

STEPPIN' OUT

The Hour

MCLEAN BRINGS STAR POWER TO LEVITT

WESTPORT
By A.J. O'CONNELL
Hour Staff Writer

Don McLean, the man who wrote his biggest hit about "the day the music died" says he rarely writes songs and will probably not make any more records.

"I have many interests," said McLean, who will perform at the Levitt Pavilion on Friday, August 7.

At 64, McLean doesn't want to talk about the parts of his career that have passed into legend. Before you can even ask about "American Pie," "Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)" or Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly," he will tell you to read about it on his Web site.

McLean did recently make an album, dropping "Addicted to Black" this past May. Still he gives credit for that release to two other musicians.

"I don't think that would even have existed if it weren't for the two guys who put it together, Pat and Mike Severs," said McLean. "They put some tracks together."

Steel guitarist Pat Severs has been playing in McLean's band for several years. He and his brother Mike collaborated on tracks for the album and McLean wrote some songs for those tracks. Although digital technology allowed him to record him tracks at home, McLean says he is disheartened by the new computerized method of making records.

"I'm not happy about that, because they literally phone it in," he said. "There's no interaction with one another."

McLean, a native of New Rochelle, N.Y., hit it big in 1971, after releasing his second album, "American Pie." Before that time, he'd had some success as a folk musician, appearing in well-known venues in cities across the country, and releasing "Tapestry" in 1969. When "American Pie" was released by United Artists Records, McLean's fan base exploded. The album produced two hits, "American Pie" and "Vincent," and spurred interest in the then-two-year-old "Tapestry."

McLean has now released a total of 30 albums, including six compilations, three live recordings, three holiday releases, a record for children, a cover album, a tribute to Marty Robbins, love



McLean will be at Westport's Levitt Pavilion on Friday, Aug. 7. Tickets are \$50. For more information or tickets, visit <http://www.levittpavilion.com>.

songs and a western album. He thinks he's probably done.

In regard to his music career, McLean quoted Maggie from Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof": "Life has got to be allowed to continue even after the dream of life is-all-over."

He feels that other older musicians could benefit from that wisdom.

"I don't see any point in grinding out albums," said McLean. "I can't think of a single album from Paul McCartney that he needed to put out in the last 10 years."

McLean wants to move on to other interests. He is planning a documentary about his life and

has a family.

He prefers to leave rock n'roll in younger hands, like those of his 17-year-old son Wyatt.

"My son is the songwriter now," he said.

That said, the elder McLean has no plans to stop touring.

"I'll be around as long as I can sing well, but I'm probably not going to make any more records," he said.

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Sound Surfing

Levitt performance schedule has something for everyone



MIKE HORYZCUN
SOUND SURFING

American folk-pop troubadour Don McLean wrote some of contemporary music's most enduring songs. His classic "American Pie," the eight-minute story-song that talks about "the day the music died," topped music charts all over the world in 1972 and still stands as one of the most popular hits in contemporary music history. "Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)," "Castles in the Air," "And I Love You So," are a few of his other biggies. The singer-songwriter plays a benefit show at 8 p.m. on Friday in Westport for the Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts. General admission lawn seating tickets are \$50. Tickets to a pre-concert cocktail party at 6 p.m. that includes preferred lawn seating and reserved parking are \$125.

Don McLean is a graduate of Iona College, and in the early days he worked with folk music icon Pete Seeger during the formative stages of Seeger's "Clearwater" environmental project to clean up the Hudson River. This weekend in Westport, he joins an illustrious roster of superstars who have played benefit shows at the Levitt, a non-profit organization presenting over 50 free nights of entertainment throughout the summer. These include Willie Nelson, the Beach Boys, the Gipsy Kings, Tony Bennett, and Tom Jones, who appeared earlier this year.

The seven-day-a-week Levitt performance schedule usually has jazz, blues and big band on Sunday, a mix of things on Tuesday, children's entertainment on Wednesday, classical and theatre on Thursday, dance bands on Friday, and folk, blues, and rock, on Saturday, with Monday's stage usually dark, although movies are sometimes shown.

This week's line-up features the Abaca String Band at 8 p.m. tonight, Mark Pires on Saturday at 8 p.m., the Joe Carter Jazz Quartet on Sunday at 7 p.m., the movie "Slumdog Millionaire" on Monday at 8:30 p.m., three comedians laughing it up at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, and Sol y Canto doing a kids show at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. All of these performances are free of charge. The Levitt Pavilion is located at 40 Jesup Road, outdoors on the banks of the Saugatuck River in Westport behind the Westport Public Library. For rain locations call the Concert Hot Line at 221-2153. Visit www.levittpavilion.com, for more information.

