

Jack Kleinsinger
presents
Highlights In

JAZZ

In association with NYU Program Board

Thursday, October 2nd

8:00 PM

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

all this
**Bobby Rosengarden
and his Orchestra**

Jimmy Maxwell
**The Widespread
Depression
Orchestra**

*Jack Kerber
Tanford*
*Sammy
Rue*
... plus America's favorite tap dancers
Chuck Green and Sandman Sims

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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Highlights in Jazz celebrates N.Y. Music Week in association with
the New York Music Task Force, Inc.

Jazz — Swinging to The Big Bands

By JOHN S. WILSON

In the shifting sands of the jazz world, the avant-garde loft jazz of the mid-1970's has dissipated, the more recent fusion of jazz with rock and other peripheral elements has run thin and audiences are moving toward a mainstream middle ground, an area that encompasses performers from Count Basie to the Crusaders, from Max Roach to Archie Shepp, from Billy Eckstine to Betty Carter. It also includes the big bands, the relics of the Swing Era, which, by sheer persistence in hanging on, have begun to pick up a young audience for the first time in 40 years. In both cases, the new jazz audience is coming from rock or potential rock listeners.

Gene Harvey, whose Tara Productions is one of the most active producers of jazz concerts in New York, sees it as a return to accessibility. "I think the fusion thing is over," he said. "It was something the record companies were pushing because they thought they were going to get a lot of the rock audience to listen to jazz by electrifying it. In the beginning, this audience, which is now 30 to 40 years old, liked Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock when Herbie was going very heavy electric. But this audience has expanded to include artists like Dexter Gordon, Ray Charles and Betty Carter. The reason there is a movement toward mainstream jazz now is that it is accessible, it is uncluttered."

At the same time, there has been a resurgence of big bands in the dancing context that they had during the big-band era of the 30's and 40's. Wednesday's, a weekend disco, began using big bands from Tuesday through Thursday last spring. The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra will be there on Tuesday and Woody Herman on Wednesday. Harry James has been booked for two nights in October. The Copacabana has also installed bands for dancing, Roseland has never stopped having dance bands, and even the Red Blazer Too, a relatively small room on Third Avenue near 88th Street, has big bands playing in Swing Era and earlier styles.

Dancing to big bands has coincided with WNEW's use during the past six months of records by singers and dance bands of the 30's and 40's. According to Willard Alexander, a talent agent who has been involved with big bands since he began booking Benny Goodman 45 years ago, a crucial part of the current following for big bands is made up of young people in their early 20's. Mr. Alexander traces the development of this audience to a suggestion made 10 years ago by Stan Kenton. "The band directors in high schools were having a problem in shaping the kids in the marching bands who were primarily interested in rock and who, they felt, were not doing as good a job musically as they should," Mr. Alexander said. "Stan suggested that the band directors bring in some big bands. This had a tremendous influence on the students who up until then had just been hearing five- and six-piece bands."

"Those kids are 23, 24 years old and they're part of the audience that is demanding and accepting certain kinds of big bands."

But the aspect that turned the tide for the big bands with the young audience

was the return of touch dancing — the kind of dancing their parents and grandparents did in the days of the big bands. And that, as Mr. Alexander points out, required music that they could dance to.

A pair of names from the big-band era will be used as the keystones of a new jazz concert series at the 92d Street Y. The series will open on Oct. 7 with Lionel Hampton's Big Band and, on Nov. 23, the Benny Goodman Sextet. Another concert series, Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz" at NYU's Loeb Auditorium, will have a "Battle of the Bands" on Oct. 2 with the Widespread Depression Orchestra and Bobby Rosengarden's band and will celebrate the series' 8th anniversary on Feb. 5 with Woody Herman's band.

It's a musical town

ACCORDING TO music aficionados, Ed 'How'm I Doing?' Koch is doing mighty fine these days.

Why? Because the Mayor has proclaimed this coming week (Monday through Friday) as "New York Music Week."

That means there will be music in the air and singing in the streets at many locations around town, including Lincoln Center, Rockefeller Plaza, the Twin Towers, Citicorp Center and colleges in most of the boroughs.

The musical extravaganza, organized by the New York Music Task Force and funded by Michelob, boasts appearances by more than 60 recording artists and offers a potpourri of sounds — classical, jazz, funk and pop. And the best part is, it's all free!

The amount of talent is too numerous to list. Call 399-0310 for the complete schedule. Here are some of the highlights:

- Singer Irene Cara, known for her hit single

from the movie *Fame* performs at Bruno Walter Auditorium, Lincoln Center Monday at 6:15 p.m.

- The WKTU Dance Van tunes into non-stop music at the World Trade Center Monday from noon to 2 p.m. with special guest artists B.T. Express and r&b singer Tyrone Davis.

The Van also stops at the Harlem State Office Building Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. with special guests Freddie Harris & Wabine and Rosebud.

- Street Musicians Festival in Bryant Park, 42d & 8th Av. Monday and Tuesday from noon to 5 p.m.

- Salute to Broadway Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at Schubert Alley.

- *Highlights in Jazz* Thursday, at New York University's Loeb Student Center [566 LaGuardia Pl.] offers the Widespread Depression Band and the Bobby Rosengarden Orchestra.

- Classical/jazz series at Lincoln Center's Fountain Plaza daily noon to 2 p.m. — SUSAN FRIEDLAND

GOING OUT Guide

BIG BANDS AND TAP

The eighth season of something called "Highlights in Jazz" begins tonight with two big bands and a pair of tap dancers. The first big band is Bobby Rosengarden and His Orchestra and the second is the felicitously named Widespread Depression Orchestra. The tap dancers are two of America's best: Bubba Gaines and Honi Coles. They will all be appearing at New York University's Loeb Student Center at 8 P.M. The center is at 566 La Guardia Place, at Washington



Bobby Rosengarden

Square South. Tickets to the program, which is being underwritten in part by the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, are \$6. For students, they are \$3 and \$4. For information, call 598-3757.

