BUFFALO JAZZ REPORT

February '76

BUFFALO NEWS

BJR writer John Hunt has been named Buffalo correspondent for Downbeat magazine. This appointment should put Buffalo where it belongs in terms of national significance for jazz wise. John will be submitting information regarding coming events as well as doing live music reviews of national interest.

The BJR thanks Mike Healy of the Courier Express for the fine feature article he did on us recently. An article also appeared in the Buffalo Evening News last month on our artist Christine Engla Eber.

If you can get near a radio weekday afternoons, you might check out This Is Radio on WBFO (88.7 FM). Hosted by John Hunt & Yvonne Price, the program contains music and interviews on a variety of subjects. Many of these are jazz-oriented such as a conversation with Ira Sabin - publisher of Radio Free Jazz. The show is aired Monday through Friday from 2-5, directly after Spirits Known & Unknown.

SYRACUSE NEWS

The Syracuse Jazzscene is widening in scope and in number of locations.

The Casa Di Lisa remains the jazz hub of Syracuse with a more inclusive and well diversified line-up. They have added two new bands to their five nights of jazz, the Straight Life Trio, and the Lou Mentis Quartet.

Straight Life is a young trio featuring a "Chick Corea" style and are acoustically oriented, as are all the Casa Di Lisa's attractions. The newest entree on the club's menu is the Lou Mentis Trio, who can best be described as rhythm and blues based jazz.

Marcus Curry, a Casa Di Lisa regular in the past, was chosen as the opener for Syracuse's newest jazz club, the Spirit of 35. The excellent guitarist is featured with his group, Wednesdays through Saturdays until Feb. 12 in the 35's beautiful surroundings.

The Spirit of 35 also boasts being the home of the WONO-FM 107.9 all night jazz broadcasts every night except Sunday starting at 1:00 AM from their spacious yet comfortable surroundings.

The Dinkler Lounge, recently remodeled, remains an active source of "Golden Jazz". Jazz rock can be found wherever the groups Steam or the Dave Hanlon Trio are, currently at the Under the Stone in Skaneateles. Syracuse University's Jabberwocky will be booking jazz sometimes bigger names, and surprises so be on the look out for their schedule, which features the Dan Carter Quintet, a former Dizzy Gillespie
CLUB SCENE

The Traftamadore Cafe took a giant step forward last month by booking Stone Alliance for two nights. The trio consists of former sidemen of Elvin Jones and Miles Davis and their music reflected those prestigious associations. Steve Grossman, tenor saxophone, left no doubt that he is one of the best few to carry on the spirit of Coltrane. It was possibly his best performance ever due to the trio situation and the fact that this was the premier appearance of the group. Don Alias was simply a monster. A powerhouse of controlled energy and masterful dynamics on trap drums. Oddly enough his main axe is congs! Gene Perla's electric bass work was lyrical and refreshing without being overpowering, distorted or overdone. Each note has a distinct meaning and he deserves the worldwide reputation he now enjoys.

As a unit, Stone Alliance is highly energized, rhythmically complex and (by the 4th show) close knit. Their electrified sound will soon reach the jazz fans of South America on their up-coming tour.

All four shows were sold out (despite the weather) and word is that they'll be back.

Two groups that have been enjoying an accelerating level of popularity are Spira Gyra & Flight. Each projects a '70s sound and is composed of excellent soloists. Try to catch them soon.

The Cotton Club on Niagara Falls Blvd. has been featuring Spider Martin, who's been packing them in six nights a week. Spider is well known all over and should be heard by everyone. The Cotton Club will continue in the jazz format and we wish them the greatest success.

Sam Noto was up to his usual high level during his four nights at the Ericson Lounge last month. He was superbly backed by Jaman-piano, Jim Kerzdorfer-bass and Harry Pender-drums. The audience, mostly composed of younger jazz fans, was treated to jazz classics and a good amount of Noto originals. Hopefully with this recent surge of jazz locally some one will be able to attract big name jazz on a regular club basis (and they are now the right sized, interested clubs to do it).

