

Swinging lineup at Bonnet House this weekend

By MATT SCHUDEL

Jazz Columnist

Now in its third year, the Bonnet House Jazz Fest has emerged as South Florida's leading springtime jazz event. Held on the grounds of Fort Lauderdale's historic Bonnet House, near the intersection of Sunrise Boulevard and State Road A1A, the festival features some of the finest swing-based jazz musicians working today.

Between 5 and 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, the delightful trio Travelin' Light will perform on the veranda of the Bonnet House. The group features Frank Vignola on guitar, Sam Pilafian on tuba and Eric Bogart on guitar and drums, and it produces one of the most original sounds in jazz.

The Eddie Higgins Quartet opens each night on the main stage at 7 p.m. The popular South Florida pianist will be joined by tenor saxophonist Harry Allen on Friday and by multi-reed player Eric Allison on Saturday.

About 8:10 p.m. Friday, Vignola will explore "Jazz in Paris" in what promises to be one of the weekend's most interesting programs. With three guitars, two reed players, trumpet, violin and bass, Vignola's octet will recreate the music of Django Reinhardt's Hot Club of France from the 1930s.

The featured performer on Friday will be Jamaican-born pianist Monty Alexander, who will take the stage about 9:20 p.m. One of the most stylish players in jazz, Alexander will be joined by a first-rate rhythm section of



John Clayton Jr. on bass and Jeff Hamilton on drums.

On Saturday the Higgins quartet takes the stage at 7 p.m., followed at 8:10 by Travelin' Light. The festival's star attraction, Rosemary Clooney, will appear at 9 p.m. She'll be accom-



File photos

LEFT: Travelin' Light will perform on Bonnet House's veranda on Friday and Saturday. **ABOVE:** Pianist Monty Alexander is Friday's main attraction.

panied by a solid jazz quintet led by her longtime pianist John Oddo, featuring saxophonist Allen, trumpeter Lou Colombo, bassist Phil Flanigan and drummer Joe Cocuzzo.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$50 for premium seating. (Spec-

JAZZ BRIEFS

tators can attend both nights for a single ticket.) Call 1-954-563-5393 or 1-954-524-0805. Parking will be available at the Galleria Mall, at the corner of NE 26th Avenue and NE Ninth Street, with free trolley service to the grounds of the Bonnet House. Refreshments will be available.

Vitro, LaVerne at local clubs

Local clubs are attracting top national performers this weekend, as well. Roseanna Vitro, an outstanding jazz singer whose style has drawn comparisons with Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, appears Friday at the Jazz Showcase in West Palm Beach. On Sunday, fresh off his performance with Rosemary Clooney, tenor saxophonist Harry Allen will perform at the Showcase.

The Jazz Showcase is in the This Is It Pub, 424 24th St., West Palm Beach. Tickets are \$10 for each show. Call 1-407-832-1200.

Andy LaVerne is a stylish pianist and a mainstay in New York jazz circles. (His most recent CD, *Time Well Spent*, is vibrant and harmonically fresh.) He'll make a rare local appearance Saturday, with saxophonist Gary Campbell, at the East Side Jazz Club, 131 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. There is a cover charge. Call 1-407-393-3252.