

ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL 2009



Tessa Souter returns to the Rochester International Jazz Festival.

British Invasion

Billy Drummond

The festival's new UK Series is largest U.S. session of jazz artists from across the pond

ANNA REGUERO
STAFF WRITER

Tessa Souter doesn't take ice in her beverages. The jazz singer was out sipping refreshments with a few English chaps after moving to San Francisco when she noticed the phenomenon.

"They don't take ice either," she recalls. "Oh my God, I'm British." For Souter, who stunned audiences with her ethnically hued ballad singing at the 2007 Rochester International Jazz Festival and will return this year to do the same, it's a little easier to pin down cultural mannerisms than music.

"Of course, I was born in Britain, so on that level, that's the thing I'm bringing with everything that I do," she says, though her father is Trinidadian. "It's all sensitized through my being, which is this mixture of things, races, cultures and all that sort of business. (England's) a very multicultural kind of place. My style of music seems to have a lot of that in it."

The Rochester International Jazz Festival has made it possible to inspect how foreign countries dissect American jazz, and hear it in a concentrated output. The popular "Nordic Series," which has set Rochester apart in the country's jazz festival circuit, unleashed wildly experimental jazz. The Scandinavian countries stretched Rochester audiences with its free-thinking approach to sound, rhythm, electronics and even basic instrumental technique. Despite the unknown factor of these artists, it has been a magnet for festival-goers seeking refreshing experiences.

With a newly formed "UK Series," which will be the largest showing of British jazzers in the United States, this year might beg the question: How do the Brits do jazz? Along with Souter, pianist Neil Cowley and saxophonist Tony Kofi give some clues as to what sounds they'll be sporting at the festival.

Souter — for whom singing is a second career pursued while living in



Other British musicians visiting RIJF include The Neil Cowley Trio, left, and saxophonist Tony Kofi, bottom left.

Photos provided.



New York City — does it with a mix of world music mixed in the earthy stew she sings. She has a penchant for adding vocal decoration to instrumental tunes, such as Pat Martino's "Willow Weep for Me," Pharoah Sanders' "The Creator Has a Master Plan" and even Rodrigo's classical guitar warhorse "Concierto de Aranjuez." Staying clear of over-worn vocal standards, her focus is on de-

If you go

Neil Cowley: 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. next Sunday.

Tessa Souter: 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. June 17.

Tony Kofi: 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. June 18.

Where: Christ Church, 141 East Ave.

Tickets: Club Pass show.

Web: www.neilcowleytrio.com, www.tessasouter.com, www.myspace.com/tonykofi.

veloping a personal style with a unique repertoire. "I always thought my music had a Middle Eastern, North African vibe. I've never understood why," she says, before recalling her use of minor scales and almost Celtic sounds. "That's very old English. I didn't realize that." As for African roots, "It's synthesized into English music, and now I've taken it and done my thing with it." On the other side of the spectrum is Cowley, a classical pianist turned jazzier via British rock and pop. His foray into jazz can be traced to a

BRITISH, PAGE 9C

Festival tickets

The eighth annual Rochester International Jazz Festival runs from Friday through June 20.

For most shows at the Eastman Theatre, 60 Gibbs St., tickets (\$19-\$85) are available at the festival's Ticket Shop, corner of East Avenue and Gibbs Street (both only a \$1 service charge); and Ticketmaster, (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com. Admission to the Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. and Eastman School of Music Jazz Scholarships Performance at 8 p.m. June 15 is free.

Club Passes (\$135, plus a \$4 service charge) offer admission, space permitting, to more than 125 shows at State Street Bar & Grill (at the Rochester Plaza Hotel), 70 State St.; Kilbourn Hall, 26 Gibbs St.; Max of Eastman Place, 287 E. Main St.; Montage, 50 Chestnut St.; Harro East Ballroom, 155 N. Chestnut St.; Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 111 N. Chestnut St.; Christ Church, 141 East Ave.; Xerox Auditorium, 100 S. Clinton Ave.; and the Big Tent, Main and Gibbs streets. Buy in person at the Ticket Shop. You can also buy them through Ticketmaster until noon on Wednesday.

