

## Expressive jazz

### Featured quintet scores with unlimited improvisation

#### concert REVIEW

By Chris Hain and Sarah Duey  
Staff Reporters

Terence Blanchard has worked on the music for five Spike Lee films including the score from "Malcolm X."

However, it is performing live that Blanchard enjoys most, he said.

Friday night, as the highlight of the Nebraska Jazz Festival, the Terence Blanchard Quintet performed the recently recorded — not yet released — "Malcolm X Jazz Suite."

Listening to jazz by the quintet for two hours was anything but monotonous. The improvisation among band members exceeded the limits of standard jazz. Freely expressed musical ideas were passed around between saxophonist Sam Newsome, pianist Bruce Barth, bassist Taurus Mateen, percussionist Troy Davis and trumpeter Blanchard.

This wordless conversing among instrumentalists added to the quintet's expressive power. Influenced by the likes of '60s jazz saxophonist John Coltrane, the music of the Terence Blanchard Quintet stands on the fore-

front of the contemporary jazz music.

Blanchard, a fine structuralist, said the group used to work on the development of individual songs, but is now concerned with the entire show.

"What we try to do now is take that theory and (work) that into an entire show so that the show has a development to it as opposed to being just a collection of songs."

Blanchard is coming back from having to relearn his embouchure — the formation of the lips on the mouthpiece of the trumpet — because he had been playing incorrectly since childhood and would often cut his lip. He virtually disappeared from the jazz scene while he worked on it.

"At first I couldn't get a sound out of the instrument, but it was an interesting thing," Blanchard said. "I learned a lot about myself, and I always knew that it would get better, it was just a matter of time."

The quintet ended the show with an up-tempo piece entitled "Perpetuity" and received a well-deserved standing ovation before coming back on stage for an encore of "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You" and a small segment of the "Mo' Better Blues" theme.

From Lincoln, the Terence Blanchard Quintet will be traveling to Bermuda and then to Europe.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Terence Blanchard, Sam Newsome and Troy Davis of the Terence Blanchard Quintet headlined the 1993 Nebraska Jazz festival.

### Auditory hallucination, harmonies orchestrate Dinosaur Jr lyrics, Judybats' poetic love



Courtesy of Sire/Warner Bro.

Dinosaur Jr.



"Where You Been"  
Dinosaur Jr  
Sire/Warner Brothers

"Pain Makes You Beautiful"  
Judybats  
Sire

Dinosaur Jr has done it again. This time it is even better than before, and simply titled "Where You Been."

To experience such a well-endowed musician, such as J. Mascis, in our generation is truly a blessing.

But enjoy the muse while you can: Honest talent is hard to find.

"Where You Been" is pure Dinosaur Jr, and there is no doubt about it. Yet, as hard as originality is to find with each new album, Dinosaur Jr seems unique.

New instruments are tried and tested in ways you thought unimaginable. Orchestrated strings are pulled and picked until a mixture of pain and pleasure is absorbed by your senses.

The album appears more soft and melodramatic compared to early Dinosaur Jr, but with each playing you realize it's just an auditory hallucination. The power strikes you with each individual note and Mascis' uneasy voice smacks you around in the process.

If you've cherished Dinosaur Jr through the years, you'll only relish them more. If you've never paid much attention to them, start, and welcome to the prehistoric land of the Dinosaur.

Sire records releases "Where You Been" Tuesday.

Romance is so hard to find these days, yet Feb. 23 the Judybats release their third album, which proves romance is still alive and well.

"Pain Makes You Beautiful" kick starts your broken heart and puts you back on the road again.

Songs like "All Day Afternoon" combine the harmonic voices of Jeff Heiskell, Johnny Sughruie and Paul Noe with masterfully poetic lyrics that demand loyalty, respect and pure unadulterated love.

The album truly brightens the soul with a catchy rhythm and a blending use of the acoustic guitar.

The Judybats infectious tunes are produced by Kevin Moloney (Sinead O'Connor and U2) on Sire records. "Pain Makes You Beautiful" should be bought by anyone in the mood for love.

— Dana Franks

## Omaha band goes national



Courtesy of Capricorn Records

Chad Sexton, Timothy J. Mahoney, P-Nut, SA and Nicholas Hexum are 311.



By Tom Mainelli  
Senior Editor

When Doug Martinez left the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he only had one semester left before graduating with an English degree.

Martinez wasn't a quitter, just a dreamer.

On Tuesday, Martinez, also known as SA, and his band 311 will realize a dream — the national release of their first major label debut album, "Music."

"I always felt like it was gonna happen, now it has," Martinez said in a telephone interview from Van Nuys, Calif.

The band is led by Martinez and fellow rapper/vocalist Nick Hexum. P-Nut handles the bass, Tim Mahoney the guitar and Chad Sexton, drums. All the members are from Omaha.

P-Nut said the band's Nebraskan heritage proved to be an asset in a

business where everyone tried to sound like the next band.

"Being from Omaha was a real advantage," he said. "We were sheltered, in our own little microcosm, free to create our own sound, with no outside forces influencing us. There wasn't much competition; it let us just be ourselves."

311 took that freedom and used it to create a sound distinctly its own.

P-Nut described the band's sound as, "all about rap, reggae, salsa, jazz and funk. All the stuff that's fun to play."

Fun to play, and fun to listen to. Just ask anyone who has seen the band tear up a set at Omaha's Ranch Bowl, where the group first gained popularity.

The band caught the attention of Ranch Bowl's Matt Markel and much of Omaha's music audience after its first performance as 311.

On June 10, 1990 the band played at Omaha's Sokol Hall. They opened for veteran hardcore band Fugazi.

After the debut, the band kept busy. They played almost weekly at the Ranch Bowl and other local venues.

After about two years of local play, 311 gathered a strong following in Omaha and Lincoln. The group had

released two albums on its own label. The first was a demo tape, titled "DAMMIT," the second a compact disc called "Unity."

The band continued to improve. "Hydroponic" was the EP they hoped would get them noticed by a label, SA said.

"Hydroponic" showed our growth, our improvement and our increased focus," he said. "Our songwriting had improved, and we knew what to do in the studio."

The album was finished in February 1992. Less than a month later, the band moved to California.

They left Omaha with a new EP, enough money to live for six months and a healthy dose of confidence.

"You have to have confidence, to be sure of what you want," SA said. "Some people might think it's attitude, but you gotta have it to make it out here."

Soon after arriving in Van Nuys, the band became friends with Eddie Offord. Offord, a well-known producer who worked with YES, had listened to "Unity" and was interested in working with the band. SA said Offord's presence was a contributing factor to the band's label deal.

In August 1993 the band was signed by the Nashville, Tenn. based Capricorn Records, a subsidiary of Warner Bros. The band entered the studio last July, with Offord producing. He proved to be an asset.

"He really knows what he's doing, and he's really open minded," SA said. "He's always up for something different."

The result of the collaboration, the album "Music," had band members very pleased with themselves.

"It sounds so good," SA said. "I'm still amazed, it stays so fresh. And it's real consistent with the vision we have for the band."

With the album completed, the band will head for the road. A tour is planned, and it will probably start in the Southeast, where Capricorn has heavily promoted the band, P-Nut said.

But Nebraska fans need not worry, the band will hit the Midwest.

"Nebraska's where we started," SA said. "Omaha has always been the place where the crowd's energy is at its strongest. We miss that."