

Band getting richer

You might say that money is music to Jon Diamond's ears.

Thanks to Diamond, an economics and music major at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the U-M Jazz Band is \$22,000 — and soon to be one international performance — richer.

Diamond plays first alto saxophone with the band, directed by Louis Smith. During the last few months, Diamond has found enough backers for the ensemble to send it to the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland in July.

The band was invited to the festival in 1973 but couldn't afford to go. This year, to Diamond's knowledge, only one other college band in the United States will participate in the competition, which is a career springboard for young jazz musicians.

"THE FESTIVAL can work like a college football draft," Diamond said. "There are loads of agents and producers around looking for young musicians, and in the past students have gotten contracts there."

Diamond, the band's business manager, raised the money for the Switzerland trip by such fees as:

- Persuading the Michigan Student Assembly, the U-M's student government, to provide him with a loan.
- Arranging a piggy-back appearance in Tubingen, Germany, through the city of Ann Arbor, so the excursion can be billed as a cultural exchange program.
- Getting a television spot on the Detroit WXYZ-TV "Kelly and Company" show.

Donations for the project dribbled in until March and then began to push as Diamond invested even more of his time gushing for the band. Band benefactors include many local businesses, the Detroit Tigers, Ernest A. Jones of the D'Arcy-MacManus and Mastus agency in Bloomfield Hills, U-M Interim President Allan F. Smith, the university's executive officers, Major Events Office, and the business and music schools.

With assistant business manager Mark Keime, Diamond also arranged for the jazz band to perform as frequently as possible and was guaranteed a percentage of the entertainment market locally by the Ann Arbor Musicians Union.

BUT, EVEN before he began approaching individuals and organizations for money, Diamond concentrated on developing the band's image. He helped get extra bookings in California during the Rose Bowl engagement, including opening for jazz artist Woody Herman and playing at Disneyland.

"When we were in California, we only had two performances set up. The first day people started asking us to play for them. We could have played every day and night out there. . . I used California as a foundation, a starting point, for the contacts I made," Diamond said.

The 20-member ensemble, founded 14 years ago, has given Diamond plenty to tout. Besides the earlier invitation to Montreux, the band has played for the President Carter at a congressional dinner, and four years ago was chosen best ensemble at a national festival in Elmhurst, Ind., among other credits.

Thomas G. Easthope, assistant vice president for Student Services at U-M, describes Diamond as "one of the most outstanding, self-directed students I know."

Workshops featuring international artistry

Members of metropolitan Detroit's theater community are preparing for Olympiad '79, an opportunity to learn in workshops from experts about American Indian Music and Dance, Asian Theater Movement, Spolin Theater Games, and Theater Techniques, as practiced by performing groups from 10 countries.

Performing groups from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Rumania and Scotland will participate in the workshops and perform along with 11 United States groups June 30-July 8 at the Hart Plaza amphitheater and the Attie Theater during the international theater festival.

The Asian Theater Workshop will be presented by Andrew T. Tsubaki, chairman of the University College Theater Association Asian Theater Program and director of the International Theater Studies Center at the University of Kansas-Lawrence. He will present Japanese acting styles of classical theater, introducing several aspects of stylized acting techniques.

Bernard Assinewe, a native American who lives in Quebec, will conduct workshops on Native American Music and Dance as Communication. Assinewe has acted in Shakespearean productions at the Stratford, Ont., Festival and for television.

THE SPOLIN Theater Games workshops will be presented by Robert Moyer, a field representative of the Spolin Theater Games Center and resident artist at Grand Valley State College. This contemporary theater process is a training method which employs improvisational techniques.

Each of the international performing groups will share in workshops focusing on the theater techniques which they employ in their work. Additionally, there will be sessions on Olympiad performances. Workshops and sessions will be held on alternate days at St. John-St. Luke Church, 2120 Russell, near Eastern Market.

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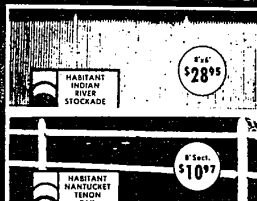


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