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## NEWS

### Hudson Music Festival closes on upbeat note

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HUDSON — With cars lined up and down Warren Street and Hudson's side streets, the annual Hudson Music Festival wrapped up a three-day weekend on a bright and sunny Sunday.

Professional jazz musicians livened up the Hudson Opera House in a standing-room-only performance with open doors attracting curious onlookers, while down at the Henry Hudson Riverfront Park, the Black Arts and Music Festival made up for lost time the day before, when its events were washed out by the torrential rains.

From Seventh Street Park, all the way down Warren Street, side streets and down to the waterfront, bands and singers of a wide variety brought crowds together, and set moods for their respective territory. From the punk rock group Nice Try, Kid to more folky and retro sounds, there was something for everyone.

The highlight of the final day was "Hudson Jazzworks," featuring a trio of nop notch jazz artists — pianist Armen Donelian, saxophonist Marc Mommaas and vibraphonist Joe Locke. Locke, who is considered to be among the best vibraphonists in the world, has played in the past with Dizzy Gillespie and Charles Mingus. Donelian has collaborated with Sonny Rollins and Chet Baker.

The group played three songs for a crowd of almost 100 people, with near magical sounds created by Locke suggesting images of the pirate ship scene in *The Goonies* or the waterfall scene from *The Last of the Mohicans*.

There were extended saxophone solos by Mommaas in pieces requiring some heavy duty chops, and brilliant non-stop piano playing by Donelian requiring a double-take to see if he had another set of hands working the keys.

Donelian and Mommaas led the sixth annual Hudson Jazz workshop which they founded, working all week with musicians on improvisational performances, music composition and practice regiments.

"It's a friendly environment where you feel on the same level," said Donelian.

Lady Moon and the Eclipse, a Brooklyn-based group led by their powerful soprano singer, captured audiences on Warren Street with Lady Moon's soaring howls over music reminiscent of a gospel and soul mix.

Lady Moon, who grew up in Hudson, cited Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan and Erykah Badu as among her influences. She said she enjoyed singing for the inspiration it provides herself and others.

"Hopefully, I can change the world," she said. She said she wants to put out the "right messages for the way people should be," by helping them "let go of stress, grief and ways to cope with society."

At the Black Arts and Music Festival, across the shaky wooden CSX bridge, there were performances by Gala Roots Afro Fusion Band and Diata Diata — a group that dressed up like Stevie Wonder, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin — lip-synching over the original songs and mimicking the expressions of the legendary musicians.

There were food stands and games for children. Mark Guido, owner of Guido's Frozen Desserts in Albany, was at the festival with more than half a dozen Italian ice flavors, lemonade and strawberry lemonade and other treats. Guido usually sells his ices at State Street and Swan Street in Albany to capital workers, but also travels around the region to local festivals. He said the key to his tasty ices was using the "best ingredients."



Hudson Jazzworks presented a recital at the Hudson Opera House on Sunday afternoon. First the co-directors of the 6th annual jazz workshop gave a recital; Armen Donelian on piano, Marc Mommaas on saxophone and with special guest Joe Locke on vibraphone. Then all of the nine participants of the workshop performed in various combinations. Eloa Goncalves from Brazil performs her piano composition with accompaniment by Craig McGorry from the United States on saxophone. David Lee/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

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