

American jazz greats wow HCMC audience



Jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter, along with artists from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz won standing ovations from genre aficionados in HCMC Saturday night.

During their 15-minute performance at Ben Thanh Theatre in District 1, pianist and composer Herbie Hancock and saxophonist Wayne Shorter led the audience into the world filled with soft melodies and strong beats of jazz.

“The solos were great, and so were their harmonies, when they played together, it brought out their best,” remarked jazz enthusiast Anh Tuan, who is editor of a music show on Vietnam Television.

Hancock, born in Chicago, is a jazz icon who has been an integral part of every jazz movement since his arrival on the scene in 1960s. His recordings during the 1970s combined electric jazz with funk and rock sounds in an innovative style that influenced a whole decade of music.

Hancock has received an Academy Award for his Round Midnight and 10 Grammy awards. Many of his compositions are modern standards that have had a profound effect on all styles of modern music.

Seventy-two-year-old Wayne Shorter is regarded as one of the most significant and prolific performers and composers in jazz and modern music.

Shorter has received substantial recognition from his peers, including eight Grammy awards and 13 other Grammy nominations.

The once in a life time performance by the legendary jazz duo was accompanied by internationally acclaimed vocalist Nnenna Freelon, and the eight gifted young jazz musicians from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

Freelon, with five Grammy nominations to her credit, stood out in the performance. The audience gave the vocalist rousing applause whenever she appeared on the stage.

(Reported by Nguyen Van – Compiled by Thu Thuy)