

# Pianist takes time out for Brubeck

By Jim Beal Jr.

Express-News Arts Writer

Try to keep all of this straight.

John Salmon is a piano player from Fort Worth. He teaches music in North Carolina. And he's made it a point to delve deeply into the jazz of California-bred Dave Brubeck.

Salmon, 44, an associate professor of music at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, will be at UTSA at 7:30 tonight to do a free concert, "An Evening of Dave Brubeck," in the Arts Building recital hall.

## An Evening of Dave Brubeck

■ **Featuring:** John Salmon, associate professor of music, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

■ **Where:** Recital Hall, Arts Building, UTSA, Loop 1604 at I-10 West

■ **When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday

■ **Admission:** Free

classical music and jazz," Salmon said. "By the time I was 16, I was a union-card carrying



John Salmon presents 'An Evening of Dave Brubeck' tonight at UTSA.

musician, working everything from bar mitzvahs to circuses. My first gig was with a Gypsy named Bundy Vargas."

Salmon's fascination with the music of Brubeck started early.

"My older sister was a member of a jazz record club," he explained. "They say when I

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was 5, all on my own, I would go into my sister's record collection and pull out 'Time Out' and 'Time Further Out' and play them on my parents' stereo."

When he started taking piano lessons at 6, Salmon got into the Brubeck piano books.

Brubeck, a pianist, composer and band leader, has a phenomenal catalog. Since the '40s, he has recorded a mind-boggling array of albums, including 52 for the Columbia label alone. Known for his use of poly-rhythms and polytonality (playing in two keys at once), Brubeck is one player for whom there have

never been musical boundaries.

But has he received the respect he deserves?

"No," Salmon said. "There are jazz textbooks that give him a paragraph or two while giving Duke Ellington and Miles Davis four pages. "One reason why — he's still alive. As soon as Thelonious Monk died, the perception of him changed. And Dave Brubeck takes this classical stuff seriously. Also, a lot of musicians have resented the immense popularity of Dave Brubeck. Brubeck never tried to do what was hip."

The first part of the program will feature "Glances," "Tritonis" and "The Salmon Strikes."

The second half includes "Bluette," "Mr. Fats," "In Your Own Sweet Way," "The Duke" and "It's a Raggy Waltz." "Straight jazz," was Salmon's description.