

Double ecstasy from Cook and Kalabash

By Wade Gibbons

THE opening of the 2002 Barbados Jazz Festival at the Sunbury Plantation House last Monday was, in a word, spectacular.

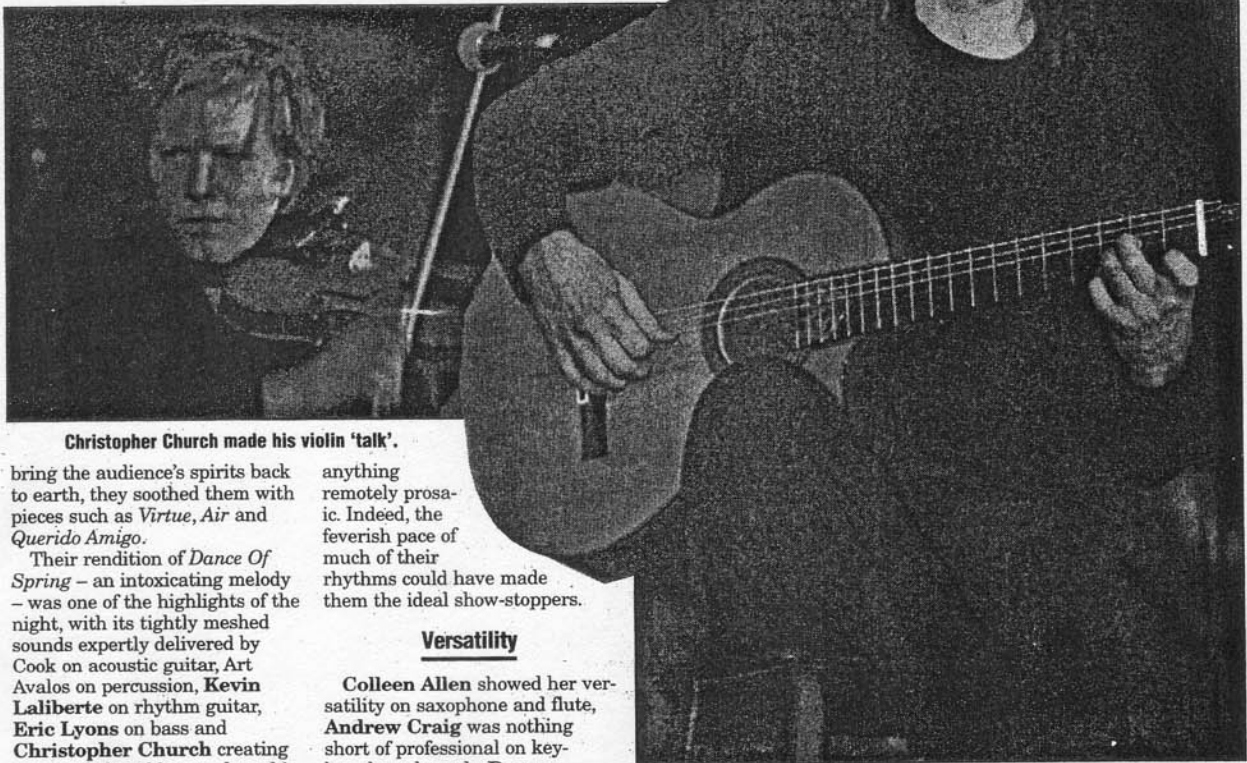
The lighted setting of the plantation grounds always adds something rather special to any event hosted there, and the treat which fans enjoyed in the form of the Kalabash and Jesse Cook bands was virtually double ecstasy.

Jesse Cook and his talented entourage brought some unique sounds to Barbados' east. They were simply different from what can often obtain in the jazz genre. Although some might suggest that theirs was a sound which was a compilation of previously explored moods and tones, it was this same reason that made them refreshingly unique.

Musical drive

One detected more than a whiff of Latin fire, a definite touch of oriental mysticism and a general musical drive that was patterned as though made for a gathering of animated Spanish gypsies frolicking around a midnight fire.

The band often moved the crowd into spontaneous shakes, wiggles and stomping of the feet with selections such as *Byzantium* and *Viva*. And as if to



Christopher Church made his violin 'talk'.

bring the audience's spirits back to earth, they soothed them with pieces such as *Virtue*, *Air* and *Querido Amigo*.

Their rendition of *Dance Of Spring* – an intoxicating melody – was one of the highlights of the night, with its tightly meshed sounds expertly delivered by Cook on acoustic guitar, Art Avalos on percussion, Kevin Laliberte on rhythm guitar, Eric Lyons on bass and Christopher Church creating some unbelievable sounds on his violin.

