter's songs have been performed and recorded countless times, but in the right hands they still can wrench a listener's heart.

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