

A man with glasses and a black cap, wearing a white shirt, is shown in profile, smiling and playing a saxophone. The background is dark and out of focus.

JAZZ & BLUES

JANUARY 2014

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURED ARTIST

KENNY GARRETT QUINTET

VICTOR WOOTEN w/STU HAMM • MALCOLM HOLCOMBE • THE RINGERS
TERRY HANCK w/DEBBIE DAVIÉS • LOU DONALDSON • SUGAR BLUE
ANDY POXON BAND • AL DI MEOLA • CASH BOX KINGS
CALVIN NEWBORN w/AL WATERS SEXTET • FRED EAGLESMITH
NICKI PARROTT TRIO w/HARRY ALLEN • MARCIA BALL • RANDY BRECKER



Jan 1 Dancin' in the New Year
PSL Botanical Gardens
(Food-Tutto Fresco) \$22

Jan 2 Dancin' Shoes Jazz Jam
Heritage Center Vero Beach,
7-9:30, \$8

Jan 5 Jazz Brunch – Tutto Fresco Italian Grill, 1-4, \$13.95

Jan 14 Jazz Jam & American Songbook w/ Larry McManus – Black Box, \$10

Jan 19 Waterside Blues w/Delta Dave and Lagoon Squad – FREE Event

Jan 28 Jazz Jam w/ FDO – Black Box, 7-10, \$10

Feb 6 Dancin' Shoes Jazz Jam – Heritage Center Vero Beach, 7-9:30, \$8

Feb 9 Society Variety Theatre – Sunrise Theatre, VIP: \$49.95 including lunch
by Tutto Fresco, or Show Only: \$37.50

Feb 11 Jazz Jam – Peter+Will Anderson, Sax Virtuosos – Black Box, 7-10, \$10

Feb 25 Jazz Jam w/ FDO – Black Box, 7-10, \$10

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KENNY GARRETT

by Bill Meredith



THE TITLE OF KENNY GARRETT'S LATEST CD, *Pushing the World Away* (Mack Avenue), refers to the busy 2013 schedule the saxophonist had to reorganize to prepare for its recording sessions. "There was a lot going on, with the release of [2012's] *Seeds From the Underground* and the resulting traveling," he says by phone from his home in northern New Jersey. "But I decided to push through and make this record anyway. It required a great deal of focus to do it with so many distractions."

It clearly paid off. *Pushing the World Away* leads off with the frenetic "A Side Order of Hijiki," a nod to Garrett's late friend, pianist Mulgrew Miller, and ends with another romp in "Rotation," featuring simultaneous piano lines by Vernell Brown and Benito Gonzalez.

Between start and finish, the well-paced disc features Garrett's tributes to pianists Chick Corea (the worldly "Hey Chick"), Chucho Valdés (a buoyant "Chucho's Mambo") and Donald Brown (the string-enhanced ballad "Brother Brown"), as well as to saxophonist Sonny Rollins (the calypsonian "J'ouvert"). Garrett also offers a shimmering instrumental cover of Burt Bacharach's composition "I Say a Little Prayer," a pop hit for singers Aretha Franklin and Dionne Warwick. "I hadn't intended on recording that," he says. "I just started playing the intro one day; the other guys came in, and it sounded like an arrangement. And people reacted to it, so I included it."

If it seems like Garrett is influenced as much by pianists as saxophonists, it's no illusion. The 53-year-old, one of the leading alto players of his generation, lists piano legends Art Tatum and McCoy Tyner as his primary influences. He's even become an accomplished pianist by composing on the instrument during his 30-year recording career as a leader. It's his own piano lines, along with a three-piece string section, that give the poignant "Brother Brown" its soulfulness.

"Donald [Brown] is a very underrated musician," Garrett says of his friend and the CD's co-producer, a well-regarded pianist in his own right. "It was his idea for me to play piano on the song."

