

Jack Kleinsinger  
presents

# HIGHLIGHTS IN

in association with  
NYU Program Board

8:00PM

Thursday, April 10

*Bruce Parry*

## ● LIVING LEGENDS ●

**Wild Bill Davison**

with

- Ken Davern
- Dick Wellstood
- George Duvivier
- Cliff Leeman
- and ● Natalie Lamb

**Jabbo Smith**

*Jabbo Smith*  
and the

**New Orleans  
Blue Serenaders**

starring in the Off-Broadway hit  
"One Mo' Time"

**at N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center**

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. South  
tel. 598-3757

Tickets At Box Office Or Mail Order To:  
Highlights In Jazz, 7 Peter Cooper Rd.,  
New York, NY 10010

Tickets \$6, Students \$5  
Student Balcony - \$4

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# Jazz: Davison and Smith

By JOHN S. WILSON

The combination of two longtime jazzmen, Wild Bill Davison, the 74-year-old cornetist, and Jabbo Smith, the 71-year-old trumpeter, provided the justification for calling the Highlights in Jazz concert at the Loeb Auditorium on Thursday evening "Living Legends." But it might more appropriately have been called "Waiting for Jabbo."

Mr. Smith and his New Orleans Blue Serenaders, who are appearing in "One Mo' Time" at the Village Gate, could not get to the Loeb Auditorium until they had completed their performance at the Gate. So the first part of the Highlights concert — which featured Mr. Davison leading a fine sextet, and Natalie Lamb, the singer of classic blues — was stretched out to include a pair of lively and humorous piano solos by Dick Wellstood, a brief set by a trio made up of Mr. Wellstood, Kenny Davern, clarinetist, and Jackie Williams, drummer, that skillfully revived a jazz formation that has been largely forgotten since the 1930's, and an unaccompanied string bass solo, "Moon Indigo," that gave a rare insight into the very solid, thoughtful virtuosity of George Duvivier.

This lagniappe followed an hour and a half in which Mr. Davison, still looking and sounding like a brash cherub, punched, muttered and exalted through tunes he always plays — "Blue Again," "Struttin' With Some Barbeque" and so forth — which gained fresh vitality from his exuberant performance, while Miss Lamb sang with a full, rugged, rough-toned authority that has grown impressively in recent years.

When Mr. Smith and his cohorts finally arrived, they had time for only four selections — two old standards, "Clarinet Marmalade" and "Panama," on which Mr. Smith alternated between crackling assurance and bewildering uncertainty, and two rather banal ballads that Mr. Smith sang in a hoarse croak with phrasing that was slightly reminiscent of Louis Armstrong. As a program, it was inadequate and, as a performance, it was scarcely worthy of a "legend."

The Soho News April 9, 1980

## MUSIC PICKS

(See listings for times, prices, addresses, etc.)

### Wild Bill Davidson, Jabbo Smith

NYU Loeb Student Center Thurs.

### Kai Winding, Curtis Fuller

Pace U. Sat.

Bring on the brass: Wild Bill and Jabbo are both fine, veteran cornet/trumpet players, though my preference is for Jabbo (who also appears each week with his New Orleans Blues Serenaders in the fabulous *One Mo' Time* at the Village Gate). Winding and Fuller are both top-flight trombonists who've been off the local scene for God knows how long.

MS

VOICE APRIL 14, 1980

OUR MUSIC CRITICS GIVE US THE WORD

## VOICE CHOICES

### HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ

The billing is "Living Legends" and the starring trumpeters deserve the epithet. Wild Bill Davison is a daddy of the Commodore or Chicago-Dixie sound, and Jabbo Smith was (briefly) considered a rival to Louis Armstrong in the '20s; he's a helluva singer. April 10 at 8, 566 LaGuardia Pl. (Giddins)

Loeb Student Center

598-3757

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1980

# Arts and Leisure Guide

## Jazz

### In Concert

HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ — Two stars emerging from the mists of legend, cornetist Wild Bill Davison and trumpeter Jabbo Smith, plus Dick Wellstood, piano; Natalie Lamb, singer; and others. NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Pl. Thurs. 8.

## VARIETY

Wednesday, April 9, 1980

## On The Upbeat

Paul Anka plays Westbury, N.Y. Music Fair, April 14-20. "Highlights in Jazz," with Wild Bill Davison and Jabbo Smith, at New York U's Loeb Student Center, 10. James Menon at Reno Sweeney, N.Y., 13-16. Robin Trower and Shooting Star invade the Civic Center, Hammond, Ind., 11; Granada Theatre, Chicago, 12; Masonic Aud., Detroit, 13; Music Hall, Cleveland, 14; and Stanley Theatre, Pittsburgh, 15.

