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## Saxophonist fits music into busy life

By Eddie Adams / Ink

Kristopher Brownlee received his first saxophone in the fourth grade. He played it until his senior year at Concordia Lutheran High School. The instrument was a gift from his parents, Thomas E. and Barbara Brownlee, who continue to encourage their son.

"They want to see me go to great places and do positive things with my music," said Brownlee, 25. "I never thought I would be right here as a career. It was something to do."

Saxophonist Brownlee, with his jazz band Grooveside, will perform at Club Soda, 235 East Superior Street, on Saturday, November 22nd at 9:30 p.m. The band's philosophy is simple.

"The music has to groove. If people aren't up dancing or at least bobbing their heads, then we are doing something wrong," explained Brownlee.

Brownlee co-founded the jazz band two years ago, right after graduating from Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana. Other than a couple of changes, the band's line-up has remained intact. Grooveside has always received a warm reception.

"Our music is such a change from normal everyday music. It's like a breath of fresh-air," Brownlee said.

So far, the band has recorded one self-produced, self-distributed CD titled "*Bitten By*



*the Jazz Bug*," and is currently working on a new, live-performance CD.

"Eventually, I could see myself as a solo artist and do my thing nationally and internationally," Brownlee envisioned.

Brownlee's ambitious and industrious nature is clearly inherited from his family, which owns and operates a small business, the famous Brownlee and Sons Market on Oxford Street.

While at Manchester College, Brownlee double majored in Psychology and Music Performance. He studied classical music and found it to be a great foundation.

"Everything is so technical and rigid and just learning it that strictly, I think, allows you to branch off into other forms of music that are much

more free and liberal," Brownlee explained.

Even with a double major, Brownlee found time to sneak in athletics. He ran track for three years and played football for one year. Eventually, he had to choose between football and music. Music won.

"It's kinda hard to play football and worry about breaking your hand. You might not play again," Brownlee said.

Brownlee's schedule did cause problems. He would often show up late for track practice because of his concert band commitments. He wasn't able to play for his high school marching band because of football; however Brownlee did play in concert and jazz bands in high school and college. He calls his jazz band performances "an invaluable learning experience."

"It prepared me because it helped me to learn the styles and feels of different jazz."