

Jack Kleinsinger presents

# Highlights in

*All the best, Jack  
Joe Wilder  
Thank you Jack  
for this evening.  
Al Cohn*



*The Best in Jazz  
Joe Wilder*

*Jim Raney*  
In association  
with NYU Program Board  
*Probably one of the  
absolute best  
Marley*

**8:00p.m.**  
**Thursday,**  
**December 15th**

# Salute to Al Cohn



- Zoot Sims *Best Wishes*
- Milt Hinton *Barry Harris*
- Barry Harris
- Jimmy Raney
- Joe Wilder
- Pepper Adams
- Mousey Alexander
- and guest of honor:
- Al Cohn**

Tickets: \$5.50; Students \$4.50  
Student Balcony: \$3.00

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Wash. Sq. So.  
Telephone: 598-3757

Tickets at box office or by mail order  
Highlights in Jazz, 7 Peter Cooper Rd.  
New York, N.Y. 10010

Make checks payable to Highlights in Jazz



# A Sentimental 'Salute to Al Cohn'

By JOHN S. WILSON

Jack Kleinsinger's "Salute to Al Cohn" on Thursday evening at New York University's Loeb Student Center auditorium was, as these tributes are apt to be, a sentimental affair. Colleagues of Mr. Cohn's in the Woody Herman Band of 1948 played for him—Marky Markowitz, the trumpeter; Jimmy Raney, the guitarist, who flew in from Kentucky for the occasion, and Zoot Sims, the saxophonist. His wife, Flo, sang "I'm in Love With You, Honey," and Elliot Lawrence, in whose band Mr. Cohn once played presented him with a "Highlights in Jazz" plaque.

With all these going-on and the number of musicians that Mr. Kleinsinger had assembled for the salute—among them Pepper Adams, Joe Wilder, Barry Harris, Milt Hinton, Leroy Williams and Mousey Alexander—Mr. Cohn himself and little opportunity to play. This was unfortunate because his two main appearances—a frolick-

ing saxophone duet with his frequent partner of the last 30 years, Mr. Sims, and a swinging development of "America, the Beautiful" that had all the ingredients of a jazz-pop hit—were high points in an evening that, for the most part, was more notable for its sentimentality than for its music.

Before Mr. Cohn's appearance, Mr. Wilder gave the proceedings a tremendous lift with a soft, singing, muted trumpet solo that was a masterful display of jazz balladry; Mr. Harris, on piano, explored "Body and Soul" with a freshness that made this old favorite sound as though no one had ever played it before.

The rhythm section—Mr. Harris, Mr. Hinton and Mr. Alexander—was a very solidly swinging unit, but none of the other soloists, not even the usually reliable Mr. Sims, were able to rise above a routine level of performance.

Cash Box/December 10, 1977

## On Jazz

Jack Kleinsinger's next show will be a tribute to Al Cohn. The show, to take place December 15 at NYU, will feature Zoot Sims, Barry Harris, Jimmy Raney, Milt Hinton, Joe Wilder, Pepper Adams and that perennial favorite, "surprise guest."

## GOING OUT Guide

**SCHOOL GROOVES** Down at New York University's Loeb Student Center, a thriving jazz sanctum in Greenwich Village, tribute will be paid tonight at 8 to the veteran tenor saxophonist Al Cohn. This is the annual evening of the "Highlights in Jazz" series that honors a living musician, and the special guest, whose contributions in the field go back to the bands of Artie Shaw, Woody Herman and Buddy Rich, is still very much with us.

In addition to performing in the school auditorium, Mr. Cohn will be saluted by other jazz experts, starting with Zoot Sims, the saxophonist who formed a band with him and toured widely in the 1950's. Others expected to sound off in the tribute program are Milt Hinton, Barry Harris, Jimmy Raney, Joe Wilder and a "surprise guest."

The center's Eisner and Lubin Auditorium is at 566 La Guardia Place, Washington Square South. Tickets are \$3 to \$5.50.



Al Cohn

## Talent In Action SALUTE TO AL COHN

Loeb Center, New York

"I haven't had a night like this since my Bar Mitzvah," remarked jazz saxophonist Cohn.

