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THE JAZZ SCENE | By Will Friedwald

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola

33 W. 60th St. (212) 258-9595
■ The Music of Mary Lou Williams & Duke Ellington
 Through Sunday

Church of St. Francis Xavier

46 W. 16th St. (212) 627-2100
■ Mission: Peace, Love and Praise
 Saturday

It's logical that the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra (together with special guests Kenny Barron and Lew Tabackin) would present the music of Mary Lou Williams and Duke Ellington in the same program during the former's centennial week: Apart from briefly working together, both Ms. Williams and Mr. Ellington began their careers by helping to invent big-band jazz, and they devoted the final chapters of their lives to composing sacred music. The St. Francis concert will offer a rare opportunity to hear Ms. Williams's choral works, which she regarded as her crowning achievement. The excellent young pianist Aaron Diehl and Jazz at Lincoln Center reedman Victor Goines (both Juilliard men) will also play, and former Manhattan Transfer-ite Laurel Massé will sing Ms. Williams's blues and pop songs. Centennial celebrations also include "Mostly Mary Lou Williams," by pianist-composer Joan Stiles at Iridium (Wednesday), and Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks will play a number of Ms. Williams's big-band classics at their regular Monday night stint at Sofia's.

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The Blue Note

131 W. 3rd St. (212) 475-8592
■ Chick Corea, Eddie Gomez, Paul Motian: Further Explorations of Bill Evans
 Through May 16

There's no obvious explanation why there are two major celebrations of Bill Evans occurring this month, unless it is to confirm, for whatever reason, that he was



Judy Collins's show at Café Carlyle leads listeners through a lifetime of stories and songs.

Café Carlyle

35 E. 76th St. (212) 570-7192
■ Judy Collins
 Through June 12

It's fairly inarguable that Judy Collins, who turned 71 last Saturday, has the strongest and most beautiful voice of all the folk singers. Her six-week run at the Café Carlyle, which began Tuesday, is a spontaneous-seeming autobiographical ramble in which she leads us through the music of her life and how she put it all together: the classics she practiced at the piano, the show tunes her father sang, the rock 'n' roll on the radio and everywhere else, and—most of all—the folk songs that captured her imagination. Ms. Collins sings snippets of dozens of numbers, as if remembering them off the top of her head, and pauses for fuller treatments of songs by Jacques Brel, Rodgers and Hart, and others. She concludes with two iconic songs by Yip Harburg, "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" and "Over the Rainbow" (on her forthcoming album, "Paradise," due out June 8), establishing that Mr. Harburg may be the one lyricist who deserves to be classed with both Cole Porter and Bob Dylan.

the most influential pianist of his generation—and the two or three that followed. For two weeks at the Blue Note, Chick Corea leads a trio with two celebrated Evans collaborators—bassist Eddie Gomez and drummer Paul Motian—as the core unit for what he calls "Further Explorations" of Mr. Evans's music. The dates will also feature such guests as saxophonist Greg Osby (Tuesday), guitarist John Scofield (Wednesday), flutist Hubert Laws (Thursday) and several surprises. Next Friday and Saturday, Bill Charlap will lead the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and guitarist Jim Hall in an orchestral interpretation of Mr. Evans's

music—something that's been attempted only rarely before—with newly commissioned arrangements by Ted Nash.

► For more on Chick Corea and Bill Evans, visit WSJ.com/NY.

Birdland

315 W. 44th St., (212) 581-3080
■ Enrico Rava Quintet
 Through Saturday
 To help announce the 2010 Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy, that country's most famous trumpeter, the dynamic Enrico Rava, was meant to play a special concert at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church on West 145th Street, as

well as a four-night stand at Birdland. But Mr. Rava broke two ribs in an accident last weekend and was unable to make the trip. So the quintet, with the addition of tenor saxophonist Dan Kinzelman, is playing the shows this week without him. On Tuesday night in Harlem, even sans the recuperating Mr. Rava, the show was more than memorable, particularly when the Italian quintet played five tunes with the 20-voice Inspirational Ensemble, including "Oh Happy Day" and "When the Saints Go Marching In." The question is whether, at Birdland, the Italians—especially trombonist

Gianluca Petrella—will play the exuberantly funky, Mingus-like set heard at the church or the comparatively cool, meditative sounds that Mr. Rava offers on his 2009 album, "New York Days."

TriBeCa Performing Arts Center

199 Chambers St., (212) 220-1460
■ Highlights in Jazz
 May 13
 After 37 years, New York's most enduring jazz concert series—run for its entirety by lawyer-turned-impresario Jack Kleinsinger—is calling it a day. The final concert isn't exactly a comprehensive

history of jazz, but much of the genre will be represented: Vince Giordano's 11-piece Nighthawks play the jazz of the 1920s and '30s better than anyone. Billy Taylor, the 88-year-old pianist, is himself a walking history of jazz—ask him to tell you about hanging out with Willie "The Lion" Smith and Thelonious Monk around 1943. Guitar master Gene Bertoncini and his collaborator, bassist Harvie S., play everything from Rachmaninoff to Jobim to the blues and make it all sound both lyrical and swinging. Though it's unlikely to be the least bit sentimental, this is a farewell to a major New York cultural institution. Say it ain't so, Jack!

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