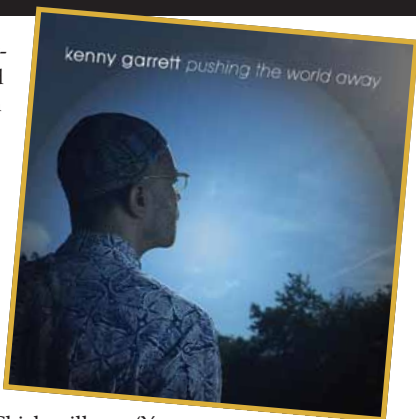
Garrett's saxophone sound and compositional style are partly due to his love of piano, but also partly due to his upbringing. Born in Detroit in 1960, he soaked up the city's vibrant jazz scene of the '70s and '80s, and achieved higher learning on stage after his high school graduation. Rather than studying music at college, the teenage Garrett joined a big band dedicated to another iconic pianist and composer, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, led by Duke's son Mercer Ellington.

The saxophonist then recorded and toured with Freddie Hubbard, Woody Shaw and Art Blakey, leading up to a five-year stint in the final bands of trumpet great Miles Davis, who died in 1991. "It was a great time," Garrett says. "Miles was mellow and reflective. Showed me a lot of love and respect, and I got to hear him play every night!"

KENNY GARRETT

In 2008 and 2009, Garrett recorded the Grammy-winning CD *Five Peace Band Live* and toured the world with Corea, guitarist John McLaughlin, bassist Christian McBride and alternating drummers Vinnie Colaiuta and Brian Blade. "That was also an inspirational learning experience," he says. "I got to soak up John's knowledge, along with everyone else's, and Chick is a great friend. We call each other up to play piano ideas over the phone."




For his current tour, Garrett's quintet features pianist Vernell Brown, bassist Corcoran Holt, drummer McClenty Hunter and percussionist Rudy Bird. But will Garrett also put down his horn and take over the piano bench on stage? "Those guys are messing with me, telling me I have to," he says with a laugh. "Even Chick will say, 'You have to play piano on at least one song live.' And I tell them all the same thing — maybe someday."



The Kenny Garrett Quintet will perform at 8PM on Jan. 11 at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center in Fort Lauderdale. Call 954-462-0222 or visit Southfloridajazz.org.




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Jan 12	Steve Hofstetter Comedian	
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Jan 17	Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials	
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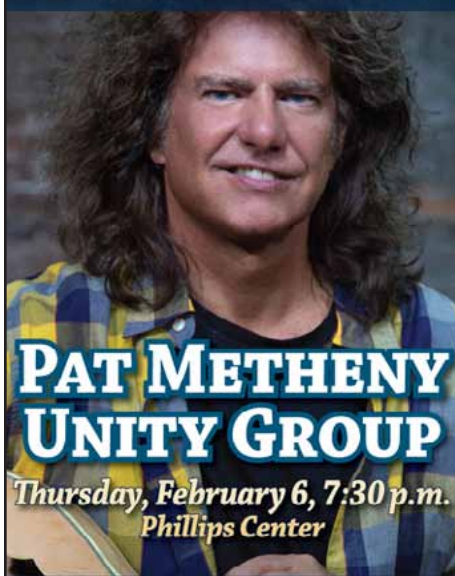
On Tour! featuring *Joel Paterson & Oscar Wilson*

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Jan 17	Yabo, Fort Myers
Jan 18	Bahia Mar, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
Jan 19	Earl's Hideaway, Sebastian

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HOLCOMBE
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JACKSONVILLE/JAN. 9
LUNA STAR CAFE, NORTH MIAMI/JAN. 10

Malcolm Holcombe is as intense a solo performer as you're likely to see. A masterful fingerstyle guitarist with a voice that careens from intimate rumble to full-on howl, the North Carolina native fixes audiences with a feral stare, strikes his strings like he had stock in the Black Diamond company, tosses his head from side to side and rocks in his chair when moved to do so. The music is often serious, sometimes explosive. But Holcombe's between-songs patter is hilarious, full of dark, homespun humor and non-sequitur rambles. And the cat just keeps on coming up with remarkably



powerful songs. His most recent CDs, 2011's *Down the River* and *To Drink the Rain*, are steeped in Americana, a hybrid of Appalachian and Piedmont styles with country blues in its DNA. Tunes from *To Drink the Rain* — the title track, "Mountains of Home," and "Down in the Woods" — have become concert faves among diehard Malcolm-ites. **BW**