The occasion Dec. 15 was the Highlights In Jazz series annual salute to a living musician and, as in the past with these events, the proceedings soon turned into a loose and lively jam session featuring many of the honoree's long-time buddies.

Conceived by promoter Jack Kleinsinger, who doubled as MC, the format called for an hour-long first half played by the guest of honor's friends, then, following intermission, an open-ended blow with the saluted one sitting in. At this 2½-hour SRO concert, it all clicked smoothly.

The opening segment, comprised of seven tunes, enabled Kleinsinger to shuffle personnel, creating ever-changing combinations. Naturally, Zoot Sims, perennial Al Cohn partner, was prominently featured, sounding mellow and precise as could be.

Milt Hinton won prolonged applause via some sparkling standup bass solos and Joe Wilder provided a compact lesson in trumpet control. Barry Harris was a steadily bopping piano presence, while Jimmy Raney contributed some tasty guitar licks.

After intermission, Al's wife, singer Flo Cohn turned up as a surprise onstage guest. Her rendition of "I'm In Love With You, Honey," which she dedicated to Cohn, was remarkable in its clarity of phrasing and embellished by her sincere delivery. Her two-song set was all too brief.

Cohn took the stage next, getting right down to business with a splendid version of "America The Beautiful."

High point of the evening came, as expected, when Cohn and Sims joined forces for a no holds barred blowing session. Pepper Adams, easily one of the better baritone sax players, chipped in with some spirited playing, and unbilled trumpeter Marky Markowitz tore up the place with piercing high notes that were just right.

The five Cohn numbers brought the evening's total to 13, which for the enthusiastic audience proved a lucky figure indeed. **ED KELLEHER**

Thursday, December 15

### IS SAX NECESSARY?



On Thursday, December 15 at 8 in NYU's Loeb Center (566 LaGuardia Place), fellow musicians will honor tenor saxophonist Al Cohn (left), best known for his contributions to the big bands of Artie Shaw and Woody Herman. Paying tribute at the concert will be Zoot Sims, Milt Hinton, Jimmy Raney, Barry Harris, and others (598-3757).



# Milt and Zoot In Jazz Salute

BY ED WATKINS



Milt Hinton

One of the pleasures of going to hear "Highlights in Jazz" at NYU is that each year there's a tribute to a noted jazz player that brings out the best in his fellow musicians. The "Salute to Al Cohn" was no exception. From the moment the concert began with "What Is This Thing Called Love?" a happy mood took possession of the packed house.

That classic "Rosetta" was the second number, and on hand were Zoot Sims on sax, Marky Markowitz on trumpet, Jimmy Raney on guitar, Barry Harris (on a blue piano, no

less), Pepper Adams on baritone sax, Mousey Alexander on drums, and the one and only Milt Hinton on bass. (Zoot and Milt had received tributes in previous years.)

Quite a bit of unusual and unexpected vocalizing turned up, since Zoot obliged with "Gee, Baby, Ain't I Good To You?" and Milt followed with "Don't Blame Me." In addition, Flo Cohn, wife of the evening's honoree, did very nicely on "I'm Beginning To See The Light" and "Honey."

Al Cohn himself (alumnus of the big bands) provided the highlight of the evening with a rousing tenor sax version of "America, The Beautiful" and was the recipient of a plaque presented by Elliot Lawrence, in whose band he had once played. The night's welcome surprise guest was drummer Leroy Williams.

Two especially memorable moments of this program were Barry Harris's piano solo of impresario Jack Kleinsinger's favorite "Body And Soul," and Joe Wilder on muted trumpet in a haunting rendition of that wonderful oldie "My Ideal."

Coming up on February 2nd is the Fifth Anniversary concert with headliners galore. A long life to "Highlights in Jazz"!

down beat

February 23

## King Cohn Crowned

NEW YORK—In an affair that brought out fans and musicians alike, tenor saxist/composer/arranger Al Cohn was recently saluted here.

It was at the series "Highlights in Jazz" (which has presented three previous such salutes to Lionel Hampton, Zoot Sims and Milt Hinton) that Mr. Cohn's fellow Woody Herman bandmates, among others, turned out to pay tribute to their friend. Among the musicians who played were Sims, Marky Markowitz, Barry Harris, Mousey Alexander, Jimmy Raney, Joe Wilder, Pepper Adams and Hinton.

