

Jerry Tachoir music's got good vibes

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Staff Writer

Jazz vibist Jerry Tachoir returns to Nashville this week with new acclaim and a new name.

Tachoir and his quartet have been touring the jazz festivals of Europe this month, notably the prestigious Montreux event that takes place annually in Switzerland.

"I performed there in my high school days," Tachoir recalled.

It was with a group of Pittsburgh Symphony people.

"Then I was there two years ago with [guitarist] Van Manakas. This time we're taking the quartet," he added shortly before departing.

Said group keyboardist Marlene Desbiens Tachoir, "It's my

first trip to Europe. I'm excited."

Her husband and musical collaborator wisecracked, "I'm taking a translator" — Marlene is a native of Quebec who is fluent in French. The other two members of Jerry's quartet are bassist Roy Vogt and drummer Wayne Kilius.

The ensemble has shifted members several times since the Tachoirs founded it shortly after they moved to Nashville in 1979. Until now the group has usually been billed as the Jerry Tachoir Quartet.

"We've got a real name for the band now," he said. "It's Tashwah Jazz instead of the Jerry Tachoir Quartet. This way, you have to pronounce it right."

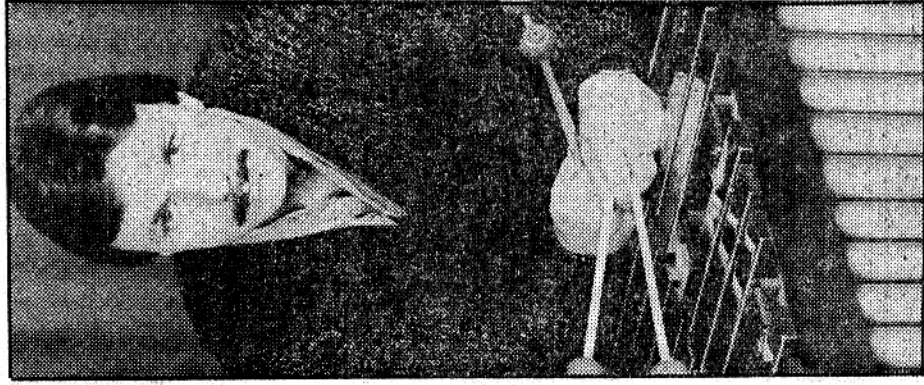
The name reflects a slight shift in musical style.

"It's a new acoustic framework with boosted warmth and orchestration" because of his electronic tinkering with his mallet sound and her keyboard synthesizer augmentation.

"We've been doing a lot more production on our new material," said Marlene, "and I'm getting back into some serious writing."

Tash-wah Jazz plans to record an LP this fall. This will be the Tachoirs' fourth collection, following 1979's *Forces*, 1982's *Carnavas* and 1986's *Jerry Tachoir and Friends*.

Last year, he became the first vibist to release an instructional video. He has been a clinician for Ludwig since age 16, one of



Jerry Tachoir

Entertaining at Cheekwood

the youngest musicians ever signed for such work. A clinician tours with the instrument maker's financial support to universities where he performs concerts, does demonstrations and holds concerts.

Jerry Tachoir first rose to no-

toriety in his hometown as a 14-year-old member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Like her husband, Marlene Tachoir is classically trained. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Creative Studies for Keyboard Voicings*.

Tash-wah Jazz was booked to play Montreux July 15. On the day before, the act was scheduled to be in Holland for a performance at the Northsea Jazz Festival. French and Canadian dates have also been lined up.

Prior to leaving for Europe Tash-wah Jazz performed at the American Federation of Musicians national convention in Nashville.

"We want to let everyone know that Nashville is more than country music, the music it's known and loved for," said Jerry. "We represent Nashville, too."

The Music City jazz community welcomes the Tachoirs and Tash-wah Jazz home a week from today with a 6 p.m. concert on the Cheekwood lawn. Patrons are encouraged to bring picnics, blankets and lawn chairs.

Prior to the show the Cheekwood Fine Arts Center will host a 4 p.m. talk by Harvard University scholar Graeme M. Boone on Jazz: *An American Music*.

In addition to Tash-wah Jazz, the concert will feature the Nashville debut of the Ensemble Europa. Tickets are \$6 in advance from TicketMaster or \$7 at the gate. ■