

# Monka Hatch rino/jazz at the Green Rooster

Plus: Boots Mussulli tribute, Keys to the City, jazz in Elm Park

By Chet Williamson

**Y**OU could call her a classical singer, but she sings jazz. So call her a classical jazz singer. But she sings Brazilian bossa novas like Astrid Gilberto. So call her a classical jazz nova. That has a nice ring to it but Monica Hatch would be happy if you simply called her a singer.

"Jazz to classical? It's not a difficult transition for me," she said of her chameleon-like ability to shift stylistically. "The transition is easy because I rarely perform both styles in one concert."

Transition and versatility define Hatch as a singer. Since receiving her master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, she has been a featured soloist for many of the area's finest choruses and orchestras, and has gigged at the region's best jazz clubs.

Wearing her jazz suit, Hatch will appear at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 14, at the Green Rooster Coffeehouse in United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. She will be accompanied by pianist Paul Broadnax and bassist Bob Simonelli.

The hiring of Broadnax offers a double treat. Besides being an accomplished

pianist, Broadnax is a singer of national import.

"We'll probably do a couple of duos," Hatch said. "I'm thinking of doing a tune that he often does, 'Don't Misunderstand.' A beautiful tune. Maybe a cut from the CD that we do together, 'Anthropology.'"

The CD is *If You Never Come to Me*, her debut, on the Worcester-based Brownstone label. The disc showcases her versatility, offering a mix of bossa nova and standard jazz repertoire. Broadnax plays piano throughout.

The voices of Hatch and Broadnax offer an intriguing coupling.

"We usually sing in the same key," she said. "I just happen to be an octave higher than he is so we don't have to worry about transposing tunes very much at all. Our voices match nicely. He's got the rich, lower bass and I've got more of the soprano range. And he harmonizes really nicely with me."

**BOOTS IN BRONZE:** The late, great saxophonist Henry "Boots" Mussulli will be honored in a special Father's Day dedication at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 15. A monument with a plaque reading "Milford's Music Man" will be set not far from the former Mussulli home on Pond Street, across from the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Milford.

"He was one of the finest alto saxophonists in the country," said longtime

friend and fellow musician Emil Haddad.

Mussulli, who was best known for his work with Stan Kenton, was a brilliant soloist whose melodic ideas always read as tight and concise as gold on a horn. Born and raised in Milford, Mussulli directed a youth orchestra and taught privately there. Dave McKenna began his career working with Mussulli. Horn man Ken Sawyer, a longtime student of Mussulli's, will present the Sawyer Saxophone Student Workshop with pianist Teesha Sawyer, bassist Bunny Price and drummer Dave Karacrus. According to Haddad, many of "the cats" who played with Mussulli, as well as family and friends, will be there to celebrate his memory.

**28 KEYS TO THE CITY:** *Keys to the City* is a double album to benefit the American Cancer Society and features many of New England's finest pianists, including Dave McKenna, Paul Broadnax, Paul Schmeling and Ray Santisi.

The album was produced by Eric Preusser, a drummer who played on all of the album's tracks. He is also the owner of Magnetic Music records, a Boston-based label that released the disc. *Keys to the City* is a follow-up to *In Our Time*, a Boston jazz music sampler, which also benefited the American Cancer Society.

"I lost my father and sister to cancer," Preusser said. "I was in the middle of producing *In Our Time*, at that time, and it



Monica Hatch

was going to be a for-profit venture. I decided to change the angle. It was a way for me to grieve."

*Keys to the City* is a double disc that features original work by the pianists. It's available in your better jazz-stocked record stores or by calling (617) 354-7705.

**JAZZ IN THE PARK:** Two jazz groups slated for the Thursday-night concerts at Elm Park. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., July 17, Dom V. and the Swing Out Big Band will perform. And on July 31, Toni Ballard and the Bevan Manson Trio will play songs off her new CD, *I'm Your Pal*. •