As usual, host Jack Kleinsinger presented all of the musicians in unique surroundings, with the highlight being a duet by

Cohn and Sims on *Zootcase* (a tune based on *Exactly Like You* "except for one note," Cohn added, thus avoiding any eavesdropping by ASCAP people).

Raney was his relaxed self, playing with rhythm only on two ballads. Harris's tasteful pianistics were evident on solo passages. He comped on *Body And Soul*, which was contained in a ballad medley that Joe Wilder later turned into a tour de force for his trumpet. His *That's All* literally stopped the show, so much that a scheduled bass solo by Hinton was hastily cancelled.

A plaque commemorating the occasion was presented by Elliot Lawrence, for whose band Cohn arranged. Even Al's wife, Flo, contributed a vocal.

VOICE DECEMBER 19, 1977

OUR MUSIC CRITICS GIVE US THE WORD

## VOICE CHOICES

### SALUTE TO AL COHN

Has to be wonderful. Jimmy Raney, one of the best jazz guitarists ever, and Joe Wilder, a sweet-tempered trumpeter too infrequently heard, will appear along with the impeccable Barry Harris and the fire breathing Pepper Adams. Also, a certain Mr. Sims, and the guest of honor. December 15 at 8 p.m., 566 LaGuardia Place. (Giddins)

Loeb Student Center

598-3757

DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1977

### Cohn on sax

Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights in Jazz series salutes tenor saxist Al Cohn at the NYU Loeb Student Center tonight. Musicians who will pay tribute to Cohn beginning at 8 p.m. include Zoot Sims, Cohn's old sidekick, Milt Hinton, Barry Harris, Jimmy Raney and Pepper Adams.





BY BURT KORALL

# POP AND JAZZ SCENE

## JAZZ NOTES

Jack Kleinsinger presents a "Highlights in Jazz" concert, December 15, at NYU's Loeb Student Center, dedicated to tenor saxophonist Al Cohn. Among those set to appear with this great musician are Zoot Sims, Phil Woods, Milt Hinton, Pepper Adams, Barry Harris, Joe Wilder, and Mousey Alexander.

Wednesday, December 7, 1977

## VARIETY

### On The Upbeat

Al Cohn, tenor saxophonist, will be honored at Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz" concert at New York U.'s Loeb Student Center, N.Y., Dec. 15.

December 15, 1977, THE VILLAGER,

## Music Beat

### Comforts of Bar Room Jazz

BY STEPHEN ISRAEL  
THE JAZZ LINE-UP

Among the many outstanding musicians appearing in the Village this week, Dexter Gordon, the tenor saxophonist and bebop giant, appears at the Vanguard through Sunday, Dec. 18. Tuesday, jazz singer Betty Carter arrives for a five-night stand.

At All's Alley, jazz-scat singer Eddie Jefferson sings his unique versions of old and new favorites, including "There I Go," through Sunday, with a quartet.

Muahl Richard Abrams, one of the most interesting and innovative of the "new jazz" pianists, appears with a reliably outstanding quartet through Saturday night, Dec. 17.

Hopper's, the high priced, but comfortable restaurant-bar, features the exciting alto saxophone sounds of Phil Woods and his band through Dec. 24. Woods, a veteran of the jazz scene, is at his musical peak these days, and should not be missed in this rare appearance.

Tonight, Dec. 15, at NYU's Loeb Student Center, Jack Kleinsinger presents another of his "Highlights in Jazz" concert series, a tribute to Al Cohn, featuring Zoot Sims, Milt Hinton, Barry Harris and Mr. Cohn himself.

The Jazzmania Society continues its third birthday celebration with the Jazzmania Jazz Festival. Tonight, Palermo and Nightflyte are the featured fusion artists, while Friday Charles Rouse joins the Jazzmania All Stars in an all night jam session. Saturday all the All Stars perform with Arthur Blythe, an enormously talented young altoist.

Finally, the venerable pianist, composer and educator, Billy Harper, will appear with a sextet at the Village Gate Monday, Dec. 19 as part of the United Jazz Coalition's series of Monday concerts.