The Kalabash players earlier opened the show and though the texture of their sounds might have been more familiar, theirs was by no means a journey into

anything remotely prosaic. Indeed, the feverish pace of much of their rhythms could have made them the ideal show-stoppers.

Versatility

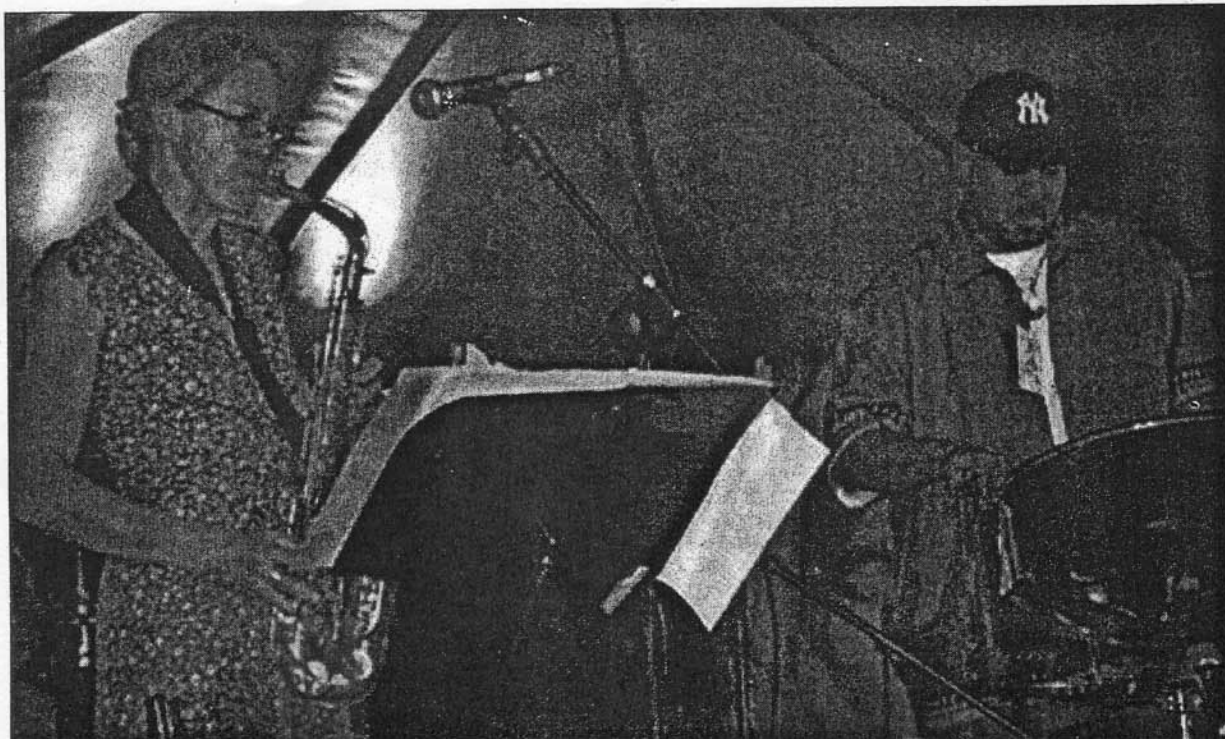
Colleen Allen showed her versatility on saxophone and flute, Andrew Craig was nothing short of professional on keyboards and vocals, Darren Shepherd coaxed some exquisite sounds from the steelpan, Tony Pierre created a frenzy on percussion, while Rick Brown's bass provided a controlling influence.

Jesse Cook was outstanding.

The Caribbean influence on the Canadian-based band was quite evident during their renditions of *Island Son*, *Goatmout*, *Pan Rebellion* and *From Whence*. In

fact, the latter selection could have been considered their ancestral piece for the night.

Wonderful night, fabulous music!



Kalabash's Colleen Allen and Darren Sheppard as they created some sweet harmony.

Film Society to present 'Flame'

THE Cave Hill Film Society commences the start of its new season with a screening of the Zimbabwean film "Flame" on January 25.

Set in the 1970s, during the Chimurenga, Zimbabwe's war of liberation, this film caused an uproar in its home country for its unflinching portrayal of the situation of women.

Focusing on the lives of two young women, *Flame* and *Liberty*, who join the armed struggle, it offended the War Veterans' Association by depicting the rape of one of them by a male comrade. Beyond that, it points out continuing divisions within Zimbabwean society still being played out in the run-up to the imminent presidential election.

As usual, the fortnightly screenings will take place in the Arts Lecture Theatre of Cave Hill campus. Showtime is