lonnie liston smith

Pianist Lonnie Liston Smith will appear this month at the Buffalo Theatre with his group The Cosmic Echoes. The concert, to be held November 14 at 8 PM, is sponsored by the U.U.A.B. Music Committee under the direction of Robie Schliedinger. Also on the bill will be guitarist Larry Coryell and Steve Kahn, and saxophonist Pharoah Sanders and his group.

The music of The Cosmic Echoes is multi-dimensional, highly percussive and melodically colorful. Nat Hentoff tabs it as “sensuous serenity”, the BJR has called it “music to lay back and get off on”; “peaceful and textured”. It is not the individual soloists, but the group effort that attracts the mind and soul of the listener.

Aside from the Echoes, Lonnie is best known for his work with Pharoah Sanders and Gato Barbieri. The Sanders group recorded Astral Traveling, Smith’s best known composition. In addition, he has worked with Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Leon Thomas, Stanley Turrentine, Miles, Betty Carter, Joe Williams, Art Blakey, Norman Connors and others.

Smith has said “music is one of the ruling forces in the cosmos and I constantly stretch for the ultimate. Music should bring a message and I am but a messenger”. Try to get down to see him in concert, and perhaps pick up one of his Flying Dutchman albums as well. Also - let’s all thank Robie and U.U.A.B. for bringing consistently fine contemporary jazz to Buffalo.

B.W.

CLUB SCENE

Earl Hines and his quartet, along with vocalist Marva Josie turned the Statler’s Downtown audiences on to some of the best, most dynamic and exciting jazz ever to be played in that club. At times his group sounded like a big band and the racially balanced crowd spent almost as much time sitting as sitting. But then, need I say more. I’m sure everyone made it down.

Roland Kirk was a gas at the Fillmore Room. He’s switched his raps from anti-white to anti-average white band and communicated well with the capacity audience. In addition, he played better and more than I’ve ever heard from him. A fine set as well came from violinist Michal Urbanik’s Fusion with electronic enriched vocals by Ursula Dudziak. A.U.U.A.B. production.

The music is still going strong at Papagayo’s, Ericson, Tralfamadore, and No Name. Check out the ads for these clubs and new ones featuring jazz.

Reviews of the Herbie Mann-Geo. Benson, Chick Corea-John McLaughlin & Woody Herman concerts will appear next month.

AJP NEWS

The association for jazz performance has announced a series of workshops, clinics and sessions to be held in Buffalo.


All of the above are under the direction of Buffalo Jazz Ensemble members. For more information phone the AJP at 884-5165.

CORRECTION

Earl Hines’ recent Statler appearance was not his first in Buffalo as stated in our last issue. According to the many letters we received, he appeared about 1970 at the Royal Arms (now Ericson), and he toured here with his orchestra many years earlier.

NEWS

Toronto’s Bourbon Street was the location for three recent live recordings. Jim Hall, Barney Kessel & Paul Desmond each recorded albums for future release on A & M Records. A & M has started a jazz line with an impressive roster. At last, the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis album will come out of the vault to be released.
recordings

STANLEY CLARKE - JOURNEY TO LOVE - NEMPEROR NE 433

The technical excellence of Stanley Clarke is well known and on this album it is matched with versatility. Clarke's youth is betrayed in his fascination with commercial jazz-rock funk eg Silly Putty & Hello Jeff but his maturity on acoustic bass is exemplified in 2 tunes, Song to John (Parts I & II) which he plays with acoustic John McLaughlin and Chick Corea. These cuts, dedicated to John Coltrane, are tightly integrated and refreshingly light. Concerto for Jazz/rock orchestra alternates between sinuous synthesizer work of George Duke, who also plays numerous keyboard instruments, the electric guitar of Dave Sancious, and Clarke's bass and synthesized piccolo bass. Steve Gadd performs on percussion. A fine release.

ALBERT AYLER - WITCHES & DEVILS - ARISTA 1018

On Holy Holy the music takes me back to church-hymn like. Albert's time concept is very good, playing broken poly-rhythms, and Henry Grimes sounds excellent--plucking his bass. Spirits is a well played composition with out of time stops. The music is Albert Ayler.

DAVID MATHEWS - BIG BAND RECORDED LIVE AT THE FIVE SPOT - MUSE MR 5073

Basically, this is just twelve of New York City's finest studio musicians getting together to record a live gig at the historic "Five Spot." It turns into some vibrant music with surprisingly fluid soloing by Frank Vicari on tenor sax, and Joe Shepley and Bert Collins on trumpet. Mathew's arrangements are tight and reflect a great deal of professionalism especially considering the short amount of time they had to prepare for this session. Very fine big band music. J.H.

