



The Swinger

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WILLIE "THE LION" SMITH, last of the great "stride" pianists, legend in his own time, star of one of the outstanding LP's of 1967, will make one of his currently rare appearances at the HJS meeting scheduled for Sunday evening, October 15. He will do so in honor of a great blues-singing lady of our own community -- Miss Bessye Proffit -- for the night of October 15 has been designated as "Bessye Proffit Night". This will be an enjoyable occasion for young and old jazz fanciers, for it will be an opportunity for the young to hear one of the great performers of the past, and for the old to relive great musical moments. The place: Jonathan Hall, 700 Blue Hills Avenue.

SEPTEMBER, 1967 was the most eventful in the seven-year history of HJS. It was distinguished by: (1) the meeting with Toshiko, which was filmed for national distribution on the Educational Television Network; (2) the sixth annual cruise down the Connecticut River with music by Frank Foster's band from Manhattan and Percy Nelson's quintet; (3) the attendance by 37 HJS members at the three-day Eastern Conference of Jazz Societies in New York City, a joint meeting of Jazz Interactions of New York, the Jazz-at-Home Club of Philadelphia and HJS of Hartford.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED those who missed the Eastern Conference. The panels, the addresses, the musical interludes, the tour of jazz spots, the jazz vespers at St. Peter's, and the jam session at the Red Garter combined to make the weekend an immense success, filled with enjoyments and enlightenments. HJS members met and heard from such jazz authorities as Willis "Voice of America" Conover, Authors Ira Gitler, John S. Wilson Wilson, George Hoefer and Rudi Blesh, and to hear such jazzmen as Joe Newman, Billy Taylor, Pepper Adams, Jerome Richardson, Toots Thielemann, Freddie Hubbard, Johnny Lytle, Lucky Thompson and the youthful Cold Spring Harbor Jazz Band. Spots included in the bus tour of night clubs included Slug's, the Village Gate and the Hickory House. The weekend was, in short, a consummate ball.

NEWS OF YOUSE: HJS members pictured in the press of late are Sammy Johnson (in "Downbeat" as seen during the Jazz Interactions 5th anniversary party at the Five Spot) and Annette Cohen (in "The New York Times" as seen at the Eastern Conference party at Slug's)...Jack Haynes has been appointed vice president of HJS to succeed Doug Hill, now with the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington...Mabel and Norm Macklin, with his Mighty Wurlitzer, have taken a new home on Westminster Street...Jacqueline Henderson, after a stay in the hospital, is back in circulation with excellent ditto...The story of HJS will appear shortly

in the Canadian jazz magazine, "Coda."...Johnny Birchard's WTIC broadcast, "Jazztime," may be heard Monday evenings 10 to 11 and Saturday evenings 11:30 to midnight. (His show, as well as "Jazz in Stereo" from WBMI deserves your support by mail, lest they be cancelled or reduced in time on the schedules.)

WELCOME these new members: John W. Connors, Herbert W. Cummings, Marilyn Gelormino, Hy and Ann Goldstein, Herbert W. Liebert, Leroy and Jeanne Patterson, Harry B. Petaway, Arved Plaks and Al Wilson.

THANK Harry Lichtenbaum, who presided over the bus trip to New York on the occasion of the Eastern Conference and showed at the Conference his splendid color slides of the Jazz Cruise and other HJS activities.

POSTSCRIPT to the party which featured Toshiko early in September: She was accompanied by the prominent Czechoslovakian bassist, Miroslau Vitous, and the drummer Ronnie Zito. (Not heard during the party, though he accompanied the group from New York; "just for the ride," was the famed drummer, Jake Hanna, formerly with Woody Herman and now seen daily on the Merv Griffin TV show.)

HORACE SILVER, local boy, will be honored by the Philadelphia Jazz-at-Home Club on Sunday, October 22, when he will be presented the club's annual Contribution to Jazz Award.

WHERE THE MUSIC IS: Sheraton Motor Inn (Groton, intersection of Routes 1-95 and 184) announces a three-day "festival" with Charlie Shavers, Marshall Brown and Ed Polcer Band (Fri. eve, Oct. 13); Roy Eldridge, Julian Dash and others (Sat. eve, Oct. 14); Maxie Kaminsky, Cliff Leeman and others (Sun. aft., Oct. 15); all artists in a jam session (Sun. eve., Oct. 15)...Emery Smith Trio may be heard nightly at the Living Room, River Road in Agawam.

FOUND: Left on the boat after the Jazz Cruise: a man's all-weather coat. Phone 242-6886.

"I'VE GOT THE WORLD on a string, and I'm sitting on a rainbow."
(Old Refrain)