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Saxophonist Bill Grove, leader of Whitenoise

Local jazz favorites play Harbourfront

By STEVEN HACKER

Harbourfront is presenting a special jazz festival featuring a broad range of musicians from the Toronto modern jazz scene. The festival, called New Jazz Weekend, has been programmed to highlight the various and divergent forms that new jazz has taken on in the post-Coltrane era. Each evening this weekend at 8 p.m., two bands perform in Harbourfront's Brigantine Room. Admission is \$4 per evening.

Tonight, it's local favorite Bill Smith and his ensemble and the Paul Cram Quartet. Of all the bands performing in the festival, these two best represent the new jazz at its freest. The music isn't as structured as that of other bands.

Tomorrow, the Tim Brady Trio and the Dave Trevis-Geoff Young Group will take the stage. Both bands play what could be described as improvised jazz with swing elements. The Trevis-Young group leans toward a European sound, but at the same time also delves into some post-1960s Miles Davis-type

fusion. Guitarist Tim Brady was featured in last year's Bethune Jazz series and is one of the organizers of the festival.

The offering for Sunday night is similar in style. The Rob Frayne trio plays first, followed by the trio of guitarist Rob Carroll.

Perhaps the most unusual program of the festival occurs on Saturday night with the electric group Malcolm Tent and Whitenoise. These bands play free-jazz with a rock/funk bent.

Whitenoise leader Bill Grove, also a member of Malcolm Tent, describes his music as similar to that of Ornette Coleman Prime Time. "Our music has several keys and time signatures overlapping each other in the individual compositions. Together with the electric bass and guitars, the result is often a dense wall of sound."

Whitenoise is one of the few working Toronto jazz bands which have not performed on the York campus, but hopefully organizers of the various concerts here will not overlook this unique band.

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