

sound check

Jazz for the Fourth of July; plus

This column preceding Independence Day kicks off with two more MVD CDs in their great series of essential jazz albums, then touches base with a local band's debut album before wrapping up with a DVD chronicling the 6,000th concert from All-American guitar hero Ted Nugent.

We'll kick off with a note about The Lonely H's, who are appearing this evening at Ocean Springs' Government Street Grocery (1210 Government Street, 875-6464) to promote their new album, "Concrete Class."

'The 1956 Trio,' Red Garland (Essential Jazz Classics, ★★★★★ and a half stars)

This June 2 recording compiles all the trio recordings pianist Garland made in 1956, comprising the original Garland of Red album and two other albums.

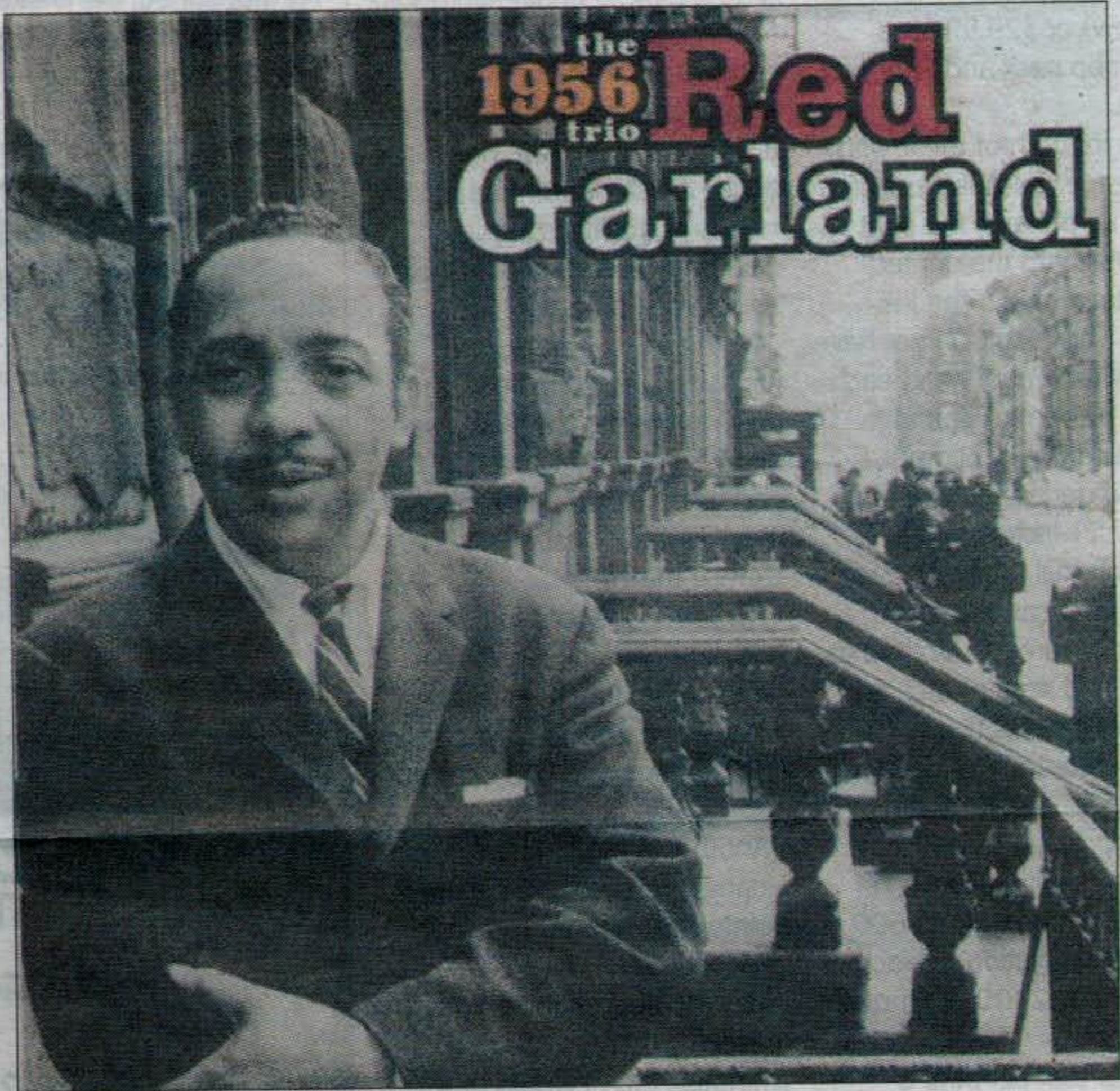
Red Garland was a new name to this jazz neophyte, but this recording provides much better "mood music" than the more solo-driven works reviewed last week. Yes, Garland solos wonderfully, as do bassist Paul Chambers and drummers Art Taylor (most tracks) and Philly Joe Jones (track 13); but the solos are short breaks that rarely detract from the melody. Highlights include a relaxed-tempo version of "Makin' Whoopee," a lengthy Garland-composed jam called "Blue Red," a stretched-out "Willow Weep for Me," and a snappy swinger called "If I Were a Bell," that begins with a piano lick Rick Nielsen probably heard while growing up. Smoothly inventive piano jazz with tasteful bass and drum support is what listeners will find when they snag this album.

'The Album,' Art Tatum/Ben Webster (Essential Jazz Classics, ★★★★★)

This CD features the lone Art Tatum/Ben Webster Quartet recording session in its entirety, which was Tatum's farewell recording. He passed shortly after



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its completion. As a bonus, most of the tracks have been assembled in the same order, in solo piano versions; these show Tatum's different approaches as soloist and accompanist. Quartet personnel were Tatum/piano, Webster/tenor sax, Red Callender/bass and Bill Douglas/drum.

The addition of saxophone provides an extra melodic presence some listeners may find missing from the recording above; but this album's common point with the other essential jazz reissues is that a talented piano player makes things swing effortlessly, as exemplified by Tatum's fleet-fingers on "Night and Day."

His playing dips into the noodles too much at times, making the group tracks preferable to this listener. Other highlights include "Have You Met Miss Jones?" and Count Basie's self-effacing liner note story.

'One-Eyed Monkey,' One-Eyed Monkey (Independent release, ★★ and a half stars)

This recording contains blues-based music, featuring former Sun Herald staffer Gene Coleman as lead vocalist and co-songwriter. Other notable local musicians appearing include drummer Ray Hanser Jr., bassist Josh Faul, Tim "Mule" Mohan on rhythm guitar, plus guitarists Charlie McGinn and Jeff Day. McGinn's slide guitar is one of the highlights; Ray's cool drums are another, especially on "Jesus Fish" and "Monkey Spit."

Check out One-Eyed Monkey's CD at local stores or explore online.

'Motor City Mayhem,' Ted Nugent (Eagle Rock Entertainment, ★★★★★)

This June 30 CD, DVD and Blu-Ray release was filmed July 4, 2008, in front of a wildly enthusiastic hometown Detroit audience. It chronicles Uncle Ted's 6,000th performance, including guests, nearly two dozen songs ("Motor City Madhouse," "Wango Tango," "Love