

Airwaves

Summer 2005



the quarterly program guide from KFSR 90.7 FM

www.kfsr.org

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Aircheck

by Joe Moore - KFSR Station Manager

Right now it's an exciting time to be living in Fresno. Yes, Fresno, the city that's been the butt of countless jokes on late night tv, and a brief "gas and go" stop for travelers on Highway 99, is emerging as a diverse, cosmopolitan city on the move, with a vibrant arts and cultural scene that's growing all the time. Many people have dubbed this the "creative movement" or something similar, but regardless of the name, it's clear that new things are happening - positive developments that would have been unthinkable even five years ago.

Here at KFSR, we're working hard to play an active role in Fresno's emerging cultural and creative community, in both our programming and collaborating with many of those individuals and groups who are leading the way in making Fresno a better place. This edition of *Airwaves* details many of the new projects and activities we're working on in this area. We're very excited about these projects, and we hope you are too.

First, from a programming perspective, we want KFSR to be the place Fresnoans go for creative and diverse cultural programming that enriches and enhances the "quality of life" of our listeners, and opens new horizons, and exposes Valley residents to something out of the ordinary, and truly creative, even sophisticated. Of course, our jazz programs are a large part of that, but we're also working to refine and improve our weekday afternoon programming, which we like to call *Afternoon Eclectic*, to better suit those goals, and better complement our existing morning and evening programs.

But our efforts aren't limited to music programming. As you'll soon read, this summer we're launching a series of weekly readings by world class poets, recorded over the last few months, right here in Fresno (the San Joaquin Valley is known worldwide for its poets). KFSR is also once again working with the San Joaquin River Parkway this summer on



Fresno's cultural and creative scene thrives with Art Hop and KFSR helps to lead the way

their *Respite by the River* series of readings by Valley authors. We'll be hosting the events out at the River Center, and will be recording the readings for broadcast this fall.

KFSR is also working with the Fresno Art Museum's *Jazz at the Fresno Art Museum* program, an ambitious jazz performance and education effort led by pianist and composer Armen Nalbandian, who presents monthly jazz concerts at the Bonner Auditorium. Together, our organizations will present a free concert for KFSR & FAM members, on Sunday July 17th at 7:00 p.m., featuring highlights of some of the *Rhythms of Art* concerts of the past year. There will also be a special members-only wine and hour d'oeuvres reception at 6:00pm that evening.

In addition to our work with the Fresno Art Museum, KFSR is a proud media sponsor of Arte Américas weekly *Friday Nights in the Plaza* series of outdoor musical concerts, stretching from May through October. The lineup includes vocalist Lila Downs, and on May 27th, latin jazz legend Eddie Palmieri.

KFSR is also an active participant in perhaps the most exciting and popular event in Fresno's arts scene, Art Hop. Held the first Thursday of every month, galleries and museums across town open their doors for patrons to stop by and socialize, and take in all that Fresno's cultural community has to offer. Every month, KFSR will be on location, playing great jazz and eclectic music, letting new people know about KFSR, and giving you a chance to meet some of the people behind the microphone here at the station.

Those are just a few of the many things we're working on right now at KFSR in the area of arts and culture. We're dedicated to being a leading institution in improving the cultural atmosphere and overall quality of life of this area. I personally feel that this community has great potential, and with everyone's help, we in fact can make Fresno a much better place to live.

Around the World on KFSR

From music professor to radio host, it's a small world for KFSR's Hope Munro Smith

Few radio stations can claim to have their own resident ethnomusicologist on staff, and on the air. Fortunately for Valley listeners, KFSR is one of them, thanks to the work of KFSR host and Fresno State music professor Dr. Hope Munro Smith. Every Friday night, starting at 9:00pm, Hope brings local listeners, (and those listening around the globe at kfsr.org) an intriguing and eclectic mix of music from all corners of the earth, and especially the Afro-Caribbean music that she's an expert in, calypso and soca, as well as the music of the steel band drum bands of Trinidad.

Interestingly enough, Hope's love of world music, and thus her eventual doctorate degree in ethnomusicology from the University of Texas, is due to her love of radio. As a DJ on station WRUV while studying as an undergraduate music major at the University of Vermont, she was first exposed to the sounds of world music from the Caribbean. "I think there's something that's really infectious and joyful with those rhythms, and it's something that North Americans can relate to, listening to rock and pop music growing up," says Munro Smith. "Radio just started out as something to do as a music major, and I've done it ever since."