TERRY HANCK AND DEBBIE DAVIES
BOSTON'S, DELRAY BEACH/JAN. 14

Saxman Terry Hanck's concert at Boca's Funky Biscuit in March was one of the highlights of 2013. His California band, with the amazing Johnny "Cat" Soubrand on guitar, teamed up with blues-guitar great Chris Cain for several sets of raunchy, roadhouse blues of the highest order. Inspired by Junior Walker and King Curtis, Hanck's barwalkin' tenor has accompanied Elvin Bishop, Tracy Nelson and Etta James, among others. In recent years, he's earned raves with his solo albums. The Chicago native's 2011 CD, *Look Out!*, delivers on the promise of "greasy soul-rockin' blues," as Hanck and company delve into jukebox faves by the likes of Chuck Willis, Tiny Bradshaw and Fats Domino, while offering originals that draw from the same well.



Hanck also possesses an emotive vocal that perfectly suits his music. For his show at Boston's in Delray, the Riviera Beach-based saxophonist will welcome blues-guitar ace Debbie Davies, who can crunch, swing or burn with equal dexterity. The team-up should be a real treat. **BW**

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Thur 9	Billy Iuso & The Biscuit Head All Stars 9:30pm
Fri 10	Jam Cruise 12 Post Show 9pm with The Revivalists & Monophonics
Sat 11	The Lee Boys & The Heavy Pets 9:30pm
Tues 14	Big Daddy Love 8pm
Wed 15	Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band 8pm with Special Guests Flow Tribe
Thur 16	Soul Rebels 8:30pm with Special Guests Lingo & Bubonik Funk
Fri 17	Tommy Castro & The Painkillers 9:30pm
Sat 18	Sunshine Blue Festival - Official After Party w/Col Bruce Hampton, Mike Zito & The Wheel, Albert Castiglia and Other Special Guests 8pm
Mon 20	Intl. Blues Challenge Send-Off 8pm
Tues 21	The People's Blues Of Richmond 8pm
Wed 22	Breeze 8pm
Thur 23	Honey Island Swamp Band 9:30pm
Fri 24	Uproot Hootenanny 9:30pm
Sat 25	Suenalo 9:30pm
Sun 26	The Band Of Heathens 8pm
Tues 28	Randy Bernsen Trio 8pm
Wed 29	Funkabilly Playboys 8pm
Thur 30	Crazy Fingers 8:30pm
Fri 31	JP Soars & The Red Hots 9:30pm

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– Reno Mussatto, *CD Baby* (12/30/2013)

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ANDY POXON BAND

ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN, ENGLEWOOD/JAN. 15
CORAL GABLES BLUESFEST, FRITZ & FRANZ
BIERHAUS/JAN. 22

"Of all the musicians I know personally," writes Duke Robillard of guitarist and vocalist Andy Poxon, who recorded his 2011 debut album, *Red Roots*, at age 16, "tenor saxophonist Scott Hamilton is the only one who showed that maturity at that early an age." Robillard was so impressed with Poxon that he produced the orange-Afro-ed blues prodigy's second album for the Ellersoul label, 2013's *Tomorrow*. Citing B.B. King as a major influence, Poxon plays with tasteful restraint on a joyful set of horn-fueled tracks that draw from jump-swing and rockabilly. And his wise-beyond-his-



years vocals are just a few heartbreaks short of Lyle Lovett, whose sly, woeful delivery he seems to be channeling. *Tomorrow*'s final cut, the instrumental "Jammin' at Lakewest," finds Poxon trading silky jazz chords with Maestro Robillard, displaying yet another facet of his talent. Poxon will perform at the 10-day Coral Gables Bluesfest (bierhausblues.com). BW