BARNEY PLAYS KESSEL - CONCORD 9

This is the first American recording of Kessel in several years, and after hearing this music you'll wonder why. The guitarist leads a septet here with such names as Victor Feldman, Jimmy Rowles and Herbie Steward. The program is well varied - with the raw funk of Down In The Swamp, to the gorgeous ballad Love Of My Life; the red hot Sea Miner to the Latin Brazilian Beat. All musicians perform at a level well above average, especially Steward and Kessel. A final note - Barney composed each of the nine tunes on the album. B.W.

ANTHONY BRAXTON - 5 PIECES 1975 - ARISTA 4064

You Stepped Out of a Dream sounds as if the music came from just that, and is excellent. Dave Holland's tone is rich with sound. 647 BNK is played with dynamics and collective thoughts, and reminds me of 77AR--36K from Braxton's New York Fall 1974. Trumpeter Kenny Wheeler blows like he's dashing across a pond. This music is another phase of the fine Anthony Braxton compositional playing. L.J.

SONNY STITT - MELLOW - MUSE 5067

Sonny's latest gets into a relaxed, good feeling groove. He chose some highly proficient musicians to work with - Barry Harris, Richard Davis and Roy Haynes; with the great Jimmy Heath added on tenor, soprano and flute. While the program is mostly "mellow", things move along well on A Cute One and How High The Moon. Although not as emotionally stimulating as his previous Muse and Cobblestone sides, Mellow towers high over Sonny's recent Cadet albums.

B.W.
Changes One seems to represent a shift in emphasis for Mingus who has apparently put aside much of his angry dissonance of earlier albums in favor of the beautiful, provocative and dynamic Mingus melody. Still, there's plenty of room for some great soloing by his current sidemen. Changes Two is a separate album of music taken from the same sessions with the same outstanding personnel. It shows that Mingus still has the ability to bring out the most in his co-workers (Don Pullen, his impressive pianist, has just released a solo album). Changes One and/or Changes Two will make an important addition to your Mingus collection.

JULIUS HEMPHILL - 'COON' BIDNESS - ARISTA-FREEDOM AL 1012

Highly regarded alto saxophonist Julius Hemphill comes under whatever heading you place Oliver Lake and Anthony Braxton. Characteristically, 'Coon' Bidness is extremely esoteric - each piece usually revolving around one repetitive theme, which places the emphasis on the soloist. The soloing is admirable but melodic content suffers making this an album for those who savor expansive, exploratory jazz. 'Coon' Bidness puts Hemphill on the map as one of the avant-gardists we will be hearing a lot more of.

J.H.

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN.

STANLEY CLARKE JOURNEY TO LOVE

STANLEY CLARKE. "JOURNEY TO LOVE." ON NEMPEROR RECORDS AND TAPES.

© 1975 Atlantic Recording Corp. A Warner Communications Company

Produced by Stanley Clarke and Ken Scott
Big Man is Cannonball's last work, and is a folk/jazz/spiritual musical. It is the story of John Henry - a big man. By classic American legend, John Henry was 99 feet tall and came to help his people, barely out of slavery, work on the C & O railroad.

The roll of Henry is sung by jazz great Joe Williams, with four additional vocalists in support rolls. The music was composed by Cannonball and brother, Nat, and is performed by a 19 piece ensemble including 'Ball, Don Menza, Roy McCurdy and Airto.

This production was an extensive, time consuming project for Cannonball and is in no way limited in appeal only to a jazz audience. It is for everyone. A masterful work from one of the true greats of American music.  

B.W.

DON ELLIOT - REJUVENATION - COLUMBIA PC 33799

The mellophone is not exactly the most common of jazz solo instruments. When you listen to Rejuvenation, however, you will be impressed by how comfortable Don Elliot makes you feel with it. You will also be impressed with the wide range of moods, types of arrangements and skill of musicianship. Considering Elliot's extensive jazz background (he played with Teddy Wilson, Terry Gibbs, and George Shearing not to mention having won eight Downbeat mellowphone polls for mellowphone) and his participation in a great many other areas of music and media, you should expect a lot of diverse sounds. You'll get them.  

J.H.
performance from the leader). Nuances contains compositions by Mitchell, Monk, Barry White and Stevie Wonder and the entire program leans toward soul music.

