

March 13, 2015

NY CULTURE

Roy Haynes at 90

A tribute at the Blue Note, plus Herb Alpert and more in this week's Jazz Scene.

Herb Alpert & Lani Hall

The Café Carlyle
35 E 76th St.
(212) 744-1600
Through March 21

Halfway through Herb Alpert's opening night, a veteran in the house yelled across the room to inform the pop icon that his records were treasured 50 years ago by American soldiers stationed in Vietnam. As touching as that spontaneous tribute was, the appeal of Mr. Alpert's music isn't limited to those who know it as nostalgia. The trumpeter doesn't merely recapitulate his biggest hits, but rather reconsiders his signature numbers with considerable freshness and originality. And though he's never been known for his treatment of standards, Mr. Alpert today excels at interpreting both North and South American composers, like Porter and Jobim, with a wonderfully vocalized trumpet tone. As in their past two seasons at the Carlyle, it's always Mr. Alpert who performs more like a singer—you can fully hear the lyrics in everything he plays— while Lani Hall's vocals have a reserved, musicianly quality. The blend they create together, however, with keyboardist Bill Cantos, six-string electric bassist Hussain Jiffry and drummer Michael Shapiro, makes for some of the most appealing music being played in the city.