

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

2 W. 64th St. (212-277-7179)—Sept. 26-27: The great Southern-fried band **Little Feat** lost its driving force when its front man, Lowell George, died, in 1979, but it hasn't stopped cruising along. It keeps up a steady touring schedule and it is revered by music-business insiders. Perhaps a bit too much so, at least to judge from its latest album, "Join the Band." It features new versions of old favorites, with star turns by Jimmy Buffett, Dave Matthews, Emmylou Harris, Chris Robinson, Bob Seger, Vince Gill, Béla Fleck, Brooks and Dunn, and many others. The new versions are far too respectful of the originals, and the effort largely falls flat.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

Sixth Ave. at 50th St. (212-247-4777)—Sept. 25: The veteran country singer and current biodiesel advocate **Willie Nelson**.

S.O.B.'S

204 Varick St., at W. Houston St. (212-243-4940)—Sept. 30: **Raphael Saadiq** first hit it big twenty years ago with the new-jack swing of *Tony! Tom! Toné!* before going on to a successful producing and solo career. He's a smooth performer who is well versed in the history of soul music. His new album, "The Way I See It," has echoes of the Temptations, Booker T, and Bill Withers, but it is completely its own thing—so retro it's avant.

SPIEGELTENT

Pier 17, South Street Seaport (212-279-4200)—Sept. 30: **The Bird and the Bee** are Inara George, a singer (and the daughter of the late Little Feat leader, Lowell George), and Greg Kurstin, a producer and keyboardist who has worked with the likes of the Flaming Lips and Beck. The pair come from Los Angeles, where they've been perfecting a smooth pop sound that's indebted to vintage bossa nova, sixties girl groups, and contemporary hip-hop.

TERMINAL 5

610 W. 56th St. (212-582-6600)—Sept. 25-26: In the mid-eighties, Arizona's **Meat Puppets**, led by the brothers Curt and Cris Kirkwood, spliced blues, country, and psychedelia elements into its frantically punk guitar fray and reigned over a bizarre middle ground between the Grateful Dead and Black Flag. With the backing of Kurt Cobain, they had a touch of mainstream success, but Cris's drug addiction brought an end to that. The band soldiered on without him for a couple of albums before he cleaned up his act and rejoined the group, last year. Along for the ride are the noisy and influential indie favorites **Built to Spill** and **Dinosaur Jr.**

WEBSTER HALL

125 E. 11th St. (212-353-1600)—Sept. 24: **Calexico** is a captivating musical collective from Tucson that makes haunting, cinematic music steeped in the mythology of the Southwest. Simultaneously traditional and experimental, Calexico pushes the envelope of so-called post-rock, incorporating the folksy accessibility of country music. Its new album is "Carried to Dust." Sept. 26-27: The young men in the hard-driving Nashville band **Old Crow Medicine Show** deliver old-time country music as it's seldom before been heard. Their heartbreaking, plunky ballads and unfastened fiddle tunes are charged with the youthful vigor of punk rock. Their latest album, "Tennessee Pusher," was produced by Don Was and includes a cautionary tale of the dangers of contemporary drug use, the song "Methamphetamine."

WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE

Sept. 26: The electric guitarist **Prasanna** plays both classic music from the southern part of his native India and classic rock from the U.S. Half of this program will be devoted to the former and half to "Electric Ganesha Land," his 2006 tribute album to Jimi Hendrix. (Symphony Space, Broadway at 95th St.) Sept. 27: The Greek singer **Savina Yannatou**. (Symphony Space.) Sept. 28: The vocalist **Mor Karbasi**, a descendant of Moroccan and Persian Jews, performs songs from or inspired by the Jewish culture of fifteenth-century Spain. This afternoon show is her New York City debut. (Spiegel Tent, Pier 17, South Street Seaport. For more information about all shows, call 212-545-7536.)



"*Jenya in My Hotel Room, Ukraine, 2005*," by *Michal Chelbin*, at *Meislin*.

