

## DiNovi Trio keeps audience in their hands for whole show

Winnipeg Free Press  
Monday, January 21, 2002  
Page: D5  
Section: Entertainment  
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### Asper Foundation Jazz Performances

Berney Theatre

Jan. 20

4 out of 5 stars

THERE'S something about a trio, when it clicks, that makes it sound bigger and better than three musicians should be able to sound.

The Gene DiNovi Trio (DiNovi on piano, Dave Young on bass and Terry Clarke on drums) clicked yesterday in the first of two Winnipeg performances.

DiNovi has a light touch on the keyboard; not lightweight, but delicate with the ability to paint a musical picture without bombast.

Young is one the finest bassists around - certainly the best bassist to have left Winnipeg.

Clarke, no stranger to jazz fans, predominantly played with brushes rather than sticks, and the man can make his kit swing just with brushes. Clarke did use the sticks, however, for a great solo on Israel.

So In Love, the title tune from DiNovi's latest Japanese release, opened with a delicate solo by the pianist before Young treated the audience to one of his delightful solos.

Young, a favourite of Winnipeg jazz fans, was in top form yesterday afternoon as the trio performed one of its two shows in the **Asper Foundation Jazz Performances**.

DiNovi and mates had the audience in their hands right from the start, but especially after the third tune, the Kurt Weill piece Speak Low. Lady Ann, another tune from the So In Love album was simply a beautiful tune, beautifully done, as was Nieves, a DiNovi piece.

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The Asper series opens each season with one of the 10 shows designated for a surprise guest. Yesterday it was announced that the May 26 shows will feature pianist Benny Green and guitarist Russell Malone performing as a duo. That pairing can't help but be a great show and tickets (from Ticketmaster) are likely to go fast.

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Idnumber: 200201210065  
Length: 300 words