

Jack Kleinsinger Presents
Highlights in Jazz!

In cooperation with NYU program board

Wednesday, Dec. 10th

8pm

SALUTE to ZOOTO

Joe Venuti

Roy Eldridge

Al Cohn

Ross Tompkins

Cliff Leeman

Major Holley

Guest
of Honor:
ZOOTO
SIMS

NYU Loeb Student Center Eisner and Lubin Auditorium
566 La Guardia Place at Washington Sq. South

Telephone: 598-3757

Tickets: \$5.00 Students: \$4.00 Student Balcony: \$2.50

Tickets at box office or by mail order

Make checks payable to: New York University

include stamped self-addressed envelope

Joe Venuti
Always
Patent

Eldridge
Roy

more

Yeah, Zoot—a real good gig

By DON NELSEN

Tributes to jazz musicians usually come shortly after their untimely deaths. For a change, Jack Kleinsinger, who produces monthly jazz concerts at NYU's Loeb Student Center, picked a live one to honor on Wednesday night.

"A Salute to Zoot" gave a lot of prominent jazzmen here in the Apple the opportunity to say "yeah!" to John Haley (Zoot) Sims, one of history's most indestructible tenor saxophonists. For the past 30 years, Sims' big, warm, lyric sound has inspired the sax sections of Woody Herman and Benny Goodman plus countless other gigs and sessions.

Indeed, his virtuosity is not confined to the horn. He is a superb raconteur, barroom wit and an excellent hand with the pool cue and glass.

He is without pretension. When trumpeter Joe Newman presented him a plaque inscribed "To John Haley (Zoot) Sims, a jazz musician's jazz musician," he turned to the overflow crowd in the auditorium and said: "To me, this is a good gig, man. I'm glad you all came and really filled the joint."

Then he resumed play. He

joined longtime sidekick and brother wit, tenor saxist Al Cohn, and together they fashioned a moving, slow-tempo "My Funny Valentine." And along it went, with Cohn, Roy Eldridge, pianists Ross Tompkins and Mose Allison, Gerry Mulligan with soprano sax and bassist Major Holley

jumping in and out to deliver a happy, invigorating jam. Yeah, Zoot.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13,

ZOOT SIMS SALUTE DRAWS JAZZ STARS

Zoot Sims, whose saxophone playing has been a consistently swinging and enlivening element in the countless jazz groups that he has played with during the last 30 years, managed to work his usual musical magic Wednesday evening, simply by being the focus of a salute at Jack Kleinsinger's monthly "Highlights of Jazz" concert in New York University's Loeb Auditorium.

Musicians were crawling over each other in their eagerness to be part of the program. Ross Tompkins flew in from California to play in an exhilaratingly rolling, rumbling piano style that has not been heard here since he headed West. Mose Allison replaced him briefly at the piano to display his own churning, blues style.

Major Holley, the bassist, created a brilliant comic tour de force of bowing and vocalizing on "Angel Eyes" that lifted this old Slam Stewart technique to a new level. Bucky Pizzarelli whipped through a driving, chorded guitar solo that left him breathless. And Al Cohn, Mr. Sims's constant saxophone companion for three decades, joined the salute in a typically nimble duet. By the end, Mr. Sims was in there, too—consistent as ever and swinging at his own salute.

JOHN S. WILSON

ZOOT TOASTED

NEW YORK—"We intend to make this an annual event," exclaimed producer Jack Kleinsinger. He was speaking during his "Highlights in Jazz" tribute to saxophone star John Haley "Zoot" Sims. "It's time we paid attention to our great jazz legacy while the stars are still with us," he went on.

Last year's Lionel Hampton bash (db, 6/5/75) packed them in. And on this night, too, the patrons lined the walls to see and hear Mr. Sims joined by his friends Al Cohn, Joe Newman, Ross Tompkins, Bucky Pizzarelli, Mosey Alexander, Major Holley, Cliff Leeman and George Duvivier. The place was New York University's Loeb Student Center, home for Kleinsinger's monthly concerts. Roy Eldridge played and sang a blues called

10 □ down beat

Wineola, in the middle of which an unscheduled Gerry Mulligan leaped on stage with soprano sax and joined the fray. Zoot, who wasn't due to play until the next tune, came out, inspected his former bandmaster, and proceeded to riff behind him.

Mose Allison and Al Porcino wandered by for a few choruses and Ms. Lynn Roberts added class to the occasion with vocal renditions of *Misty* and *The Lady Is A Tramp*.

Newman and Cohn presented Zoot with a plaque which read, in part, "A Jazz Musician's Jazz Musician." All gushed as John Haley thanked his friends. "Sometimes I play jobs and sometimes I play gigs. This was a true gig."

