

THE JAZZ SCENE | By Will Friedwald

Blues and Broadway

A Salute to James Moody

■ **Zankel Hall (Carnegie Hall)**
881 57th St., (212) 247-7800
Wednesday
This concert was originally scheduled for April as "James Moody's 85th Birthday Party," but when Mr. Moody had to undergo surgery, it was postponed to the CareFusion Jazz Festival this week. The birthday boy is still recuperating, but the concert promises to be an all-star romp in his honor. It features Mr. Moody's immediate tenor saxophone colleague, Jimmy Heath, as well as trumpeter Jon Faddis and clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera, who will undoubtedly honor Mr. Moody's traditions of hard-swinging bebop and a limitless diet of one-liners and puns. Mr. Moody's new album, "4B," a marvelously straight-ahead and uncomplicated set, features a stellar rhythm section on a collection of well-worn but infinitely-rewarding standards—proving that the simplest ideas are usually the best ones.

João Gilberto

■ **Carnegie Hall**
881 57th St., (212) 247-7800
Tuesday
It's one of the most incredible things I have ever witnessed—and I've been back three or four times just to be sure I wasn't imagining it: A lone man with a guitar, playing and singing in a tiny whisper of a voice, as monodynamic as possible, holding the entirety of Carnegie Hall spellbound—that's about 3,000 people—for almost two hours without a let-up. The crowd is beyond motionless; you could drive

a herd of llamas through the balcony and no one would notice. (On a similar note, two other Latin-oriented instrumentalists, Anat Cohen and Esperanza Spalding—the latter also a vocalist—are getting together at the WNYC studio the day before, which should also be something to catch.)

Blues Summit: James Cotton Friends

■ **Rose Hall (Jazz at Lincoln Center)**
(212) 721-6500
Broadway at 60th Street
Thursday
This is kind of a departure for everyone involved—a joint presentation of Jazz at Lincoln Center and CareFusion, and the only hard-core blues event on either schedule. The main attraction is witnessing this line-up of blues icons while they're still living legends—especially the 96-

year-old pianist Pinetop Perkins and 74-year-old harmonica player James Cotton. Compared to them, the other headliner, Taj Mahal, is a baby at 68. Co-stars Hubert Sumlin, longtime partner of the larger-than-life Howlin' Wolf, and Shemekia Copeland, daughter and collaborator of the late Johnny Copeland, also provide a direct and authentic link to this great American art form. One set will be the more folkish acoustic blues, the other will feature the more rock-'n'-rollish electric blues.

Fred Hersch

■ **The Village Vanguard**
178 Seventh Avenue South
(212) 255-4037
Through Sunday
The breadth and scope of pianist Fred Hirsch's music is nothing less than amazing. At his late set on Tuesday night, he and his trio (John Hebert, bass, and Billy Hart, drums) played everything from originals (some from his latest album, "Whirl") so abstract that it was impossible to figure out which end was up, to treatments of standards so gloriously "inside" they were positively meta. His original, "Whirl," he says, is dedicated to the great ballerina Suzanne Farrell, but his opener (both at the Vanguard and the album) is Harry Warren's "You're My Everything," on which he improvises for several choruses at the very start, almost like a prolog-style dance in front of a curtain, and then lets the draperies part to reveal the melody behind it. Elsewhere, he played Ornette Coleman, Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk, and Richard Rodgers, unifying it all with the same sense of purpose that he brings to everything he plays.



James Cotton