If available, single tickets for Club Pass locations are \$20-\$25 at the door.

Admission is free at three outdoor stages — Jazz Street Stage, Gibbs Street and East Avenue; East Avenue and Chestnut Street; and East Avenue and Alexander Street — Bausch & Lomb Public Library, 115 South Ave; and concerts on the Mary Jamison Riverboat, on the Genesee River (launches at Corn Hill Landing on Exchange Boulevard).

For details, go to www.rochesterjazz.com.

Parking

The East End Garage, Scio and Main streets, is \$2 after 5 p.m. and on weekends. For jam sessions at the Rochester Plaza Hotel, the Sister Cities Garage, 28 N. Fitzhugh St., is \$1 per hour (free if you only park one hour); \$6.35 maximum.

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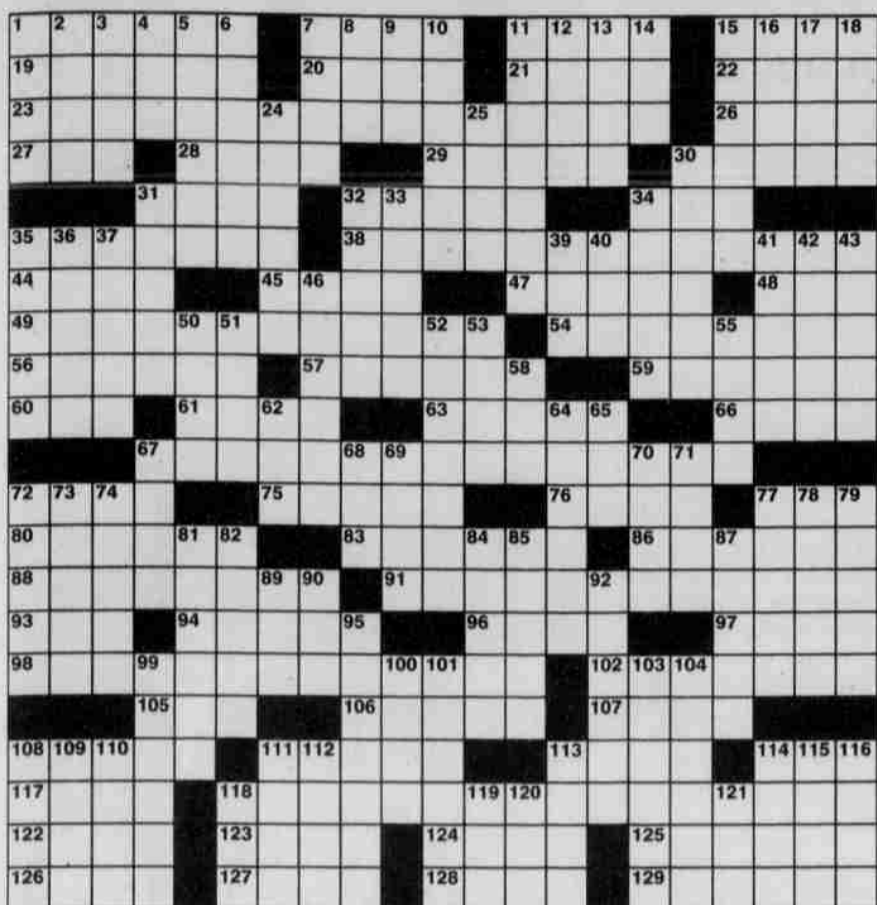
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BY DAVID W. CROMER / EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN



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ACROSS

- 1 Bat or bear
7 Stick for a trick
11 72 Across unit
15 Charitable collection
19 Take to the air
20 Mishmash
21 Very long time
22 Two-way
23 Air Jordans alternative
26 Bond opponent
27 Wool-coat owner
28 Hill builders
29 Agile
30 Admiral's concern
31 Making a crossing
32 Buzz
34 Farm implement
35 Grooming devices
38 Obey a military order
44 Toon skunk
45 Revered one
47 Israeli native
48 New Deal agcy.
49 Supermarket features
54 Raccoon feature
56 Exasperate
57 Whirlpool competitors
59 Composer Prokofiev
60 Six-pt. plays
61 Damage
63 Minuscule quantity
66 Helper
67 Colorado Springs institution
72 Disk filler
75 Apprehension
76 Fourth dimension
77 Patriotic org.
80 Early-warning systems
83 In the center of
86 Arrival announcement
88 Fruity concoctions
91 Speeder catcher
93 City of central Vietnam
94 Passé
96 Uni- relative
97 Author Jaffe
98 Business-envelope feature
102 Wagner hero
105 Barbecue residue

DOWN

- 1 Kitchen spice
2 Swear
3 Miser's cry
4 Dallas hoopster
5 Drill command
6 Brigadoon lyricist
7 Troubles
8 Miss. neighbor
9 Zilch
10 Sour-cream quantity
11 Makings of cakes
12 "You bet!"
13 Rushed
14 Nav. rank
15 Perplexed
16 Dangler for an angler
17 Leonine locks
18 Job opening
24 Equilibrium
25 Japanese War
30 Cattle food
31 Deflect
32 Type of golf tourney
33 Hair dye
34 Dilemma parts
35 Tuckered out
36 Put the whammy on
37 Planner notations: Abbr.
39 Pavement material
40 Justice Dept. agency
41 Sushi-bar eels
42 Tested
43 New Haven student
46 Din

50 Grades K-12

- 51 Burn the surface of
52 Discontinued a relationship
53 Author Paretsky
55 Plane-seat part
58 [Not my mistake]
62 Letters on some farm letters
64 Secure a hatch, with "down"
65 "Star Wars" program
67 Seniors' org.
68 Actor Stephen
69 Machine parts
70 Kuwaiti leader
71 Office note
72 Russian villa
73 Audibly
74 Brought under control
77 Bus terminal
78 Battleground
79 Screened again
81 Soft-spoken
82 Saved supply
84 Pal of Pythias
85 Loads cargo
87 For the equestrian set
89 UFO pilots
90 Stitch
92 Ruins completely
95 Scrooge creator
99 Having status
100 Black: Fr.
101 Supper, in kidspeak
103 Like many horror films
104 African antelope
108 Radiance
109 Othello villain
110 Woody's son
111 Physics subject
112 Dam up
113 Is unable to
114 Rushes
115 Socks and such
116 Till compartment
118 Patriotic chant
119 Poetic preposition
120 popul (public opinion)
121 Mai (cocktail)

Answers on Page 2C

JUMBLE

Unscramble these six Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

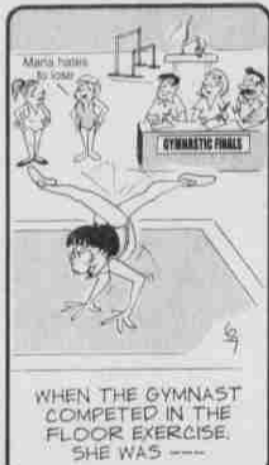


PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



Answers on Page 2C

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



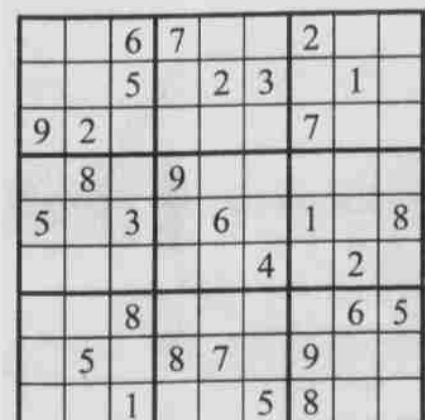
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

QUOTE CRYPTOGRAM

REBECCA KORNBLOH

- EPKQN HMNO NV
XQCWKOOLPK
QPK WKQP QZZMKC,
QWC NTMW
SQPNMNMVWO CV
NTKMP UVLWCO
CMJMCK.