Kleinsinger is expected to keep his promise for more.

WEATHER BIRD

Real Music Is Happening Everywhere

BY GARY GIDDINS

Roy Eldridge, the electrifying and unpredictable trumpeter who roosts at Jimmy Ryan's, made a rare downtown appearance last week to participate in a Highlights in Jazz birthday salute to Zoot Sims, and he turned what would have been a pleasant concert into an event of real stature. Eldridge has often expressed the feeling that three or four times a year he plays well enough to justify everything else. After his set, he remarked, "That was one of those times!"

The concert promised to be special from the outset. Joe Newman, at his stirring and biting best, led a galloping quintet including Al Cohn, always impressive, and the Los Angeles studio pianist, Ross Tompkins, whose bubbling virtuosity recalled Eddie Costa. From the moment Eldridge replaced Joe Newman, the air changed. His opening solo was one of those long, leisurely inventions in which steaming riffs suddenly give way to pockets of melody, a jumble of eighth notes are marched against the bar line and exploded into another register, every chorus ends a little differently than you expected, and the stratospheric climbs are so keenly felt that you fear for the player's health.

The musicians were clearly as energized as the audience, despite what may have seemed an unusual rhythm section: the smiling and staunch Major Holley, and the persistent swing-era curio, Cliff Leeman. Cohn provided a cool, rock-steady, back-of-the-beat foil, sustaining interest with his moaning, shifting dynamics. During Roy's blues anthem, "Wineola," Gerry Mulligan hopped on stage with a soprano saxophone that he seemed more determined to make shout than he ever did the baritone. Sims, playing in a breathy, elliptical style, joined them to create a reed section behind Roy's vocal—

'Eldridge says that three or four times a year he plays well enough to justify everything else.'



Roy Eldridge: unsinkable

complete with stop-time choruses—and earth-shaking ride-out. It was a monumental performance, leaving no possible doubts as to the stature of the unsinkable Eldridge. At intermission, before he left for his regular gig at Ryan's, he was clearly pleased: "But you know I prepared for it. I sat on this table backstage, had just a little nip to cool the nerves, and practiced. That was really something." Yes it was. (An Eldridge performance almost as good can be heard in "Blues for Old N's" on "Earl Hines and Roy Eldridge at the Village Vanguard" (Xanadu 106), consisting of previously unissued material from the 1965 Vanguard sessions that originally produced two albums on Limelight.)

"SALUTE TO ZOOT" AT STUDENT CENTER

On Wednesday, December 10, 1975, Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz!" will pay tribute to alto-saxophonist Zoot Sims, a musician who after thirty years of playing jazz, is still at the height of his prowess. The concert will be a "Salute to Zoot."

Rounding out the bill will be a number of top-flight musicians, all of whom have had an association with Zoot over the years. They include: Roy Eldridge (trumpet), who leads a band at Jimmy Ryan's; Joe Newman (trumpet), who is a Basie band veteran of the 50s; Al Cohn (altoist), who was a member of Woody Herman's "Four Brothers" sax section; Ross Tompkins (piano), who worked with Zoot and Al at the old Half Note; Cliff Leeman (drummer), who played with the Artie Shaw, Woody Herman and Tommy Dorsey bands; Major Holley (bass), who worked with every great jazz star of the last two decades including Coleman Hawkins, Charlie Parker, Al Cohn, Roy Eldridge and Zoot; and Bucky Pizzarelli (guitar), who appears regularly with Zoot on records and in clubs.

The concert will take place at NYU Loeb Student Center (Eisner & Lubin Auditorium), 566 LaGuardia Place, at Washington Square South, on Wednesday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be bought at Loeb Student Center or by mail order. They sell for \$5.00; students \$4.00; student balcony \$2.50. For further information call 598-3757.

Jack Kleinsinger Presents
Highlights in Jazz!

In cooperation with NYU program board

Wed., Dec. 10th, 8pm

Salute to Zoot

Joe Newman • Roy Eldridge • Al Cohn
Ross Tompkins • Cliff Leeman
Major Holley • Bucky Pizzarelli
Guest of Honor: ZOOT SIMS

NYU Loeb Student Center, Eisner and Lubin Auditorium
566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Sq. South

Telephone: 598-3757

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Tickets at box office or by mail order

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GOING OUT Guide

concluding at 3 P.M. on Saturday. Admission is free.

ZOOT SUITE Tonight's "Highlights in Jazz" program at 8 o'clock pays tribute to the tenor-saxophonist Zoot Sims, still going strong after 30 years of playing, with a team of seven evoking past associations with Mr. Sims. They are Roy Eldridge and Joe Newman, on trumpets; Al Cohn, tenor saxophonist; Ross Tompkins, pianist; Cliff Leeman on drums; Major Holley on bass, and Bucky Pizzarelli, guitarist. The place: New York University's Loeb Student Center, 566 La Guardia Place, at Washington Square South. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and \$2.50 for the balcony. More information: 598-3757.

