

Home / Tucson's entertainment guide / Music

AZ NIGHT BUZZ



UA prof's jazz group flawless on 'Perfect' CD

- Story
- (0) Comments

UA prof's jazz group flawless on 'Perfect' CD

By Rosalie Robles Crowe Arizona Daily Star Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Friday, September 4, 2009
12:00 am | Comments

Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size



[Buy this photo](#)

Courtesy of Jay Rees

Jazz lovers — the dyed-in-the-wool as well as the newly minted — are going to love Sylvan Street's debut CD, "The Perfect Leaf."

Released this summer by Summit Records, "The Perfect Leaf" is an eclectic blend of many styles: some original jazz, some rock, a bit of Latin and a topping of funk. The result is a collection of songs that will have you tapping your toes to swinging and funky beats while your soul weeps through the love ballads.

And that's just what Sylvan Street bandleader Jay Rees planned.

Rees, a University of Arizona School of Music professor and associate director of bands, said he and his colleagues made "a conscious effort to do the music we believed in."

A lot of times, he said, record companies will try to keep an album focused on a particular style, and neither he nor the others wanted that.

Rees, known to most Tucsonans as the director of the Pride of Arizona Marching Band, came up with the idea to form the jazz band about a year and a half ago.

"I wondered, what if I could bring together my favorite players?" said Rees, a bass player and composer. "What would it be like to make music with them?"

That was the genesis of Sylvan Street.

He contacted his A-list of favorite musicians around the country — "my musical dream team" — and broached the idea.

It was a go for all:

- Frank Browne on guitar.
- Andrew Hix, drummer and vocalist.
- Kelland Thomas, saxophone.
- Chad Shoopman, trumpet.
- Evan Rees, piano/keyboards.
- Michael Faltin, percussion.

Rees' wife, Wendy, also was involved in the project, co-writing the ballad "Me 'N You" and penning "Millie's," an up-tempo, contemporary jazz song on the album.

Sylvan Street's combined résumés read like a "how can you possibly top this" listing of musical accomplishments and endeavors. They are musicians' musicians, artists who work and produce the best.

Plus, all — except Evan Rees, the 16-year-old son of Jay and Wendy — are music educators.

This was part of Rees' idea — "to put it out there not only as performers, but also as educators. We will be doing master classes and workshops with younger musicians" whenever possible as part of concert appearances.

"Once I put this thing together, I realized that all of them are great teachers. It was a slam-dunk in my

mind — to give back to the next generation."

When Sylvan Street opens the 2009 UA Faculty Artist Series with a concert at Centennial Hall on Thursday, that appearance will cap a day of performance and workshops for high school students.

If you go

UA Faculty Artist Series Concert: Sylvan Street Nü-Jazz Ensemble Concert

- Also featuring: UA School of Music faculty members Jeff Haskell on piano; Moisés Paiewonsky on trombone and Robin Horn on drums.
- Where: Centennial Hall, 1020 E. University Blvd., on the UA campus.
- When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday.
- Tickets: \$9, with discounts available, \$7 for UA employees and seniors, \$5 students with ID at www.arizona.tix.com
- Details: 621-1162.

Student workshops

Sylvan Street will perform for high school students during the day at the University of Arizona, and then each band member will lead a workshop.

Students or high school band leaders interested in learning more about these opportunities should contact Jay Rees by e-mail: jrees@email.arizona.edu.

Copyright 2010 Arizona Daily Star. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in Music on *Friday, September 4, 2009 12:00 am* Updated: 11:48 am. | Tags: Ua, Group, Arizona, Star, Body, Person, Robles, Summer, Of, Result, University, School, Music, Record, List, Musical, Thomas, Chad, Work, Cap, Day, High, Media, Student

Share This Story

Post a Comment Print Email ShareThis

Other Stories

- Brooks & Dunn end 20-year career at Nashville show
- Ne-Yo says T.I. makes a lot of poor decisions
- `American Idol' adds L.A. audition on Sept. 22
- Appeals court sets hearing in Jackson estate case
- TSO musicians OK 2-year pact

- Ceremony finds attentive patrons
- Opera schedules first rehearsal in Mesa home
- Event to recognize Musicians Museum inductees

Sponsored Links

[Sylvan - Tutoring](#)

Find Help For Any Grade and Level. Sylvan Has a Tutor For You.
www.SylvanLearning.com

[Raytheon Job Listing Available](#)

Hiring in Progress. 142+ Jobs Available. Complete Listing Here.
www.dailyjobopenings.com/raytheon

[Tucson VA Hospital Jobs](#)

Help Wanted - Tucson VA Hospital Jobs Apply now - earn up to \$44 / hr.
www.TopNationalJobs.com

Ads by Yahoo!



[Apple iPod nano Third Gen Silver \(4 GB, MA978LL/A\)](#)

[Amazon](#)

Free Shipping, In Stock

Description

Best Deals

Search

[Chitika | eMiniMalls](#)

It's the small iPod with one very big idea: Video. Now the world's most popular music player lets you enjoy TV shows, movies, video podcasts, and more. The larger, brighter display means amazing picture...