



The Swinger

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GRADY TATE, long a favorite of the Hartford Jazz Society, will be its guest at its next meeting -- Sunday evening, June 8. Renowned as one of the foremost drummers in jazz (the "Tonight" show, the Oliver Nelson Orchestra and the combos of Jerome Richardson, Bill Evans, Billy Taylor, Wes Montgomery et al) will appear in a new role: that of singer. Two events propelled Grady into his new prominence: (1) Peggy Lee introducing him as a singer at the Riviera in Las Vegas and the Copacabana in Manhattan; (2) the huge success of his record, "The Windmills of My Mind" (Skye label). Leonard Feather summed it up in his syndicated column this way: "Metamorphosis of The Year: The conversion of Grady Tate, preeminent drummer turned predominant singer." HJS members remember when Grady, drummer with Jerome Richardson's band at the November meeting, stepped away from the traps and sang. It was one of his first appearances as a singer. With him at the June meeting (Teferes Hall, 159 Blue Hills Avenue) will be his excellent trio: Pianist Roland Hanna (an HJS favorite), Bassist Bob Cranshaw, and Drummer Mickey Roker (also several times an HJS guest). Lucky-ticket holders will receive Grady Tate record albums.

CLARK TERRY'S HJS CONCERT, televised by the Eastern Educational Network for its "Chronicle" program will be transmitted from Channel 24, Channel 49, Channel 53 and Channel 71 at 9 PM, Tuesday, June 17 and at 10 PM, Wednesday, June 18. Other Educational TV channels will show the program at 9 PM, Tuesday, June 3. (Incidentally, Clark and the Hartford Jazz Society are the picture-cover feature of this month's ETV magazine.)

TOSHIKO, as always, charmed the ears off those at the April meeting. Her quartet was something of an ethnic curiosity and a demonstration of the fact that jazz has come to know no nationality: Toshiko (Japanese), Lynn Christie, bass (Australian), Pete LaRocca, drummer (Negro) and Lew Tabackin, tenor (Jewish from Brooklyn). Tabackin was impressive and Christie's amplified bass proved the acceptability of that instrument.

THE ANNUAL MEETING approved the nominating committee's slate: Harry Lichtenbaum, president; Lucy Marsters and Joey Stevenson, vice presidents; George Cohen, treasurer; Annette Cohen, corresponding secretary; Peggy Mills, recording secretary. Well attended (37 present), the meeting was held in the Bloomfield Public Library. After the election there were discussions of the questionnaire, financial matters and a showing of Harry Lichtenbaum's enjoyable pictures of recent HJS events. The new officers will be introduced at the Grady Tate meeting.

THE 8TH ANNUAL JAZZ CRUISE down the Connecticut was the subject of discussion at a meeting held May 27th. This might seem a long time before September, but this is a project that entails plans, plans and more plans. Its success is absolutely essential, for the hard fiscal fact is that the quality and quantity of HJS events during 1969-70 depend on the profits that accrue from the cruise. The HJS treasury suffers a loss at every monthly meeting. Superior talent costs money, and only a healthy exchequer can stand the strain. The solution, simply, is to sell more and more tickets for this event -- which, honestly, is one of the most enjoyable parties anybody ever had for as little as ten dollars. If you'd like to help in one way or another in the preparations for the cruise, volunteer for one of the committees. Call 242-6886. Here's one broth which can't be spoiled by too many cooks. If each member sells only two tickets, the cruise is a success.

NEWS OF YOUSE: Art and Janet Fine leave June 2nd for a holiday in Spain and Portugal, to include a trip to Morocco, there to visit Randy Weston, HJS favorite playing at Tangier with his combo...Coleman Hawkins' funeral, like many events of a religious nature pertaining to jazzmen, took place at St. Peter's Church in Manhattan, where Pastor John G. Gensel, honorary HJS member, officiated...Helen Malcolm-Smith has been confined to the Hartford Hospital, where, incidentally, Ann Stedman generously serves as a volunteer...Sympathy was expressed by many to Paul Schmanska on the death of his father in mid-May...Norm Macklin and his troupe have been giving a series of jazz concerts for patients of the Institute of Living... A beautiful new postage stamp commemorating "W. C. Handy, Father of the Blues" is being used appropriately by jazzophiles...Marion Haynes is home again after some weeks' hospitalization...Odd that the press in Hartford doesn't review HJS concerts. The press in London does. The May issue of the English mag, "Jazz," contains a review by Stanley Dance of the HJS concert by Clark Terry -- and in most complimentary terms...Then there's the LP that didn't sell well at all because the hole kept healing over.

WELCOME these new members: Harry Byrd...Doris Carson...Frederick Foster ...Mildred Beatrice White...Curtis Williams...Dr. Michael Wogan.

"JAZZTIME," the WTIC-FM show is being broadcast Monday at 10 PM and Saturday at 10 PM, with Peter Lee Anderson at the microphone. The wavelength is FM 96.5. Peter welcomes requests from jazz lovers.

OUTDOOR JAZZ CONCERTS, sponsored by CRT (Community Renewal Team) and the Parks and Recreation Department, will be presented again this summer. It is probable that they will be televised by Educational TV.

THE DUKE ELLINGTON PARTY at the White House included several jazzmen who have been guests at HJS affairs -- Clark Terry, Bill Berry, Willie "The Lion" Smith, Marian McPartland, Earl "Father" Hines, Joe Williams, Jim Hall.

Join the Hartford Jazz Society. For information call 242-6886, or write to: Hartford Jazz Society, 73 Lebanon Street, Hartford, Conn. 06112