

Olean Quintet Performs In Jamestown

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IN REVIEW

The Paul De Ritter Quintet, from Olean, performed a music salon program Sunday evening, for the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Jamestown.

The performance was titled "Music Across the Ages," and featured performances of works which were written between 1601 and 2002.

The first half of the program featured demonstrations of both the technique and the sounds of the many instruments which the members of the Quintet play. In the earliest music, which was written before the development of the saxophone, the music had been arranged so that the saxophone performed the music written for French horn.

De Ritter was the narrator of the event. One of his demonstrations involved taking a length of plastic tubing, a funnel, such as one might buy at a hardware store for pouring liquids into a narrow-necked bottle,

and a trumpet mouthpiece. He demonstrated that a clear, fine trumpet sound could be produced with only those three items.

A performance of the popular New Orleans piece "When the Saints Go Marching In," was employed to demonstrate how jazz musicians use improvisation to personalize music.

De Ritter demonstrated how the rubber cup of a sink plunger could be used to change and enhance the sound made by a trumpet. He humorously suggested that trombonists have to find their plungers elsewhere in the bathroom.

After a dozen demonstration performances, the quintet then did full-out performances of five jazz classics, including "St. Louis Blues," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "My Funny Valentine," "Sweet Georgia Brown," and "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." All were enthusiastically

greeted by the large audience.

De Ritter performed on trumpet, Flugelhorn, Cornet, Pocket Trumpet, and plastic tubing. He also did some vocals.

Lloyd Howard performed on bass.

Moses Mark Howden was the quintet's percussionist, performing not only on contemporary drum set but also on a drum with calfskin drum head, held in tension by ropes, producing the quite different snare drum sound which would have been heard in the American Revolution and the U.S. Civil War, not to mention by composers such as Mozart and Beethoven.

Howden also performed on a West African djembe, a solo which he dedicated to the innocent victims of the fighting in Darfur.

Bill Hughey performed on piano and as vocalist.

Jim Lapallo demonstrated soprano, alto, and tenor saxophones.

The next Unitarian Universalist salon will be presented in late June. For information, phone 488-1902.