

Second Annual Jazz Festival to be held

May 28, 1987

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SECOND ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE AT UCSD

Fusion guitarist Randy Bernsen will headline the second annual jazz festival at the University of California, San Diego, Sunday, May 31, from 1-7:30 p.m., along with several well known jazz groups. San Diego's "Speed of Sound" will open the event, followed by "The Charles McPherson Quartet and the Los Angeles group, "Alex Acuna Latin Ensemble." The event will take place on the south lawn of the UCSD Humanities/Undergraduate Library Building.

Bernsen is an accomplished composer, arranger and guitar player. His guitar synthesizer evokes a Southern Florida sound, a masterful combination of Island and Latin rhythms. He has released "Wo'Wasabi," on Zebra label, with the same all-star cast as "Music for Planets, People and Washing Machines," his debut album, and then some: Herbie Hancock, Joco Pastorius, Wayne Shorter, Michal Urbaniak, Steve Gadd, Michael Brecker, Marcus Miller and steel drummer Othello Molineaux.

"Speed of Sound," a fusion-style band made up of local studio performers, will open the festival. The group has fronted for "Simply Red," and the "Alan Holdsworth Band," and is well known to San Diego contemporary jazz fans.

Acuna, a drummer/percussionist, is a veteran performer and recording artist, having recorded and performed with such jazz stars as the group, "Weather Report," Lee Ritenour, Al Jarreau, and Tania Maria. He is currently a first-call session player in Los Angeles, and also holds the percussion chair with the fusion group, "Koinania."

The Charles McPherson Quartet, also from the area, is a long-standing San Diego favorite, featuring musicians Mike Wofford, former pianist for Sarah Vaughn; bassist Gunnar Biggs and Charles McPherson Jr. on drums. The group will offer bop-oriented jazz in the tradition of Charlie Parker and Art Blakey, with whom McPherson has worked in the past.

The jazz festival is being sponsored by the University Events Office, along with Revelle and Muir colleges, the Black Student Union and other UCSD organizations. For information, call 534-4090.

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