Hope went on to work at Dartmouth University's



Hope Munro Smith in the KFSR studios - photo by Frank Delgado

music and gender intersect in this cultural environment. She is particularly interested in how popular music helps people form key symbols of cultural identity as well as overcoming economic and gender-based oppression. She received her PhD in 2001.

In addition to the role radio played in Hope discovering her love for world music, it also helped her find her future husband, Mike, whom she met via her radio show. Today, Mike and Hope live in Fresno, where Hope works as a full time professor of music at Fresno State, a position she has held since 2003. Her classes include the Music of Latin America, Introduction to World Music, and the History of Jazz/Pop/Rock. Hope began her show at KFSR in mid 2004, and can be heard every Friday night from 9pm-12pm.

In addition to her academic and radio work, Hope is also an accomplished musician. She plays the flute, guitar, congas and steel pan, and has played in a variety of musical ensembles. These include the University of Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Dartmouth College's Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble and West African Drumming Ensemble, the University of Texas's Gamelan Kyahi Rosowibowo, the University of Texas Brazilian and Afro-Caribbean Ensembles, and she was a founding member of the University of Texas Steelband. Here in Fresno, Hope is also actively involved with the Fresno Folklore Society, and performs with the group Highlands and Lowlands.



Fresno State professors Hope Munro Smith (l) and Corey Whitehead (r) practice for a faculty recital

Photo by Emily Tuck - The Collegian

WFRD in the summers, near her home, and would later take her love of world music and radio to Texas, where she hosted shows on stations KVRX and NPR affiliate KUT, both in Austin at the University of Texas. While working on her doctorate degree, Hope traveled to the Caribbean, doing fieldwork in Trinidad and Tobago from 1998-1999. In addition to focusing on the calypso and soca, her work also explores the involvement of women musicians in these musical practices and how

KFSR in Focus:

Who: Hope Munro Smith

What: "World Sounds" - popular music from around the globe

When: Friday nights 9pm-12pm

KFSR hosts second season of readings by Valley authors - the "Respite By the River"

For the second year in a row, KFSR has joined with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust to present a monthly series of readings by prominent Valley authors. This free series, known as the *Respite By the River*, takes place at the scenic River Center, located at 11605 Old Friant Road. This year's theme reflects the diversity of our Valley and its rich literary traditions. Beneath the waters of the San Joaquin River rounded river rocks have been worn smooth, but retain their colorful diversity. People also bring unique experiences to be tossed into the stream of life. The Respite By the River presents authors from a colorful blend of ethnic and social backgrounds, telling their stories of life in the Valley. KFSR hosts the readings, and as the station did last year, will broadcast all of the readings later in the Fall, following the conclusion of the season.

The first reading of the 2005 season took place on Thursday May 18th, with local poet and novelist Dixie Salazar. Guests are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner



Visitors listen to local poet Dixie Salazar read at the River Center May 19th, 2005

and enjoy the scenic atmosphere of the River Center, with music starting at 6:00pm. The readings beginning at 7:00pm, and dessert and a book signing will be available at 8:00pm. More information is available by calling 248-8480 ext. 110.

Upcoming *Respite By the River* readings:

Thursday June 9th - Pulitzer Prize winning poet Philip Levine



Philip Levine was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1928. After studies at Wayne State University, and graduate studies in the Writers Workshop at the University of Iowa, he eventually settled in Fresno, pursuing a teaching career at Fresno State spanning four decades. He is the author of sixteen books of poetry, most recently *Breath* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2004). His other poetry collections include *The Mercy* (1999); *The Simple Truth* (1994), which won the Pulitzer Prize; *What Work Is* (1991), which won the National Book Award; *New Selected Poems* (1991); *Ashes: Poems New and Old* (1979), which received the National Book Critics Circle Award and the first American Book Award for Poetry. For two years he served as chair of the Literature Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts, and he was elected a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets in 2000. Philip Levine lives in New York City and Fresno, California, and teaches at New York University.

Thursday July 14th - Franz Weinschenk

Thursday August 11th - Dr. Jeri Echeverria

Thursday September 8th - Bill Secrest, Sr.

