



Photos by Atrique Killmanjaro/Carolina Peacemaker

Coffee at the Summit was filled to the brim Friday night as patrons and jazz enthusiasts enjoyed the sights and sounds of local musicians and poets.

Jumpin' at the Summit with Jazz

By Marian Mareba
Contributing Writer

The mood of Coffee at the Summit upon arrival was calming and subdued, as candles at each table were lit, and the performers were preparing to entertain. However, the main act, Junior Jazz & Java, ignited a jubilant response from the audience with their enthusiastic jazz renditions. The importance of jazz, being a genre of music that is true to African-American roots, is celebrated by the children involved in the Junior Jazz & Java program. They not only increase their awareness of this form of music by learning about it, they also collaborate with each other musically to resurrect music by such classic musicians as Miles Davis.

The show started with a little number called "Funk Fusion," which sounded much like the title, and drew the supportive crowd into the group. The audience was obviously impressed by the level of music coming from these children, spanning from ages nine to 14, and the musicians delivered a riveting first song.

The next song was a familiar one for most in the crowd, entitled "So What" by Miles Davis. This rendition was as impressive as most would expect from an adult band, with the youthful



EZ Ed Jones plays the bongos with novice Markeeta Young.

musicians playing with focus and feeling. Tyler Montgomery, a nine-year-old student at Alamance Elementary School, played his heart out on the piano, completing the sound along with mentor Will Woods on the bass guitar.

The fourth song, entitled "Butterfly," originally by Alicia Keys, was performed with the band and mentor Vanessa Ferguson, a music student at North Carolina A&T, on piano. By this

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"Americans must learn to live together as brothers, lest we die together as fools"--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Afriqwe Kilimanjaro/
Carolina Peacemaker
Junior Jazz and
Java drum player
Charles "Chuckie"
Pinckney performs
with precision
percussion technique.
Pinckney is the
son of Marc and
Sheila Pinckney.
He has one sister,
Marla who likes to
play the bongos.
He is the grand-
son of Mrs. Mar-
ilyn Pinckney and
the late Dr.
Charles Pinckney.
His percussion
instructor is Mr.
Crawford at
Greensboro Col-
lege.

time, the quaint coffee shop had turned into a bubbling musical hot spot, and the young musicians were at the center of the flame, demonstrating that jazz music is still relevant to the African American culture, even in the eyes of the youth.

The Junior, Jazz & Java pro-

gram, sponsored by music stores and personal sponsors around town, is open to all youngsters who are interested in contributing time to jazz music. The show was a great success, and Coffee at the Summit was exploding with people by the time the group was finished with their set.

After experiencing their budding talents, the audience will most likely be keeping an eye out for these budding musicians, as should any music lovers in Greensboro. They are sure to excite and leave you proud of the direction in which jazz music is heading.