



Jazz notes: International Jazz Day, Ameranouche in Pitman

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By Tim Wilkins/The Star-Ledger

It's the first-ever International Jazz Day — a worldwide celebration dreamt up by pianist Herbie Hancock, who performed at NJPAC last month. "I'm interested in anything that brings people of different cultures together, and jazz does that," Hancock told me then. "Humanity has to come together to solve some of the problems that we're facing."

Hancock is a goodwill ambassador for UNESCO, the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization, and he organized a day-long jazz festival at UNESCO's Paris headquarters on Friday. This morning at 8 o'clock, Hancock performs with Terence Blanchard, Ellis Marsalis and others at the birthplace of jazz, Congo Square in New Orleans. He then hops on a plane to perform with Tony Bennett, Dianne Reeves, and dozens of jazz stars at the United Nations in New York at 7:30 p.m.

Newark's WBGO will broadcast a special feature on the New Orleans concert at 6:30 p.m. Video of all events will be streamed live at jazzday.com, which also has links to other jazz celebrations around the world.

Montclair bassist Christian McBride will join Hancock at the United Nations, and students in McBride's Jazz House Kids program also plan to participate: like other young musicians around the world, they will play Hancock's composition "Watermelon Man" as part of an open house tonight from 6 to 9 at the Salvation Army, 13 Trinity Place in Montclair, then upload their performance to YouTube. Ali Jackson, the drummer from the Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra, will join the students for this special performance, which is open to the public. Visit jazzhousekids.org.

Ameranouche in Pitman

Ameranouche will bring their hot gypsy swing to the Bus Stop Café at 148 South Broadway Avenue in Pitman this Friday at 8 p.m. The group, with Richard Sheppard and Zach Person on guitars and Steve Gibson on bass, plays music inspired by French guitarist Django Reinhardt — and the even-hotter variety of jazz Reinhardt played with other Romany guitarists. The group will play songs by Reinhardt and original compositions from their most recent CD, *Des Histoires Simples*. \$10; visit busstopmusiccafe.com.

Generet in Madison

Vocalist Gregory Generet is an exceptionally swinging and creative interpreter of jazz song. The tender yet firmly focused timbre of his voice brings to mind Johnny Hartman in his prime. Generet performs at Shanghai Jazz in Madison this Sunday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.; expect him to perform highlights from his 2008 CD (re) generet-ion, which includes standards such as "Angel Eyes" and "How High The Moon," as well as surprises such as Van Morrison's "Moon Dance." No cover, with a \$15 minimum; visit shanghaijazz.com.

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