J.S.

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LIVE MUSIC REVIEW - J. R. WIETZ

J.R. Wietz, back from 2-1/2 years in California, packed the Bona Vista for 8 days. Obviously enjoying the warm audience, guitarist Wietz responded with some amazing work, while John Opat "fri" drums, and Gary White showed improvement on bass. The final night had Jim Calire on keyboards and sax. Hope they come back again!
5 VOTES
Jim Hall - Concierto (CTI)

4 VOTES
Elvin Jones - New Agenda (Vanguard)
Woody Shaw - Moontrane (Muse)

3 VOTES
Sonny Fortune - Awakening (Horizon)
Shelly Manne - Hot Coles (Flying Dutchman)
Steve Kuhn - Trance (ECM)
Weather Report - Tale Spinnin' (Col.)
Pat Martino - Consciousness (Muse)
Eddie Henderson - Sunburst (Blue Note)
Jackie McLean - Jackknife (Blue Note)
Sam Rivers - Involuntary (Blue Note)
Sonny Criss - Crisscraft (Muse)

VOCAL
Mark Murphy Sings - (Muse) - 4
Carmen McRae I Am Music (Blue Note) - 3

BEST RE-ISSUE
Cannonball Adderley - Japanese Concerts (Milestone) - 3

ABERCROMBIE/HOLLAND/DeJOHNETTE - GATEWAY - ECM 1061
John Abercrombie has been featured on a good amount of records recently. Gateway is one of the best. All three of these musicians are among the top in their field, but some of their work together has been less than great - e.g. albums under DeJohnette's name. Here they carry off the trio situation with ease - constantly working off their own and each other's ideas. May Dance is an 11-minute trip in creative improvisation. Perhaps the best cut is Back-Woods Song - a spaced out feature for Abercrombie with Holland and DeJohnette driving, steady and controlled. Much of Abercrombie's work is heavily electrified, and if that's your preference this album should definitely please you.

B. W.

JOHN LEE and GERRY BROWN - BLUE NOTE - BN-LA541-G
Drummer Gerry Brown has teamed up with bassist John Lee and released a fine listening album. The music presented is along the lines of Alphonse Mouzon, but a touch mellower. Effort is refreshing on electric guitar, with numerous individuals soloing on synthesizer - most notably Rob Franken and Eleventh House's Mike Mandel. Gerry Brown powers throughout, while funky John Lee lays the groundwork. The result is clean and fast moving. T.M.

WILLIS JACKSON - HEADED & GUTTED - MUSE 5048
The second outing on Muse records for Willis Jackson is an enjoyable set of bluesy, soulful jazz. The word gutted in the title serves well as a description of Willis' sound. It has guts. Superb support comes from Pat Martino, Mickey Tucker, Bob Cranshaw & Freddie Waits. The blues tracks with Tucker on organ and Pat's straight ahead soloing capture my attention the most. Perhaps the reason that so many of producer Don Schlitten's sessions are a success is that he allows the musician to have his choice of accompanying musicians as well as material. This one is just good listening.

B. W.

JAZZ MUSTS!

Chico Hamilton Peregrinations
Includes: V-O / Peregrinations
Sweet Dreams / It's About That Time

"Fancy Dancer" Bobbi Humphrey
Includes: Uno Esta
You Make Me Feel So Good
Fancy Dancer / Please Set Me At Ease

Montara Bobby Hutcherson
Includes: Camel Rise / La Malanga
Love Song / Oye Como Va

GE N E HARRIS • NEXUS
Includes: Sauda/Funky Business
Love Don't Love Nobody
Rushin' Roulette / Prayer '76

PRESSURE SENSITIVE RONNIE LAWS
Contains: Always There • Nothing To Lose
Tell Me Something Good • Miss Mary's Place