TAKE YOUR PICK Opera, jazz and Broadway are represented in new programs on the local scene. Tonight at 8 o'clock, Queens College will open its Bicentennial salute to the arts with a revival of "The Mother of Us All," which has music by Virgil Thomson and a libretto by Gertrude Stein. The work had its world premiere in 1947 at Columbia University and followed the controversial opera "Four Saints in Three Acts," which initiated the Thomson-Stein collaboration. The lively opera, which has a scenario by Maurice Grosser, centers on Susan B. Anthony, the pioneer suffragist leader.

The full-scale revival, involving a production company of 80 members with Hugo Weisgal conducting, takes place at the school's Colden Theater, 65-30 Kissena Boulevard in Queens. Curtain time continues at 8 P.M. tomorrow and Friday,



AT JAZZ TRIBUTE

Trumpet player Joe Newman (above) will be on the bill for a concert tribute to tenor-saxophonist Zoot Sims, a noted musician for 30 years, taking place on December 10, 8 P.M., at the NYU Loeb Student Center. The concert will also feature a number of other noted jazz musicians who have worked with Zoot through the years.

VOICE CHOICES

OUR MUSIC CRITICS GIVE US THE WORD

ZOOT SIMS

A birthday Salute to Zoot will be most notable for bringing the electrifying Roy Eldridge downtown, joining Al Cohn with his alter ego, and imparting Ross Tompkins from L.A. Washington Square South and LaGuardia Place, Wednesday, December 10. 8 p.m. (Giddins)

Loeb Student Center, 598-3757

SUNDAY NEWS, DECEMBER 7, 1975



PREVIEW!

LIVELY EVENTS OF THE WEEK

By JAMES DAVIS

Opera, Music: The second seasonal performance of Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" will be given at the Metropolitan Opera House Friday. Again Christine Weidinger will be Gretel to Rosalind Elias' Hansel. A salute to Zoot Sims will be given Wednesday evening at 8 at the NYU Loeb Student Center on Washington Square South. Tenor saxophonist Sims has been a jazz favorite for 30 years. Those who will honor him in music are equally prominent in the field.

LONG ISLAND PRESS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1975



SALUTE TO ZOOT: Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights in Jazz will pay tribute to tenor/saxophonist Zoot Sims, above, the musician who has been playing jazz for 30 years. The "Salute to Zoot" concert will be performed Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Square South.

Everywhere, jazz is flourishing -- or dying -- and the state of health does seem to be a continuous optical illusion. Of course, this is not inconsiderably due to one's definition of jazz. Is *Billy Cobham* jazz? Is *Manhattan Transfer*? Sure, why not. Just because the language has not caught up with the hybridization process is no reason to sit silent. Recent concerts in New York illustrate the problems facing jazz and anyone trying to decide just how it's doing.

Highlights in Jazz is a series of concerts put on at New York University's Loeb Auditorium. Most recently, there was a *Salute to Zoot* (Sims) who has played sax and clarinet with many of the big bands, including Benny Goodman and Stan Kenton, as well as combos with the likes of Al Cohn and Sonny Rollins. Okay. A one-time, one-night concert, ticket prices just about middling, certainly no higher than those for a concert of several months back, offering a salute to Charlie Parker. The latter concert was at Avery Fisher Hall (Lincoln Center) and other than the location and the fact that Mr. Parker's sax can only be heard in the ether, the offering was pretty much the same: top musicians who worked with the honoree coming in town to play their admiration and friendship. Only the Parker concert was cancelled for lack of ticket sales and other problems while the Zoot show was sold out, turning away hopeful buyers right to the last minute. Of course the house was smaller, but theoretically sales could have been higher if there had been room. The producer of the Salute was pleading with people to buy their tickets to the next concert-- a Salute to Satchmo--right then, in order to get tickets. So what happened...?

The concert was splendid, by the way, Roy Eldridge playing trumpet like he was his own son, warbling lyrics to such favorites as "Wine-ola" ... "Saw two women in the sand/One turned to the other/Said, wish you was a man/Other said, Turn over and I'll do the best I can/Oh Wine-ola" ... and Gerry Mulligan playing pocket sax, Al Cohn on tenor sax, Bucky Pizzarelli on guitar...oh it was a night. The audience jumping around, clapping, smiling and enthusiastic. Zoot himself came on, playing mostly clarinet, always swinging, always smooth, sitting back and waiting for the moment to add his music to the rest -- the *right* moment -- counterpointing Mulligan as he has so many times before in various combos and albums.

