

Friday, January 26, 2006 | Updated at 4:15 a.m.

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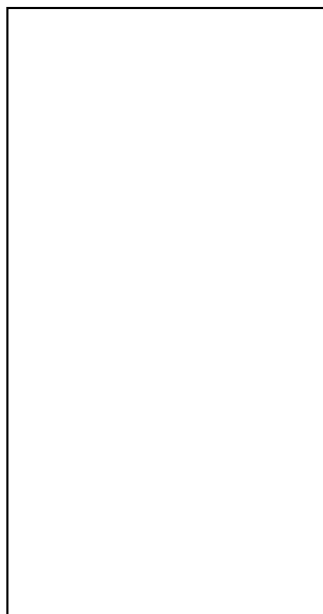
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Review: Trumpeter blows ‘em away at the Phil

By [Peg Goldberg Longstreth](#) ([Contact](#))

Thursday, January 26, 2006

Performing before a sold-out house at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts —there were only three unoccupied seats, by my count — pops/jazz fans got their money’s worth Tuesday evening during the sizzling two-hour performance of “Pops I: Misbehavin’ Nightly.”





Popular guest conductor Jeff Tyzik, who will again be at the helm for three additional shows in the Pops series this season, was greeted with cheers when he walked on stage. This time he had two great musicians in tow: trumpet/vocal wunderkind, Byron Stripling, and Dave Mancini, a drummer whose soul oozes from his fingertips.

Coupled with an effervescent performance by the Naples Philharmonic, and it was a four-star, thumbs-up performance.

The program? Anyone who grew up with the 1940s and '50s big band/jazz sounds of such legendary greats as Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Irving Berlin and Cab Calloway, was in hog heaven. Seven of the 11 selections were arranged by Tyzik, affording the audience an opportunity to listen to some fresh sounds of some old music.

A number of musicians from the Phil found themselves showcased in the arrangements, and everyone of them rose to the challenge.

Kudos, in particular, are due clarinetist Paul Votapek, trombonist Michael Zion, trumpeter Matt Sonneborn, and principal bass Kevin Mauldin. But it was Stripling, with his amazing endurance in selection after selection, who stole the show.

How long can you play a trumpet without coming up for air? I can't be certain, but I would swear Stripling held on without gasping for well over three minutes at one point.

The audience exploded with cheers and whistles.

"We knew he was going to be great when we first heard him perform 20 years ago," said the pleasant New Jersey/Marco Island couple seated next to me.

Calling Stripling "great" doesn't begin to describe the performance. Except for two arrangements, he was front and center the entire evening, charming the audience with his phenomenal trumpet, his equally good baritone voice, and his non-stop banter and playful repartee with Tyzik.

The performance included a fun orchestral Tyzik arrangement of one of Ellington's greats, dubbed the "Ellington Nutcracker." Nestled in the midst of his "Overture," "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies" and "March of the Peanut Brittle Brigade" (OK, so Tchaikovsky didn't call it that, Tyzik did) were snippets of those immortal musical phrases.

There was also a great arrangement of Ellington's "Caravan," highlighting some terrific drumwork by Mancini. Tyzik's arrangement and Mancini's great rhythm and nimble fingertips transformed "Caravan" into something vaguely Middle Eastern, before it hit its stride in a segue to a solid Latin flavor. I was almost expecting Carmen Miranda to sashay onto the stage during the performance.

And then there was Stripling. Alternating easily from his soaring trumpet to vocal and do-wop sounds, the audience clapped, cheered — and then cheered some more — particularly for Armstrong's "Do You Know

What it Means to Miss New Orleans,” Waller’s “Honeysuckle Rose” and “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” Calloway’s “Minnie the Moocher;” Slim Gillard’s “Flat Foot Floogie” and the show-stopper, “Alexander’s Ragtime Band” (seasoned with a taste of “Swanee River” for good measure).

Stipling simply caressed each and every note in a non-stop demonstration of great jazz musicianship. Who could ask for anything more?

If You Go

“Pops I: Misbehavin’ Nightly”

What: Naples Philharmonic Orchestra with Jeff Tyzik, conductor, and Byron Stripling, trumpet

When: 8 p.m. Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Where: Philharmonic Center for the Arts, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples

Admission: \$65

Information: 597-1900 or www.thephil.org

Peg Goldberg Longstreth was trained as a classical musician and owns Longstreth-Goldberg ART Gallery in Naples. You may e mail her at jlongstreth@plgart.com.

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Southwest Florida has a surge of vacationers in town this time of year. Where are you going on vacation this year?

I'm heading "up north."

I'm staying right here in Florida.

I'm skipping a vacation this year.

I'm a non-resident coming to Florida.

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Note: This is not a scientific poll. The results reflect only the opinions of those who chose to participate.

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