John Corry

Daily News, Tuesday, September 23, 1980

COMING UP

Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz" series kicks off a new season—its eighth—Oct. 2 with a "Battle of the Bands" at the NYU Loeb Student Center. Adversaries are the Bobby Rosengarden Band and the Widespread Depression Orchestra.

down beat

NYC, LA, & Chgo

Jack Kleinsinger's eighth season of *Highlights in Jazz* starts at NYU's Loeb Student Center, with Panama Francis and his Savoy Sultans, Widespread Depression and tapdancers Chuck Green and Sandman Sims Oct. 2; Nov. 6 it's a *Tribute To Roy Haynes* with Gary Burton, Gary Bartz, Ray Barretto, Joe Albany, Red Rodney and Clifford Jordan; Zoot Sims, Al Cohn, Benny Bailey and Richie Cole jam on Dec. 11; Woody Herman delivers his Herd on Feb. 5, and there are more dates to come in this non-profit series.

Daily News, Sunday, September 26, 1980

Do you like big band music? The Chelsea Funk Orchestra has so many members they overflow the stage of the Chelsea club ~~and~~. They're playing there again Monday, NYU's Loeb Student Center, where the programming is open to the public, Thursday offers Bobby Rosengarden's Orchestra, house band for the Dick Cavett show, and the newer Widespread Depression Orchestra, whose sunny sound belies their name.

Battle of the bands

BATTLE of the Bands will take place at the NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place Thursday at 8 p.m. Heading up the show will be Bobby Rosengarden and his Orchestra and the Wide-

spread Depression Band. Tap dancers Bubba Gaines and Honi Coles will perform as well. Tickets are \$6; \$5 for students; and \$4 for student balcony. For information call 598-3757.

THE OTHER PAPER

Events

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 2

HIGHLIGHTS—Jack Kleinsinger kicks off his 8th season of "Highlights in Jazz" with a concert headed up "Battle of the Bands," at NYU Loeb Student Center, at 8 p.m. Featured will be Bobby Rosengarden and his orchestra, The Widespread Depression Orchestra, tap dancers Bubba Gaines and Honi Coles. NYU Loeb Student Center is located at 566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Square South. Tickets are \$6, \$5 for students, and \$4 for student balcony. For information call 598-3757.



To Jack
Keep it
You're the
Dink
Gordon
Gordon
Gordon
Gordon
Gordon
Gordon

CHARLES HONI COLES



To JACK
FROM Bubba Gaines
All the best of
EVERYTHING

BUBBA GAINES



Shawn
Jonah
Jordan Sauchs
Tim Adenta

Bos Wis
Dir Conway

Michael Holm

Johnny
Ellis

Jonny Holtzman
Tom Rupp

THE
**WIDESPREAD
DEPRESSION**
ORCHESTRA

Jonny Holtzman
P.O. Box 372
Yorktown Heights
N.Y. 10598
(914) 245-1478

1
Dad & Ellie

WIDESPREAD - - DEPRESSION ORCH.

JORDAN SANDRICK - PAT

DAVID LILLIE B/S

TIM ATHERTON - TRB

TAD SHULL - TS

MIKE HASHIM - AS

MIKE LEDWING - P

BILL CONWAY - B

JOHNNY ELLIS - DR.

JOHN HOLTZMAN VIBES / VOC

STATESIDE SCENE ~ East Coast

What depression?

Jazz has come of a certain age of recent months and it is only very, very good.

The proof of this pudding is **The Widespread Depression Orchestra**, a sparkling nonet of young New Englanders who have been delighting audiences of all ages and persuasions since landing in New York a couple of years ago. They began as a combination swing/rhythm and blues band which has been leaning more and more towards swing, losing none of their rhythm or blues.

The group has been playing in all sorts of places — places where you can dance and places where you can't. You can't dance at **Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz"** concerts, but you can certainly wriggle around in your seat and pay close attention to the band's meticulous arrangements. And as if it isn't enough that they play *Topsy* and *Tulip Or Turnip* and *East St. Louis Toodle-Oo*, they also have a top notch soloist in the person of Mike Hashim, a short fellow with pudgy cheeks and an enthusiastic, cock-eyed smile who can play sensible, lovely alto solos with a touch of Hodges and a helping of Carter and yet remain original, gleaming and sassy. His tone is hard and shiney and, if I'm not mistaken, he's a soulful, sensitive young man. He's got something to say through that saxophone of his and he says it with swing and taste. He is the best soloist in the group by far, but, fortunately, the rest of the crew are fluent and brief. One can complain about Johnny Holtzman's schmaltzy Sinatra-ish vocals, but they are only paraded once or twice a set.

At this particular concert the band shone like the seat of a New York cabbie's pants. Hashim stole the set with a *Sunny Side Of The Street* that featured some swooping glissandos.

Also on the bill was **Sammy Price**, who

set his rotund self at the piano and boogie-woogied about an inch off his waist. And, as if that wasn't enough, **Bobby Rosengarden** was on hand with a nonet of his own, featuring such old hands as Jack Lesberg, Jimmy Maxwell, Al Klink and Phil Bodner and such younger hands as George Masso and Warren Vaché. Whereas Widespread deals in reds and blues, Rosengarden and Company were dealing in pastels. Gerry Mulligan's *Five Brothers* was followed by *Someday*, Warren Vaché playing the lovely Armstrong piece with his own flair, before the band settled into a set of Ellington transcriptions. Maxwell was bubbling on trumpet and Phil Bodner was thick and rich on clarinet. The set was gentle and peaceful.

LEE JESKE