JAZZ AND STANDARDS

ALGONQUIN HOTEL

59 W. 44th St. (212-840-6800)—Sept. 23-Oct. 11: The vocalist **KT Sullivan** targets the enduring work of Jerome Kern.

BIRDLAND

315 W. 44th St. (212-581-3080)—Sept. 23-27: The Broadway diva **Betty Buckley** makes canny use of an uncommonly expansive repertoire, and she has a telepathic relationship with a great pianist, **Kenny Werner**.

BLUE NOTE

131 W. 3rd St., near Sixth Ave. (212-475-8592)—Sept. 23-24: The **Francisco Mela** quintet. The drummer Mela is joined by two strong front-line players: the pianist **Jason Moran** and the guitarist **Peter Bernstein**. Sept. 25-28: Celebrating a long-lasting musical partnership (as well as fifty years of marriage), the singer **Cleo Laine** and the saxophonist **John Dankworth** like their jazz buffed to an elegant sheen.

DIZZY'S CLUB COCA-COLA

Broadway at 60th St. (212-258-9595)—The Diet Coke Women in Jazz Festival continues this month, with **Nnenna Freelon**, in a salute to Billie Holiday (Sept. 24-28), the vocalist **Gretchen Parlato** (Sept. 29), and the soprano saxophonist **Jane Ira Bloom** (Sept. 30).

FEINSTEIN'S AT LOEWS REGENCY

540 Park Ave., at 61st St. (212-339-4095)—Sept. 23-Oct. 4: The pride of Long Island, **Nikki Blonsky**. Continuing her adventures in pluck, the nineteen-year-old, who became a star thanks to her role in the recent movie version of "Hairspray," storms the cabaret circuit.

FESTIVAL OF NEW TRUMPET MUSIC

The gathering closes with a highlight, as a host of first-class trumpeters and supporting musicians gather at the Jazz Standard for a tribute to the late, lamented **Woody Shaw**, a genius of post-bop trumpet. The drummer **Victor Lewis**, a longtime

Shaw collaborator, coordinated the effort. The soloists include **Ingrid Jensen** and **Tim Hagans** (Sept. 25), **Brian Lynch**, **Paolo Fresu**, and **Terrell Stafford** (Sept. 26), **Nick Roseboro** and **Sean Jones** (Sept. 27), and **Dave Douglas**, **Randy Brecker**, and **Josh Evans** (Sept. 28). (For more information, visit www.fontmusic.org.)

IRIDIUM

1650 Broadway, at 51st St. (212-582-2121)—Sept. 25-28: The guitarist **Stanley Jordan** and his trio. Mondays belong to the electric-guitar innovator **Les Paul**.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER

Broadway at 60th St. (212-721-6500)—Sept. 26-27: The guitarist **Lionel Loueke** and the bassist **Richard Bona** share both African roots (Loueke is from Benin, Bona is from Cameroon) and virtuosic control of their instruments.

JAZZ STANDARD

116 E. 27th St. (212-576-2232)—Sept. 24: **Daniilo Pérez's** current string-laden release, "Across the Crystal Sea," is too slick for its own good. The pianist is capable of sharper improvising than is found on the album, and his playing is better served in a small group. His trio here utilizes the bassist **Ben Street** and the drummer **Adam Cruz**. Sept. 25-28: A tribute to **Woody Shaw** (see the Festival of New Trumpet Music). Sept. 30: The saxophonist **Donny McCaslin**, a mainstay of **Dave Douglas's** quintet, takes the stage with a demanding bass-and-drums backing. It's a sparse setting that produced rewarding results on his new album, "Recommended Tools."

VILLAGE VANGUARD

178 Seventh Ave., at 11th St. (212-255-4037)—Sept. 23-28: **The Bad Plus**—the pianist **Ethan Iverson**, the bassist **Reid Anderson**, and the drummer **David King**—haven't turned out to be the future of jazz. But the three still have plenty of tricks up their sleeves, and their canny originals are of more enduring interest than the rock adaptations that gained them fame. The **Vanguard Jazz Orchestra** holds sway on Mondays.