

# PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

## JAZZ

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forming Arts.

Now 65, Jarreau remains an indefatigable performer. His latest disc, "Accentuate the Positive," is his first true jazz album in nearly 30 years.

Of the kazillion sax players sloughing in the instrumental pop music ("smooth jazz") morass, James is one of the few who plays with any semblance of soul.

Wilson, once the darling of straight-ahead jazz lovers (who can still put it down when she wants) has found a wider audience with her "folky pop blues" motif, unleashed by uber-producer Craig Street, who's also worked with k.d. lang and Lizz Wright (52nd Street and Parkside Avenue, 8 p.m., \$29-\$58, 215-893-1999, [www.manncenter.org](http://www.manncenter.org)).

Finally, saxophonist **Dave Koz** and Friends (**Jeffrey Osbourne**, **Marc Antoine** and **Praful**) are at an unusual spot for a "smooth jazz" show Thursday: the Merriam Theater, usually home to "Oh, Momma, I Want to Sing but the Lord Won't Let Me Until I Find Me a Good Man"-type plays (250 S. Broad St., 8 p.m., \$45-\$55, 215-732-5446).

"**Studio Jams**" the series on BET Jazz: The Jazz Channel that captures jazz and blues musicians as they create and compose songs in a recording studio, has been renewed for a third season.

Ace Entertainment, a Narberth-based company, produces the series for Black Entertainment Television. Each show features a collection of artists — some performing with each other for the first time — who write and jam together.

Arturo Sandoval, G.E. Smith, Vernon Reid, Jeff Lorber, Larry Carlton, Bela Fleck, Derek Trucks, Joey DeFrancesco and Pat Martino are among those who have participated in the show.

Many of the sessions are taped at Milkboy Recording Studios in Ardmore. Editing is done at Modern Video Productions in Center City. Last year, the series won a Silver Telly Award for outstanding national cable TV program.

"Studio Jams" airs Thursdays and Sundays on BET Jazz in parts of Philadelphia on Urban CableWorks. ★



Dave Koz and Friends will do "smooth jazz" at the Merriam Theater.