



Pianist Raymond Jackson will perform on Feb. 23, at PSH

Raymond Jackson, renowned pianist and promoter of African-American musical excellence, will honor Penn State Harrisburg with a performance on Mon., Feb. 23 at noon in the Gallery Lounge.

Jackson is a professor at Howard University, Washington, D.C., where he has taught in the Department of Music and served in administrative capacities since 1977. He graduated first in his class from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Jackson continued his education at the Julliard School in New York City, earning multiple degrees, including Doctor of Musical Arts.

Jackson has written several literary works that serve as important resources in the field of African-American music. A recently completed three-volume compilation, "Black Composers: Their Lives and

Piano Music, An Annotated Anthology," is now being prepared for publication. Throughout much of the Western world his pioneering efforts have introduced these relatively unknown composers and works in recitals, lecture recitals and recordings.

Jackson has performed with many orchestras in Washington, D.C., including the National Symphony, the Washington Chamber Orchestra, and the Washington Symphony Orchestra. He has performed in numerous recital halls including the Kennedy Center and the National Gallery of Art.

Included in his most recent projects as an artist-teacher has been the formation of a "Scholarship and Mentoring Program for Gifted, Pre-College African-American Pianists."

"Waiting for Godot" at The Open Stage

by Suzanne Rossi

Yes, theatre does exist in the thriving metropolis of Harrisburg! One place you can find this branch of the arts is at the Open Stage of Harrisburg. Located on the street level of the Walnut Street Parking Garage, Open Stage is an intimate playhouse that produces several plays each year. Along with each performance, a new artist is featured in the Gallery at Open Stage. The motif for the artwork being displayed is connected to the theme of each production.

Currently, Open Stage is presenting "Waiting For Godot." As you might remember from reading this

play (or the Cliff Notes!) in high school, "Waiting For Godot" is not a traditional play. The story does not build to a climax and come to some resolution at the end. It is about two bums who wait endlessly for someone that never arrives. This tragicomedy allows the audience to experience the pain and laughter of waiting.

"Waiting For Godot" will be performed until February 22nd. The next production at Open Stage is Pavlov's Clown, which runs from March 26th until April 11th. The Open Stage of Harrisburg offers a special student rate for tickets. Call 232-6736 for information.

"Something for Everyone," A list of upcoming events

*Feb. 20-21, 27-28 at 7:30 p.m.
Appalachian Brewing Company -
Harrisburg

Murder They Wrote (A theatrical
production)
232-4036

*Feb. 22, 5 p.m.
Harrisburg Hilton Ballroom
Friends of Jazz Concert
Cindy Blackman quartet with Gary
Bartz
540-1010

*Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Encore Books and Music,
Mechanicsburg
Keeping the World Alive
A program celebrating African-
American history.
761-2665

*Feb. 27 & Mar. 1
The Forum, Harrisburg
Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra
Rigoletto - Baritone Richard Zeller
performs Verdi's masterpiece
232-2539

*Feb. 28 through Mar. 8
Farm Show Complex
PA Home Builders Show
783-3071

*Feb. 28 through Apr. 3
Art Association of Harrisburg
Art Show and Reception
236-1432

*Mar. 1, 2:30 p.m.
The Carlisle Regional Performing
Arts Center
The Mikado - Gilbert and Sullivan
258-0666

*Mar. 6-22
Harrisburg Community Theatre
Nonsense - musical comedy by Dan
Goggin
232-5501

*Mar. 6-8
Hershey Theatre

"CATS"
534-3415

*March 11-15
Hersheypark Arena
Beauty and the Beast on Ice
534-3911

*Feb. 8 - Mar. 15
York College
Gallery Exhibit
Illusions of Light: The Glass Sculpture of Christopher Ries
Re-Fused: The Junk Art of Leonard Streckfus
846-7788

*Feb. 19 - Mar. 14
Theater of the Seventh Sister,
Lancaster
Raisin in the Sun
396-7764

*Feb. 25, 7 p.m.
Gettysburg College, CUB Ballroom

Lecture: David DuBois, editor-in-chief of The Black Panther, professor of African-American Studies and Journalism, University of Massachusetts, and son of Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, founder of the NAACP
*Feb. 27, 8 p.m.

Penn State York
The Color of Dusk, music set to poems from the book, "The Women of Plums: Poems in the Voices of Slave Women," by Dolores Kendrick.

*Feb. 28, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center, York
Bluegrass '98 featuring Jim & Jess and the Virginia Boys, The Lonesome River Band, and Tim and Mollie O'Brien
846-1111

Simple Gifts performs

One of the most intriguing musical groups to play the college circuit will be appearing live in the Gallery Lounge at noon on Wed., Mar. 4. Known as Simple Gifts in honor of Aaron Copeland's tune from his "Appalachian Spring" ballet, these three women present an exciting and varied sound that reflects their wide range and broad musical backgrounds.

Drawing on an impressive variety of international folk styles, the group plays everything from Irish jugs to Klezmer melodies to Balkan dances to original compositions. Based in central Pennsylvania, the three members of Simple Gifts play an impressive array of instruments as well.

Linda Littleton, on violin, re-

order, and hammered dulcimer, combines her classical training with a folksy fiddle style. Karen Hirshon, playing violin, mandolin, banjolin, guitar, and percussion, is largely self-taught and has a strong background in old-time and swing styles. Rachel Hall, equally talented on concertina and piano, has traveled throughout the British Isles and Scandinavia to collect some of the more unusual tunes the group plays.

Simple Gifts has recently released their fourth album, "Other Places, Other Times," which features traditional music from Eastern Europe, Israel, Finland, the British Isles, and America. It also includes original compositions by Rachel and Linda.

Linda Rugel Exhibit in the Gallery

Award-winning batik artist Linda Rugel is showing her series of works created through the use of vintage American textiles, dyes, acrylics, and encaustics. Her exploration of spiritual themes entitled "Faces, Phases, Form — textile explorations on the quest for authentic being" will be on exhibit in the Gallery Lounge Feb. 16 to Apr. 3.

Rugel first discovered a love for batik, the ancient art of resist-dyeing, when she visited Delhi, India several decades ago. She has been working in the medium ever since. Rugel studied her art in Java and Bali, Indonesia. Her work has been widely exhibited, and commissioned by Armstrong World Industries as well as private individuals.

In 1996, Rugel decided to free up her artistic endeavors by turning to a form of art that is less complex in

technique than her traditional resist-dye paintings.

Using vintage textiles once found in every home—homespun linen towels, battenburg lace doilies, crocheted antimacassars—I have combined these materials with textured

fabrics and mixed media effects to address the quest for authentic being," said Rugel. "The works are intended to be meditation devices, objects of contemplation that play with notions of time to help the viewer transcend it."

