

Lincoln, he said. "There are a lot of cats around who say they want to make it in jazz, but then they go home and watch television every night. That won't make

Because he likes jazz so much, it bothers Lewis that most people don't, or haven't heard enough to judge.

"In the past, one of the reasons jazz wasn't popular was the life behind it," he said. It was bad for people to hang out in dark little clubs and to think about their emotions and express them honestly through music.

More people are getting into jazz now, Lewis said, possibly because this generation is freer to express itself and it's finding it needs more than one type of music to do that.

"I think jazz is the most flexible music. you'll find more jazz players who play rock and classical music well than rock players who know jazz. That's because in striving to express yourself-which is what jazz is-who knows what technique you'll need?"

Classical music is more conventional, he said, and classical musicians tend to frown on those who don't play an instrument the way it was meant to be played. "You get some pretty strange sounds coming out of jazz sometimes, and they're not sure they like that," he said, smiling.

Rock music tends to restrict the musician by trying to forge musicians into a group, a "sound," he said.

Jazz improvisations keep the musician an individual-"He's got to be to be spontaneous."

But all this expressing of emotion and spontaneous reacting to others' music means there are some pretty messed up jazz players, Lewis said.

digging into "They're always themselves; they have to get it together inside before they can play with others.

"See, a drummer in a rock band might play the same pattern for the whole song-but a jazz drummer will take off with the pattern, come back, but always keep relating to the other musicians."

friday, december 8, 1972



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