Basie wows them at Meadow Brook

By MARK E. GALLO

The Jazz Series at Mcadow Brook's
Baldwin Pavillion in Avon Township
has, sadly, come to a close, putting a
large dent in the weekly plans of the
many afticianados who set aside each
Friday night for the fine showcase of
America's black classical mustc. And
what a season it was.

No more fitting a finale could have
been dreamed up had the administrators taken years to do it. Oscar Peterson, aged 34 years and two days,
opened for William "Count" Baste, jud
Though closer to Peterson's Dirthday.
Though closer to Peterson's Dirthday,
which was actually on the 2 ist.

THE WORDST WE ATMERE OF the nore.

THE WORST WEATHER of the year dld little to dampen the spirits of the thousands of faithful. Umbrellas, makeshift tents and lean-tos so densely covered the hills that it was a bit of a miracle that everyone didn't slide to the bottom in a heap.

Oscar Peterson chose to open with an old Bing Crosby standard, "Old Folks." The elegant plantst performed a brisk solo set at a \$50,000 Bosendorfer plano. Had an anticipated duet between Oser and the Count taken place, another was in the wings. It would have been the first time in history that two of these magnificent instruments had been on one stage. these magnificent instruments had been on one stage. For whatever reason, it didn't hap-pen.

DEFINITELY ONE of the greatest living planists, Peterson plays with what might be described as a refined intensity. His stature is pure elegance, yet his hands are a blur, a mass of notes cascading off the keys in lyrical clumps.

notes castaining of the keys in lytical cliumps.
His interpretation of Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are" was the most contemporary time of his set, most of which was spent in singing the praises of his two major mentors, Art Tatum and Fasts Waller, in stylistic approach if not in actual material.

The material did, however, include selections from his beautiful "Canadian Suite" and a piece from his as yet unfinished suite to Africa, "The Fallen Warrior," written for an imprisoned Nelson Mandello.

FATS WALLERS' "Honeysuckle Rose" and a medley of Duke Eillington compositions including "Caravan," "I Got It Bad (And That Ain't Good)" and "I Don't Get Around Much Anymore" were all wonderfully executed and were all wonderfully executed and received. In fact, everything the man played was typically brilliant and predictably beautiful. Following a brief intermission, local

eview

television personality Jim Herrington ambied oustage to make some brief comments on the longevity and creative importance of Basie as he introduced him, to a standing ovation, and presented him with a plaque from the people at Meadow Brook in appreciation of the 42 years of Joymaking that the Count has brought the people of Michigan and of the world.

Michigan and of the world.

POMP OUT OF the way, Court Basic and his lie-place hand proceeded to demonstrate, in a much more universal language, why he is so loved and revered the world over.

A short disappointment crossed the minds of many immediately. Our Detroit price, Busth Miles, was not at the drums. That proved to be a short disappointment, however, as Duffy Jackson showed his stuff and drove the band at a bilinding pace, which was all the more amazing considering, his whole three days in the band.

It was difficult to catch all of the Court's introductions over the din of applianse, so it's uncertain who many of the solidats were. John III' featured the young bassist John Clayton Jr. "There'll Newer De Another You'v' had a familiar face, whose name was unclear blowing a mean flueuelborn.

familiar face, whose name was unclear, blowing a mean flugelhorn.

unclear, blowing a mean flugelhorn.

ANOTHER TRUMEFTER indulged in a bit of nostalgia by playing Bunny Berigan's signatory, "I Can't Get Slart-de". Freddy Green, who has been with Basie from 1937 and is noted for not taking a solo, took a solo.

We should have known better, as his "solo" turned out to be a strum at the end of a musical comedic dialogue between the guitarist and the planist. Basie is the master of sparseness and in that short interlude said more with a couple of notes than most could say with a handful.

Detroiter Dennis Rowland played "Watch What Happens," "In My Solitude," "Chain Gang" and "Everyal I Have the Blues." His voice is in the Arthur Prysock-Billy Eckstine mold and should improve.

AFTER A SURPRISE birthday cake

AFTER A SURPRISE birthday cake was wheeled to and from the stage, the band closed with its them, "One O'Clock Jump" and played "Stompin" at the Savoy" as an encere finale. A birthday party afterward at Tweeny's Cale in Birmingham hosted the Count and a party of 35. Music was provided by the Joe LoDuca Quartet and Phil Marcus Esser. A great end to a memorably fantastic night. We'll miss those Fridays.



William "Count" Basie, 75, blows out the in his he candles on his birthday cake at a party given mingham. in his honor at Tweeny's Cafe in Bir-



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Youthful 'girls' give great show

By JIM WINDELL

Four girls and four styles add up to one incomparable evening.
That's the math that makes "4 Girls 4" add up to a run performance by four singers who have been around forever. Rosemary Cloopey, Rose Marie, Hei-en O'Connell and Margaret Whiting are right's from our past who make us feel eyoung again. They have been associated with an era that is now fondly remembered.

ed with an era that is now fondly remembered.

A musical revue, "4 Girls 4," was reated about two years ago and has been spreding warmth across the country-ever since. The four of them have a unique ability to be themselves about their lives, was plokes or sing song associated with their carrents. Green that perhaps most people consider to be long over. Far from it with this show.

over. Far from it with this show.

WITH FRANKIE ORTEGA leading the orchestra and playing plano behind the girls, each of them, beginning with Margaret Whiting, does a turn on stage. Each gets about 30 minutes and manages to pack old and new songs, jokes, and patter about their family life into those few minutes. Each does her bit in a fairly low key manner that exclusioners that the stage short the stage short the stage show the stage short the stage show the stage s

important, see can still make us be-lieve her songs.

Margaret Whiting infroduces Helen
O'Connell to the older Meadow Brook
crowd as a "hell of a friend and a wonderful roommate." Helen is a knockout
with her looks and could almost be
someone's college roomate.

IN THE OPENING PERFORM-ANCE Monday night, Miss O'Connell started weak and apparently nervous.

Review

But that soon passed and she was talking about her family and her relationship with the other girls in the show, she tried some newer material like "After the Loving," but it was with the old Bob Eberle and Jimmy Donsey tunes that she scored biggest. "Tangerine," "Amaponia," "Star Byes" and "Green Byes". The little of the start of the start

ith that. After the intermission, Rose Marie, who was once known as Baby Rose Marie, during her childhood singing days on radio, shows that she is one of the most talented comediennes in the

days on radio, shows that she is one of the most talented comediences in the country.

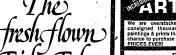
She has had plenty of experience working radio, television and the movies with such great comics as W.C. Fields, Dick Van Dyke and Morey Amsterdam.

She enters in a flow-length black fur coat and as the jokes start to fly, the coat comes off and is flung carelessly across the plann as she reveals a low-cut sparkling evening gown. That becomes part of her act as she tells irsque jokes that are not only old and very lump but include her marvelous sense of timing.

HER RECOUNTING of some of the best Paul Lynde jokes from her 13 years as a regular on Ptys "Hollywood Squares" showed she can do some gome impressions and her circlust to Jimpes and her circlust to Jimpes and the circles and the c

Durante fit very well in ner 100g. ...

Completing the evening was the "Cmon To My House" girl, Rosemary Clooney. After Rose Marie, Rosemary Clooney. After Rose Marie, Rosemary, Under the John State of the Rosemary that sang in her well-remembered style. She keeps up with the times with such things as Billy Joels's "I Love You state Way You Are" and a new Jove song "The Promise," which she plans to sing at her son's weedling on Sept. 1.



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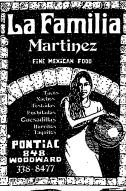
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