

NIGHT MOVES

Jazz peers respect her talent

The Red Lion tavern is going out on a shaky limb again, this time to bring in Emily Remler, a rare breed of musician who is probably an unknown to most of Spokane's music followers.

Remler is one of the few female jazz guitarists in the country. And though she's been received enthusiastically by jazz peers and jazz audiences alike, she is hardly a household word or a national name.

But a lack of wide recognition

in such a narrow field is not surprising. Jazz players deal with that all the time. More important is the high esteem in which she is held by her musician equals. And there are many signs of that esteem.

Remler was named "Young Woman of the Year" in Jazz magazine by noted music critic and historian Leonard Feather in 1981. She was also voted top guitarist as an "Artist Deserving Wider Recognition" in downbeat magazine's poll for 1982, '83, '84 and '85.

The respect of Remler's jazz compatriots is evident in the musicians who choose to accompany her. She plays regularly with bassist Eddie Gomez, drummer Bob Moses and trumpeter John d'Earth. And she has collaborated with many jazz greats, including Herb Ellis, Larry Coryell and Hank Jones. "Together," an album she made with Coryell in 1985, brought "Collaborators of the Year" honors from Feather.

At the Red Lion, Remler will be accompanied by bassist Kelly Roberty of Bozeman, Mont. Spokane audiences may have heard the excellent jazz bassist during his appearances with the Nell/Roberty/Edwards trio at the Lion. The threesome also backed saxophonist James Moody at the Coeur d'Alene Jazzfest and the Lion last summer.

Remler, who tours regularly, probably wouldn't be appearing in Spokane, if not for her ties to Roberty. The two team up for tours



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Jazz guitarist Emily Remler plays Wednesday night at the Red Lion tavern with bassist Kelly Roberty.

every year. Remler and Roberty will appear Wednesday night at 8:30. Admission is \$5 at door.

"Obviously, we're not doing this for the money," says Lion owner Craig Heimbigner, "because we're giving up a jam night, and we always have a crowd for that. But we've had good success with Roberty and the trio, so we trusted his judgment. And people who know jazz think she's great."

Accolades for the 30-year-old Remler date back to her graduation from Berklee College of Music in 1976. She's played clubs in New Orleans, where she once lived, and she was a regular at the Blue Note in Manhattan, where she now resides.

After performing all over the world, Remler is still very much in demand on the jazz circuit. She continues to surprise jazz aficionados with her invention, skill and combination of jazz classics and original

compositions. Jazz fans shouldn't miss this one.

Other happenings:

■ A reggae dance with recorded music will be held at the Gonzaga University Student Union Building tonight from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets for the dance, which is part of a three-day celebration in honor of Martin Luther King, are \$1. Proceeds will go to the Martin Luther King Center in Spokane.

■ The Hindquarter, under new management, will feature Mercy as the house band Thursday through Sunday. Saxophonist Steve Barranco is now playing with Mercy. No cover.

■ Blue Tattoo, with Rick Eacret on drums, Dirk Schwartz on lead guitar and vocals, Dennis Dunham on bass and Bruce Ambrose on rhythm guitar and vocals, will play the Eagle's Landing in Cheney tonight and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. The cover is \$2.

■ Headed home after a long day at the shop? Stop off at the Chef restaurant where singer-guitarist Ginny Jackson is entertaining in the newly remodeled lounge, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Great renditions of old, seldom-heard standards like "So Rare," "Little Coquette" and "Begin the Beguine."

Notes from abroad:

■ The China Gate's commitment to live music was brief, to say the least. After two days of live music and an empty lounge, the owners decided to go back to recorded disco music. Curt Kemp, the bar manager, and Ellen Spease, the assistant bar manager, who were planning to book local bands, no longer work at the restaurant and lounge.