DAILY NEWS, SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1980

## EVENTS . . .


Manhattan and The Bronx

Compiled by JOHN LEWIS

Living legends of jazz, Wild Bill Davison and Jabbo Smith, will give a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday at NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place, Washington Square South. Tickets can be obtained at the box office. Prices are \$6, \$5 and \$4.





10 JACK — WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF  
OF "OUR KIND OF MUSIC"! ALWAYS, AFFECTIONATELY,  
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On the Town

COVERS JAZZ

# Wild Bill turns back the clock

LONG ABOUT eight bars into his chorus on *I Can't Believe That You're In Love With Me* at Eddie Condon's the other night, Wild Bill Davison cracked a high one. Cracked it loud and good.

"Hey," he roared to a fellow-cornetist at one of the tables. "Wanna throw me up some of yer lip?" Whereupon he waded back in with renewed energy — and accuracy.

Wild Bill at Condon's. Seems like old times: chewing-gum in placé, King cornet jammed into that classic what-the-hell-if-it's-off-center embouchure. Glass of Scotch at the ready.

It's a medicine for melancholy, a surefire way to run the clock backwards. Even though Eddie Condon's [where he'll play through Saturday, nightly at 9:30] is now a club on W. 54th St. run by some other guys, and a lot of the faces which once gathered 'neath the sign of the pork-chop have disappeared forever over the horizon.

But just a moment: time to explain that Wild Bill Davison plays what used to be called hot cornet. That he was one of the anchors of the kind of every-man-for-himself jazz Eddie Condon stood for.

The pundits labelled it Chicago style, even though Condon was from Indiana and PeeWee Russell from Missouri, Brad Gowans from Boston and Wild Bill from Defiance, Ohio.



Post photo by Adam Scull

Wild Bill Davison blows up a storm at Eddie Condon's on W. 54th St.

By RICHARD M. SUDHALTER

The name bespoke a spirit, an excitement which poured out of Chicago in the mid-'20s and soon found its way east. It survives today mostly as echoes in the work of younger men who got it at second and third hand.

And, more vividly, in survivors like Bill.

He's been away for awhile. Sometimes out west, more recently in Europe. He's been missed.

"I had to come back," he said before going onstand. "I lived overseas five years — played in 17 countries, made 32 LPs. But things — essentials — got so high-priced it was unbelievable: I mean, Scotch was \$24 a quart.

"The main thing was that I was just kinda lonesome to get back," he said, "and play with guys who really know how to play."

He's got that in abundance this week. In addition to the Condon's band, with the likes of trombonist George Masso and clarinetist Jack Maheu, he appears tonight at NYU Loeb Student Center in hand-picked company.

This 8 p.m. "Highlights in jazz" concert, produced by Jack Kleinsinger, teams Bill with a band which includes clarinetist Kenny Davern, pianist Dick Wellstood and drummer Cliff Leeman, old cronies from the original Condon's.

It also features another legendary brassman, trumpeter Jabbo Smith.

Looking more like a banker than a cornet man, Bill kicked things off Tuesday with an up-tempo *Big Butter and Egg Man*, bullying the ensemble along with a fire and dash belying his 74 years.

He's in good shape: the hair is silvery, and by his

own admission his legs get a bit stiff sometimes. But the long sweeps up to high D and E, the sudden falsetto blasts and low-register growls burn as fiercely as ever.

"Yeah, I can still blow," he said, sipping a Scotch. "My teeth are okay and I can put air through the horn. But the traveling gets me down sometimes — lugging all those god-damn bags, a new train or plane every day."

Somebody reminded Bill

that Jimmy Ryan's, just a few doors down 54th St., was featuring his exact contemporary and fellow Chicago cornet immortal, Jimmy McPartland.

"Hey, no kidding." He laughed. "Every time we get together we fight about something — that's been going on now about 50 years.

"But I love to see him. We two go back a long way." With which this still defiantly vital jazz legend turned and strode out the front door.

## Jazz

### In Concert

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**JAZZ VESPERS** — Trumpeter Howard McGhee, a veteran of the be-bop battles of the 40's and his quartet. St. Peter's Church, Lex. Ave. and 54th St. Today, 5.

**BARRY WALLENSTEIN and FRANK FERRUCCI** — Jazz poet and piano. Brook, 40 W. 17th St. Fri., 9.

DAILY NEWS, APRIL 4, 1980

### Jab and Bill

New Orleans trumpeter Jabbo Smith, now appearing in the musical, "One Mo' Time" at the Village Gate, glides over to NYU's Loeb Student Auditorium April 10 to jam with Wild Bill Davison and other stompers.





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