## ...And All That Jazz PERSONALLY YOURS!

JANUARY 24, 1978

by Dick Murphy

Some of the other stuff that made our holidays merry were the well-deserved tribute to sax super, Al Cohn, at Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz" series. Jazz greats like Zoot Sims, Pepper Adams, Barry Harris, and Marky Markowitz were among the myriad improvisors who were on hand to play and pay homage to Cohn, whose playing tore up the second half of the show.

VOICE DECEMBER 12, 1977

Jack Kleinsinger presents  
Highlights in



N.Y.U. Loeb  
Student Ctr.

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Wash. Sq. So  
Telephone 598-3757  
Tickets: \$5.50; Students \$4.50  
Student Balcony: \$3.00

Thurs., Dec. 15

8:00p.m.

## Salute To Al Cohn

Zoot Sims • Milt Hinton  
Barry Harris • Jimmy Raney  
Joe Wilder • Pepper Adams  
Mousey Alexander  
and guest of honor

**Al Cohn**

Tix available at box office  
or by mail order

The Soho Weekly News December 15, 1977



Al Cohn 12/15

Mitchell Seidel

# THURSDAY 15

All That Jazz: "Highlights in Jazz" will present its annual salute to a top musician at 8 p.m. at NYU Loeb Student Center (566 LaGuardia Place). This year, the saluted is tenor saxophonist Al Cohn, and don't be surprised if Zoot Sims makes an appearance.



# Bebop City, More or Less

By Gary Giddins

Bebop enthusiasts are a hearty lot; perhaps they have no choice. The originators of the style are scarce, and the first disciples scattered. It has become an occasion of no small promise when a group of the latter are assembled in concert, even though the promise is rarely fulfilled. For example, a bop double-header last week.

First there was Jack Kleinsinger's Salute to Al Cohn. The idea was admirable: Cohn is a distinguished saxophonist with a small, devoted following, and those present included Zoot Sims, Barry Harris, Milt Hinton, Jimmy Raney, Pepper Adams, Joe Wilder, and Marky Markewitz. But thoughtful music resulted only intermittently, primarily because Mousey Alexander's drumming was insipid; equally irritating, the guest of honor was kept waiting in the wings until nearly the end, presumably for dramatic build-up. Since Cohn swung more impetuously than anyone else his brief appearance was as frustrating as it was rewarding.

Nothing is more annoying at a jazz performance than a lifeless drummer. Alexander's presence was not inappropriate, inasmuch as he once played with the Cohn-Sims quintet, but the dogged simplicity of his ching-a-chings was dramatically underscored when Leroy Williams replaced him on two numbers. Williams is so self-effacing you hardly know he's there, except by the fluid pulse and the deft shading. He sparked the most satisfying blowing piece

of the concert, "In a Mellotone," and a splendid ballad medley, on which Pepper Adams's furious, double-timing prolixity was effective, though it settled into rote sameness in subsequent pieces. Joe Wilder, using a cup mute on his ballad and a plunger on "Mellotone," delicately finessed his swing rhythms with an attractively coy tone. He made the most of Williams's and Hinton's dapper support, as did Harris, who limned two choruses of "Body and Soul" with stylish paraphrase and a rare elegance of design.

Sims was in a gruffly aggressive mood, but his solos seemed to end just as they fired up. His playing has become so elliptical that like Ben Webster, one of his models, he can accelerate swing with a vocabulary of grunts, blats, moans, and faffles. Jimmy Raney played two pieces in a trio setting, getting a vaguely Djangoesque tone on "Just Friends" where he cleverly manipulated two understated stop-time choruses. Cohn had only one piece to himself, "America," given a tougher reading than on the record—maybe because he had been storing it up for two hours. He played one tune with Sims, on which his fluid rush of passionate riffs and more wistful melodies were in striking contrast to Sims's humorous but less thoughtful guffawing. Everyone played on a final "Perdido."



RAYMOND ROSS

Al Cohn: storing up his solo for two hours

## Everything You Wanted To Know About Sax...



Photo by Mitchell Seidel

Tomorrow night at 8:00 p.m., *Highlights in Jazz* honors saxophonist Al Cohn (left). He is shown here with his long-time friend and musical acquaintance Zoot Sims, who will also be in attendance.