— CPFCKW



SUDOKU PUZZLE

Difficulty rating: ★★★ Gold

Instructions: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

In the paper: Solution, Page 2C

British

FROM PAGE 3C

Blues Brothers cover band he heard when he was 14, while he was a serious pianist studying serious music at the Royal Academy of Music. "It was the loudest thing I ever heard," he says. "I got this massive shock. ... I wanted to remove all the shackles of classical music and teach myself everything that happened in the 20th century."

Cowley started out playing in British funk bands and stayed the popularized course with a band of his own. While exhibiting mean technique and solos that showcase an inner ear for jazz virtuosity, his songs keep with a bare-bones pop structure. "We rock out pretty well as a nation," he says.

"We nod our heads pretty well. Our band certainly brings that attitude to it. We give it a punk attitude, we like to rock and roll a little bit. We don't get caught up in the rules and theory of it."

While Cowley rides the wave of popular music, saxophonist Kofi — a self-taught savant with unbelievable technique, a vocal tone and ears of gold — has his head buried in the complexities of Thelonious Monk and Ornette Coleman, masters of the overtly intellectual bop era. And for him, the challenge is proving to America, as well as the global jazz community, that he can master its musical idiom.

"You have to prove yourself again because the Americans, they really know how to play this; it's their music," he says. "The music would have been shaped a lot different if I had never heard any Americans play this music. It's important to recognize."

But Kofi's innate abilities on the saxophone will surely stun American ears. It will be Kofi's first time as a band leader in the United States.

Other artists who will be in town for the UK Series are veteran saxophonist Peter King, the swinging singer Liane Carroll, the exploratory Welsh pianist Huw Warren, versatile Welsh bassist Paula Gardiner, lyrical singer Norma Winstone and saxophone and bass clarinet wunderkind Tim Garland.

While Cowley openly believes that "it's a difficult label, British jazz," Souter thinks that British jazzers have something extra and quirky, calling out names like Winstone, a personal influence, who she thinks is quintessentially English.

In finding the words to explain why, Souter can only think, "I bet she doesn't take ice in her drink. I wouldn't be a bit surprised."

AREGUERO@DemocratandChronicle.com

THINGS TO DO

TODAY Benefits

Blacks Fundraiser: Give Me Regards to Lawn Street: Silent auction, vocal performances, light fare, cash bar and raffle. Also screening of the 2009 Tony Awards. 7 to 11 p.m. June 7. Blackfriars Theatre, 28 Lawn St. \$25. (585) 454-1260.
Ridin' For a Reason: Hosted by the Conesus Lake Riders Motorcycle Club and Camp Good Days and Special Times. Benefits Camp Good Days. Registration 10 a.m. to noon. Ride begins at noon June 7. Mendon Fire Hall, 101 Mendon Ionia Road, Mendon. \$20 per bike. Call for details. (585) 746-1688. (585) 624-5555 or www.campgooddays.org.

Comedy

Village Idiots Improv Comedy Open Auditions: No experience necessary. Open to ages 17 and older. 6:30 p.m. June 7. VIP Studio at Village Gate Square, 274 N. Goodman St. Call for details. (585) 797-9086 or www.improvVIP.com.

Concerts

Amadeus Chorale: Music for Young Performers: Highlight includes performance of The Grace Notes, the newest and youngest group of singers. "Family Matters," music from local composer Cary Ratcliff and an A Capella performance of "Yesterday" by the graduating seniors. 7 p.m. June 7. Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Road, Brighton. \$5. (585) 244-8585 or www.theamadeuschorale.org.
Choral Evensong: The Chancel Choir, led by Music Director Peter DuBois and guest organist Annie Laver, perform works by Egil Hovland, Richard Shephard, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford and Ralph Vaughan Williams. A tea follows. 4 p.m. June 7. Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Free. (585) 271-6513 or www.thirdpresbyterian.org.
Concentus Women's Chorus: Gwen Gassler, director. 4 p.m. June 7. First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, 21 Church

St., Pittsford. \$10; \$5 students. (585) 586-5688 or www.pittsfordpres.org.