CASH BOX KINGS

BLUE ROOSTER, SARASOTA/JAN. 16
YABO, FORT MYERS/JAN. 17
BAHIA MAR, FORT LAUDERDALE/JAN. 18
EARL'S HIDEAWAY, SEBASTIAN/JAN. 19

Reviving classic Chicago blues with gritty authority, The Cash Box Kings have become critic and fan faves. Their latest CD, 2013's *Black Toppin'*, copped a Blues Blast Music Award for Traditional Blues Album of the Year, and was nominated for a BMA in the same category, owing to its allegiance to vintage blues-band dynamics. Harmonica player and vocalist Joe Nosek grew up in Chicago, observing giants such as Junior Wells, James Cotton, Otis Rush and Jimmy Rogers. Nosek later joined forces with drummer Kenny "Beedy



Eyes" Smith to form the Kings. Though personnel has changed over the years, vocalist Oscar Wilson, who recently underwent cancer treatment, has returned to the band. Along with an expert rhythm section, Nosek and guitarist Joel Paterson still remain staunchly committed to the tones and textures of 1950s Chi-Town blues. BW

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Photo by Ken Franckling

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to Woody Herman, *Mike
Brignola*, Musical Director

Monday, March 24
Carmen Bradford
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Monday, March 31
The NJO plays
Tommy Dorsey
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Debbie Orta, vocalist

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MOCKINGBIRD CAFE, TALLAHASSEE/JAN. 30

"Very exotic," proclaimed David Letterman after Fred Eaglesmith performed on his show in 2010. "It's like Berlin before the war." Letterman could have been referring to the Canadian singer-songwriter's whiskeyed vocals; the Latin feel of the tune, which was propelled by banjo, doghouse bass and guitar; or even Eaglesmith's "steampunk"-inspired garb. The rootsy songsmith returned to the stark sounds and imagery of (North) Americana on 2012's *6 Volts*, his spare, shivery electric



guitar reverberating through foreboding landscapes, his voice as raw as a deathrow confession. Eaglesmith is touring behind a new CD, *Tambourine*, offering his spin on '60s rock inspired by the likes of Dylan and ? and the Mysterians. Shot through with wry humor, Eaglesmith's shows with the colorful Traveling Steam Show look like a blast. BW

MARCIA BALL

PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL, PONTE VEDRA/ JAN. 18

BAMBOO ROOM, LAKE WORTH/JAN. 26

Boogie-piano queen Marcia Ball was headed for San Francisco in 1970, when her car broke down in Austin, Texas. She's been there ever since. Combining the powerful New Orleans inspirations of Irma Thomas and Professor Longhair, the Vinton, La., native came up with a winning mix that also mines the music of the Lonestar State, including rich blues and singer-songwriter traditions. That synthesis is beautifully realized on her Grammy-nominated 2011 release *Roadside Attractions*, on which Ball's rollicking piano and dusty-roads vocals offer a very personal travelogue



of the life of a touring blueswoman. Inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2010, Ball collects awards like Mardi Gras beads. Recently, she won Most Outstanding Keyboardist in the 2013 Living Blues Awards Readers Poll. Ball and her band will perform shows in Ponte Vedra and Lake Worth surrounding their Sandy Beaches Cruise gig. BW

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- Jan 25 Randi & The Blue Fire Band
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S P O T L I G H T

SUGAR BLUE GROOVIN' ON THE POINT, FISHERMAN'S WHARE, FORT PIERCE/JAN. 25

A popular New York City street performer, harmonica wizard James Whiting raised the ire of an old lady under whose window he was performing at around 2AM. According to legend, she hurled a box of 78s at him, narrowly missing his head and smashing all but one record. That record? Sidney Bechet's "Sugar Blues." Whiting adopted the moniker and went on to accompany blues greats such as Louisiana Red, Memphis Slim and Willie Dixon. Having moved to Paris in the '70s, Sugar Blue caught the ear of Keith Richards. Richards brought him into the sessions for The Rolling Stones' album *Some Girls*, where he laid down unforgettable



harp solos on the title track and "Miss You," the latter of which has become his signature. As the double-live CD *Raw Sugar* corroborated — and as those who caught his Riverwalk Blues Fest show a few years ago will attest — the charismatic harp master puts on a helluva show. While he still tours the world, Blue now calls Forest Park, Chicago home. **BW**

