

Brownman
Electryc Trio
present a
Thriller tribute
this weekend.



Thriller tribute? Can't beat it

It's close to midnight and something evil's lurking in the dark. Under the moonlight, you see a sight that almost stops your heart. OK, OK, I'll stop quoting lyrics from *Thriller* but it seems appropriate considering that Halloween's almost upon us. Here-with, two Halloween-themed concerts with a twist definitely worth catching.

THRILLER NIGHT!

Given its adventurous nature, I'm not surprised that the Brownman Electryc Trio has decided to celebrate Halloween by covering songs from Michael Jackson's *Thriller*.

"Doesn't Halloween and *Thriller* go hand in hand?"



trumpeter Brownman asks. "Surely I can't be the only one who thinks that! When I was a kid my mom would often put that record on, on Halloween. There's a spooky element to the title track that just screams Halloween."

Jazz musicians have a long history of covering popular songs — check sax giant John Coltrane's version of *My Favourite Things*, trumpeter Miles Davis did *Time After Time*, and several artists including guitarist Pat Mar-

tino have covered *Sunny* — so it's not extraordinary that the BET, which won the 2007 Canadian National Jazz Award for Electric Jazz Group of the Year, has set its collective sight on Jackson.

"On Sunday we'll be doing the same thing except that we'll be using those seminal tunes from *Thriller* as frameworks for creating something entirely new," Brown explains. "We'll use the bass lines, melody and harmonic progressions that MJ created, but we'll be collectively reinterpreting and reworking his music in the moment. Each tune will be a journey of its own."

He adds that initial bass lines, like the one that anchors

Beat It, "will start that tune off, and I'll state the melody similarly to how MJ would have sung it, but then the song — bass line included — becomes a framework for improvisational reinterpretation."

Each piece will begin like the original, but no one's predicting where the song will go after that.

"The spirit of collective, real-time reinvention is at the core of the Brownman Electryc Trio's sound," Brown says. "If people are expecting sonic photocopies of what's on (*Thriller*), they'll be sadly disappointed, but if they're up for taking a journey into the deep end of the interpretive pool, then we promise a funkafied ride."

8:30 p.m. \$15. Trane Studio. 964 Bathurst St.

CREEPY CLASSICS

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra is getting into the Halloween spirit in fine style this weekend.

Its Creepy Classics program, which is part of its Light Classics Concerts Series, features "famously haunting and recognizable classical works connected to All Hallows' Eve."

Conducted by Alastair Willis and featuring pianist Todd Yaniv, the performances include the magical *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* — a portion of which can be heard during the opening of Stanley Kubrick's

horror classic *The Shining* — and Bach's ominous *Toccatina in D Minor*.

Being a big fan of Alfred Hitchcock, I'm also looking forward to the TSO performing *Prelude from Psycho* and *The Nightmare from Vertigo*.

Oh, you're encouraged to wear a costume to the concerts so here's your chance to leave the natty threads at home.

Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at Roy Thomson Hall. Tickets range from \$30 to \$82 and can be bought by visiting tso.ca or by calling 416-593-4828.

Visit Errol's blog at www.musicinthemessage.blogspot.com.

Now
HEAR
This!

Errol's can't-miss list:

1 The eighth annual **Get Your Freak On!** Halloween party at Supermarket happens Saturday. DJ's Numeric and Serious spin. \$10 before 11 p.m. and \$15 after. 268 Augusta Ave. 416-840-0501.

2 **Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley** bring their sweet blues to the Melody Bar in The Gladstone Hotel Thursday. Free. 8 p.m. 1214 Queen W. 416-531-4635.

3 **The Merchants of Bollywood**, the glitzy song-and-dance spectacle that's guaranteed to be a treat for the eyes, opens at the Sony Centre Thursday and runs until Nov. 14. To buy tickets, call 416-872-2262.