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Blue Note
ESTHER PHILLIPS - CONFESSION THE BLUES - ATLANTIC 1680

This one takes us back to Esther's late 60's Atlantic period. It is not, however, a re-issue. All of the tracks here are issued for the first time. Side one was done with a 17 piece orchestra led by Onzy Matthews. For the most, the session is laid back and the tunes are short. By contrast, side two was done live at the Pied Piper with the quartet of Jack Wilson, Ike Isaacs, Chuck Rainey and Donald Bailey. The same date produced her Atlantic album Burnin (1565). The highlight is the blues medley (Blow Top, Jelly Jelly & Long John Blues) running 10 minutes. Good vocal work from Esther, recommended especially for her new fans.

B.W.

JOE VENUTI

Many people have seen violinist Joe Venuti during his recent performances in Buffalo & Toronto. Each of these albums should be of interest to his fans. From Concord records comes GEMS (CJ 14) pairing Joe with guitarist George Barnes. It's a melding of romantic set featuring the additional guitar (rhythm) of Bob Gibbons with bassist Herb Mickman and drummer Jake Hanna. Venuti & Barnes are romantics from way back and compliment each other with natural ease.

The second release is the latest volume from JOE VENUTI & ZOOT SIMS on Chiaroscuro (CR-14). Sims in on tenor sax with a piano, bass and drum section. Trombonist Spigal Wilcox is on one tune. There's some ballad artistry here and the remainder swings hard.

B.W.

RALPH TOWNER - SOLSTICE - ECM 1060

This is one of those records you know will be good just by examining the personnel. Ralph Towner has gained a reputation for being a strong force on both string and classical guitars. His work with Pat Metheny and Oregon is most obvious in this music. Jan Garbarek (saxes & flutes) and Eberhard Weber (bass) are gaining an international reputation for their unique styles and consistently flawless and imaginative performances. Join them with the crisp and technically perfect drumming of John Cristensen and you've got Nimbus. A very European classics and jazz fusion thing that should please most everyone who enjoys good music.

B.W.

PAT MARTINO - FOOTPRINTS - MUSE 5906

In its previous form, this was always one of my favorite guitar albums. Originally issued as The Visit on the Cobblestone label (9015), Footprints placed Pat Martino in pianoless quartet setting. While Pat provides an almost constant solo flow, guitarist Bob Rose lays out some well-spaced chords. The rest is up to Richard Davis & Billy Higgins, who perform up to their usual high level. Their credentials need not be questioned.

Martino keeps no secrets about his debt to the great Wes Montgomery. It is most evident on this record. Montgomery composition, Road Song, is included. Other hot cuts are Wayne Shorter's Footprints and Pat's The Visit. Definitely something to check out if you're into jazz guitar.

B.W.

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Transcendental Audio is the Number One Yamaha dealer and service center in Western New York.

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BUFFALO

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ANDREW WHITE - COLLAGE - ANDREW’S MUSIC 14
Here’s chapter fourteen from saxophonist Andrew White. Once again he’s with two members of the Blackbyrds - Kevin Toney & Keith Killgo, and bassist Steve Novosel. The material is varied - a Latin Dock at Papeta and the pop hit Ma Cheria Amour being included in Whites’ usual program of driving acoustic jazz (all other tracks). Only two short compositions come from Andrew. Other tunes include Coltrane’s Just For The Love & Crescent, Miles’ Four and Wayne Shorter’s Contemplation. As proven on earlier albums, these guys can play and deserve your attention. White is on alto and tenor saxes.

Check local stores or send $5 to Andrew’s Music, 4830 South Dakota Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.
B.W.

THE BLUE NOTE RE-ISSUE SERIES
Ten new twofer re-issues have come out this month from Blue Note.