VICTOR WOOTEN WITH STU HAMM LARGO CULTURAL CENTER, LARGO/JAN. 3

Victor Wooten is arguably the premier electric bassist of his generation. At age 49, he's developed an all-but-unparalleled dexterity between fretted and fretless instruments; finger-style playing and slapping; and educational groundwork in cello and upright acoustic bass. Having risen to fame within the unique bluegrass-meets-jazz-fusion template of Béla Fleck & the Flecktones, Wooten has since embarked on a 20-year session and solo career. He also tours with his older siblings in the Wooten Brothers (keyboardist Joseph, drummer Roy and guitarist Regi). A veritable one-man band, Wooten is a melodic, harmonic and rhythmic whirlwind, with an arsenal ranging from percussive



slapping to pensive ballad work. And he'll be joined by Stu Hamm, one of the few current jazz-fusion bassists in his league. Likewise fluent in all facets of electric-bass playing, Hamm has enjoyed a lengthy solo and session recording career, and is best known for his long tenure with guitarist Joe Satriani. **BM**

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**CALVIN NEWBORN W/THE AL WATERS SEXTET
ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/JAN. 11**

Guitarist Calvin Newborn followed in the footsteps of his older brother, jazz pianist Phineas Newborn. The siblings grew up in the blues hotbed of Memphis. Calvin showed Howlin' Wolf the C scale and B.B. King helped him buy his first guitar. While he may not have achieved the fame of some of his peers, Newborn earned notice as a sideman with Earl Hines, Lionel Hampton and Jimmy Forrest, among many others. The guitarist, who turned 80 in April, boasts a sound that's at once traditional and rhythmic, bluesy and soulful, and a smoky, intimate singing voice, as well. The Smithsonian's logo for its rock and soul exhibit is actually a likeness of Calvin leaping through the air with his Gretsch guitar in a



1952 Memphis night-club photo. Culling from solo recordings and an impressive 50-plus-year discography that includes sessions with Ray Charles and Count Basie, Newborn will have plenty of material from which to choose when he performs with the sextet led by saxophonist Al Waters, also a Charles band alum. **BM**

**NICKI PARROTT TRIO W/HARRY ALLEN
264 THE GRILL, PALM BEACH/JAN. 14**

Aussie Nicki Parrott started her performing career at age 15, when her sax-playing sister needed a bassist. Parrott later relocated to Brooklyn, using money she earned through an Australian Young Achievers Award. Her résumé features plenty of achievements since, including nine years of providing bass and breathy vocals for iconic guitarist Les Paul during his weekly gig at the Iridium in Manhattan. Between that and her prolific recording career — 20 releases in the past 10 years — Parrott has become a rising star in the U.S., Europe and Japan. Her shows often feature her bop-approved sense of humor on standards, as well as a rotating roster of trio members. In South Florida, in recent years, she's



performed with pianist Rossano Sportiello and drummer Ed Metz Jr.; and more recently, in the Northeast, she's played with pianist Bruce Barth and drummer Matt Wilson. For her show in Palm Beach, Parrott's trio will be joined by guest saxophonist Harry Allen, an acclaimed international recording and touring artist in his own right. **BM**

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LAUREN KINHAN | SUN 1/19 | 7PM

Award winning vocalist Lauren Kinhan of the 'New York Voices' boasts an inherent musicality and stage presence. Debuting music from her new CD *Circle in a Square*, her music and vocal magic really deliver.



