

'Disappointment' led to creation of city's jazz admiration society

When jazz performer Keith Jarrett came to town one night last fall, three Lincoln jazz enthusiasts wanted to hear more.

After their attempts to sponsor Jarrett a second night failed, senior Jack Hart, junior Scott Otley and sophomore Dave Lubbert decided to form a jazz appreciation-admiration society to prevent similar future disappointment.

Hart, a Lincoln English major; Otley, a Waverly history major, and Lubbert, an Omaha computer science major, created the Lincoln Jazz Society to promote jazz and bring its composers, arrangers and performers to the Lincoln area, Hart said.

In December and January, the Lincoln Jazz Society became a non-profit corporation to become eligible for grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since its inception, Hart said, the society has sponsored monthly benefit jams.

Currently it is reviewing potential groups to book for a 1976-77 concert series.

Jam sessions, held the third Wednesday of each month at the Zoo Bar, have been most successful, he said. Local musicians play till closing. A donation of \$1 is asked at the door, and, Hart said, there is usually a waiting line.

The society has about 65 members, but Hart says he expects an increase because of membership drives and the jam sessions. He said he also soon is planning to bring in people like jazz artist Jay McShann for fund-raising concerts.

Hart said it is considering booking such performers as Charles Mingus, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis, McCoy Tyner and Sonny Rollins next year. Such a concert series, Hart said, would depend entirely on receipt of a grant from the National Endowment Fund.

Currently, Hart said, the society has heavy expenses from printing costs, lawyer's fees, copyright fees and mailing costs, so it may take until late summer or early fall to finalize concert plans.

A \$5 annual membership fee entitles one to a bumper sticker, a monthly newsletter and access to extensive record and book libraries.

"It also entitles a person to an active voice in group meetings," he said, "and a discount at the jam sessions and concerts."

Monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Greenwich Cafe, 1917 O St. Hart said non-members are encouraged to attend.

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