

BY STEVE MONROE

March Highlights:

Robert Glasper, March 12, 13, Bohemian Caverns ... Maurice Brown, March 19, Kennedy Center ... Peter Edelman, Butch Warren, March 19, Westminster Presbyterian Church ... Javon Jackson, Cedar Walton, March 19, 20, Bohemian Caverns ... Nicole Henry, March 24, Blues Alley ... Toshiko Akiyoshi, March 27, Kennedy Center ... Marshall Keys, March 26, 27, Bohemian Caverns ...

March Birthdays:

Benny Powell 1; Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Doug Watkins 2; Jimmy Garrison 3; Wes Montgomery 6; George Coleman 8; Herschel Evans, Ornette Coleman 9; Bix Biederbecke 10; Bobby McFerrin 11; Terence Blanchard 13; Quincy Jones 14; Cecil Taylor, Charles Lloyd 15; Tommy Flanagan 16; Nat King Cole 17; Harold Mabern 21; George Benson 22; King Pleasure 24; Ben Webster, Sarah Vaughan 27; Thad Jones 28; Michael Brecker 29...

Live from New York

Direct from his recent engagement in New York, vocalist Chad Carter brought his talents back to Washington this month.

Billing the date as "Chad Carter and His Jazz Emissaries at the Historic Bohemian Caverns," Carter had Frank Owens on piano, Michael Bowie, bass, Keith Killgo, drums, and Antonio Park, alto saxophone, on March 11 at the Caverns.

The Caverns, by the way, has a star-studded lineup this month. Besides Carter, renowned trumpeter, orchestra and band leader Thad Wilson, multi-genre pianist Robert Glasper, legendary pianist and composer Cedar Walton with saxophonist Javon Jackson, and saxman Marshall Keys are also performing there in March. See bohemian-caverns.com for more information.

The music is courtesy of Bohemian Caverns partner Omrao Brown, who features jazz because, as he has said, "I grew up with the music," and he wants to provide top jazz performers for DC audiences as often as he can.

Carter came to the Caverns not long after a date at the Lenox Lounge in Harlem, where Carter says, "New York was great! It went well, and I was told that I'd be asked back. We did three shows per night, and of those six shows, four were packed! It was really an exciting time and great experience. Aside from the fact that playing New York is a special milestone in every artist journey, this had particular significance for me, given that my father is from New York, and my grandfather, Eddie Carter, used to be involved in the entertainment business long before I was ever a thought."

Mid-Atlantic Jazz a Hit

Proving his dedication to the music even when he is not on the bandstand, Carter was one of the many volunteer workers at last month's debut of the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival in Rockville, Md., where many jazz fans from DC, Maryland, Virginia and elsewhere enjoyed the rebirth of the former East Coast Jazz Festival, brought to us for many years by the late Ronnie Wells at the same hotel.

Hundreds of fans turned out, and the man responsible for MAJF, Paul Carr, said, "I couldn't be happier with the turnout, I'm really pleased ... especially for the first year."

Saxman Carr was one of the festival's stars, performing on opening night with Mulgrew Miller on piano, Michael Bowie, bass, Terrell Stafford, trumpet, and Lewis Nash, drums. The group shined on "Bolivia" and



Vocalist Chad Carter, with a brand new CD, "I Got Up," performed March 11 at Bohemian Caverns.

"Black Narcissus," in particular, and drew enthusiastic applause from the nearly packed ballroom audience.

Other highlights of the festival included performances by Marc Cary, Bobby Watson, the Anderson Twins and the Jolley Brothers, vocalists Felicia Carter and Janine Gilbert-Carter. The weekend featured many young performers, such as those in Carr's Jazz Academy Orchestra.

Vocalist Dick Smith said of the MAFF debut, "It's good to know that we are salvaging some of our history ... for Paul to pick it up, it's good, because he's a good person, and he's got a lot of young people here. A lot of these festivals, you know, don't involve a lot of kids, they have all jazz cats big-name guys. But Ronnie was about the young people, she cultivated audiences, to keep us going ... that's what it's all about."

Master percussionist and band leader Nasar Abadey agreed, saying, "I'm very glad that Paul is doing it, that he's taken up the baton. And I'm here to support him in this effort, because we need to promote our music and set up environments for musicians to play and work and produce their music."

Coming soon

Abadey also said at the festival that we can look forward to his long-awaited second CD soon.

"I'm trying to wrap it by the end of March," said Abadey of the recording, which will feature music heard during his "Diamond in the Rough Suite" concert last year at a Duke Ellington Jazz Festival performance.

On the CD, Abadey said, "I'll have Gary Thomas, Joe Ford, Allyn Johnson, James King. I also will have on one tune harpist Rashida Jolley and on another song Jamal Brown and Thad Wilson." ★