Thursday October 13th - Jon Veinberg

The Respite By the River is sponsored

by the Harry C. Mitchell Trust

San Joaquin River Parkway
and Conservation Trust

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KFSR & Jazz @ the Fresno Art Museum

Free concert for KFSR members Sunday July 17th - 7:00pm

For fans of live jazz music in the Valley, one of the most exciting recent developments has been the start of the Jazz at the Fresno Art Museum program, led by pianist and composer Armen Nalbandian, and the accompanying *Rhythms of Art* concert series. The *Rhythms of Art* features monthly jazz concerts of original musical works, composed by Nalbandian, and performed by his ensemble, inspired by the works of the artists on display at the Museum. The concerts are held in the Fresno Art Museum's intimate Bonner Auditorium.

Since its inception in the summer 2004, the program has grown dramatically, presenting significant out of town art-

the program, and his compositions and performances, such as the piece *Witness* have been exceptional." The suite *Witness*, performed at the *Rhythms of Art* concert in April, was inspired by the works of artist Anne Scheid, consisting of a series of charcoal drawings of uprooted orchards inspired by the huge mounds of bulldozed trees that have become commonplace encounters as one drives the country roads of the Central Valley. Nalbandian's work *Witness* drew inspiration from those works, telling the story of a the life of a tree through an extended suite, from a tiny seedling, to a mature tree, to an untimely end.

The upcoming June 16th concert will feature more original music, this time inspired by the powerful and emotional sculptures of David Settino Scott, themselves inspired by the suffering and self sacrifice of Buddhist monks and nuns in Vietnam War.

Following the June concert, the Museum celebrates the one year anniversary of the series with a special "*Best of Rhythms of Art*" concert at 7:00pm, Sunday July 17th. The concert will feature highlights from Armen's original compositions from previous *Rhythms of Art* concerts, as well as jazz classics by other composers. As part of the celebration, the concert will be free to all current KFSR members, and members of the Fresno Art Museum. In addition, KFSR will sponsor a special members-only event prior to the concert, featuring wine and hour d'oeuvres, in the museum's lobby at 6:00pm. It will be a unique opportunity to meet fellow jazz and art lovers, and talk with the musicians, and KFSR personalities. Tickets for non-members for the July 17th concert, and for all other *Rhythms of Art* events are \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door. More information is available by calling 559-441-4221. The Fresno Art Museum is



Composer and pianist Armen Nalbandian, director of the Jazz at the Fresno Art Museum program

ists, such as Ted Nash (of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra) and his band Odeon, as well as concerts by Nalbandian's band, featuring the works of great jazz and American songbook composers, such as Duke Ellington and Cole Porter. Over 80 compositions have been written thus far as part of the *Rhythms of Art* program, and 7 suites of music.

Starting with the upcoming June 16th concert, KFSR is pleased to announce that it has joined with the Fresno Art Museum as a media sponsor of the series for the upcoming year and will play an active role in the future of the program. "We feel that this program is truly unique, not only in the Valley, but in California, and perhaps the nation, bringing jazz and the visual arts together, and we're very proud to be a part of it," says KFSR Station Manager Joe Moore. "Armen brings a tremendous respect for the music, and the artists involved to

located at 2233 N. First Street, between McKinley and Clinton at Radio Park.



The Rhythms of ART

JAZZ ConCeRT seRIes AT The fResno ART museum

Join pianist and composer Armen Nalbandian and his ensemble for their monthly series of jazz concerts, held at the intimate setting of the Bonner Auditorium at the Fresno Art Museum. Hear original jazz compositions inspired by the works on exhibit at the museum, jazz standards and more. To purchase tickets or for more information call (559) 441-4221.

Tickets: \$10 advance; \$15 at the door. KFSR is a proud sponsor of Jazz at the Fresno Art Museum.

upComing JAZZ ConCeRTs:

Thursday June 16th - 7pm

Featuring music inspired by the works of sculptor David Settino Scott

Sunday July 17th - 7pm - "The Best of Rhythms of Art - 1st Year Celebration"

This concert is free to current KFSR Members! - Special members only reception at 6:00pm



KFSR brings world class poets and novelists to the airwaves this summer

This summer KFSR will broadcast a series of readings by internationally renowned poets and writers, recorded here in Fresno by KFSR within the past six months. The readings were produced by the Fresno Poets Association and the San Joaquin Valley Literary Association, and CSU Summer Arts program. All of the broadcasts will air Saturday afternoons at 1:00pm on KFSR 90.7. The schedule of featured writers follows:

