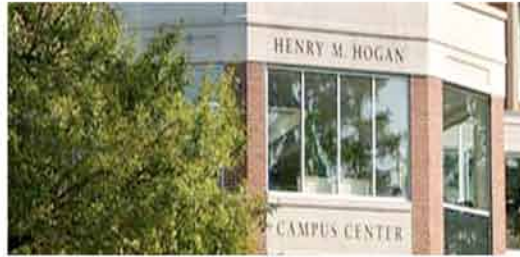


Worcester Telegram & Gazette (MA)
REMLER GIVES STELLAR SHOW
February 10, 1990
Section: ENTERTAINMENT
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By Peter Landsdowne



Jazz Worcester, the city's 6th annual festival celebrating America's only indigenous musical art form, continued last night with a sterling concert by guitarist Emily Remler, who drew about 300 jazz fans to the Hogan Campus Center at Holy Cross College.

Ms. Remler planned to play one long set before dashing off to Nightstage in Cambridge for the last set with pianist David Benoit, with whom she's touring. The news that Kenny Werner, her pianist, was stranded on the Mass Pike and would not be available for the Holy Cross gig gave that one long set an unanticipated twist. Forced to perform with just electric bassist Paul Socolow and drummer Rick Sebastian, Ms. Remler gamely worked her way through 75 minutes of music that ranged from standards to original material penned by the guitarist herself.

She counted off the standard "Yesterdays" at a brisk pace and moved deftly into a lengthy improvisation that revealed her debt to the late jazz guitarist Wes Montgomery, a major influence on her style. Her latest album for the Concord Jazz label, for example, is titled "East to Wes."

HOLDS HER OWN

Ms. Remler is no Montgomery clone, however. Original compositions from her new album demonstrated that she can definitely hold her own as a guitarist. Her original "Majestic Dance," a catchy composition with a Brazilian beat, featured a thumb-plucked bass line and a finger-chorded melody. "Blues for Herb," on the other hand, was a straight-ahead cooker that paid tribute to jazz guitarist Herb Ellis, another influence.

Ms. Remler also has listened to rockers like Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page. Her rock roots surfaced on "You Know What I'm Sayin'," a bluesy fusion effort with an attractive bridge. This tune was devoid of the usual "fuzak" boredom, thanks to Ms. Remler's complex but accessible melody line and a brilliant guitar solo that drew some sustained applause from the enthusiastic crowd.