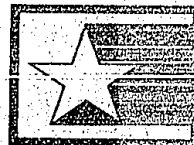


Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, May 24, 1984 O&E

(DPC)

At Montreux-Detroit: Indoors and out, jazz is the star

Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Betty Carter, the Modern Jazz Quartet, Boss Brass and Marian McPartland are a few of the big names topping the list of jazz musicians who will headline this summer's Montreux Detroit Kool Jazz Festival.

Backing up the big names are other well-known jazz musicians, as well as the local acts, who will open for some of the headliners and also perform in 79 free concerts along the riverfront.

"Detroit will pulse for six days with some of the most celebrated jazz artists in the world," said Robert E. McCabe, who made the announcement at a press conference last week in Detroit's State Theatre.

McCabe is president of Detroit Renaissance Foundation, the organization that produces the festival each year. He is certainly on target with his description of the jazz acts booked to perform in the ticketed events for the six-day festival opening Wednesday, Aug. 29.

Included among plans for the fifth annual jazz extravaganza is a new gesture. "We're proud to be part of a new movement in Detroit to restore the great old theaters," said McCabe, who reported that the State Theatre on Woodward Avenue will be introduced to the jazz public as a new venue for music this year.

The Modern Jazz Quartet, newly reunited, Teddy Wilson, Boss Bonnier and Rosemary Clooney will be performing at the State Theatre during this summer's festival.

Festival tickets go on sale Sunday, July 29, at Hudson's and all Ticket World outlets.

WHILE WE HAVE to wait until the end of the summer to catch the biggest jazz festival in town, we can enjoy "Jazz at the Institute" every Friday night. Presently in its eighth season, Jazz at the Institute at the Detroit Institute of Arts draws on local musicians, former Detroit-area musicians



on music
James Windell

and a lot of diverse talent.

This weekend pianist Randy Weston comes to the series in the DIA's Kresge Court. A trailblazer in terms of his search for the cultural heritage that comes from Africa, Weston has created a style of music he calls "African Rhythms."

Joining Weston for shows at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 25, will be Detroit percussionist Roy Brooks. A member of Max Roach's ensemble M'Boom, Brooks also leads his own Aboriginal Percussion Choir and has been featured at the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival.

For more information about Jazz at the Institute, call 832-2730.

IF YOU MISSED the Southfield Symphony Orchestra concert Saturday night at Orchestra Hall, you missed several things.

First of all, you missed out on hearing one of the better community orchestras play a range of music that was constantly interesting. Then, too, you missed hearing a Detroit premiere of a new work by pianist and composer Bob James.

James is currently on the Billboard Best Selling Jazz Album chart with his latest record called "Foxy." He also composes serious music. His "Work on Scales," which features the orchestra as well as soloists Donald Baker (oboe), Linda Snedden Smith (violin) and Alexander Zonjic (flute), is an intriguing piece that deserves to be heard again.

But then, so does the Southfield Symphony under the direction of DSO principal flutist Ervin Monro.

ALSO WORTH A TRIP to hear is the Bob Fennell Trio, playing weekends at Beaugart's in Redford.

Bob Fennell is a warm-toned tenor-sax player who grew up in Detroit, knew Louis Armstrong and ran a music school in Ontario before coming home. In the new trio are pianist Professor Harrison Cox (back in action with his Erroll Garner-influenced solos after heart problems) and drummer Ed Nelson (who heads the local Society for the Preservation of Jazz).

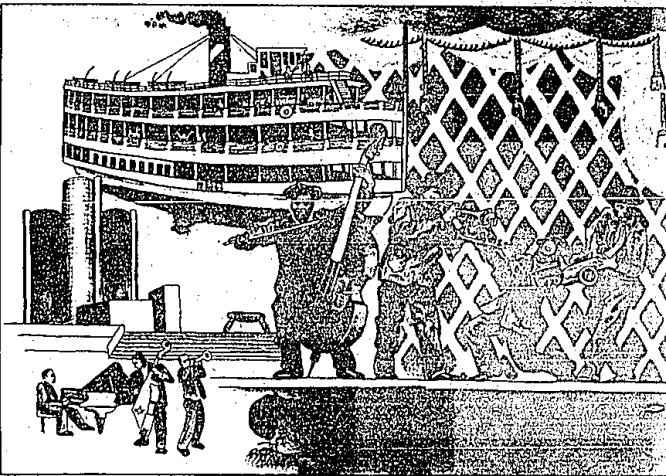
"Illinois Jacquet was my first idol," said Fennell after his set on a recent Friday night. He also related how he was impressed with a young saxophone player he met many years ago.

"I met Jug (Gus Arnheim) when I was 15 and he was 17," said Fennell, "and I knew he was going to be a top player. I always loved the way he sounded."

You could fall in love with the way Fennell sounds, too, on standards such as "Ghost of a Chance," "The Nearness of You" and "Misty." "I have a big sound," Fennell said, not bragging but stating a fact. "It just comes naturally."

The Bob Fennell Trio continues this weekend, starting at 8 p.m., at Beaugart's, 27331 Five Mile, Redford. You can call 537-5600 for other information.

WHETHER IN A CLUB or outside, spring and summer around here is a great time for music. This weekend it's the fifth annual Motor City Bluegrass Festival at the Meadow Brook Music Festival site on the Oakland University



campus in Rochester.

From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, you can sit back on the sloping lawn, catch some rays and enjoy the bluegrass of the father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe, and the Bluegrass Boys, as well as John Hartford, Roy McMinn and the Sunny-Siders and a handful of other groups.

It may have been Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys who started the whole bluegrass movement a long time ago, but it's bands like Helen Hoskins and Home Grown Grass who perpetuate it.

Grandmother Helen Hoskins will bring her band and her string bass to

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— Robert E. McCabe, president
Detroit Renaissance Foundation

the Motor City Bluegrass Festival and play some authentic bluegrass sounds. She's a traditionalist when it comes to bluegrass. There are no electric music or amplifiers in her quartet, which she inherited when her husband died.

Festival tickets go on sale Sunday, July 29, at Hudson's and all Ticket World outlets.

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