Series Schedule - all programs begin at 1:00pm

Saturday June 11th - Philip Levine

Saturday June 18th - Malena Mörling

Saturday June 25th - Denise Duhamel

Saturday July 2nd - Steve Yarbrough

Saturday July 9th - Marilyn Chin

Saturday July 16th - Seido Ray Ronci

Saturday July 23rd - Jimmy Santiago Baca

KFSR goes on location for Art Hop



On the first Thursday night of every month, galleries, museums and other venues across Fresno all open their doors for Valley art lovers to enjoy their works, talk to the artists and socialize. And now, every Art Hop, KFSR will be live on location providing great jazz and eclectic music sounds, adding to the fun and sophisticated atmosphere.

KFSR started this new tradition in April 2005, after being invited to help celebrate the grand opening of the new studio complex at Van Ness and Mono, featuring Gallery 25, the Fig Tree Gallery, and the studios of Richard Silva and Dixie Salazar. The response was great, and KFSR was back in May for an equally big turnout. Our June and July schedule is listed below, the music starts at 5:00pm and goes till about 8:00. We hope to see you there!

KFSR Art Hop Schedule:

June 2nd - @ Bill Bruce Studio

1752 Van Ness Ave (south of the Arte Americas)
(Hosted by Fresno Magazine)

July 7th - @ Robert Ogata Studio (Bus Barn Studios)

701 L Street, (Mono & L, behind the Radisson Hotel)

Eddie Palmieri



*Friday
May 27th
at
Arte
Américas*

Seven time Grammy winner Eddie Palmieri comes to Fresno with his all star latin jazz ensemble - Friday May 27th at Arte Américas, 7:30pm, as part of the weekly "Nights in the Plaza" series.

Tickets are \$20 / \$18 Arte Américas members.

Phone: 266-2623 Web: www.arteamericas.org



KFSR is a proud media sponsor of this event



KFSR Program Guide - Summer 2005



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12am-3am	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Japanese Street Beat w/ DJ Trick	R&B and Hip Hop w/ Frank D
3am-6am	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Japanese Street Beat w/ DJ Trick (till 5am)	Jazz Classics
6am-9am	Morning Jazz w/ David Aus	Morning Jazz w/ Josh McDonald	Morning Jazz w/ David Aus	Morning Jazz w/ Bill Bruce	Morning Jazz w/ Roger Gonzales	6:30 Euroquest 7am: World Music w/ Dave	Gospel Music w/ Wayne and Shawn
9am-12am	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	Morning Jazz w/ Kent Stratford	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	"Hye Oozh" w/ Sevag, Datev & Armen	Euro Jazz Stage/Classic Jazz What's the World On the Air Campus and Community
12pm-3pm	Afternoon Eclectic	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Cheyenne	Afternoon Eclectic	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Stu	Afternoon Eclectic	All Things Armenian 12-1 Special Programs 1-2	The Big Fresno Barn Dance 12-2pm Jazz Joint Jump 2pm-4pm
3pm-6pm	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Andrew Roach	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Miguel	Afternoon Eclectic	Afternoon Eclectic	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Soreath	The S.E.A. Show 2-3pm Listen Here: The Jazz Review - 3pm-5pm	The Blue Buffet 4-5pm Surf Show - 5pm-6pm
6pm-9pm	Reggae w/ Papa Roots	"Traylor Trash" w/ Bill Traylor	Through the Listening Glass w/ Don Fischer	Latin Jazz w/ Steve Alcalá	"This Just In" w/ Frank D.	Hip Hop & R&B w/ L-Boogie	R&B w/ Lady J and Lady Bombay
9pm-12am	Blues Mondays (rotating hosts)	"The Uncommon Thread" w/ Bob	Audio Harvest w/ Frank D.	"Mr. Leonard's Jazz Suite" w/ Mr. Leonard	"World Sounds" w/ Hope Munro Smith	Hip Hop & R&B w/ Dougie D	Hip Hop & R&B w/ A.J.

KFSR CD Review Corner

Editors note: This section of CD reviews is our newest addition to Airwaves. Every few months, our DJs will tell you a little more about some of their favorite new CDs, from our jazz and afternoon eclectic playlists. We hope you enjoy!

