

Get Jazzed for Dad's Day

Ethnic influence: Lederman's music is known for its Latin influences.

IF YOU GO

The Beth Lederman Jazz Quartet performs at Remington's Lounge at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 N. Scottsdale Road, at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$7 for Jazz in AZ members, \$10 for non-members. Info: 254-4545.

By Betty Webb
Get Out

Jazz pianist Beth Lederman had two good reasons for organizing a Father's Day concert.

No. 1: Lederman's father, Larry Lederman, was her first music teacher.

No. 2: This marks the first year of fatherhood for her husband.

"Dad will be at the concert, but there's a good chance my husband will be babysitting,"

Lederman says. "But maybe he'll get to hear a few songs."

Lederman's music is known for its Latin influences, possibly because two of the most influential musicians in her life—other than her father—were Carlos Santana and Sergio Mendez. Growing up in the Southwest helped too. While she was attending Arizona State University, it seemed all of her favorite bands had that salsa flavor.

"One of the reasons I like Latin jazz is because it's so demanding," she explains. "It's a fusion of Latin rhythms with traditional jazz harmonics and a lot of advanced chord changes. I've been drawn to it for a long time."

Lederman is typical of today's young musician/bandleaders. She was the music director for the five-piece, all-woman band Sophia, as well as for the Brazilian band Zum Zum Zum and the seven-piece salsa band, Mas!

In 1990, she was chosen to be the music director for a national touring company of *Phantom of the Opera*, which played the U.S. and Canada.

Today, Lederman indulges her love of Latin sounds in her band Sabrosa, but she keeps to traditional jazz elements with her other band, the Beth Lederman Jazz Quartet. She frequently



can be found playing in a small combo with percussionist Paul McDermand.

"The Latin sound is my first love, but I like variety, too," Lederman says. "It keeps you growing musically."