Stamford's Alive @ Five concert closes out its season tonight with pop hitmakers Sugar Ray headlining. The Southern California-based band is returning from a five year hiatus with a new album, "Music for Cougars." Their big hits from the '90s included "Fly" and "Every Morning." Super Satellite and Tiffany Giardina open. Admission is \$5. Under 21 not admitted after 6:30 p.m. I.D. is required. Children under 12 are free, but must enter before 6:30 p.m. Columbus Park is located between West Park Place and Main Street. Call 348-5285, or visit www.stamford-downtown.com

The First County Bank Summer Concert Series

see SOUND C3

Brubeck's band triples the fun at Wilton Library

WILTON
By A.J. O'CONNELL
Hour Staff Writer

Triple Play is coming to the Wilton Library Association's aid this week, pitching a wang dang doodle on Friday, Aug. 7 to raise funds for the library.

In the posh community room named for his family, Chris Brubeck and bandmates Joel Brown and Peter "Madcat" Ruth will play their eclectic cocktail of blues, jazz, folk and funk.

"Nobody knows what to call this band," said Brubeck, a Wilton resident.

The band plays a mixture of songs, putting a new twist on standards like "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," and playing some of Dave Brubeck's music, but in their own way.

"We do all these different things," said Brubeck, who refers to the music as "Americana."

Brubeck has been playing with harmonica virtuoso Ruth since 1968, but the origins of Triple Play reach back two decades, to a group called Crofut & Brubeck. Brubeck started that group with his friend, banjo player and folk singer Bill Crofut, and recruited Brown to play guitar with that project.

In 1998, Crofut was diagnosed with cancer. When it became clear that he would no longer be able to perform, Crofut Brubeck and Brown decided that Ruth should

If You Go

- Triple Play will be at the Wilton Library on Friday, Aug. 7, from 7 to 10 p.m.

- Tickets are \$100 for preferred seating and \$75 for general seating.

- Tickets are available at the Wilton Library, by phone at 203-762-3950 or online at www.wiltonlibrary.org/tripleplay.

take his place in the concerts that had already been booked. The addition of Ruth was a success. After Crofut passed away in 1999, the three remaining musicians changed the band's name to Triple Play and continued to make music together.

The band has played the Brubeck Room before, but this is the first time admission has been charged, said library executive director Kathy Leeds, who said Brubeck suggested the concert to her.

"He really saw it as an opportunity to get more money into the library," she said.

The concert is something different for the Wilton Library, which usually raises funds gala-style.

All fundraising events are expected to raise a total of \$60,000, the library's event



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budget for the next year, according to Leeds.

"That funds all the book purchases for circulation. It funds most of our programs," said Leeds.

The library, she said must raise about 25 percent of its budget annually, and this has been a tough year financially.

"We have many, many more people using the

library," said Leeds, who said that circulation is up 10 percent over last year, with a 10.5 percent increase in the number of adults taking out books and a 15 percent increase in the number of teens taking books out of the library. There has also been a 22 percent increase in use of the library's wireless Internet and a 19 percent jump in use of periodicals.

"We're struggling to keep the levels up and we may not be able to," said Leeds.

She hopes the Triple Play concert Friday will help out.

Brubeck hopes so too, and thinks that the audience will enjoy the show; Triple Play is fun to watch.

"We're a group that's accidentally highly entertaining," he said. "We don't set out to do that."

STEPPIN' OUT CALENDAR

Special

Due to its popularity, the Fairfield Museum has decided to offer the special walking tour that recounted the British attack on Fairfield in 1779 again on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 5:30 p.m. Cost to attend the tour is \$5 for museum members, \$7 for non-members. Pre-registration is required; call 259-1598. Limit 40 participants.

Music

Alive @ Five, Columbus Park, Stamford. Thursday, Aug. 6: Sugar Ray; music starts at 5 p.m.; only those over 21 will be let in after 6:30 p.m.; photo I.D. is required; \$5; children under 12 are free but must enter before 6:30 p.m.

Bartlett Arboretum, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. 322-6971. Through Sept. 6: Summer Music Sundays Morning Classical Music Series; student soloists from the Yale School of Music graduate program perform. August 9: Richard "Cookie" Thomas. In case of inclement weather the performance will take place in the Visitor Center. Members Free, Non-members Free with garden admission.

