

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

If jazz had any significant influence on Sri Lankan musicians and audiences, neither Western pop nor Oriental fusion would have had monopoly on Sri Lankan radio or TV channels. Nevertheless the exuberance of jazz has its own touch to inspire an individual or two in any town anywhere in the world.

Fortunately for Sri Lankan jazz fan , there is "Jazz Unlimited" held at CR and FC grounds on Sundays where one gets the opportunity to hear local jazz bands and musicians play their music and how they interact with their fellow musicians.

The talent of Jaggs Quartet members was first pooled at CR & FC Jazz Unlimited where they have been performing as individuals.

The band's singer-saxophonist Gunanath Dasamayaka was frequenting the place to sing a few jazz standards and to let several jazz tunes fall under his fingers on the saxophone.

Gunanath became interested in jazz music from his childhood." I preferred the sound of jazz music and its structure of harmony to anything non-jazz from the time I was a kid. It was an essential part of my music life," said Gunanath.

The members of Jaggs Quartet: Ashane Bernard Perera on Piano Keyboards, Suraj Gunewardena on bass guitar, Senaka Pereira on drums and Gunanath on vocals and sax, were met by In Tune last week at Union Bar Grill Room of JAIC



Jaggs Quartet: Suraj Gunewardena on bass, Senaka Pereira on drums, Gunanath on vocals and sax, Ashane Bernard Perera on Keyboards

Jaggs Quartet, the blue note in town

If jazz had any significant influence on Sri Lankan musicians and audiences, neither Western pop nor Oriental fusion would have had monopoly on Sri Lankan radio or TV channels. Nevertheless the exuberance of jazz has its own touch to inspire an individual or two in any town anywhere in the world.

Hilton Tower in Colombo. They were playing Herbie Hancock's milestone piece "Watermelon Man" with Ashane playing the funky piano riff that continues throughout the piece.

Jaggs Quartet also performed other standards tunes, among them Louie Armstrong's Sunny Side of the Street, Frank Sinatra's It Had to Be You and Nat King Cole's Don't Get Around Much Anymore.

Jaggs Quartet plays at JAIC Hilton on Tuesdays

and by the Mount Lavinia Hotel Pool Side (Pool Terrace) on Sunday evenings. Gunanath said, he used

sax. Senaka Pereira was drumming using brush strokes for the most part while both Suraj and Ashane were playing with much less implication being applied on their instruments.

Senaka has played drums for over 20 years. He is a Golden Cleft award winner in 2002, had been with Horizon for 15 years from 1980, and was the drummer of rock outfit Krebicycle for four years. He had also played with Anno Domini. "I have been playing with many hands and used to play drums for all types of music until I got invited by Gunanath, Suraj and Ashane to join with them to play jazz," said Senaka.

On being asked how he managed to adjust himself to play jazz after shifting from playing rock and pop, he said, "In music, if you like any particular type of music as a person playing an instrument, you have a good chance of learning to play what you hear."

"Besides, playing jazz is fun" he added. Ashane Bernard Perera admitted playing jazz is challenging in Sri Lanka because no body seem to show any interest in promoting jazz music.

Ashane made his first piano performance under the guidance of his teachers Suresh Perera and Surekha Amarasingh. He joined Mary Ann David School of Music when he

was three and was with Merry Ann Singers for 12 years. He said, he inherited his musical talent from his paternal grandmother Erin Perera, who had been one of the best piano teachers in the country.

Ashane said he likes jazz and gospel music even though he plays all types of music. Gunanath said he was hurled into jazz by listening to many records. He remembered how he loved to sing them. Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker and saxophonist Stan Getz.

He said, that there are hardly any youth in the country who would undertake jazz music. One cannot expect massive crowds in Sri Lanka to appreciate jazz music.

But there is a great demand for it from foreigners, especially Europeans and American nationals who come to the country.

"The reason for this is the public do not understand jazz or do not care about it any more than they like listening to a rock or pop song they already know," he explained.

Bassist Suraj said major influence in Jazz has been Aruna Siriwardena and Hussain Jirry and Derek Wickremasingha, who is the manager of Jaggs Quartet. Derek has offered to manage the band after

Hi folks

With fear fading as would a song end after Ad lib, the musicians and singers can now take a respite without having to bother too much about security of their fans and tick of the clock that pressed them to close their offices- because office of a singer is of course where he stands with all the other musicians-on-time. Before 10 pm to be precise.

They were compelled to close their offices without "over time" which means that no money making after 10 pm.

On the contrary this was the law. There was nothing that show organisers could do or say about it because they knew then cannot give any guarantee to their fans that their lives were safe. There was terrorism lurking behind every corner of everyone's lives ready to pounce at masses where they gather in large numbers with loads of explosives to quench the blood thirst of yet another day.

The artistes of Sri Lanka have lived under tremendous pressure with or without the law of having to end their concerts before 10 pm for a long time. Of course they were able to get the time extended with the permission of the police or the environment minister's approval.

