

# LIFE

## + ARTS

## KLANG BRINGS UNIQUE SOUND TO LEXINGTON

MUSIC, E2



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2009



CAMILLE WEBER | cweber@herald-leader.com

# MATISYAHU HAS FAITH IN HIS RAP

Hasidic Jewish performer has grown musically, spiritually

By **Walter Tunis**  
Contributing Music Critic

On the cover of his third and newest studio album, *Light*, we see a sun-washed photo of Matisyahu looking nothing short of tranquil.

Gone is the black suit and wide-brimmed hat, traditional garb of the Hasidic Jewish faith he adopted long ago and still very much embraces. But five years have passed since Matisyahu was introduced as an almost impossible pop creation — a Hasid who rapped about life and faith over dance-hall reggae and dub grooves.

Back then, it was difficult to view the young artist as anything other than a novelty. In 2009, the look and the sound of Matisyahu have

**IF YOU GO**  
**Matisyahu/Trevor Hall**  
**When:** 9 p.m. Nov. 16.  
**Where:** Buster's Billiards and Backroom, 899 Manchester St.  
**Tickets:** \$25.  
**Call:** (859) 368-8871.  
**Online:** www.matisyahuworld.com; www.bustersbb.com.

become more, well, enlightened.

"What I do is the result of a process, an organic process, which is reflective of what, I think, most musicians and artists go through when they are creating any type of work," Matisyahu said in a recent phone interview.

"For me, *Light* is really a reflection of life experience, of life process and all that comes along with that — artistically, musically, spiritually. It's about all of these different aspects. It's a full-on expression, an immersion of self."

The album also is something of a sonic and stylistic expansion. Fans who simply go for the groove in Matisyahu's music will find a deeper pool

See **MATISYAHU, E8**



POETRY REVIEW

## Broad themes, specific language

Centre poet explores feelings, experiences

**Woman Reading to the Sea**  
By Lisa Williams  
WW. Norton.  
\$13.95 paperback. 128 pp.

Reviewed by **Candace Chaney**  
Contributing Critic

When Joyce Carol Oates selected the winner of the 2007 Barnard Women Poets Prize, she chose a poet whose work exudes "arresting intelligence, precision and beauty."

That poet is Lisa Williams, an associate professor of English and director of creative writing at Centre College.



**Lisa Williams** is the author of *Woman Reading to the Sea*.

Williams' second collection of poems, *Woman Reading to the Sea*, garnered not only critical acclaim from the likes of Gregory Orr and John Hollander, but enough public response that publisher WW. Norton recently issued a paperback reprint.

Divided into four loosely thematic subsections, *Woman Reading to the Sea* is a haunting, lyrical invitation to ruminate on the kaleidoscope of human feelings and experiences

See **BOOK, E6**

### COPIOUS NOTES

## UK students show their maturity in tackling Sondheim

### IF YOU GO

#### 'An Evening With Stephen Sondheim'

**What:** Revue of Sondheim's songs by the UK Musical and Operetta Organization.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19.

**Where:** University of Kentucky Memorial Hall, 610 S. Limestone.

**Tickets:** \$5; available at UK Student Center ticket office, by calling (859) 257-8427 or at www.ticketmaster.com (search for "Company").

**LEXGO.COM**

Rich Copley writes about local and national arts and entertainment daily at his blog, Copious Notes, at LexGo.com.

Revue part of group effort to expand chances to perform



**RICH COPLEY**  
HERALD-LEADER  
CULTURE COLUMNIST

Brittany Congleton loves Stephen Sondheim's music but has always been told that college students are too young to sing it.

"They'll say, 'Until you've had two divorces and suffered through alcoholism, how can you possibly understand Sondheim?'" says Congleton, 22, a junior at the University of Kentucky.

But there she was in the rehearsal room at UK's Schmidt Vocal Arts Center, devouring *A Little Priest*, the number from *Sweeney Todd*

in which Congleton as murderous Mrs. Lovett and Alex Parker as the "Demon Barber from Fleet Street" joke about all the people they have cooked into their pies.

"*Sweeney* is wonderful because you are exposed to Sondheim's manic genius," Congleton says. "He wrote this terrifying music about a demon barber, but it's still so honest — it's really scary, but based on incredible truth."

Congleton and Parker's performance will be part of *An Evening With Stephen Sondheim*, on Thursday at UK's Memorial Hall.

It is the second production of the UK Musical and Operetta

See **COPLEY, E3**



**RICH COPLEY** | rcopley@herald-leader.com

For *An Evening With Stephen Sondheim*, Alex Parker and Brittany Congleton rehearsed their number, *A Little Priest*, from *Sweeney Todd*.

Life + Arts Editor Scott Shive » Phone (859) 231-1412 » E-mail hlfeatures@herald-leader.com

More miracles.  
Every day.

CENTRAL BAPTIST HOSPITAL

This is care.

Submit your photos for Baby's First Christmas and Holiday Angels!

Deadline for submitting baby pictures to the Herald-Leader is December 11, 2009. Visit [www.kentucky.com/babysfirst/](http://www.kentucky.com/babysfirst/) for details.

