Cranbrook Jazz Band enlarges audiences with tour

Sarkis Halajian, head of the Cran-brook School Music Department, formed a student jazz band some three years ago, and for the first time the

was ago, and for the first time the the star is getting wider recognition.

"We just played a concert last week for Father's Day at Kingswood School. It was our first public performance this year, and I'd have to say it was very well received." he said.

Next public venture will be an all-school assembly. And then the band will perform in a juzz festival at 8 p.m. Friday in the Crambrook Performing Arts Center. The festival is a special fund-raiser to help finance the band's English tour.

English tour.
From March 6-13, the jazz band will give performances in Southeast England as part of a cultural exchange program with Crambrook, Kent, the school which was the original model for the Crambrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills.

Tunbridge Wells and various secondary schools, including Boendden, the school Friedes Anne attended.

"We've been working pretty hard." first-year band member and planist Marcie Szarama said." Inda been playing the classical organ for about 10 years, but when I heard Kristein Kristein Studebaker, lead guitarist I talking about the jaz band, it sounded like fun and I decided to try it out."

Now, Marcie, a Troy resident, is hooked by jazz. "I like all kinds of music, but I really enjoy playing songs like Feels So Good and the ölder stuff like Freis So Good and the ölder stuff like Freis So Good and the ölder stuff like rector of the Madrigals, a gift burning, ham with her mother Nina, who is a rector of the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a rector of the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a rector of the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a read to the band of the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a read to the band of the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a read to the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a read to the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a read to be supposed to the Madrigals, a gift burning ham with her mother Nina, who is a supposed to be supposed t

Ms. Studebaker, a 16-year-oid Kings-wood junior, plays in a rock band called Conquest, besides playing lead guitar in the jazz band. She was swayed by the prospect of going to England when she decided to join the band. "My mother was talking about going

...., secreted I'd like to be in it.
My brother and I were the two
drummers in the jazz band originally,"
Schwartz said. "IT WAS MY FIRST time playing a drum set. Before that I was mostly playing classical percussion in concert and symphony bands. As of now, I'd like to continue playing percussion in a jazz band or a symphony orchestra when I go to coilege."

to England with the Madrigals and my dad is going as a chaperone. I thought if they were going to England, why not me? So, I asked Mr. Halaijan for an audition and I made it. Our lead guitarish that graduated last year, "is he said."

Sixteen-year-old _imior Bob Thayer in the jazz band. This is his second year in the band and he expects to be a music major in college.

"I like the idea of playing a lot of music," he said. "Becquise of this trip, were been working harder and learning a lot more music. I really like performing, so I'm looking forward to this trip, I've never been out of the country and I have some relatives in Emm."

Bob Schwartz had mixed feelings when the first heard about going to England. "I wasn't quite sure were good we were really surprising a lot of music," he said. "Becquise of this trip, live never been out of the country of the properties of the properties of the country of the properties of

ny Orenestra and its older triother also is a percussionist.

"When Mr. Halajian joined Cran-brook School, I was in my freshman year, and when he decided to start a jazz band, I decided I'd like to be in it. My brother and I were the two FOR BOTH the students and Hala-

FOR BOTH the students and Hala-jian, the jazz band sa nextraeurricular activity. He puts it in his busy schedule after school and on weekends. He also allows time for performing as principal clarinet player in the War-ren Symphony Orchestra. He has time, too, for the Cranbrook Winds Quintet. In addition, he has subbed with his clar-inet in "nearly every community or-chestra in this area." After completing his master's degree in music performance at Illinois State University, Halajian taught music in

the Boston area before taking over as nead of the Cranbrook Music Department in 1975. Soon after he assumed that post he tried to recruit a jazz band.

"The basic problem in starting a jazz band," Halajian said, "is to get the right instrumentation. When we began three years ago, we didn't have a lower brass section, we had no lead trumpet,



Sarkis Halajian conducts the student jazz band.

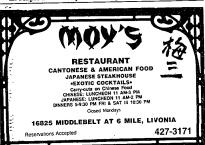
lead alto, and the alto sax section practice for Cran



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