

MUSIC PREVIEW

JERRY TACHOIR

- At: South Park Performance Area
- Date: June 16 at 8 p.m.
- Tickets: Free.

cal, "Pennsylvania U.S.A." Hope was that it would wind up back on Broadway, but they opened in Hershey, just at the time nearby Three Mile Island became an almost-nuclear disaster.

Lacking the glow of success — also lacking a glow from fallout — the suddenly free Tachoir was told by friends to check out Music City, though he didn't figure Nashville was the place for a jazzman. That's where Minnie Pearl lived.

But his buddies convinced him that the yee-haw country stuff was for tourists, that Nashville was a definite locus of the music biz. It helped that his wife (pianist/composer/bandmate) Marlene, originally from Quebec, didn't like New York anyway, so they headed for Tennessee, which turned out to be "one of the most happening places" he'd been. He's been there ever since. His parents now live there, too.

Marlene, by the way, received first and third prizes in the ninth and tenth International Jazz Competition Contest in Monaco and writes most of the group's music. Her book, "Creative Studies for Keyboard Voicings," is scheduled for publication. Their bassman, Roy Vogt, is a professor at Belmont College and has his own video available. Drummer/percussionist Dan Needham rounds out the Group Tachoir lineup.

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WM's Tachoir Comes Home To Perform

BY DAVID SALLINGER
Daily News Entertainment Editor
Jerry Tachoir is coming home to play.

To be accurate, he'll be playing where he used to play — in South Park, where the West Mifflin mallet artist spent many (sometimes even non-rhythmic) hours.

This time, with The Group Tachoir, he'll be working out on vibraphone and related percussion instruments in a free concert next Friday at 8 at South Park Performance Area, under the auspices of Mellon Jazz Festival.

It's been a half-dozen years since Tachoir has played in his home town, the last time a concert with Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra. While putting the finishing touches on his latest album, he recalled how he wound up in Nashville rather than his native Mon Valley.

Graduate of West Mifflin South High School, Tachoir became the first to receive a bachelor's degree at Berklee College of Music in Boston in applied music for vibraphone and mallet instruments (he later became the first to release an instructional vibraphone video).

After graduation, he went south, but only as far as New York, where he secured a percussion job in the pit band of a touring musi-

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tionist Dan Needham rounds out the Group Tachoir lineup.

Doesn't matter where you go, you're likely to bump into someone you know, or someone who knows who you know. Like Tachoir's vibes/marimba teacher Babe Fabrizi, who, it seems, everyone either studied with or visited in his Wilkinsburg store.

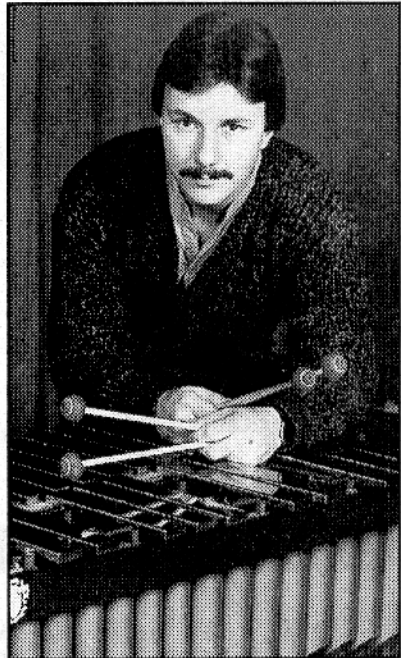
Tachoir is no stranger to teaching, either. Adjunct professor of jazz improvisation at Belmont College in Nashville, he's also logged a couple of decades teaching mallet work, arranging, composition and improv at Berklee, operates clinics all over the place, and has gathered his knowledge into the

books "Contemporary Mallet Method" and "Solo Vibraphone Collection."

After South Park ("I used to hang out there a lot"), Tachoir will be back in Europe, where his recognizability quotient is higher than in his natal land. He'll be playing the North Sea Festival in Holland, moving on to Finland, Italy, wherever the intelligently sequenced tour takes him.

"Jazz over there is kind of like the popular music of here," Tachoir explained, noting that, in countries with less television-watching, videos and computer games, music is a greater draw.

Radio in Europe is more eclectic; one might hear a rock tune, then a jazz piece, something classical, etc. Therefore, artists like him have more access to the airwaves and a much larger audience. Whenever jazz concerts are announced, "they fill up," even the more experimental shows. Europeans "are very open-minded. They give things a chance."



Jerry Tachoir

Former Mon-Yough buddies might want to take a chance on his earlier albums, "Forces," "Canvas," "Jerry Tachoir and Friends," "Best of Montreux '89" and "Tachoir — Vision."