



ROOTS OF PACIFIC'S

Brubeck INSTITUTE

BY MICHAEL G. MOONEY

TRACED TO A MUSICAL FAMILY TREE

By the early 1970s, Dave Brubeck grew tired of globe-hopping and hotel rooms, and weeks and months on the road.

So, with the idea of spending more quality time with his family, he disbanded his classic quartet. Back at home, Dave's oldest son, Darius, was leading an avant garde jazz ensemble while son Chris fronted a rock band.

From 1971 to 1978, Dave spent hours working closely with them. He immersed himself in their musical worlds, learning all he could about their ideas and experiences while imparting what he had picked up and honed along the way. What emerged was a family band that melded those varied sounds and ideas, and ended up touring the country in 100 or more concerts a year.

Once again, Dave had found a way to make a deep, lasting connection through music. He also was laying the groundwork for a musical model that blossomed as the Brubeck Institute Fellowship Program — a jazz studies program that melds talented musicians from around the country into a professional-caliber performing group.

The Fellowship Program is one of five programs housed at University of the Pacific's Brubeck Institute, which also includes the Brubeck Collection, the Brubeck Festival, the Summer Jazz Colony and the Outreach Program.

Brubeck Fellow Zach Brown, an 18-year-old bass player from Columbia, Md., appreciates the opportunity the program has given him. "We get a lot of

opportunity to play," said Brown, who also plays piano, cello and drums. "We're studying Dave's music. In preparation for the Brubeck Festival we learned songs from "Time Out." (Brubeck's breakthrough 1959 recording and one of the most influential jazz albums of all time). It's great!"

Brubeck Fellows receive an intensive educational experience in jazz performance, studying with Institute staff, regional professionals and visiting artist/clinicians in private lessons, seminars, academic courses, individual and group performance and recording studios. They also gain extensive performance experience in concert, festival, club, school, and community settings locally, regionally and nationally.



Above: Brubeck Fellow Zach Brown

Left: The 2007 Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet

Right: Dave and the family, 1960



“I can hear
the difference,
the progress we’ve
made from when
we first started
playing together.”

—Zach Brown

The Fellowship Program is limited to a maximum of five participants, chosen through auditions. The competition is extremely intense and the selection process difficult.

“We expect them to be very high quality musicians, professional quality,” said Steve Anderson, director of the Brubeck Institute, “ready to walk out onto a stage and perform. After two years, they move on; either to complete a college degree or into the world of professional performance.”

“What we’re looking for,” said Institute Music Director Joe Gilman, himself an accomplished pianist, composer and arranger, “is not only talent, but the ability to work reasonably well together. They need to have a maturity level

that shows they’re ready to handle this type of program.” The Fellows are more than an extended musical family, they are ambassadors for Pacific, traveling across the country to perform.

Has it been a difficult task for the young musicians, transforming themselves into an extended musical family?

“We all have a common bond, jazz,” said Brown. “It gives us a chance to develop as musicians, to find ourselves. I can hear the difference, the progress we’ve made from when we first started playing together. Oh, yeah. It’s been great!”

Brubeck INSTITUTE

At a Glance

The mission of the Brubeck Institute, established in 2000 to honor distinguished alumni, Dave '42 and Lola '45 Brubeck, is to build on Dave Brubeck’s legacy and his lifelong dedication to music, creativity, education, and the advancement of important social issues: civil rights, environmental concerns, international relations and social justice. The Institute achieves its objectives through its five core programs:

The Brubeck Fellowship Program is a highly competitive, one or two-year, full-scholarship program in jazz performance for five musicians who have just graduated from high school. The Brubeck Fellows comprise the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet (BIJQ).

The Brubeck Collection, one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive collections from a contemporary musician, consists of Dave and Lola Brubeck’s correspondence, legal and business documents, musical recordings, music manuscripts, photographs, printed programs, memorabilia, and other important archival material.

The Brubeck Festival is an annual event that celebrates and explores the musical, intellectual, and philosophical ideas of Dave Brubeck and his influence on the world of music and ideas. The Festival features performances of jazz, contemporary concert music, lectures, and academic symposia.

The Summer Jazz Colony is a one-week, full-scholarship, intensive educational program in jazz performance for a very limited number of exceptionally talented students who have just completed their freshman, sophomore or junior years in high school.

The Brubeck Outreach Program is designed to encourage the performance, study and understanding of jazz in its many forms, explore contemporary concert music, enlighten and broaden the general knowledge and appreciation of music, and promote the understanding of the work and influence of Dave Brubeck.

For more information on any of the Brubeck Institute programs or events, visit www.BrubeckInstitute.org.