

# Jazz festival opens in Detroit

By JIM WINDELL

The first Montreux-Detroit International Jazz Festival opens Thursday for five days.

THE FESTIVAL WILL BE a blending of hundreds of Detroit-area jazz musicians and out-of-town musicians of world renown. Detroit is the first North American city ever to host a version of the famed 14-year-old Swiss festival.

Jazz and blues stars Ramsey Lewis, B.B. King and Oscar Peterson head the swinging lineup. In addition, there will be eight Music Hall and Detroit Plaza Hotel concerts and 30 free concerts at the Phillip A. Hart Plaza.

The festival officially begins at noon Thursday, with the opening ceremony on the balcony of the House of Fabrics, Woodward and John R. Detroit Mayor Jean-Jacques Cvevy of Montreux, Switzerland, and Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit will open the festivities. There will be entertainment by the Suisse Swing Six, the band that won the competition at the Montreux International Jazz Festival in Montreux in July.

The Opening Night River Gala takes place at 8 p.m. Thursday on the Bob-Lo Boat, on the waters between Detroit and Windsor. The World's Greatest Jazz Band and the Little McKinney's Cottonpickers will perform.

THE FESTIVAL BEGINS in earnest at noon Friday with a string of seven free concerts in the Hart Plaza. The Northview High School Jazz Band from Grand Rapids starts the concert schedule at 11:30 a.m.

Along the way, until 10 p.m., will be continuous concerts featuring vibist Jack Brokensha, George Benson and Ursula Walker, among others.

Also on Friday a paid-admission concert takes place at 5 p.m. at the Detroit Plaza Hotel Terrace. Soul and jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis will be followed by the Heath Brothers and finally Troy pianist and local favorite Lenore Paxton.

Musical excitement switches to the Music Hall at 8:30 p.m. for a salute to big bands. The concert features the group Supersax, which specializes in saxophone renditions of Charlie Parker music, Clark Terry and the Wayne State University Jazz Lab Band, and the band of the Radio Suisse Romande.

Another 10-hour round of jazz is offered Saturday at both the Hart Plaza and the Plaza Hotel. Among groups featured are the Brookside Jazz Ensemble at 11:30 a.m. The Detroit Plaza Hotel Terrace paid-admission concert at 6 p.m. will headline Spyro Gyra and Detroiters own Larry Nozoro Quartet.

LATER IN THE EVENING at the Music Hall Center will be a salute to Canada with the most famous Canadian jazz export, Oscar Peterson. Also performing will be Skywalk from Vancouver and L'Orchestre Symphonique from Montreal.

Jazz begins Sunday with a free concert by Detroiters James Tatum at the Hart Plaza. Among the free concerts that day will be the Austin-Moro Band at 1 p.m., Katalen-Kwek at 2:30 p.m. and J.C. Heard at 7 p.m.

A blues salute with B.B. King and Detroit blues queen Sipple Wallace will be presented at 6 p.m. at the Detroit Plaza Hotel Terrace.

Jazz of the Americas with guitarist Laurindo Almeida, Tito Puente and Roy Brooks with his Artistic Truth Band and the Aboriginal Percussion Choir will perform at 8:30 p.m. at the Music Hall.

Labor Day (Monday) at the Hart Plaza, the jazz sounds roll on, as such local renowned bands as Griot Galaxy (2:30 p.m.), Lyman Woodward (5:30 p.m.) and Jimmy Wilkins Orchestra (8:30 p.m.) hold forth. The Montreux-Detroit International Jazz Festival comes to a fitting close with what promises to be a Detroit Jazz free-for-all, at 8:30 p.m. at the Music Hall.

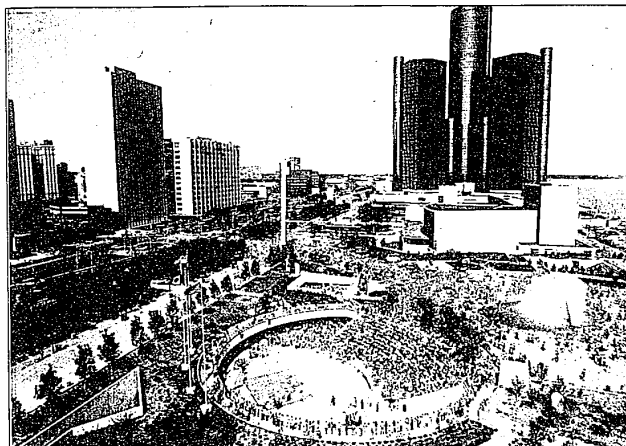
DETROIT JAMS will feature a

house band composed of such stellar jazzmen as Tommy Flanagan (piano), Billy Mitchell (sax), J.C. Heard (drums), Kenny Burrell (guitar), Jack Brokensha (vibes), George Benson (sax) and Will Austin (bass). Joining this "all-star house band" will be a host of other Detroit jazz musicians, who will play in various one-night-only pick-up groups.

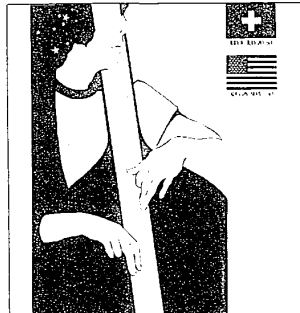
At the end, it is expected that all musicians will be on stage together for the highlight of the five-day jazz festival.

Tickets to all paid-admission events at the Music Hall and the Detroit Plaza Hotel concerts may be bought at all CTC ticket outlets including all J.L. Hudson stores, the Fisher Building Box Office, Kay Baum Stores and the Music Hall.

Tickets also can be charged on Visa and Master Charge cards by calling the Music Hall at 963-7680.



Hart Plaza will be filled with jazz entertainment for the Montreux-Detroit International Jazz Festival, Thursday through Monday.



The Montreux-Detroit jazz festival poster was designed by Karen Magdalen Ringer, a student at Detroit's Center for Creative Studies.

## Actors, musicians do Broadway show

Performing Artists Unlimited, the Northville-based theatrical company, will appear with the Oakway Symphony in "An Evening of Rogers and Hammerstein" Sept. 19-21 in the Harrison Performing Arts Center, Farmington Hills.

The program will feature musical numbers from "Oklahoma," "South Pacific," "Carousel," "The King and I" and "The Sound of Music."

Performing Artists Unlimited has performed regularly throughout metro Detroit since its inception in 1974. The

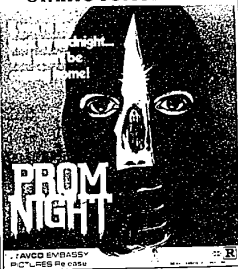
company made its Northville debut in 1978 with "Camelot" and has since brought productions of "Barefoot in the Park," "Brigadoon" and "Fiddler on the Roof" to the community.

For ticket information and times call 336-7446 or 348-9544.

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