Cohn and Sims at the concert will be joined by other jazz veterans. As is customary with *Highlights in Jazz* concerts, there will also be "surprise" guests. Past unannounced guests have included Eubie Blake, Earl Hines, Dizzy Gillespie, and Gerry Mulligan.

The concert, as always, will be hosted by the infamous Jack Kleinsinger, who is known to local music critics for his mainstream jazz concerts and his lengthy introductions. The presentation will be co-produced by Kleinsinger and the NYU Program Board.

—Mitchell Seidel



# Herdsmen highlight Al Cohn

FELLOW musicians honored tenor saxophonist Al Cohn at Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights In Jazz concert at New York University's Loeb Student Center. Colleagues of Cohn's in the Woody Herman Herd of 1948 played for him — trumpeter Mary Markowitz, guitarist Jimmy Raney, who flew in from Kentucky for the occasion, and Cohn's old sidekick, tenor saxist Zoot Sims. Cohn played "America, The Beautiful," his wife, Flo, sang "I'm In Love With You Honey" and Elliott Lawrence, in whose band Cohn once played, presented him with a "Highlights in Jazz" plaque. Others paying tribute at the concert were Joe Wilder, Pepper Adams, Barry Harris, Milt Hinton, Leroy Williams and Mousey Alexander.



AL COHN: honoured at New York concert.

## 'Highlights In Jazz' Salutes Saxophonist

Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights In Jazz!" will present it's annual salute to a living musician on Thursday, December 15 at 8 p.m.

The guest of honor (who will also be performing) is tenor saxophonist Al Cohn. Cohn is known for his contribution to the big bands of Artie Shaw, Woody Herman, Georgie Auld and Buddy Rich. During the 1950s he and Zoot Sims formed their own group and played in nightclubs and concert halls in the U.S., Canada, South America and Europe. Their most recent record together, on the Sonet label, is titled "Motoring Along." Cohn has written for television and Broadway.

Fellow musicians who will be paying tribute to Al Cohn the night of the concert include Zoot Sims (saxophone), Milt Hinton, (bass), Barry Harris (piano), Jimmy Raney (guitar), Joe Wilder (trumpet), Pepper Adams (baritone saxophone) and Mousey Alexander (drums). There will also be a surprise guest.

The concert will take place at NYU Loeb Student Center (Eisner & Lubin Auditorium), 566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Square South. Tickets sell for \$5.50; \$4.50 for students; and \$3.00 for student balcony. Tickets can be obtained at the box office. For further information call (212) 598-3757.

NEW YORK POST, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1977



## The Scene

by Lou O'Neill Jr.

**TOMORROW:** Zoot Sims, Phil Woods, Joe Wilder and Barry Harris visit NYU's Loeb Auditorium, Illinois Jacquet is at Storyville, while Asleep At The Wheel is scheduled to play the Bottom Line. Fox Pass make their New York debut at the Great Gildersleeves. James Tragas returns to the Back Fence and, finally, Genya Ravan (welcome back GR) returns to the stage when she swings at Trax with her new band, Taxi. Two shows, midnight and 2. Highly recommended.



by Ira Gitler

# Salute to Al Cohn



photos by Marty Yost

Another in the series of Jack Kleinsinger's *Highlights in Jazz* bouquets to the living was the December 15th "Salute to Al Cohn," certainly one of the musicians most worthy of a cap-tipping. Obviously a lot of people agreed because the auditorium at New York University's Loeb Student Center was filled to capacity.

The format of the "salutes" is a cast of top musicians who have been associated with the man-of-the-hour during his career. As good as they usually are, you are left wanting more of the main protagonist, especially when so much time is consumed by host Kleinsinger's announcements. This stage-hogging is taken for granted by the *Highlights in Jazz* regulars who accept it with an understanding shrug and concentrate on the good music programmed by their host.

The musical salvo for Cohn was no exception. There should have been more of Al. He was in the consistently fine form he has shown over the past several years since taking some time from his ever busy writing schedule to concentrate more on blowing than he had in the first half of the '70s.