The audience was composed of old buffs who have sworn never to attend anything where the music is younger than their own youth, young college kids rediscovering the pleasure of jazz, and various people who just thought this

would be a good concert to check out; i.e., a little of everything was there, rather than a specific cult or sector. The whole evening was charged with presence and immediacy, and more nostalgia was in the audience than on stage. I can't wait for the *Salute to Satchmo*.

SOUL & JAZZ / JANUARY, 1976

PERFORMANCES

IN THE SEVENTIES

Jazz

BY LITA ELISCU

CITY
SCENE

New York

Highlights in Jazz salutes Zoot Sims on December 10 at New York University's Loeb Student Center featuring Mr. Sims with Joe Venuti, Roy Eldridge, Al Cohn, Bucky Pizzarelli, Ross Tompkins, Major Holley, Cliff Leeman, and some droppers-in to honor Zoot

The band in *Me and Bessie* on stage at the Ambassador Theatre on Broadway stars Bob Bushnell, bass; Ray Mosca, drums; Dick Griffin, trombone; Lenny Hambro, reeds. Howlett Smith directs from the piano. Texaco commercials on Bob Hope's last special swung because of Ron Roullier arrangements and Joe Malin's contracting. The band included Walt Levinsky, Phil Bodner, and Danny Bank, reeds; Ray Alonge, Jimmy Buffington, french horns; Bernie Glow, Mel Davis, Johnny Frosk, and Joe Wilder, trumpets; Urbie Green, Wayne Andre, and Alan Raph, trombones; Bernie Leighton, piano; Bucky Pizzarelli, guitar; George Duvivier, bass; and Ronnie Zito, drums. Paul Anka does the cancelled dates, due to the musicians' strike, at the Uris starting December 4 thru December 14. In addition to WRVR's live gigs from the Village Gate, they present live latin on Roger Dawson's Sunday Salsa show.

Salute To Zoot: Jazzman's Holiday

BY ED WATKINS

A real hip turned out for the last "Highlights in Jazz" concert of 1975 at NYU in Washington Square. And no wonder because Jack Kleinsinger really outdid himself in bringing together top jazz talent for his salute to saxophonist Zoot Sims.



Joe Newman

Real affection was displayed for this tenor sax man who has swung with the best of them for the past 30 years. Joe Newman not only did the intros and was great on trumpet, he also presented Zoot with a plaque on behalf of all present for being a jazz

musician's jazz musician."

If the occasion was sentimental, it was joyous as well. Starting with a "Groovin' High" that really did, the all-star group really dazzled, with Newman on trumpet, Major Holley on bass, Al Cohn on tenor sax, Bucky Pizzarelli on guitar, Mousey Alexander on drums, and Ross Tompkins who flew in from California to prove he's altogether too good on piano to be taking a back seat on the Tonight show.

Tompkins next accompanied Major Holley, who slapped that bass in a virtuoso performance of "Angel Eyes" that brought the house down before he had to slip away uptown for his gig with Helen Humes at the Rainbow Grill.

Bucky performed a tango on solo guitar that almost quieted down his happy jazz-buddies getting together backstage.

George Davivier then took over on bass, Cliff Leeman on drums, and the whole group backed the one-and-only "Little Jazz" Roy Eldridge, who not only swung that trumpet but vocalized "Winona" in a way that even little Jimmy Rushing would have envied. Right in the middle of it all, who but Gerry Mulligan walked right up on stage from the audience and joined in with his soprano sax. There was nothing

needed but for Zoot himself to come on as he did now and add his brilliant tenor sax to the whole group, which ended the first half with a rousing "Cottontail."

The second half saw another surprise. Jack Kleinsinger introduced a striking blond who had cut short her one-week honeymoon to salute Zoot. It was Lynn Roberts, and the man she married was there in the audience—none other than Jim Jensen from CBS News. She did him proud with a romantic "Misty" and a sock-it-to-'em "Lady Is A Tramp."

After Zoot and Bucky joined forces in some husky blues, two more jazzmen joined the group: Mose Allison, who plays a mean piano, and Al Porcino, another great trumpeter. Though the title wasn't announced, these ears were delighted to hear what could only have been "Chew, Chew, Chew Your Bubble Gum," a tune that Ella herself collaborated on with Chick Webb and Buck Ram and which had an inimitable recording way back when by that "little giant of jazz" Don Redman.

The whole magnificent party ended with everybody going to town on "Sweet Georgia Brown." Now how are you going to top that, Jack Kleinsinger? Stick around, there'll be a salute to Satchmo in January.

