

Cabo Frio

66 DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE, ROCH., N.Y., THURS., NOV. 28, 1985

WXXI-TV explores Cabo Frio, the local fusion band, tomorrow

The hour-long show features the band's sound and members

By Jack Garner

Democrat and Chronicle

Channel 21, which helped introduce the music of Chuck Mangione, Don Potter and Jeff Tyzik to wider audiences in the area, is doing the same at 9 tomorrow night with its hour-long look at Cabo Frio.

Cabo Frio captures the band in performance at the Casablanca earlier this year, interspersed with interviews of band members and members of their appreciative audience.

Cabo Frio, which has been in its current form about four years, is an energetic fusion band. Its music combines jazz, Latin, rock and funk influences, as played on sax, keyboards, guitars, drums and bass.

The set includes a wide range of material, from earlier favorites like *Sophistication* and *Prism* (which features a superb George Sessum bass solo — the musical highlight of the set), to newer tunes *Kiero* and *Tranquility* (which we scheduled for an album to be released in January).

Cabo also performs its traditional crowd-pleasing *Find It*, "alias *Hold the Note*," a song on which saxophonist Terrance Bruce uses remarkable breath control to sustain a note for several minutes. The WXXI cameras follow Bruce as he strolls through the club, and even into the men's room, never letting go of the note.

As directed by David Striks, the *Cabo Frio* special is strongest when the band is caught in performance. Striks' camera personnel get close to the performers, capturing the intensity of Terrance Bruce's sax playing, for example, and the camaraderie of the band on stage.

Less successful are interviews with fans that never dip below the superficiality of "They're great!" and "They're a lot of fun!" The inclusion of an audience interview in the middle of *Hold the Note* also is bad form — the music shouldn't be broken with chatter.

The WXXI audio recording mix also isn't the liveliest imaginable. Curtis Kendrick's fine drumming, for example, is under-mixed, taking away some of the band's on-stage fire.

Interviews with band members are insightful and entertaining, however, particularly when they address the oft-heard comparisons with another Upstate-born fusion band, Spyro Gyra.

Pianist Joey Santora argues that the comparison is unfair. "There's a much greater black music influence in the writing and playing in our band," he says, adding with a laugh that "besides, Terrance is a better sax player (than Spyro's Jay Beckenstein)."

Also, don't miss the band quotations that accompany the end credits. They include a funny story by guitarist Glen Cummings on why the band took its unusual name — in order to protect themselves in a biker bar because they used to be called *Rose Hips!*

Gillespie, Getz and Temptations headline two-day jazz festival here

Swing into summer with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, the Wynton Marsalis Quintet... and all that jazz.

It's Newport Jazz at the Finger Lakes — a two-day festival that its organizer, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, hopes will become an annual tradition. The weekend bash is scheduled for June 27 and 28 at Canandaigua's Finger Lakes Performing Arts Center.

"We're really pleased with the lineup," said Finger Lakes Performing Arts Center manager John Parkhurst. "We're sharing our artists with the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, which has its own jazz festival the same weekend."

The performances each day run from 3 to 11 p.m., although the grounds will open at noon with a variety of food tents (operated by Finger Lakes restaurateurs) and arts and crafts booths.

Saturday's roster includes *Cabo Frio*, the Wynton Marsalis Quintet, guitarist Stanley Jordan, The Temptations, saxophonist Kenny G and the Dizzy Gillespie Big Band. On Sunday, look for The Majestics, vocalist Phyllis Hyman, saxophonists Stan Getz and Bradford Marsalis, guitarist Stevie Ray

Vaughan and the Charlie Watts Orchestra.

* Tickets are priced at \$22 a day for inside reserved seating, \$12 for lawn seats (\$9 for children under 12). They can be purchased at the RPO box office, 14 Gibbs St. (454-7091), and at all Ticketron locations.