



THE GROUP, ALIVE! will be performing in concert with Terry Garthwaite Saturday at Mount Holyoke.

Concert preview

Alive! and Terry Garthwaite promise end to winter blues

By BARBARA STACK

SOUTH HADLEY — Saturday's Variations, Inc. production at Mount Holyoke College's Chapen Auditorium (seating 1,200) is going to be hot, hot, hot. Alive! a West coast women's jazz quintet thrilled three sellout audiences when they were in town in December. Local reviewer and jazzwoman Jill Turner wrote: "the quintet has developed the ability to weave rhythm and dynamic changes with the sensitivity of a masseuse."

Terry Garthwaite has been tops for almost 10 years now, ever since Joy of Cooking, the

first successful rock and country band lead by women. Critic Robert Christgau said, "There is no better improvisatory singer in rock." Pioneer Valley Folklore Society President Deb Radway fondly recalls Terry's recent folk tour with Rosalie Sorrels and Bobbi Louise Hawkins. But more and more Terry is emerging as a jazz vocalist (guitarist, and songwriter) who commands (literally. She has a real "boss" vocal presence) a range of styles and vocal colors from blues to bebop, country to rock and roll that will knock your winter socks off.

Terry Garthwaite will open with Alive! drummer Barbara Borden, Susanne Vincenza on acoustic bass and cello, and sax player Tucki Bailey. Alive! will do its magic with and around its lead vocalist, rhiannonm termed by Village Voice critic Nat Hentoff "extraordinarily inventive and flexible." She's also been called "extraterrestrial." What's going to happen Saturday night is that rhiannon and Terry are going to sing together in a 21-mike extravaganza. And you can be sure that these two masters of improvisation power, and feeling are going to cook in South Hadley.