Jazz CD Review: Joe Lovano - "Joyous Encounter"



Tenor saxophonist Joe Lovano's new Blue Note album is a follow up to last year's quartet session "I'm All For You", which featured Joe along with the "dean" of jazz pianists Hank Jones, bassist George Mraz and drummer Paul Motian. "Joyous Encounter" features the same band, this time though the pace is a little more up-tempo than the previous ballads session. I enjoyed the previous album by this group, but though Paul Motian maybe wasn't the right drummer for this group, as his minimalist style didn't seem to ever quite mesh with the rest of the group. That of course created a sort of creative tension that can be rewarding on its own, but still it had its odd moments. On this new session, two things help to improve that situation. First, more medium and up-tempo pieces provide a better and more varied setting for Motian's pointilistic percussion statements. Second, the group has had a chance to tour over the past year, and it shows. It sounds like a band now, and not just four jazz stars meeting in the studio.

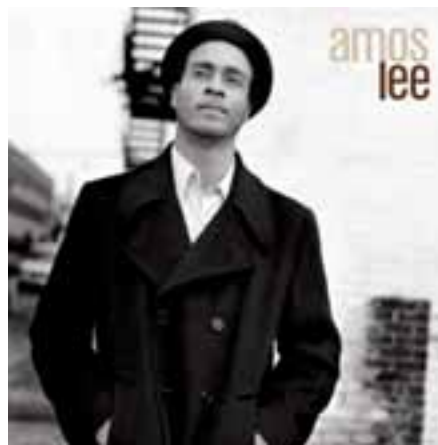
Lovano is in fine form as always, where on an up-tempo bop inspired piece like "Bird's Eye View" (based on Charlie Parker's "Confirmation" but with some "Giant Steps" substitutions) or on some lovely ballads like "Alone Together." I really doubt that there is a more "mature" jazz musician of this era than Joe Lovano. No matter the setting, he speaks with the authority that we used to hear with all of the greatest jazz musicians, and does so with a highly personal style that both expands and respects the tradition. There is little to be said about Hank Jones that hasn't already been documented by writers far better than me. But simply put, Hank's playing is the pinnacle of mainstream, mid-century jazz piano. No one, and I mean no one does it better than Hank, he is a true legend, and in fine form on this session. This is the sort of jazz album that renews your faith in the genre.

A few final notes: Lovano plays soprano sax on a few

numbers. He's playing a "curved" soprano these days, and you can hear the unique sound of that instrument shining through at points, with almost a timbre of a tenor at points, but an octave higher of course. And finally, the album ends with an odd choice for this group - John Coltrane's "Crescent" - a tribute to Hank's departed brother Elvin Jones. While listening to this track the first time through, I wasn't sure if it really was appropriate with this group, and specifically with Hank's style. Hank simply doesn't sound especially comfortable in the setting, especially in the introduction to the tune. But after the rubato opening, the group settles into a nice groove, and things sound just fine. As a whole, "Joyous Encounter" is one of the finest jazz cds thus far this year, and a great testament to what four mature and seasoned jazz musicians can do at their best.

-KFSR Station Manager Joe Moore

Afternoon Eclectic CD Review: Amos Lee - "Amos Lee"



It's great to get something in the KFSR mail slot that isn't like everything else out there. Even more great when it sounds like nothing else out there. Lee's debut album (self titled) on Blue Note records takes inspiration from soulful acts like Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers, as much as he does folk legends, John Prine and Dave Van Ronk. After graduating from the University of South Carolina with a degree in English, Lee moved back to his hometown of Philadelphia to teach elementary school, only to leave the teaching profession for his love of music, which has paid off exponentially. Amos now has the credits of opening for Bob Dylan, Norah Jones (who plays piano on that first track!), and BB King.

There's nothing quite like hearing the opening track of Amos Lee, "Keep It Loose, Keep It Tight." There's gentle guitar and piano...and then the voice kicks in. When you get to a track like "Give It Up" you get an even better peep at Amos' gospel-folk-funk chops. Not to mention the stank-face organ work and surprise backup chorus. I also really dig the swaggering blues ballad "Dreamin," but the emotion behind "Soul Suckers" makes it my favorite track on the disc.

- KFSR Music Director Frank D

90.7 FM - KFSR

Sunday July 17th

Free Jazz Concert for KFSR members



around the world

Hope Munro Smith takes KFSR



Hop this June & July

KFSR goes on location for Art



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KFSR FM
California State University Fresno

Mail Stop SA 119
5201 N. Maple
Fresno, CA 93740

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