Fairfield Theatre Co., 70 Sanford St., Fairfield. 259-1036. Thursday,

Aug. 6: The Brew; \$8-\$12. Friday, Aug. 7: Earl Klugh; \$47-\$57.

Ferguson Library, 1 Public Library Plaza, Stamford. 964-1000. Aug. 12: The Lumina String Quartet will perform works celebrating the 200th anniversary of Haydn and Mendelssohn in the Main Library Third Floor Auditorium; 6:30 p.m.; free.

Levitt Pavilion, Westport. 221-2153. Thursday, Aug. 6: Pianist Anthony di Bonaventura; 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7: Don McLean; 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8: Mark Pires; 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9: Joe Carter Jazz Quintet; 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10: "Slumdog Millionaire"; 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11: Treehouse Comedy Club II; 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12: Sol y Canto; 7 p.m.

Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Ave., Ridgefield. 438-5795. August 8: Vanilla Fudge's Let's Pray for Peace Tour; 8 p.m.; \$45, \$40.

Rowayton Library, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton. 838-5038. Sunday, Aug. 9: Connecticut Chamber Orchestra presents "Bach to Broadway, A musical interlude"; an ensemble of artists performing masterworks of all periods, Sayard Stone, music director and conductor; 4 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church, 651 Pequot Road, Southport. Aug. 10:

Fairfield County Chorale will present Mozart's "Requiem," conducted by Christopher James Hisey.

Theater

Carriage House Arts Center, Cranbury Park, 300 Grumman Ave., Norwalk. 229-9797. Through Aug. 8: Christopher Durang's comedy, "Beyond Therapy," directed by Michael Limone.

Long Wharf Theatre, 222 Sargent Drive, New Haven. 787-4284. Through Aug. 9: "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy"; written and performed by Steve Solomon; \$27-\$32.

Long Wharf Theatre Stage II, 222 Sargent Drive, New Haven. 787-4284. Through Aug. 16: "Til Death Do Us Part: Late Nite Catechism 3" by Maripat Donovan; performances: Tuesday-Wednesday 7 p.m., Thursday-Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 3 and 8 p.m., Sunday 2 and 7 p.m.; \$22-\$25.

Richter Arts Center, 100 Aunt Hack Road, Danbury. 748-6879. Through Aug. 15: "Children of Eden," Stephen Schwartz's acclaimed musical inspired by the biblical stories of Adam and Eve and Noah and the Ark; Friday through Sunday at 8:30 p.m. Grounds open at 7:15 p.m. for picnicking. Tickets are \$21 for

adults, \$16 for seniors, and \$13 for students and children.

Town Players of Newtown, Little Theatre, Orchard Hill Road, Newtown. 270-9144. Through Aug. 8: "Broadway Café: An Evening of Show Tunes"; Friday-Saturday 8 p.m.; 2 p.m. Sunday; \$20; \$15 for students and seniors (62 and older).

Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, Westport. 227-4177. Through Aug. 15: Westport Country Playhouse stages "How the Other Half Loves," a classic comedy by Alan Ayckbourn; 30 - \$65.

Auditions

The Connecticut Symphonic Band invites wind, brass and percussion players to join the nearly 60 musicians from all over Fairfield County who comprise this upper level wind ensemble. Musicians who are new to CSB are invited to sit in on a rehearsal and may have an informal placement audition. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 at Stratford High School. For more information visit www.ctsymphonicband.com or call 386-1625.

The Fairfield County Symphony Society meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Norwalk to play, often sight read, and sometimes perform, string quartets, symphonies and

concertos. For new location visit www.geocities.com/symphonysociety or call at 227-7372. There are no auditions. String players are always needed. Welcome to just show up. Musica Plenti has openings in all voice parts, particularly tenors and basses; good sightreading and choral experience a plus. Rehearsals Monday evenings 7:30-9:30 p.m. For audition, call 637-3058.

The United Girls' Choir of Milford has announced that auditions are currently being held for girls, ages 6-16, from throughout the region. Auditions will be held during July and August, and all interested girls are eligible to audition. No experience is necessary. Audition information and appointments may be obtained by calling 787-1244 or by sending an e-mail to info@unitedchoir.com.

The Westport Madrigal Singers, dedicated to the performance of Early Music, will hold auditions for their upcoming 2009-2010 season. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., at St. Paul's on-the-Green, 60 East Ave., Norwalk. Call or e-mail music director Vince Edwards to arrange an audition: 984-8943, Edwards@stpaulsnorwalk.org

Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main St., Ridgefield. 438-4519. Through Sept. 13: "Robert Lazzarini: Guns and Knives"; Lazzarini continues his exploration of the reconfiguration of objects.

