Jack Kleinsinger presents
Highlights In JAZZ
In association with NYU Program Board

Two Great Jazz Happenings

Thurs., Dec. 13th - 8pm
Saxophone Spectacular
Jimmy Heath
Johnny Griffin
- The Ellington Reeds -
Harold Ashby
Norris Turney
Joe Temperley
Tony Purrone · Stafford James
Akira Tana

Friday, Jan. 4th - 8pm
Women of Jazz
Odetta
Chris Connor
Emily Remler

This event is made possible with public funds from the
New York State Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts.

at N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center
566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. South Tel. 598-2027
Tickets at Box Office or Mail Order To:
Highlights In Jazz, 7 Peter Cooper Rd., New York, N.Y. 10010
Make Checks Payable To: Highlights In Jazz - Enclose Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope

(Specify Dec. 14th or Jan. 6th Concert When Ordering)
Jazz: ‘Highlights’ Series Brings on the Saxophones

A "SAXOPHONE SPECTACULAR" presented Thursday evening at the Loeb Auditorium as part of the "Highlights in Jazz" series was only marginally "spectacular" and even then it was not entirely due to the saxophonists on the bill.

Five saxophonists had been assembled by producer Jack Kleinsinger—Jimmy Heath, Paquito D’Rivera and three who had associations with Duke Ellington’s Orchestra, Harold Ashby, Norris Turney and Joe Temperley. They were backed by Dick Katz, piano, Tony Purrow, guitar, Stafford James, bass, and Akira Tanaka, drums. Without having the solo opportunities of the featured saxophonists, Mr. Katz and Mr. Purrow were a constant focus of interest whenever they were members of the various combinations in which the musicians were presented.

Mr. Katz has a subtle and provocative way of suggesting a familiar style without literally copying it.

When the three Ellington men were playing some of the Duke’s tunes, Mr. Katz’s spare backgrounds and fills provided just enough Ellington setting to color the saxophonists playing without drawing attention from them. And his own solo performance of John Coltrane’s "Cousin Mary" was an interesting blend of Coltrane, Thelonious Monk and Basic Blues.

Mr. D’Rivera was the most consistently commanding of the saxophonists. But he was at his most electrifying when he shifted from alto saxophone to clarinet for a dazzling run through Charlie Parker’s "Donna Lee" during which Mr. Purrow, on guitar, engaged him in a challenging series of virtuoso exchanges that drove both of them to superb performances.

John S. Wilson

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!

MUSIC & DANCE

Concerts

Thursday, December 13

SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA—With cellist Arno Noras, violinists Kaija Saarikettu, the Swedenborg Quartet. Music of Nordic, Norwegian, Elgar, Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Alice Tully Hall at 8. $10.


BACH BY STARLIGHT—Music of Bach and Pachelbel. Hayden Planetarium, Central Park West and 81st St. (713-1327), at 7 and 8:30. $5.

SAXOPHONE SPECTACULAR—With Jimmy Heath, Paquito D’Rivera, others. Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place. (598-2027), at 8. $7.50.

Havana on POP MUSIC / WILL

It's generally agreed that New York City is the capital of jazz, and musicians from all over the world have moved here to pursue their careers. But few can have had as long or as difficult a journey as saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera, who headlines a "Saxophone Spectacular" with Jimmy Heath tonight at NYU and will be at Mikell's through Sunday.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 1984 / 5B

Talent in Action

SAXPHONE SPECTACULAR
NYU Loeb Student Center
New York
Tickets: $7.50,
FOR MORE THAN a decade, an energetic lawyer named Jack Kleinsinger has been presenting his "Highlights In Jazz" concerts on a regular basis—making him, despite the part-time nature of his involvement, one of New York's premier jazz promoters. The formula for Kleinsinger's concerts seldom varies: Get a bunch of good musicians with mainstream or bebop roots and throw them together in a jam session situation, mixing up the personnel slightly throughout the show. It's hardly a revolutionary concept, but it works well enough if the musicians are talented and compatible, both of which they usually are, even if the lack of rehearsal time sometimes results in as much good-natured chaos as inspired spontaneity.

The Dec. 13 "Highlights" show at NYU was one of Kleinsinger's better recent efforts. Titled—with only slight hyperbole—"Saxophone Spectacular," it featured Columbia artist Paquito D'Rivera and erstwhile Columbia and Antilles artist Jimmy Heath, as well as a trio of former Duke Ellington saxophonists: Norris Turney, Harold Ashby and Joe Temperley.

Working with Heath's rhythm section of guitarist Tony Purrone, bassist Stafford James and drummer Akira Tana, augmented by pianist Dick Katz, the five saxophonists went through their paces in various combinations. Heath, who is never less than compelling, was nonetheless a touch or two less than inspired, and the Ellingtonians also had their moments of seemingly playing by rote—although they did all catch fire on "Perdido."

The star of the evening was the charismatic D'Rivera. His acidic alto sax presented an effective contrast to Heath's authoritative tenor on "Blue Bossa," he turned "The Shadow Of Your Smile" into a rousing cha-cha, and he galvanized the audience with some rapid-fire bebop clarinet playing on "Donna Lee."

PETER KEPNEW

Paquito D'Rivera, the Cuban saxophonist who defected four years ago, performs at NYU tonight and Mikell's through Sunday.