



The Swinger

Publication of Hartford Jazz Society
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION---MEMBER OF THE GREATER HARTFORD ARTS COUNCIL

73 Lebanon St. Hartford, Conn. 06112 Phone 242-6886

January 13, 1975 - No. 105

THE GEORGE COLEMAN OCTET will be guests of HJS on Sunday evening, the 19th. One of the brighter lights among contemporary reedmen, the choice of the International Critics Poll as a leader among "new jazz artists", George Coleman has distinguished himself in such stellar company as that of Miles Davis, Elvin Jones, Max Roach and Lionel Hampton. His Octet comprises three reedmen besides himself, Harold Vick, Mario Rievera and Frank Strozier; Trumpeter Danny Moore; Pianist Harold Mabern; Bassist Lyle Atkinson; and a drummer still to be identified. Note that the personnel includes three jazzmen well known to, and highly regarded by, HJS members: Mabern, Vick and Atkinson. Few recent HJS parties have held such promise of good things.

SO PASTE THIS ON YOUR WINDSHIELD: The time will be 8:00 o'clock, Sunday evening, January 19th. The place will be the beautiful Opera House upstairs at the Sheraton Tobacco Valley Inn (Dunfey's) in Windsor. (Take Exit 305 - Bloomfield Ave. - Off I-91) And the event, a performance of the True & Righteous Thing by the George Coleman Octet.

THE HEADLINE in "The Courant" said: "Scott Trio Just Great in Concert". Those fortunate enough to have been at the December HJS concert would be in total agreement. Critic Owen McNally wrote, in part: "Hard-driving blues and sensitive ballads were the order of the night as the Shirley Scott Trio swung its way to success Sunday at a concert sponsored by the Hartford Jazz Society.... Miss Scott, a soulful and sassy organist, specializes in an emphatic beat and swinging sounds....Tenor Saxophonist Harold Vick was fine throughout the night, his tone almost evanescent in the upper register, yet barrel-chested when he rubbed against the blues".

A THOUSAND GUESTS of Connecticut State Prison clapped their hands ruddy in appreciation of the holiday concert there sponsored by HJS. The performers were Soul Singer Kitty Kathryn, Pianist Norman Macklin; Saxophonist Harold Holt; Bassist Lew Mobley and Drummer Fred Davis, with Sammy Johnson presiding as master of ceremonies.

KEEPING JAZZ ALIVE: The new Icarus Jazz Quintet may be heard on Wednesday evenings at Mad Murphy's on Union Place. The personnel: Versatile Reedman Jack O'Connor; Vibist Bob Gatzen; Pianist Lee Callahan; Bassist Steve Benson; and Drummer Gene Gozzi....The Norm Macklin Quartet (see personnel above) plays Friday and Saturday evenings at Waverly Inn, Cheshire....Dick Wellstood, veteran pianist of Eddie Condon, Jimmy Ryan's and Metropole renown in The Great City, has succeeded Teddy Wilson at Tobacco Valley Inn, Windsor.... Lee Callahan's Quartet, with Vibraharpist Matt Emerzian, is making happy sounds

(over)



in the lounge of Ollie's on Farmington Ave. each weekend....The Kent Hewitt Trio plays Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings at the Steak Club in East Hartford and at the Black Dog in Glastonbury on Thursday evenings.... Gunther Schuller's New England Conservatory Ragtime Ensemble will present an evening of Scott Joplin rags at Bushnell Memorial Wednesday evening, the 25th.

WELCOME THESE NEW HJS MEMBERS: Lawrence G. Bradley...Thomas E. Edmonds.... Jack Farquhar....George Robert Farris....Richard and Donna Furtek....Edythe GrayAlex Harsmanska....Bruce A. Scavotto....Thomas Seierman....Mark Yarde.... Elton J. & Constance C. Sceggel.

"JAZZ PASTOR" John Gensel of Manhattan was host to titian-tinted HJS President, Lucy Marsters, at the "Salute to Ellington" reproduction of a mid-'twenties Cotton Club show staged at Roseland on West 52nd St. in December. The show, attended by prominent Manhattanites in 'twenties costumes, benefited the Ellington Cancer Center. Table mates of Pastor Gensel and Lucy were Critic Leonard Feather, "New Yorker" jazz author Whitney Balliett, Ruth Ellington, Bobby Short and Mrs. Joe Williams.

DISC-COVERIES: A pair of piano solos by Gene Rodgers, recorded in London in 1936, have been reissued in a "Jazz Piano Rarities" album (Stride label, LP 8808)....A Brooklyn collector, Harold Flakser, has turned up several discs issued in Germany in 1927 on the Tri-Ergon label, recorded by Jack O'Brien, Bud Freeman, Davey Tough, Danny Polo and George Garhart when they were in Berlin. (Biographies say of Pianists Gene Rodgers and Jack O'Brien that their "whereabouts are unknown", but HJS members well know that Gene is currently playing at Avon Old Farms Inn, and that Jack is comfortably retired at his home in Bloomfield.)

TIDBITS CONCERNING HJS members: Harry Lichtenbaum, a theater-jazz-movie buff, has a vast collection of memorabilia in each field....Gene Solon attends the fantastic annual jazz weekend conducted by Millionaire Dick Gibson in Denver, Colorado....Janet and Art Fine were married seven years ago by Jazz Pastor John G. Gensel of St. Peter's, New York....Danny Blume is a member of the West Hartford Town Council....Joan Mowery, a jazz-fancier, though once Lawrence Welk's "Singing Lady", writes that she misses her friends of HJS....Babs Hurwit, at the moment basking in the sun in Florida, is the youngest looking grandmother in the Eastern States!

"THERE AIN'T NO SUGAR MAN WORTH THE SALT OF MY TEARS". - (Old Refrain)