While each album will, no doubt, sell well, I'd have to go with *Sum Of The Parts*.

B.W.

**STANLEY TURRENTINE - HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE RAIN - FANTASY 9493**

A highly polished, easy listening affair with Stanley joined by Freddie Hubbard, Patrice Rushen, Ron Carter, David T. Walker, Jack DeJohnette and Strings. I find it more similar to Pieces of Dreams than his more recent Fantasy release, but the Page Bros. are limited here to arranging and production. Included is Marlena Shaw's You and Tommy Turrentine's Tommy's Tune. If you dig jazz of the commercial vein - this is gorgeous.

B.W.

**BILLY PARKER'S FOURTH WORLD - FREEDOM OF SPEECH - STRATA EAST 19754**

The drummer/leader is joined by five well versed musicians for this great set of pure, contemporary jazz. The vocals are done by Dee Dee Bridgewater and Donald Smith (of the Cosmic Echoes). Ronald & Cecil Bridgewater are on tenor and trumpet; and Cecil McBee is on bass. The only low point is Parker's opening solo on the title track - it's too long and becomes tiresome. The rest of the music, however, is well written and performed and the album is worth your attention.

B.W.

**CHARLES TOLLIVER - THE RINGER - ARISTA/FREEDOM AL 1017**

This is music recorded in Europe in the summer of 1969 but it bears a striking resemblance to the most recent of Charles Tolliver's efforts on his own Strata East label. Tolliver's trumpet has been heard with the best of the mainstream jazz artists (Art Blakey, Jackie McLean, Horace Silver and others) but these associations have not kept him from exploring the most contemporary of improvisational techniques. The Ringer highlights his ability as well as the abilities of pianist Stanley Cowell, drummer Jimmy Hopps and bassist Steve Novosel, to perform in both worlds with equal fire.

J.H.

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B.W.

RICHARD DAVIS - WITH UNDERSTANDING - MUSE

MR 5083

Bassist Richard Davis is a sought after musician - whether it be for a symphony orchestra engagement or a jazz recording session. His ability to command respect in both worlds is a mark of his talent and dedication. With Understanding highlights Davis’ arco bass work, blending skillfully with appropriately tasteful accompaniment from Chick Corea on piano.

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Sonny Brown on drums, an additional bass player Bill Lee, and guitarist Sam Brown. This LP was previously released on the Cobblestone label. J.H.

ELVIN JONES IS ON THE MOUNTAIN;

ELVIN JONES LIVE PM 005; 004

At last the master of jazz drums will be introduced to a whole new audience. On The Mountain is a trio date with (ex-Mahavishnu Orch.) Jan Hammer on pianos and moog synthesizer and Gene Perla on bass. For the most, it’s very similar to the music of Chick Corea’s Return to Forever, with electric piano, and Moog playing a major role. Each tune is a standout and all are Hammer or Perla compositions. Aside from the two beautiful ballads, the tunes are full of energy (Elvin has no shortage of that). Destiny, running 7-1/2 minutes, features a drums/synthesizer duet. Namuh boasts some exquisite acoustic bass from Perla with Hammer on acoustic piano. The recording is clean throughout. This one is a must if you’re into Corea, Stanley Clarke, Billy Cobham, Jan Hammer, Elvin Jones. Play it loud.

The Live album was recorded at Town Hall at the 1971 John Coltrane Memorial Concert. With Elvin is Frank Foster and Joe Farrell (saxes & flute), Chick Corea & Gene Perla. Two tunes are heard - Shinjitu & Simone, with the former containing traces of Corea’s early return to forever stylings. It’s excellent acoustic music with superb solos from everyone involved. Elvin is a monster on Shinjitu. The sides run 22 & 23 minutes.

Elvin Jones is a giant. Coltrane said that years ago. These albums will tell you why.

B.W.

THE TATUM GROUP MASTERPIECES - PABLO RECORDS

Eight records are available featuring the great pianist, Art Tatum. They can be purchased separately or as a boxed set (Pablo 2625 706).

Depending on your choice of contexts and sidemen, you can be sure that each contains fine music. My favorites are Tatum/Ben Webster/Red Callender/Bill Douglass, (2310 737) and Tatum/Hampton/Edison/Rich/Callender/Kessel (2310 731), but then I’ve always liked Webster and Kessel. Another fine quartet side features Roy Eldridge, another is with Buddy DeFranco. Two discs feature Tatum w/Benny Carter
and Louis Bellson, and the last is Tatum, Callender and Jo Jones.

