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Entertainment

Herbie Hancock

Jazz legend performs eight song set of jazz and funk

Story by Eric Carroll
Photograph by Lizz Giordiano

THE LEGENDARY HERBIE HANCOCK DAZZLED IU on April 7 with his quartet, which boasted as members Terri Lyne Carrington on drums, Scott Colley on upright bass and Gary Thomas on tenor saxophone and flute. The evening consisted of pieces Hancock had written, which were then chopped up and played in fragments. Much of the music was quite free, without strict melodic boundaries. The ensemble took advantage of this and played a captivating show.

“I was just blown away,” freshman Brian Buch said.

“[The group] was so open and so free in everything they played. They conveyed different moods and feelings with their instrumentation and beautiful melodic contours and harmonies.”

Carrington played rhythmic and syncopated drum beats that kept the audience nodding heads and tapping feet. The bass lines emitted from Scott Colley’s instrument filled the auditorium with soul. The audience could not help but feel the music flow through the auditorium. Many of the audience members found themselves clapping along and snapping their fingers.

Hancock started the show talking to his audience. He mentioned his relationship with IU professor and jazz legend David Baker and how it had been too long since he had visited Indiana University. There were constant shouts from the balcony of requests for “Watermelon man” and “Chameleon.” Hancock paused for a minute and laughed as he replied, “I just played ‘Cantaloupe Island.’ I can’t play two songs about melons together.”

He then proceeded into a new song, which he transitioned into “Chameleon,” receiving a loud applause from the audience.

Hancock was a legendary jazz figure. He had been

transcending musical genres since his first album *Takin’ Off* (1963). Since then, he had released thirty-three albums and played with the likes of Miles Davis, Chick Corea, Wayne Shorter, Stevie Wonder and many others. The music of Oscar Peterson and Bill Evans was a big influence on him. He played with Miles Davis all through his career and was featured on the Davis albums *Bitches Brew* and *In a Silent Way*. Miles Davis said in his autobiography: “Herbie was the step after Bud Powell and Thelonious Monk, and I haven’t heard anybody yet who has come after him.”

Hancock had not been simply a jazz legend. With his unique style and composing he transcended into the Funk genre of the 1970s and 80s.

“With the help of John Coltrane and Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock revolutionized music. It was inspiring to see a living legend,” sophomore Joel Berk said.

Since then he had found ways to further his innovative music by releasing *Future2Future*, an album strongly influenced by the late nineties explosion of hip-hop and drum n’ bass music.

“He fused the science of jazz and the power of funk,” sophomore Blake Ward said.

Hancock had always found strong musicians with unique sounds. Compiled with his knack for creating new ideas, his latest endeavor with Colley, Carrington and Thomas was an evening that spoke to the searcher in every person listening. Hancock put ingenuity and the art of creating as a whole into new perspective when he said, “Creativity and artistic endeavors have a mission that goes far beyond just making music for the sake of music.”

Hancock, throughout his long career, had made a profound impact on the art of music, the music industry and many people’s lives. 🌟

Jazz legend Herbie Hancock performs with his quartet, drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, bassist Scott Colley and saxophonist Gary Thomas, at the IU Auditorium on April 7.

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