Zoot Suite

Tenor saxophonist Zoot Sims, whose sense of swing could be marketed as a heating utility, will be celebrating his fiftieth birthday in a public performance that should be among the most joyous parties of the Christmas season. Accompanied by a weighty retinue of colleagues and admirers, the indefatigable Zoot, who in recent years has become a full-fledged classicist, will be given a rare showcase for his timeless, booting style. Most honored of the guests is Roy Eldridge, the trumpeter so infrequently heard away from Jimmy Ryan's, and Zoot's expressive alter ego, Al Cohn. Also Joe Newman, Ross Tompkins, Bucky Pizzarelli, Major Holley, and Cliff Leeman.—Garry Giddins
ZOOT SIMS/December 10 at 8 p.m./Eisner and Lubin Auditorium, Loeb Student Center/566 LaGuardia Place

82 NEW YORK/DECEMBER 8, 1975

NEW YORK POST, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1975

A Salute to Zoot

Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz" will pay tribute to veteran tenor saxophonist Zoot Sims at a concert Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Loeb Student Center, 566 La-

Guardia Pl. Former associates of Sims will join in the "Salute to Zoot," including Roy Eldridge, Joe Newman, Al Cohn, Ross Tompkins, Cliff Leeman, Major Holley and Bucky Pizzarelli. For further details call 598-3757.

The Long Island Entertainer

Salute to Zoot

On Wednesday, December 10, Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz!" will pay tribute to tenor-saxophonist Zoot Sims. Rounding out the bill will be a number of top-flight musicians, all of whom have had an association with Zoot through the years. They include Roy Eldridge (trumpet), who leads a band at Jimmy Ryan's; Joe Newman (trumpet), a Basie band veteran of the '50's; Al Cohn (tenor), who was a member of Woody Herman's "Four Brothers" sax section; Ross Tompkins (piano), who worked with Zoot and Al at the old Half Note; Cliff Leeman (drummer), played with the Artie Shaw, Woody Herman and Tommy Dorsey bands; Major Holley (bass), who worked with every great jazz star of the last two decades including Coleman Hawkins, Charlie Parker, Al Cohn, Roy Eldridge and Zoot; and Bucky Pizzarelli (guitar), who appears regularly with Zoot on records and in clubs.

The concert will take place at NYU Loeb Student Center (Eisner & Lubin Auditorium) at Washington Square South on Wednesday, December 10th at 8 p.m. Tickets can be bought at Loeb Student Center or by mail order: \$5 (Students \$4, student balcony \$2.50). (212)598-3757.

December 4 — December 10

THE BLACK AMERICAN VOL. 15 NO. 48

BY RUBY RICHARDS

A Salute to Zoot Sims

Jack Kleinsinger will present Highlights in Jazz in cooperation with the NYU Program Board. "A Salute to Zoot Sims" Wed., Dec. 10, 8 P.M. at NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 La Guardia Place at Washington Sq. South, featuring such jazz greats as Joe Venuti, Roy Eldridge, Al Cohn, Ross Tompkins, Cliff Leeman, Major Holley and guest of honor: Zoot Sims. Reservations: 598-3757.

DECEMBER 13, 1975, BILLBOARD

Jazz

Zoot Sims is the subject Wednesday (10) of a "Highlights in Jazz" tribute at NYU's Loeb Student Center in Greenwich Village at 8 p.m. Also on the bill: Roy Eldridge, Joe Newman, Al Cohn, Ross Tompkins, Cliff Leeman, Major Holley and Bucky Pizzarelli.

