

LARRY LEWIS - VOCAL VIRTUOSO

A splendidly well-rounded male jazz singer, (sometimes considered an endangered species), is the Capitol District's own Larry Lewis.

On January 18 at Justin's with the Hal Miller Quartet, he engagingly projected the wistful feeling of the Johnny Burke/Jimmy Van Heusen "Imagination"; and his sensitive, but dynamic phrasing convincingly captured the haunting drama of Thelonious Monk's beautiful "Round Midnight".

On medium and uptempo selections, he swung in relaxed, but powerful integration with the finely driven rhythm section. A moving version of Oliver Nelson's classic "Stolen Moments", with singer Mark Murphy's lyrics, paid fitting homage to his influence by that master vocalist. His spirited, but controlled delivery of Miles Davis' "All Blues" pleasingly evoked the memory of many unforgettable performances of this gripping song by another of his inspirations, the late Joe Williams.

However, the ultimate barometer was simply the enthusiastic reaction of the full house, many of who stayed for all three sets.