

# Hartford Jazz Society Rag

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THE HARTFORD JAZZ SOCIETY is a year old now, and this would seem a good time to review its activities. This is particularly true in view of the fact that the Society is embarking (literally) on perhaps its most ambitious project — a riverboat cruise down the Connecticut. A good deal of effort and enthusiasm will be required to make a success of this undertaking, and a review of our achievements to date ought to boost our confidence in future affairs. Here, then, are the highlights of our first year:

**NORMAN GRANZ?  
WHO HE?** THREE CONCERTS were staged during the Year 1961-62. They were an encouraging success from the artistic standpoint, and not too discouraging financially.

The first, free to the public, was provided through the generous cooperation of Local 400, AFM. Conducted at Trinity College, it presented the fine 16-piece orchestra of Al Lepak, the Dave Mackay Trio, the Cliff Gunn Septet and Lenny LaCroix' Quartet, with the TV "Broadway Open House" star, Fletcher Peck, as master of ceremonies.

The second concert, staged at Conard High School late in January, was "The Evolution of Jazz in Music and Dance," featuring the Randy Weston Trio, with Altoist Booker Irwin, and the jazz dancers, Al Mimms and Leon James. The event was a gratifying success from the musical, if not fiscal, viewpoint.

The third, held late in March at King Phillip School, brought back Al Lepak's orchestra (with Chick Chicetti, Eddie Miller, Bobby Johnson, Al Forte, Bob Foster, et al.), Ray Casserino's Trio and Cliff Gunn's Quartet. Again, a most enjoyable evening, with no serious financial anxieties.

**FIRST SUN.  
OF THE MO.** MEANWHILE, monthly meetings (first Sunday of the month) were held at various locales, with the evenings enlivened by such imported entertainment as John Handy, Druce Martin, Gene Rodgers, Toshiko, George Hoefer of "Down Beat" (in a lecture, "The Great Innovators") and the Twentieth Century TV film, "Dave Brubeck, Jazz Musician." Impromptu sessions at these meetings were also provided by such member-musicians as Lenny LaCroix, Cliff Gunn, Joe Porcaro, Matt Bairzian, Norman Macklin, Dave Mackay, Lenzy Wallace and Kirby Malcolm-Smith.

Meetings were held at the Masouers, the Heublein, the Albany Jewish Center, the Night Riders Studio, Jonathan Temple, and the homes of Elaine Schlomberg and Art Fine.

Officers during the year were Arthur Fine (president); Elaine Schlomberg (vice president), Barbara Hurwit (secretary), Peter Karagheusian (treasurer), with Dave Sherwood, Cliff Gunn, Ed Swett, George Malcolm-Smith and Norman Macklin constituting the remainder of the council.

MUST HAVE  
MUSIC

ACTIVITIES of the Society were varied. Groups organized informally visited the Heublein Lounge to hear such jazzmen as Dizzy Gillespie, Randy Weston, Gene Rodgers, Joe Saye, Dick Morgan, Junior Mance, the Eldridge-Coleman Hawkins and Cannonball Adderley groups.

The Hofbrau borrowed the Society's name to present a Sunday series of sessions by Al Lepak's orchestra, Ray Casserino, Rial Ogden's Fiercely Enthusiastic Jazz Band, Dave Mackay and Cliff Gunn.

A delegation in February attended the Workshop in Jazz conducted at the Village Gate in Greenwich Village (with "field trips" to the Five Spot and Half-Note) conducted by the Lutheran "Faith of Life Institute," with seminars participated in by "Broadway's Jazz Pastor," John G. Gensel, Nat Hentoff, John Hammond, Randy Weston, Max Roach, Willis Conover, Al Cohn, Mundell Lowe, Rudi Blesh and Billy Taylor.

LET YOUR  
LIGHT SO  
SHINE

TWO GOOD WORKS in which the Society may take pride are: its active participation in the concert by Pianist Spaulding Givens and the Macklin-Johnson group to swell the fund organized to help Vicky Harris, five-year-old child badly burned in an accident; and its "adoption" for immigration purposes of Sadao Watanake, Japanese altoist and flutist coming to the Berklee School in Boston this fall. (The request was made during a personal visit to the Society by Toshiko and Rev. John Gensel.)

Officers elected for the coming year are: Art Fine (president), George Malcolm-Smith (vice president), Barbara Hurwit (secretary), Ann Ferriera (recording secretary), William Rathbun (treasurer), with Danny Blume, Joe Porcaro and Dave Sherwood making up the rest of the council.

NEWS OF  
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ROMANCE bloomed within the Society during the year. It culminated in the marriage of Bill Cummings (of the Chicago School) and Lois Fredericks, the ceremony having been conducted -- most appropriately -- by Broadway Jazz Pastor Gensel at the Lutheran Church of the Advent, Broadway and 93rd... Dave Mackay and his trio (with Nicki Price singing) is playing at Saint Thomas in the Virgin Islands... Bruce Martin is with Charlie Shavers' band at the Embers, then the Embassy in Manhattan... Norman Macklin is playing weekends at the Elks; Kirby Malcolm-Smith, at the Cabin Grill in Meriden; Al Lepak, all over town... Cliff Gunn, Joe Porcaro, Buddy Brown, Don Mast, Bobby Johnson, Lenny LaCroix -- all as busy as the times allow.

RIVERBOAT  
SHUFFLE

JAZZ will return to the riverboats, this time on the Connecticut rather than the Mississippi, according to present plans. The Society is chartering a three-decker to take members and friends down the river and back on Sunday, September 9. Naturally, there will be jazz music on board. It will be provided by Rial Ogden's Fiercely Enthusiastic Jazz Band and Joe Porcaro's modern quartet.

The cruise, which will be aboard the "Nelesco," out of New London, will begin at noon from beneath the Founders Bridge at the foot of State Street, the return to Hartford being scheduled for 10 o'clock in the evening. The package (\$10 per person) will include the cruise, the music, dinner at East Haddam and set-ups. The boat will accommodate 500 passengers.

So tell everybody, sell everybody. For tickets, call:  
Daytime: 232-1736 (Art Fine), 247-3698 (Malcolm-Smith)  
Evening: 242-2942 (Art Fine), 232-9619 (Barbara Hurwit)  
233-3677 (Malcolm-Smith)