



# The Swinger

Publication of Hartford Jazz Society

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"HARTFORD NIGHT," you might call it, for it will feature two of the better Jazz groups headquartered on the local scene: Emery Smith's Quartet and Les Strangers, led by Ellie Grant. The date: Sunday, 8 PM, January 14. The place: Les Gourmets Rendezvous at 464 Hartford Avenue in Newington. (Directions: Go to intersection of New Britain Avenue and Newington Road, site of the Bachelor School, then turn west, proceeding out Newington Road to Hartford Avenue, where Les Gourmets Rendezvous is marked by a large electric sign).

HISTORICALLY, Hartford has bred some of the foremost of jazzmen -- Chelsea Quealey, Horace Silver, Gigi Grice, Dick Carey, Tweet Peterson, Jack O'Brien, Dave Freeman, Len, Tiny and Porky Berman. (While on the historical kick: Did you know that Jellyroll Morton once played here? It was immediately after repeal of the Prohibition Amendment in the mid 'thirties, and the place was the Crystal Tavern at the intersection of Market and Kinsley Streets, now the site of the Hartford Stage Company parking lot. A bronze plaque should mark the spot).

HERBIE HANCOCK and his septet at the HJS December meeting drew the largest crowd of the Year 1972. Held in the Hartford High School auditorium, the atmosphere was somewhat more concertise than usual, but the enthusiasm, particularly among the younger element, was at high pitch. Ron Georgeff's review in "The Times" expressed the general reaction: "Herbie Hancock's music, at the very best, can be exciting and full of a curious beauty. At the very least, it can be boring. Despite its extremes, it is always provocative and challenging."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Houston Person's band will be imported by HJS Saturday, February 17, for a dinner dance ( 7 PM till 1 AM) at Les Gourmets Rendezvous. Helen Smothers is in charge of arrangements, but info may be obtained from HJS (242-6886).



BENNY GOODMAN kicks off the Hartford Symphony "Pops" concert series January 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) at the Busnell Memorial. He will conduct the orchestra, perform as soloist with the orchestra and with the sextet he will bring to town. For info: Hartford Symphony office, 278-1450.

THE "DOWN BEAT" 1972 poll winners included several who have been guests of HJS: the Thad-Jones band ("best big band"), Roland Kirk ("best clarinetist and miscellaneous instruments"), Richard Davis ("best bassist"), Wayne Shorter ("best soprano sax") and Leon Thomas ("best male singer").

WELCOME these new members: Mrs. Mary Calhoun...Daniel J. Kowalczyk... Edward A. Perfido.

BOOKS of interest to jazzophiles who read as well as listen, both issued within recent weeks, are: Christ Albertson's "Bessie," the only well researched and well documented biography of the great Bessie Smith; and Leonard Feather's "From Satchmo to Miles," which provides much new information.

NEW ORLEANS for an April vacation? The fourth annual N.O. Jazz Festival begins April 11 and during four days presents Mississippi boat rides and concerts featuring music by Ray Charles, Dave Brubeck, Pete Fountain, Herbie Mann, Roland Kirk, et al. For info: New Orleans Jazz Festival, PO Box 3025, New Orleans, La., 70017.

"I'M A MEAN, MEAN MAN.

"I wouldn't give a blind sow an acorn,

"Wouldn't give a crippled crab a crutch." (Old Refrain)