Not only has Pablo the good taste to make this collectors music available, but they offer a substantial savings on the set.

B.W.

MARK MURPHY - MUSE MR 5078

Mark's third for Muse is a total gem. With arrangements by David Mathews, the singer is heard in top form on several jazz classics and one original. You'll hear Tranes Naima, Hubbard's Red Clay, Hancock's Maiden Voyage & Cantaloupe Island and Murphy's How Are You Dreaming. Also, magnificent renditions of Body & Soul, Young & Foolish and Empty Faces.

Not only is Mark's voice a standout, but each musician fares as well as he. The list includes the Brecker Bros., percussionists Sue Evans and Jimmy Madison, and David Sanbourn. There is soul, funk, blues and beauty, all in the purest of form.

If you follow Mark, you'll agree with his feeling that this is his best since his Riverside years. B.W.

GATO BARBIERI - EL GATO - FLYING DUTCHMAN

A fine collection of previously issued Barbieri. The lineups feature such notables as Lonnie Liston Smith, Stanley Clarke, John Abercrombie, Airto and Ron Carter. Only the title track appears here for the first time. The 12 minute track is played by a 10 piece group which includes the composer, Oliver Nelson. Overall, more gutsy and less slick than Gato's latest work.

B.W.

BUCKY PIZZARELLI W/JOE VENUTI - NIGHT WINGS

FLYING DUTCHMAN 1120

Half of this record is light, lyrical solo guitar from Pizzarelli. For the other half he is joined by violinist Venuti, and in two words - they swing. Bucky uses a seven string electric guitar from which he draws a very acoustic sound. An enjoyable, relaxing set recommended for all who enjoyed Venuti at the Statler.

B.W.

JOHN LEWIS - EUROPEAN WINDOWS - RCA APMI-1069

Recorded in 1958, this is a re-issue of a Lewis session with members of the Stuttgart Symphony Orchestra. John is heard on piano, with fellow MJQ members Percy Heath and Connie Kay, and two European woodwind soloists. The music is a classics/jazz fusion and is not unlike the MJQ recordings done with orchestras. Recommended for fans of Lewis and the MJQ. All six compositions are by Lewis.

B.W.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

BUFFALO AREA

See ads.

NIAGARA FALLS: Concert by Ron Casaro's Jazz Experience, Nov. 14 - 8 PM - LaSalle High School.

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rochester
TOP OF THE PLAZA - Midtown Plaza - Nov. 10 & 11
Joe Venuti w/M. & J. McPartland; Nov. 17 & 18
Woody Herman; Nov. 24 & 25 Bill Watrous (tentative);
Nov. 30-Dec. 1 Count Basie; Dec. 5 Two Generations
of Brubeck (tentative).
SARAH GARDNERS NIGHT CLUB - 575 Joseph Ave.
Nov. 6-9 Spider Martin; 13-16 Sparkey & Midwest Express;
20-23 Jack McDuff; 27-30 Melvin Sparks.
MONTICELLO - 800 Jefferson Rd. - Junior Mance
thru Nov. 22.
BOB GREENE'S WORLD OF JELLY ROLL MORTON
Ncv. 22, Eastman Theatre, 8 PM.

syracuse
Information not received by presstime.

toronto
GEORGE'S SPAGHETTI HOUSE - 290 Dundas St., E.
923-9887. Ted Moses Nov. 3-8; Moe Koffman 10-15;
Bernie Piltch 17-22; Howard Silverman 24-29; Ed
THE 4TH DIMENSION - 180 Queen, W. (above Bourbon
Street) 864-1070. Joe Williams Nov. 4-8; Jackie &
A SPACE CONCERTS - 85 St. Nicholas St. - Don
Pullen (solo piano) Nov. 15 & 16. Phone 416-929-5065
Nov. 30 - Mike Stewart (sax) & Keith Blackley (perc.)
MICHEL LEGRAND W/PHIL WOODS - Sat., Nov. 8 -
8:30 PM - Hamilton Place - Hamilton, Ont.
GEO. SHEARING QUINTET - Thurs., Nov. 27 -
Seneca College, Toronto 8:30 PM

DIZZY GILLESPIE - Colonial Tavern - starts Nov.
10 - for 1 week.
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Fri. 10 PM-1 AM; Sat. 6 AM-Noon & 6-9 PM.
CKQI - 94.9 FM - World of Jazz w/D. Lennick - Sat.
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CKFM - 99.9 FM - All That Jazz w/P. McKellar -
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