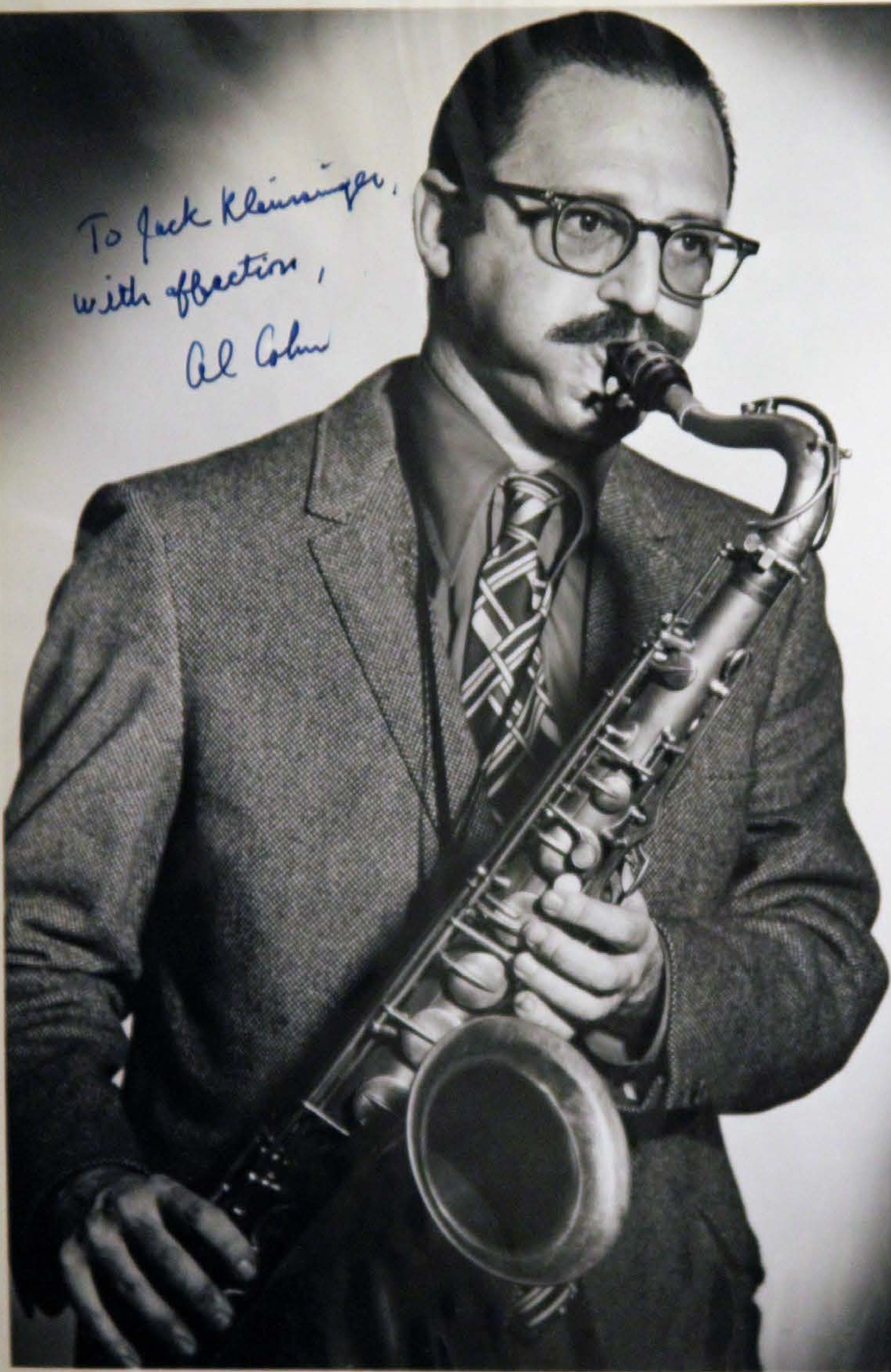


MY MAN
Thanks Jack
Bob Linn



Bob Campbell

To Jack Kleininger,
with affection,
Al Cohn



POSSIE

AL COHN



Bob Law
MOUSEY ALEXANDER



Bob Law
The Best of
Bob Law
All
to
play











XX

HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ--Dec. 10th-- "Salute To Zoot"

1st Half of Concert:

- 1) Al Cohn, Joe Newman, Ross Tompkins, Bucky Pizzarelli, Mousey Alexander, Gerry Mulligan (if present), Major Holley (or Geo. D.)

All musicians enter after individual introductions.

- 2 Selections: a) opener-- medium tempo
b) up tempo

Then horns leave stage.

Major Holley feature--with Ross, Bucky, Mousey

Then everyone leaves stage except Bucky

Bucky Pizzarelli solo feature

- 2) Roy Eldridge, Cliff Leeman, Geo. Duvivier, Ross, Bucky and Budd Johnson (or Al Cohn)

- 3 Selections: a) Medium tempo
b) Roy Eldridge vocal- "Wineola"
c) Zoot joins group (unannounced) for up tempo number to close 1st half of concert

2nd Half of Concert:

