

Clearwater Jazz Holiday



f o r t h o s a n d

This year's Jazz Holiday poster, by graphic designers David DePalma and Jean Kingsbury and photographer Sheri Vann, features Herman Burney, Oleta Adams and Joseph Vincelli.

Party heralds Jazz Holiday lineup

■ Reggae-influenced pianist Monty Alexander and trumpeter Terence Blanchard are among the eclectic performers.

By MAUREEN BYRNE
Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — A Jamaican-born artist influenced by reggae great Bob Marley, a singer known for her mesmerizing live performances and one of America's top-selling contemporary jazz groups will perform in the Clearwater Jazz Holiday in October.

The lineup, announced Friday at a private party at Ruth Eckerd Hall, includes pianist Monty Alexander, whose latest release, *Stir It Up*, is a tribute to Marley; vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater, who established a loyal following in jazz clubs in Paris; and the Yellowjackets, a Grammy-winning band that plays everything from be-bop to fusion.

Returning to the free festival are bassist and film composer Stanley Clarke and pop diva Patti Austin. Trumpeter Terence Blanchard, a New Orleans native and award-winning composer, will close the four-day festival.

The event also showcases local talent including Fred Johnson, a

veteran jazz singer and community arts director for the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

Now in its 21st year, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday will run Oct. 19-22 at Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater.

"I think it's a good lineup," said Lee Mergner, associate publisher of *Jazz Times*, a monthly magazine based in Silver Spring, Md. "It's clearly a reflection of diversity. You've got very different styles here."

"That's something we strive for," said Karen Vann, executive director of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday.

A music committee spent the

past six months putting together a wish list. Vann was in charge of making offers and getting contracts signed. The result is a diverse selection of artists who play straight-ahead, smooth, swing, funk, reggae and Latin styles.

Bridgewater is one of the most versatile singers in her generation, Mergner said. She was born in Memphis in 1950 and one of her first major musical influences was her father, trumpeter Matthew Garrett. She worked with jazz notables such as Sonny Rollins and Dizzy Gillespie.

After releasing a series of albums and appearing on Broadway

Please see **JAZZ** Page 3