

# arts & entertainment



## Jazzy autumn attractions scheduled for Lincoln

By Mike Winkle

If you're into jazz, there are more good things going on in Lincoln this autumn than ever before.

Local clubs are booking jazz acts with increasing frequency. Area jazz musicians are getting a chance to showcase their talents at the Zoo Bar's monthly jam. KFMQ devotes two hours every Sunday night to jazz-oriented music, and the word is that the program soon will be extended another hour.

And perhaps the best new of all is the recently announced concert series sponsored by the Lincoln Jazz Society. The series has luminaries such as McCoy Tyner and the Modern Jazz Quartet.

This sudden surge of local activity mirrors a nation wide trend, judging from the avalanche of new albums which hit the stacks over the summer. New sounds, faces and labels emerged side-by-side with the tried and true.

Collectors will be pleased with the availability of out-of-date material, now appearing in reissue packages.

Here's a very brief look at what's happening.

### Rare Wheeler appearance

Canadian Kenny Wheeler makes a rare appearance as a leader-composer on *Gnu High*. Although his trumpet and flugelhorn contributions to Anthony Braxton's Arista albums have attracted the attentions of avant-garde enthusiasts, Wheeler remains virtually unheard in the United States. This album deserves to change that.

Joining Wheeler on the disc's three cuts are piano virtuoso Keith Jarrett, British bassist Dave Holland and one of the world's most versatile drummers, Jack DeJohnette.

As an ensemble, they provide a melodic testament of what occurs when four creative musicians interact with sensitivity and conviction. Jarrett is in top form. The emotional range is staggering in contrasting solos he plays on *Heyoke*. Holland maintains his impeccable reputation throughout, and DeJohnette cuts an exuberant figure, tap-dancing on the cymbals or romping through the title track like a wild animal.

## Lab Theatre auditions set Tuesday, Wednesday

Auditions for two original lab theatre plays will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and from 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday in the Arena Theatre, Temple Bldg. 303.

The plays are: *The Great American Nightmare* by Amy Thelander and *About the Crown Prince and the Way He Walked* by Joseph Baldwin.

Both plays will be performed Oct. 10 and 11.

Yet, there is never any doubt whose album it really is. Time and time again, it is Wheeler's commanding presence on the flugel horn that drives this music into new territories, his horn flashing with dramatic purpose and warmth.

Add Manfred Eicher's flawless production and you come up with one of the year's best acoustic efforts. Notable debut by Gordon

John Gordon makes a notable debut, *Step by Step*, on Strata-East Records. The trombonist's background is rather obscure, but it is known that he worked with the

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house band in the Broadway musical *Bubbling Brown Sugar*. Aided by inspired performances from Stanley Cowell, Charles Tolliver, Andrew Cyrille, Roland Prince and Lisle Atkinson, these first accomplishments mark John Gordon as a man who'll be around awhile.

Gordon shows off all his talents. He produces the album, five of the six tunes are originals, and his trombone is featured on every cut. It's all brought off superbly, with Gordon displaying finesse with a number of styles. The rest of the band carries the trademark of New York jazz—tight and fleet.

Cyrille utilizes the entire drumset with a percussionist's flair largely because of the anchoring presence of Atkinson's bass. Prince blows a variety of reeds, and his tenor is particularly attractive on the first side and his flute makes a significant addition to the album's only ballad, *Making Memories*.

As for Tolliver, everytime he touches his trumpet, the air starts to burn. Stanley Cowell's piano is firmly rooted in the Barry Harris-Kenny Barron mode—pure class.

But in the end, the best things on this album are Gordon's tunes. Each one has a fish hook hidden in the opening lines, waiting to snag your ear and drag you along. It's exciting when an artist's first recording is this good.

### Priceless music on tape

Blue Note, Verve, Savoy, Milestone, Prestige—some of America's finest music was recorded for these labels, only to be stored in record vaults when the companies went under. For too many years, jazz fans haven't had the chance to hear the priceless music captured on the tapes. New distributors are acquiring rights to the masters and

releasing the material in reissue packages.

Since there have been over 20 albums of this type marketed in the last four months, a complete review is impossible.

*Spontaneous Combustion* from Savoy/Arista combines the first two sessions ever recorded by the great Cannonball Adderley. These 1955 recordings find Adderley's blues-drenched and Bird-inspired sax with such monsters as Kenny Clarke, Horace Silver and, of course, brother Nat.

Cannon fans can't afford to miss it.

From Verve comes *The Genius of Bud Powell*, an aptly titled tribute to the legendary pianist. The tracks include trio settings with Ray Brown and Max Roach, and some examples of Powell's uncanny solo technique. If you have never heard Bud Powell this would be a fine introduction to one of the most brilliant minds that ever graced a piano.

## Bicentennial Band performs Friday

The United States Armed Forces Bicentennial Band and Chorus will present a free public concert in Kimball Recital Hall at 8 p.m. Friday.

The band and chorus, authorized in 1974 and activated in 1975, was formed with representatives from all the military services to celebrate America's 200th birthday.

The concert is being sponsored by KOLN/KGIN television and NU music society, Gamma Lambda.

The band and chorus, called "America's Own," has a cast of 90 performers, including 65 instrumentalists and 24 vocalists.

"America's Own" has selected and performed the "best" of American music from the past 200 years. The program at Kimball will include music by Charles Ives, John Philip Sousa, Cole Porter, Randall Thompson, Morton Gould and others.

Although the concert is free, admission will be by ticket. Free tickets can be obtained by mail from KOLN/KGIN, 40th and W. streets, or may be picked up at Westbrook Music Bldg. 124.

At the close of the two-year bicentennial celebration, "America's Own" will have performed in every state capital and toured many other cities and towns. They already have played their music to more than a half million persons in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

## UNL students learn the ropes

UNL students had a chance to learn the ropes at a rappelling clinic sponsored by Army ROTC Saturday morning. Rappelling is a technique for descending cliffs using a double rope system. Mike Conen (right) begins the descent from the top of the Military and Naval Science Bldg., while Lindsey Rice (below) prepares for the three-story slide.

Photos by Steve Berman