THE YOUNG RABBITS by the JAZZ CRUSADE (LA-530) is a gathering of material taken from the Pacific Jazz albums. The period covered is ‘62-’67 and the regular group of “Stix”, Felder, Sample and Henderson is joined by such notables as Hubert Laws, Joe Pass, Al McKibbon and others. All those interested in the Crusade’s music today should check this out. Its straight jazz - all acoustic of course, the striking similarities are easily noted despite the group’s change in direction - especially in the trombone work of Wilton Felder. Some of the best music is on side 3 - recorded live at the Lighthouse. M of the tunes are originals.

A very hot item, both for music and sales, comes from CHICK COREA. CIRCLING IN (LA-472) is composed of previously unreleased sessions in ’68 and ’69. Side one is a trio situation with Miroslav Vitous, Roy Haynes; the second is with David Holland a Barry Altschul; and the third is Corea, Holland & Anthony Braxton with Chick doubling on drums (instrument he handles well). The last side is with Corea, Holland, Braxton & Altschul - the group known as Circle. This period was a most creative and exploratory one for Corea and all the music here is excellent. All the music is acoustic and only non-original is heard - Monk’s Pannonica. Two years later Corea formed Return to Forever.

Some dynamite SONNY ROLLINS music is available on MORE FROM THE VILLAGE VANGUARD (LA-475). All of the music was recorded on the same day in 1957 and Rollins is presented in two settings. Except for one tune with Donald Bailey Pete LaRoca, the saxophonist is in the company of bassist Wilbur Ware and a young Elvin Jones. The music is on fire and is a must for Rollins fans. Saxophone lovers in general. This is the same session that produced A Night at the Village Vanguard (81581) - a great album released nearly twenty years ago. All of the music here has never been released.

BEGINNINGS (LA-531) presents some classic music featuring WES MONTGOMERY. Five sessions recorded in ‘57, ’58 & ’59 are represented with different musicians including Wes’ brothers, Bu and Monk. Two tunes include Freddie Hubbard and Wes is playing octaves, although rather sparingly. This set is simply loaded with great guitar music from the best guitarist jazz has known. Highly recommended.

We’ll have reviews of the remaining twofer this release in the next issue.

B

SONNY ROLLINS - NUCLEUS - MILESTONE 9
With all the disco music flooding the market these days, the first few minutes of this album will scare. Some of the music is funky, but too much soul (real soul - let’s not forget what it is and too gutsy to make it as disco. And then there is some straight ahead jazz typical of Sonny’s as after his last “vacation” from the scene e.g. Azz & Cosmos and the beautiful ballad My Reverie. H
FEBRUARY JAZZ

Espoy 14 E.R.
Spiryo Gyra 20 & 27 Birthright
Barney Perry Quartet 21 James Clark
(From "Blackbyrds") 28 Flight

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James Clark Delaware Park Casino - 4:00-7:00 PM
Young Peoples Workshop - Jerry McClam - Jefferson-Utica Library - 4:30-7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY - Guitar and Bass Workshop (advanced) - James Clark - Delaware Park Casino - 4:00-7:00 PM
Jam Session - Jerry McClam - Delaware Park Casino - 7:00-10:00 PM
THURSDAY - Workshop for Young Drummers - Nasara Abadey - Delaware Park Casino - 3:00-7:00 PM
FRIDAY - Latin Jazz Workshop - Joe Marfoglia Delaware Park Casino - 7:00-10:00 PM
SATURDAY - Jazz Community Orchestra - Al Tinney - St. Luke's Church - 2:30-5:30 PM

The Association for Jazz Performance (AJP) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1972 to work towards developing jazz as an environmental art form in the greater Buffalo area. Through the establishment of on-going clinics and workshops for student, non-professional and professional musicians and the presentation of free and paid concerts, the AJP seeks to enrich the cultural environment of Western New York.

We invite you to join us in our efforts to work for the continuance of the Spirit of Jazz.