- 1) Zoot, Al Cohn, Ross, Geo. D., Cliff

1 Selection

- 2) Rhythm section (plus Bucky) stays on to accompany Lynn Roberts

2 Selections

Zoot joins and solos on second tune

- 3) Everyone leaves stage except Zoot & Bucky

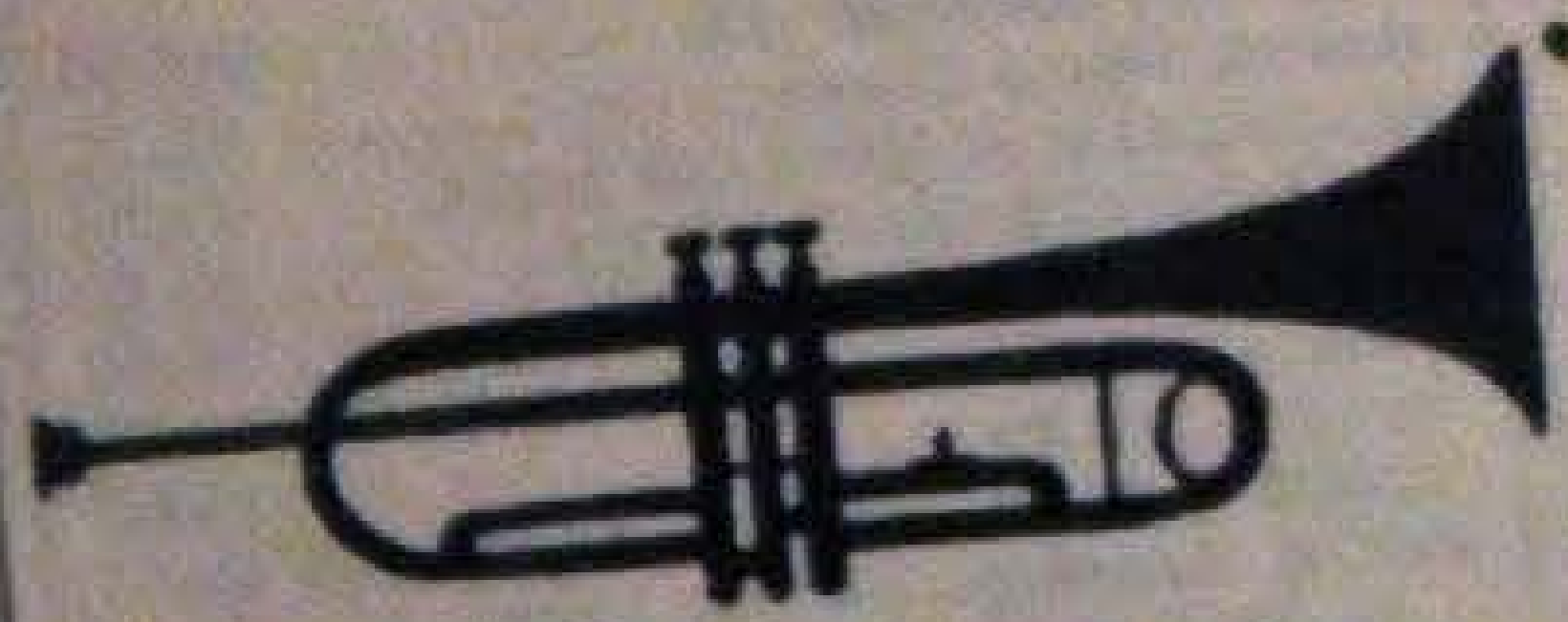
1 Selection

- 4) Presentation: Al Cohn & Joe Newman

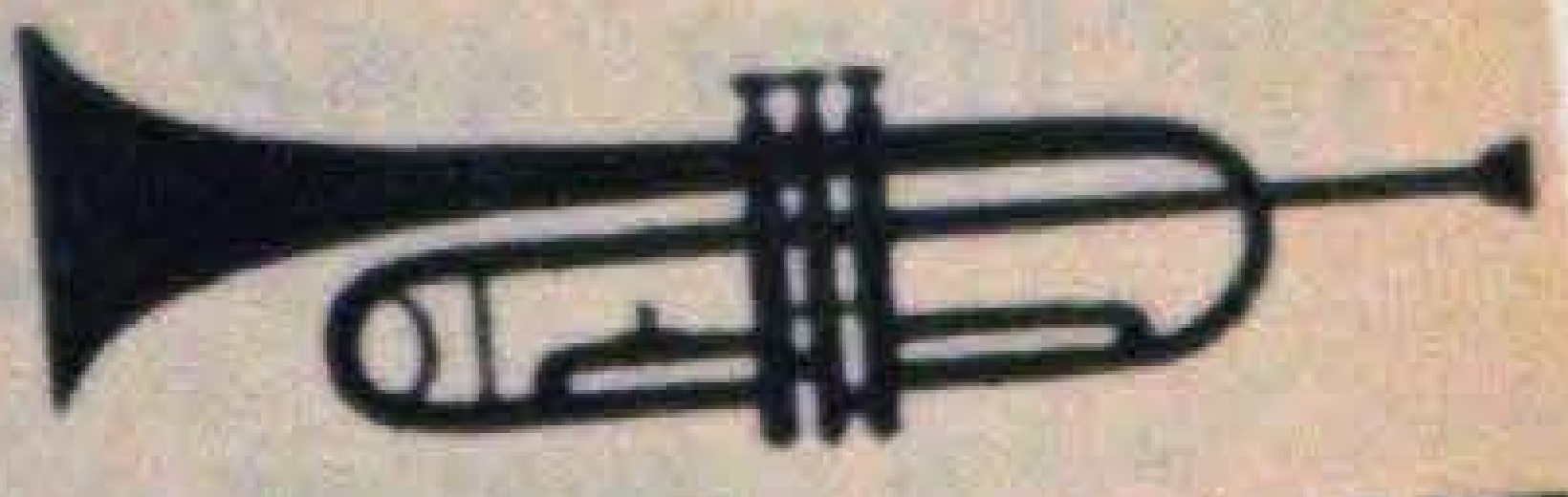
- 5) All horns, full rhythm section with Mousey do rousing finale

