



STANDING ROOM ONLY

« **Bernice Lewis** performs at the WestSide Cafe located at 1A West Second St. in Frederick. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are free. For more information, call 301-418-6886.

LISTENING POSTS

Zolof The Rock n Roll Destroyer, Roses Are Red, River City High, The Transit War

The Ottobar, 2549 N. Howard St., Baltimore; 6:30 p.m.; \$10; 410-662-0069

✓ **Bellydance Superstars and The Desert Roses**

Rams Head Tavern, 33 West St., Annapolis; 8 p.m.; \$39.50; 410-268-4545

Dropping Daylight, Monty Are I, 7 Days Torn, Bravo Romeo Bravo and Evolution

Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; \$8; 410-558-1889



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STAGES » MUSIC



The Goo Goo Dolls (from left, Robby Takac, John Rzeznik and Mike Malinin) perform at the Lyric Opera House on Tuesday. - Warner Bros.

Goo Goo Dolls return to their roots

'Let Love In' reignites popular N.Y. rock group's energy

By Nancy Dunham
Special to The Examiner

When most people think of Buffalo, they think of snow, icy blasts of wind and steel mills.

When Robby Takac of the Goo Goo Dolls thinks of the city, he thinks of home and innovation.

"I can tell you that this band has gone through a lot of phases, and I remember them all," said Takac. "But we have never, ever been this excited about our future. This is as much a labor of love as it's ever been."

What's fueling the excitement for Takac and bandmates Johnny Rzeznik and Mike Malinin is the energy they felt upon their hometown return where they originally met and formed the Goo Goo Dolls in 1986. They returned there recently to write and record their eighth album "Let Love In" and are now setting down some permanent roots



GOO GOO DOLLS

The Goo Goo Dolls appear at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

» **Venue:** Lyric Opera House, Baltimore
» **Tickets:** \$42 to \$229
» **Info:** 800-551-7328 or www.ticketmaster.com

ing Takac and Rzeznik who worked there. It was in this atmosphere that the Goo formed into a scrappy punk rock trio, which went on to produce such classics as "Iris" and "Name." "I wasn't really feeling any kind of real inspiration in Los Angeles," Rzeznik said. "It was sitting [there] just beating my head against the wall trying to write songs and I wasn't feeling inspired at all."

Such lack of inspiration and pressures from the record industry to conform and crank out what they saw as bankable pop hits caused Takac and Rzeznik, who met when they were in college, to question if Goo Goo Dolls should continue.

"Everybody wonders why all the songs sound the same today. The reason is that the same people are writing everyone's songs. That is just not us," Takac said. "If we feel the lack of relevance, why continue?"

Instead, the group started working with producer Glen Ballard and went home to Buffalo.

"We love this record," said Takac. "And all of sudden new concepts started popping up for me as an artist. ... That's important. We always want to be looking forward."

TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets are on sale now for "WWE Raw" featuring such wrestling superstars as WWE champion John Cena, Randy Orton, Edge, Triple H, Shawn Michaels and Umaga on Dec. 18 at Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW, Washington. The show begins at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$20 to \$60. Call 800-551-7328 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.



JAZZ

Monday night jazz — and armchairs

By Marie Gullard
Special to The Examiner

Not unlike the speakeasys of the Prohibition days, where a store front gave way to back room entertainment, Henry Wong's An Die Musik LIVE! is a 21st-century establishment of unexpected musical surprises. On Monday nights, the Peabody Jazz Quartet plays traditional and contemporary selections.

"We set up in the bar area on the other side of the CD store," said Jeff Chang, the quartet's saxophone player, "and we start the evening with jazz standards, like Miles Davis. Then we go on to our original repertoire."

Not a bad gig, by his own admission, for four Peabody students. And Chang, along with several other groups of performers, have Henry Wong to thank for the opportunity.

In business for 10 years, Wong's store specializes in a huge selection of classical and jazz CDs and DVDs.

He will special order whatever is not in his stock. Wong, with background in bio chemistry, admits to "a strong passion to preserve classical music and jazz for the younger generation and the entire community."

In addition to his downstairs entertainment area, he takes live performance to another intimate level in what he calls his "comfortable setting" on the building's second floor. Here, about 75 armchairs are placed around the room in such a fashion that allows for the musicians and the audience to share the music in an intimate, non-threatening space.

Kevin Leese, a regular patron, loves the upstairs atmosphere and the Victorian high-back chairs. "It feels like I'm in someone's living room," he said.

"It's important to pamper your audiences," said Wong, who also books acts including classical guitar and piano recitals.

"The music scene is really friendly here in Baltimore," said Jeff Chang, noting that in Boston where he previously studied, there is a great deal of competition and little or no chance of finding steady work in an atmosphere like An Die Musik's. He and his group, comprised of Devin Arne on guitar, Blake Meister on bass, and Shareef Taher at the drums, look forward to a long engagement in Henry Wong's music store.

PEABODY JAZZ QUARTET

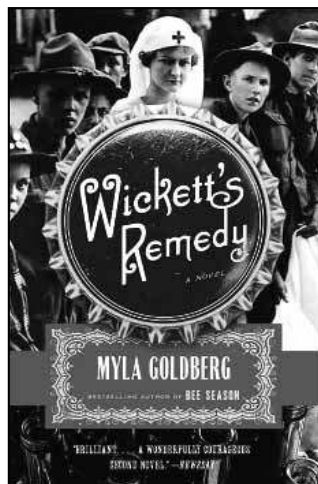
The Peabody Jazz Quartet appears at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

» **Venue:** An die Musik, 409 North Charles St., Baltimore
» **Tickets:** \$8 general admission, \$5 students and seniors
» **Info:** 888-221-6170 or 410-385-2638

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

La Muerta Exhibition - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Venue:** Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase St., Annapolis; **Tix:** Free; **Info:** 410-269-1087

Three Woman Show - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Venue:** The Gallery at La Terra, 4001 Falls Road, Baltimore; **Tix:** Free; **Info:** 410-889-7562



BOOK TALK

Adult Book Discussion Group: "Wickett's Remedy" by Myla Goldberg - 10:30 a.m. **Venue:** Jarrettsville Library, 3722 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville; **Tix:** Free; **Info:** 410-692-7887

North Carroll Book Club: An Evening of Poetry - 6:30 p.m. **Venue:** North Carroll Library, 2255 Hanover Pike, Greenmount; **Tix:** Free; **Info:** 410-386-4480