All AJP memberships include:
- an AJP T-Shirt
- an 8" x 10" reproduction of a portrait sketch of jazz great Charlie Parker, drawn from life in 1952 by AJP member-artist Joe Marfoglia
- reduced admission to all AJP programs
- participation in the AJP Community Advisory group
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TUESDAY - Guitar and Bass Workshop (beginners)
James Clark Delaware Park Casino - 4:00-7:00 PM
Young Peoples Workshop - Jerry McClam - Jefferson Utica Library - 4:30-7:30 PM

Some fine support including George Duke, Bob Shaw, Roy McCurdy & Raul De Souza. Of special note is Bennie Maupin on tenor sax, bass clarinet, tenor and lyric. By the end of side two, I'd conclude that it's a good Rollins album. If the funk tunes on side one are his idea of what disco music should be like - others, who have sold their creativity, should take note.

B.W.

J.PER ADAMS - EPHEMERA - ZIM RECORDS 2000

Pepper Adams celebrates his tenth album as a leader with a refreshing, straight ahead jazz album. Many years that this quartet has played together in various settings or another with additions and deletions to the line-up (the way) is readily apparent by the time you've listened to any one of the seven pieces discussed here. Pepper Adams, the master of the baritone sax, really lets loose letting us hear more of his brilliant soloing than we've heard from him in a while. The support Pepper gets from Roland Kirk on piano, George Mraz on bass and Mel Lewis on drums speaks for itself. If you've found a lack of skilled, acoustic jazz in your diet lately, then your ears on Ephemera.

J.H.
HERE COME THE STARS
This February at the Statler

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what's happening

buffalo area

See ads.

Niagara

Ron Cosaro Jazz Experience - Big Band - Concert Wednesday, February 18 at 8 PM. Niagara Wheatfield High School.

toronto

CKOS-FM 94.9 new 3 hour show "From Bebop to Now" featuring BJR's Hal Hill. Saturday, Feb. 21-9-Midnight.

Bourbon St. - Howard McGhee & Pete Christlieb (See ad)

Basin St. - 180 Queen St. (Above Bourbon St.)
Vic Dickenson w/ Jim Galloway & Paul Rimstead Feb.

George's Spaghetti House - 290 Dundas St., E.,
Moe Koffman Feb. 2-7; Ted & Kathryn Moses 9-14;
Sonny Greenwich 16-21; Sadik Hakim 23-28.


2-7.

Mother Necessity Jazz Workshop - 14 Queen St., E.,
2nd Floor - jazz every night except Monday. Details next month.

Stage 212 - Dundas & George Sts. - Buddy DeFranco
Feb. 2-7; Gerry Mulligan Feb. 9-14.

INN ON THE PARK - Leslie & Eglington Ave.
Saturday matinees, various groups.

SANDPIPER TAVERN - 76 St. Clair Ave., W.
Saturday afternoon 2 to 5 PM - The Avante Go-Go Jazz Revival Band. Admission Free.
567 GALLERY - 567 Queen St., W. Honey Novak, Bill Smith, Larry Dubin, Peter Anson, Al Matteo, Casey Sokol.

rochester

Eastman Theatre - 25 Years of Brubeck (Desmond, Wright & Morello) plus 2 Generations of Brubeck Feb. 15, 8 PM. The New Jazz Ensemble Feb.
Eastman Jazz Ensemble Feb. 27 w/guest Bill Watrous.

Monticello Restaurant - Jack Maheu & Sact City Band.

syracuse

Jabberwocky - 315 Waverly Ave., S.U. Campus

Dinkler Motor Inn - 1100 James St. 472-6961 -
Richards Quartet w/Maxine Sullivan Feb. 9-14; w/Carey Smith Feb. 16-21; Marion McPartland w/Jimmy McPartland Feb. 23-March 13.

Spirit of 35 - Carrier Circle 463-3535 - Mike Curry thru Feb. 12.

Casa di Lisa - 1625 Erie Blvd., East 472-9043

Under the Stone - Skaneateles - Dave Hanlon