

# Jazz artists to perform at educators conference

More than 50 top jazz personalities are scheduled to appear at various concerts, clinics and seminars when the National Association of Jazz Educators holds its 15th annual National Conference on Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 7-10, at the Westin Hotel in Detroit.

Stars to be spotlighted include the Art Ensemble of Chicago, the Yellowjackets, Out of the Blue, Topshiko Akoyoshi, Randy Brecker, Ed Shaughnessy and J.J. Johnson. All conference activities will take place in the Renaissance Center.

More than 2,000 jazz educators, artists and enthusiasts from around the world are expected to attend the event, reflecting the 1988 conference theme, "Jazz — an International Language."

Performances will be given by 16 award-winning high school college and university school groups from as far away as California, Quebec, West Germany and South Africa. The South African group, from the University of Natal in Durban, features several of the country's top black and white musicians and is led by Darius Brubeck, known for his work with father Dave Brubeck.

A limited number of seats are being made available to the public for the conference's evening concert programs at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 7-9. Conference registration information is available from the NAJEC National Office (913-776-8744) and also will be available on-site during the event. Tickets for the evening concerts, priced at \$10 each and limited to 500 per show, are on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets.

THE THURSDAY concert, entitled "Michigan Night," will feature Michigan musicians and honor several Michigan natives who have made significant contributions to the world of jazz. Performers include Tommy Flanagan, J.C. Heard and Hank Jones, who will join Mel Lewis in a tribute to Hank's brother, the late Thad Jones.

A series of free concerts will be given at the Lobby Showcase Stage in the Westin Hotel. Professional jazz groups from throughout Michigan will be featured at noon and 2, 4 and 6 p.m. daily Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 7-9.

Additional components of the conference include the finals of the eighth annual Southern Comfort Collegiate Dixieland Competition (hosted by TV celebrity and trombonist Conrad Janis), continuous screening of jazz films and videos, research presentations and a music industry product display.



Jazz drummer J.C. Heard of Troy is one of the stars on the program for "Michigan Night," a concert featuring Michigan musicians.

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