Artists' Market, 163 Main St., Norwalk. 846-2260. Through Dec. 24: Handmade prints by Natalija Cernetsova of Latvia and vintage woodcuts by M.C. Escher, mexxotings by Carol Wax and more. Gallery Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday (to 8 p.m. Thursdays) and noon-4 p.m. Sunday.

Barnum Museum, 820 Main St., Bridgeport. 331-1104. Ongoing exhibits related to the history of P.T. Barnum, Bridgeport and the circus. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday noon-4:30 p.m. Admission: \$7, \$5 for senior citizens and college students, \$3 children ages 4-17.

The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. 869-0376. Through Sept. 27: "Focus on Color: The Photography of Jeannette Klute"; The exhibition features a series of twenty-four color photographs by Jeannette Klute (b.1918). Through Sept. 6: "Masterpieces of European Painting from Museo de Arte de Ponce";

Exhibits

see STEPPIN' C4

Sound Surfing: The Levitt offers something for everyone

From C1

at Norwalk's Calf Pasture Beach takes a trip down memory lane with the 1910 Fruit Gum Company, who had hits like "Simon Says" in the '60s, performing on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. A Classic Car Show is on view at 6 p.m. The series, sponsored by First County Bank, is open to the public and free to those with Norwalk beach stickers on their cars. A parking fee of \$5 per car will be charged for cars without a Norwalk beach sticker. Rain date is Thursday, August 13. For updates and additional information, call the Norwalk Recreation and Parks

Office at 854-7807. For cancellation information, call 854-7938. Calf Pasture Beach is located on Calf Pasture Beach Road in East Norwalk.

The Fairfield Theatre Company has indie-rockers The Brew performing at FTC's StageOne stage at 7:30 p.m. tonight. The band was nominated for a "Best New Groove" award at this year's Jammy's in New York City. Tickets are \$12. Friday at 7:30 p.m., jazz guitar giant Earl Klugh performs. He's one of contemporary jazz's leading guitarists and has 11 Grammy nominations, including a 2006 nomination for his "Naked Guitar" disc.

Tickets are \$57. FTC is located at 70 Sanford Street in Fairfield. Newly announced StageOne shows include Five Times August on August 29, New Riders of the Purple Sage on September 19, Tyrone Wells on October 4, Marshall Crenshaw on October 9, and Andrew Hoover on October 23. The great Levon Helm brings his band into the Klein Memorial Auditorium in Bridgeport on September 25. Call 259-1036, or visit www.fairfieldtheatre.org

Ridgefield's free CHIRP 2009 concerts at Ballard Park features the Dana Fuchs Band mixing it up with rock and

soul on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Ballard Park is located in downtown Ridgefield. Rain location is the Ridgefield Playhouse. Call 431-2760 after 4 p.m. the day of the shows, to confirm concert location. Visit www.chirpct.org for more details.

SoNo Caffeine Coffee and Chocolate Lounge has Sensory Lost tonight. The singer-songwriting duo Chris and Thomas are there on Wednesday. Showtime is 8 p.m. They're located at 133 Washington Street in South Norwalk. Call 857-4224 or visit www.sonocaffeine.com

The Quick Center in Fairfield plays host to a benefit show at 8 p.m.

tonight with '60s rock legends the Electric Prunes, ("I Had too Much to Dream," "Get Me to the World on Time"), The Blues Magoos ("We Ain't Got Nothin' Yet," "Tobacco Road"), and Love ("Forever Changes") with Johnny Echols and Baby Lemonade. A light show by Marc Rubenstein, who ran Pig Light Show at Filmore East for its final two years, adds atmosphere. Tickets are \$66. Students are two-for-\$66. Proceeds benefit listener-supported radio station WPKN (89.5) FM. According to radio officials, this is the only U.S. concert stop for this

line-up of bands. The Quick Center is located on the campus of Fairfield University. Call 254-4010, or visit www.quickcenter.com

The Blues Magoos vocalist Peppy Castro is also performing this weekend as the opening act for a show of similar vintage at the Ridgefield Playhouse on Saturday night at 8 p.m. That's when Vanilla Fudge ("You Keep Me Hangin' On") headlines. Tickets are \$45 and \$40. The Ridgefield Playhouse is located at 80 East Ridge, parallel to Main Street. Call 438-5795, or visit www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org

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