- 6) Encore: All Horns, rhythm with Mousey (if time allows)

JANUARY, 1976



BY BURT KORALL



THE POP AND JAZZ SCENE

A Jack Kleinsinger production, "Salute to Zoot," a concert in honor of saxophonist Zoot Sims, was given, December 10, at the NYU Loeb Student Center in New York City. With Zoot on this occasion were Al Cohn, Roy Eldridge, Joe Newman, Ross Tompkins, Bucky Pizzarelli, Major Holley and Cliff Leeman....

SALUTE TO ZOOT

Salute to Zoot; Highlights In Jazz
New York University Loeb's Student
Center, New York City
December 10, 1975

Despite bankruptcy woes and garbage strikes, fare hikes and ever mounting taxes, New York City can still produce some of the liveliest all-year-round jazz fare in the nation. But this winter's highlight was a mini-concert in Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights In Jazz Series titled "Salute to Zoot" to honor that enduring - and endearing - tenor saxophonist. Zoot's popularity is so great that NYU's Loeb Student Center auditorium was packed to the rafters and literally hundreds had to be turned back.

Roy Eldridge, Al Cohn, Joe Newman, Bucky Pizzarelli, Major Holley, George Duvivier, Russ Tompkins and Cliff Lee-man were the artists featured, but with a concert like this anything can happen: as the concert progressed, Gerry Mulligan, Mousey Alexander, Al Porcino, even Mose Allison were among those who "dropped in" to say hello to a favorite musician's

CODA

FEB. '76



musician in the best way they knew - musically. The result was the sort of impromptu all-star jam one associates with good jazz and which, as commercial interests take over, is becoming increasingly rare in such overblown, overpriced events as the Newport Jazz Festival. (This concert was priced at a mere \$5 - \$4 for students).

Newman, Al Cohn, Pizzarelli, Major Holley, pianist Russ Tompkins - who had just flown in from Los Angeles to be on this gig - and "guest" Mousey Alexander kicked things off into the right groove with Groovin' High and kept up the pace with another Bop standard. Major Holley, riding the crest with his new Paris-recorded lp "Mule" (on French Black and

Blue label), constantly requested and aired on jazz station WRVR, broke everyone up with his singing-with-bass version of Angel Eyes from that album (church-Latin phrases and all).

Roy Eldridge took over command for the next two sets, barrelling off with Little Jazz with amazing zest in his trumpet playing, then sinking into an easy going home-brewed blues called Wino, which Roy sang to the accompaniment of Gerry Mulligan (dropping in unexpectedly); Al Cohn and (for the first time) Zoot, plus rhythm. This all-star group mixed things marvelously jamming on Cottontail, which could be heard all the way to Warsaw (via Voice of America, which recorded this event).

Zoot and his old teammate Al Cohn played doubles on My Funny Valentine following intermission, after which things became gloriously disorganized as "guests" continued to drop in, including singer Lynn Roberts (who'd come straight from her honeymoon), trumpeter Al Porcino and Mose Allison.

In the midst of it all, Joe Newman, just back from Russia, produced a plaque (from what first looked like a carton of Jack Daniels) and presented it to Zoot on behalf of Highlights In Jazz. This caught Zoot unawares. Embarrassed by the spokenkudos (from Newman, Cohn, Kleinsinger) Zoot said something like, "Aw, it's just a good gig, man. I just love playing with all these friends. Let's blow

photograph of Roy Eldridge by Tom Van Wageningen

the roof off...." Which they did for the rest of the session, but not before Zoot showed his Ben Webster allegiances with a heartfelt solo on Single Petal Of A Rose (adapted for Ben from Ellington's rare Queen Elizabeth Suite). A rousing Sweet Georgia Brown (Zoot on soprano) went on well after "closing time". After which the group marched off to Eddie Condon's to continue the musical merrymaking with more toasts to Zoot, this time at \$2.50 a drink....

- Al Van Starrex