But the authorities would not commit themselves to be generous enough to extend any more time for the artistes because if a lunatic should let loose a bomb during the phase of an extended time span, they would have to take the blame.

The times have changed, folks. The authorities? Mustn't they slacken these laws that have restricted the artistes depriving them of their freedom of expression in subtle manner. Musicians, singers, song writers, they deserve it.

Chamikara



Gunanath



Suraj



pic by Ramon De Silva

watching they perform and comprehending their potential. The members of Jaggs quartet said they want to become the number one jazz quartet in town and they want the West known that Sri Lanka has jazz musicians

Girl from Ipanema by Frank Sinatra

F#maj7
Tall and tanned and young and lovely
G7
The girl from Ipanema goes walking
Gm7 F#7 F#maj7 F#9
And when she passes, each one she passes goes - ahhh!
F#maj7
When she walks, she's like a samba
G7
That swings so cool and sways so gentle
Gm7 F#7 F#maj7
That when she passes, each one she passes goes - oohhh!
F#maj7 B9
Oh, but I watch her so sadly,
F#m7 D9
How can I tell her I love her?
Gm7 Eb9
Yes, I would give my heart gladly
Am7 Abm7
But each day, when she walks to the sea
Gm7 F#7
She looks straight ahead, not at me
F#maj7 D9
Tall, and tanned and young and lovely
G7
The girl from Ipanema goes walking
Gm7 F#7 F#maj7
And when she passes, I smile - but she doesn't see
F#7 F#maj7 F#7 F#maj7 F#7 F#maj7
She just doesn't see, no, she just doesn't see...
SOLO (Chords to Verse 1 and 2)
F#maj7 B9
Oh, but I watch her so sadly,
F#m7 D9
How can I tell her I love her?
Gm7 Eb9
Yes, I would give my heart gladly
Am7 Abm7
But each day, when she walks to the sea
Gm7 F#7
She looks straight ahead, not at me
F#maj7 D9
Tall, and tanned and young and lovely
G7
The girl from Ipanema goes walking
Gm7 F#7 F#maj7
And when she passes, I smile - but she doesn't see
F#7 F#maj7 F#7 F#maj7 F#7 F#maj7
She just doesn't see, no, she just doesn't see...

Moscow Orchestra in Colombo

Korobov and Gertz perform today at Bishop's Auditorium

Internationally renowned Russian pianist Veniamin Korobov and bass singer Vladimir Gertz will perform at Bishop's College Auditorium, Colombo today.

Veniamin Korobov, the teaching professor of Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory and Gertz, a graduate of same Conservatory, will perform a range of classical music at the Bishop's College Auditorium, Colombo, today (13). They will play Russian Romantic music, Tchaikovsky Russian *music and Russian folk songs at the concert, event organisers, Embassy of the Russian Federation and Russian Centre in Colombo said. The concert begins at 6.30 pm.

Chandi Aluhivare of Russian *music and Russian folk songs at the Federation and the Centre hold the concert in

Zvetkov, who will perform today with Korobov. Nadezda Sergeeva is an award winning harp student of the Moscow Conservatory. Ignat Pashin plays accordion. Has played in musical festivals in Russia, Austria, Finland, Estonian and Japan. Grigori Zvetkov plays balalaika.

He has performed with the Russian Folk Orchestra known as N. Ospinov. Korobov has offered to conduct piano master classes as a gift for Sri Lankan music students, the organisers said.

Veniamin Korobov
Graduated at Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory with Excellence has been the teaching professor of Moscow Conservatory since 1976.

Leads intensive performing activity as a soloist and has performed with famous musicians such as Vladimir Sokolov, Mikhail Utkin, Alexey Martynov, Eugene Petrov, the members of Moscow Soloists ensemble and Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra.

Veniamin Korobov's repertoire includes works of Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, Debussy, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Medtner, Ravel, Poulenc, Bartok, Britten and many others. He has toured a lot

Nadezda Sergeeva
Colombo with the participation of Moscow Orchestra, headed by Korobov, with a view to establish Russia's solidarity with Sri Lankan music lovers.

The Moscow Orchestra comprise students of Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory. Among them are Nadezda Sergeeva, Ignat Pashin and Grigori

Moscow Orchestra

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through Russia and abroad. He has performed in Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Mexico, Colombia, Norway, Israel and Japan. He has done some research on theory of piano as a performing art. Conducts piano master classes in Russia and Japan. Korobov is a leading consultant of Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation.

Vladimir Gertz influential figure among Russian bass singers. He is comfortable at singing classical, Russian folk and popular songs. A graduate of Moscow State conservatory. Gertz was invited to join the famous Bolshoi Theatre in his mid-twenties. He performed as lead bass singer in famous operas by Prokofiev, Rossini, and Verdi.

Later on as a soloist of Moscow State Conservatory Vladimir Gertz turned to chamber music. He is the founder of some major international music festivals including "Russian Winter Festival" in Toronto, and "International Pushkin Music Festival" in Moscow.

Veniamin Korobov