

## Winnipeg Free Press

### Person, Nash head hot jazz concert list

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Byline: Michael Wolch

WHILE music fans are thrilled with the steady stream of choice acts like Van Morrison, Eric Clapton, Il Divo and John Mayer performing in Winnipeg, **jazz** aficionados are equally excited about the top talent headed here.

Saxophone player Houston Person and drummer Lewis Nash will be in town to play two concerts, March 3 and 4. They are part of the Izzy **Asper Jazz** Performance Series, which relatively quickly has become known as the intimate setting in Winnipeg to catch some of the best **jazz** players in the world.

Person and Nash may not be household names like Van the Man, but the former has been around since the '60s, recorded more than 75 albums under his own name, and is best known for his rich, soulful sound that will appeal to both **jazz** and blues lovers.

Nash has an impressive pedigree as well, having recorded with Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Wynton Marsalis and Ron Carter, to name only a few, and for the last six years has been a faculty member at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music. These musicians tour the world to packed houses, are in very high demand, and the opportunity to catch them in the small Berney Theatre is not to be missed.

While no one can guarantee a balmy day on March 11, the Winnipeg **Jazz** Orchestra will do its best to warm you up with its next show, Spring Can Really Hang You Up, featuring drummer Robert Breithaupt. Leading the Columbus **Jazz** Orchestra since 1980, and having performed with Benny Carter, Monty Alexander, Paul Anka and many others, Breithaupt promises to bring a hot blast of big band excitement to town.

The Canadian **Jazz** Concert Series wraps up on March 30 with Montreal saxophone player Joel Miller and his Mandala project. With their creative, fresh and vibrant approach to **jazz**, expect an evening of spirited performance.

On the local scene, seven of Winnipeg's most active **jazz** musicians have banded together to produce an evening of original music to be performed on Friday, March 16, at 8 p.m. at the Gas Station Theatre in Osborne Village. The concert features Ken Gold and Jonathan Stevens on reeds, Richard Gillis and Jeff Presslaff on brass, Will Bonness on piano, Gilles Fournier on bass and Rob Siwik on drums. Each player has written a new piece for the ensemble that will get its first performance that night.

Finally, keep an eye out for the all new Monday Night Hang, the popular weekly jam session that ran for almost three years at the recently closed Osborne Freehouse. On hiatus until March 26, the hang gang will be back to celebrate its third anniversary in a new location to be announced, but expected to be in Osborne Village as well.

Drummer Terreon Gully, one of the coolest drummers on the circuit returns to the city to join that celebration. Gully divides his time between New York City and Atlanta, but is no stranger to Winnipeg **jazz** fans, having performed here a couple of times with vibraphonist Stefon Harris.

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