Going for Baroque Italian Organ Concert: mini-recitals by Eastman School of Music students performed on the Italian Baroque organ in the museum's Fountain Court. 1 and 3 p.m. June 7. Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave. Free with gallery admission. (585) 276-8900 or http://mag.rochester.edu.

Guitar Center Country Jambooree: Featuring Flint Creek, JB & Company, Double Cross, Route 49 and others. Benefit for the 2009 Monroe County Fair. 1 to 6 p.m. June 7. Welcome Court and Minett Hall, Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, 2695 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta. \$8; \$5 advance. (585) 334-4000 or www.fairandexpoenter.org.

Kool Steev, Renazance, R.E.A.L., Twan, Poetic Scriptures and Cupidon: 10 p.m. June 7. Dub Land Underground, 315 Alexander St. (585) 232-7550.

Musical Series: Featuring Joe Blackburn on the Aeolian pipe organ. 3 to 4 p.m. June 7. George Eastman House, 900 East Ave. Free with museum admission. (585) 271-3361 or www.eastmanhouse.org.

St. Peter's Community Arts Academy Strings Recital: 1 p.m. June 7. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 151 Genesee St., Geneva. Free. (315) 789-0106 or www.stpetersarts.org.

Walri: 8 p.m. June 7. Grill at Strathallan, 550 East Ave. Free. (585) 454-1880 or www.strathallan.com/grill-at-strathallan.php.

Exhibits

The Traditional Art of Crafting Tools from Elm Bark: Native American demonstration by Michael Galban (Washoe/Paiute). 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. June 7. Ganondagan State Historic Site, 1488 State Route 444, Victor. Free with museum admission. (585) 924-5848 or www.ganondagan.org.

Expos/Shows

Brighton Green Energy Fair: Green products and services;

information on recycling, alternative energy technologies, home energy audits and financing; children's activities, green baby products and more. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 7. Parking lot, Brighton High School, 1150 S. Winton Road, Brighton. (585) 242-5000 or www.colorbrightongreen.org.
Collectorfest Monthly: Including autograph signings by two former Buffalo Bills players (Mark Kelso and Ken Jones), 1 to 3 p.m. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 7. Knights of Columbus of Webster, 70 Barrett Drive, Webster. Free admission. Autographs extra. (585) 241-3198 or www.collectorfestmonthly.com.

First and Last: Arts and Crafts: Handmade art and crafts by local artisans. 5 to 10 p.m. June 7. Spot Coffee, 200 East Ave. Free admission. (585) 613-4600 or www.spotcoffee.com.

Genesee Valley Quilt Club's Garden of Quilts Festival: Displays by more than 60 vendors, as well as workshops, lectures, silent auction, food and raffles. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 7. Gordon Field House, Rochester Institute of Technology, 149 Lomb Memorial Drive, Henrietta. \$10 \$5 for lectures. Free to children, ages 11 and younger, with adult paid admission. Strollers are not allowed. www.gvqc.org.
Penfield Art Association's Spring Art Show and Sale: 2 to 3:30 p.m. June 7. Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road, Penfield. Free admission. (585) 340-8655.

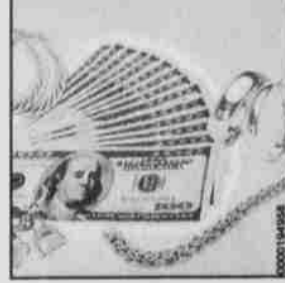
Festivals

Fairport Canal Days: Arts and crafts, live entertainment, food and children's activities. Parking and shuttles are provided at these nearby locations: Eagle Vale Golf Club, 4344 Nine Mile Point Rd (Rte 250), north of Whitney Road; and Minerva Detand School, 140 Hulburt Ave. Handicap parking is available behind the Fairport Village Hall (enter via Parker Street) Shuttle bus is \$1; free to ages 6 and younger. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 7. Main Street (Route 250), Fairport. Free admission. www.fairportcanaldays.com.

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Nashville Show Trip \$675 * 7 DAYS 6 NIGHTS PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (Sun-Sat) Sept. 20-26, 2009
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