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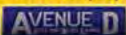
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THE RINGERS

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Jazz-fusion guitarists are often alpha-male bandleaders who play as if they're getting paid by the note. Yet, in a rare display of equanimity, three have teamed up in The Ringers — Jimmy Herring, Wayne Krantz and Michael Landau — along with the rhythm section of bassist Etienne Mbatia and drummer Gary Novak. (Novak is subbing for Keith Carlock.) A rare jam band with jazz authenticity, the quintet has plenty of star associations. Mbatia works with John McLaughlin; Krantz is a Steely Dan vet; Landau had a long association with Joni Mitchell; and Novak's worked with Chick Corea,



Allan Holdsworth and George Benson. But Herring (pictured) is the wild card. A searing soloist with the Georgia-based Aquarium Rescue Unit, the Grateful Dead tribute act Jazz Is Dead, and jam-circuit stars Widespread Panic, he uses the efforts of chordal masters Krantz and Landau to play rings around most of today's guitar heroes. **BM**

LOU DONALDSON

MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,
DAYTONA BEACH/JAN. 19

At times during his career, alto saxophonist Lou Donaldson was on the leading edge of jazz trends. However, the gentlemanly, old-school North Carolina native, 87, has flown slightly under the radar, partly by choice — his Web site states that he “does not maintain an official Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, or other social networking site.” Donaldson moved to New York City in 1952 at age 25, and immediately started recording as a leader on a series of Charlie Parker-influenced bebop albums for Blue Note. But Donaldson changed with the times, embracing hardbop and groove. His 1967 hit LP *Alligator Bogaloo* is a soul-jazz classic and started an association with



Hammond organist Dr. Lonnie Smith that's lasted ever since. With a bluesy, embracing tone, Donaldson recorded 50 of his own albums in the 20th century alone, and has recorded and/or toured with jazz giants from Thelonious Monk and Milt Jackson to George Benson and Art Blakey. Expect bop, blues, ballads and everything in between. **BM**

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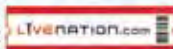
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Al Di Meola became an electric-guitar-fusion hero during the 1970s with Chick Corea's supergroup Return to Forever. He attained similar status on an acoustic instrument through his masterful 1980 classical/flamenco guitar trio recording with John McLaughlin and Paco de Lucia, *Friday Night in San Francisco*. So who knew that The Beatles were the 59-year-old New Jersey native's primary inspiration to play guitar? Di Meola reveals the Fab Four's influence on his artistry with the latest release in his lengthy discography, 2013's solo acoustic Beatles tribute *All Your Life*. The guitarist provides unique arrangements for 14 classic John Lennon/Paul McCartney tunes, alternately weaving



a melodic web on the strings and slapping the instrument's wooden body for additional percussive effects. Jazziz Nightlife listeners can expect two nights of album highlights, from "And I Love Her," "Michelle," "Penny Lane" and "Blackbird" to "In My Life," "Eleanor Rigby," "I Am the Walrus" and "A Day in the Life."

BM

RANDY BRECKER

ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/JAN. 25

At age 68, Randy Brecker has lent his incredible trumpet playing to a who's-who of modern musical icons, from Charles Mingus, Frank Sinatra and Jaco Pastorius to James Brown, B.B. King and Frank Zappa. Capable of blowing with startling power or understated elegance, the trumpeter was also co-leader of the Brecker Brothers with saxophonist and younger sibling Michael Brecker, who died from leukemia in 2007. That group is represented in a recent eight-CD compilation and the trumpeter's latest release, *The Brecker Brothers Band Reunion*, featuring fellow stars like David Sanborn, Mike Stern and Dave Weckl. Brecker returns to the Arts Garage in Delray Beach this month, having made his



debut there last year. Listeners can expect an appropriately broad range of material from his band, encompassing the funky fusion of the Brecker Brothers' catalog and standards from his pensive 2011 release, *The Jazz Ballad Songbook*, recorded with the DR Big Band and the Danish National Chamber Orchestra.

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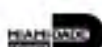
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