The evening opened with a jam on *What Is This Thing Called Love?* with Zoot Sims; Marky Markowitz on trumpet; Barry Harris, piano; Milt Hinton, bass; and Mousey Alexander, drums. It was the kind of swing-bop fusion one heard at the sessions of the mid-1940s brought up to the '70s.

Sims and Markowitz's connection with Cohn goes back to the Woody Herman band of the late '40s. Sims' deserved fame is worldwide; Marky has been a lifelong sideman whose solo abilities have been illuminated recently in some recordings with various groups for Harry Lim's Famous Door label. He has the powerful chops of a lead man and can play up high with power. He obviously likes Roy Eldridge and also shows traces of the late Sonny Berman, his old Herman section-mate who also dug Roy.

The rhythm section of Harris,

Hinton and Alexander wasn't completely compatible but it got the job done. *What Is This Thing* was followed by a spirited *Groovin' High* and then the horns and Harris departed to be replaced by another ex-Hermanite, guitarist Jimmy Raney. He started off *How About You* on the other side of the stage from his bass and drum partners, but by the end of the number had moved in closer and, properly warmed up, finished with kind of a free-form flourish.

Raney's long-lined brilliance came through on *Just Friends* despite an inferior instrument with a staticky sound. (His own guitar had malfunctioned the previous night after his arrival from Louisville, and he had to borrow one from an acquaintance.) Jimmy is one of the true guitar artists. It would have been nice to hear him in tandem with Cohn on *Tain't No Use* or a standard if they didn't have time to run down one of Al's oldies.

The next grouping included baritone saxophonist Pepper Adams (on his own now after many years of yeoman service with the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis orchestra) and the seldom-heard Joe Wilder on trumpet with Harris, Hinton and Harris' usual side-kick, drummer Leroy Williams. Wilder's precise plunger work sparkled on *In a Mellotone* and Pepper sounded good... what you could hear of him. He was too far from the mike and that took away from the impact of his big, gutsy sound. Williams got in some nice solo licks during the chase choruses with the horns at the tail-end of the tune.

One of the concert's outstanding segments was the ballad medley. Harris, marvelous throughout, played a *Body and Soul* that blended the song's inherent, evergreen characteristics with his own acute sense of harmony and dynamics.

After Adams moved *My Ideal* through the convolutions of his brain and the tubing of his horn, Wilder did a lovely *That's All*, with Harmon mute, that spellbound the audience. I

hear him every year at Dick Gibson's Colorado Jazz Party but he doesn't get jazz gigs in New York, only studio work. A lot of people at Loeb were probably hearing him for the first time and all were properly impressed.

The second half of the concert opened with Cohn's wife, Flo Cohn (professionally known as Flo Handy), backed by Harris, Hinton and Alexander in *I'm Beginning to See the Light*. Flo, who does most of her singing in Pocono Mountains' night spots these days, accompanying herself on piano, was a standup singer this night. She's definitely a jazz singer with her own approach to a lyric, with a bent note, horn-like approach, and a strong beat. She was a bit tentative at first on *Light* but warmed as she went. The followup was an extremely personal treatment of the old standard, *Honey*, sung with genuine feeling as she beamed it at her man sitting front row center. It was very touching. Too bad Al did not get a chance to accompany her sometime during the concert.

The man of the hour finally reached the stage, opening with a number that he has really stamped as his own—*America the Beautiful*, bossa novaed to fine turn. Then he and Zoot—a tandem as right as salami and eggs—heated up *Fast*, a Cohn line on *Exactly Like You* and closed with *Morning Fun*, the blues line they wrote and always use as a sign-off. Sims did his most inspired playing at the concert in this set with his long-time buddy.

Wilder, on fluegel, Markowitz and Raney then joined the tenor twosome for J.J. Johnson's blues *Wee Dot*. The crowd wanted an encore and *Perdido* was the answer with excellent fluegel by Wilder and some more strong Cohn. For the out chorus they used Benny Harris' line on *Perdido*—*Wahoo*.

Considering all the elements at the producer's disposal, it could have been a better concert. But this is not to say that in the main, it was not enjoyable—more of Cohn, however, would have made it more so.







To Jack -  
Cheers!  
Pepper Adams