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JAZZ

In association with NYU Program Board

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Friday, Jan. 4th - 8pm

**Women
of
Jazz**

Odetta

**Chris Connor
Emily Remler**

at N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center

Tickets: \$7.50 Students: \$6.00

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. South Tel. 598-2027

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(Specify Dec. 14th or Jan. 6th Concert When Ordering)

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

*Emily Remler, Guitarist,
And 2 Singers Perform*

The program with which the "Highlights in Jazz" series completed its 11th year on Friday evening at Loeb Auditorium was a departure from its usual presentations. On the surface, the departure might seem to be that, to live up to the concert title, "Women in Jazz", the headliners were all women — the contemporary guitarist Emily Remler, the folk singer Odetta, and the jazz-influenced singer Chris Connor — the first time that "highlights" has taken a feminist stance.

A more noticeable change lay in the presentation of the performers as three separate acts rather than putting them in the fluid context of interchangeable groupings, which is the customary "highlights" approach. This eliminated an aspect that gave the "highlights" series some of its identity. Moreover, there was little sense of relationship between the three performers, aside from the fact that they are women.

Even as "Women in Jazz," Miss Remler, Odetta and Miss Connor were a strange combination. Odetta is a folk singer and Miss Connor is, nowadays, primarily a cabaret singer with jazz overtones who, on this occasion, was constantly being overshadowed in jazz terms by her three accompanists — Richard Rodney Bennett, piano, Steve Laspina, bass, and Tony Tadesco, drums — whenever they took off on their own.

Miss Remler is a straight-ahead jazz guitarist and a good one, but she hardly had time to warm up before she was gone. Only Odetta, the least jazz oriented of the three but a skillful show woman, was able to build and project a moving, colorful and individualistic program.

John S. Wilson

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Women of Jazz • Odetta •
• Chris Connor •
• Emily Remler •

at N Y U Loeb Student Center
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BIG RED NEWS...December 29, 1984

AL BROWNE'S HAPPENINGS

Olivia Ward showed off her talent in her bit role in the movie "Cotton Club." She'll be seen again in "The Tenement," a movie that takes place in the Bronx. Keep on moving up Olivia, we're proud of you.

Jack Kleinsinger's first "Highlights In Jazz" concert of the new year will take place January 4 at NYU Loeb Student Center. The concert is headed up with "Women of Jazz," Odetta, Chris Connor and Emily Remler. Odetta has been influenced by Bessie Smith and Chris Connor, who sang with the Stan Kenton's band. Emily Remler is a guitarist on Concord Jazz Records.

Corea succeeds as 'straight' man

By PETER KEEPNEWS

VERSATILITY is keyboardist Chick Corea's strong suit. He can sound equally comfortable (and convincing) playing heavy fusion on the synthesizer or introspective jazz on the grand piano.

But at the Blue Note, where Corea (on grand piano) is leading a

world-class trio with Miroslav Vitous on bass and Roy Haynes on drums through Sunday, the emphasis is not on how many things he can do. It's on how well he can do one particular thing: play swinging, straight-ahead jazz.

Offering a program heavily loaded with beautiful standards (a recent set included *I Hear a Rhapsody*, *Sum-*

JAZZ SCENE

mer Night and *Autumn Leaves*), Corea displays his trademark pianistic playfulness, along with a more relaxed sense of swing than he has sometimes shown in other contexts.

Of course, with a great drummer like Haynes — who drives but never pushes, takes care of business but never

dominates — it would be hard not to swing. And Vitous, with his warm tones and sensitive support, also makes a major contribution.

But Corea is hardly just along for the ride. He's at the center of things, and deservedly so.

★ ★ ★

Among the other good sounds available this weekend is a concert featuring singers Odetta

and Chris Connor, along with guitarist Emily Remler. It's at NYU Loeb Student Center tonight at 8.

Action at the clubs includes piano great McCoy Tyner at Lush Life (he's there through Jan. 13) and two all-star quintets: one led by pianist John Hicks at the Village Vanguard, the other led by bassist Richard Davis at Sweet Basil.

It's ladies night at the jazz club — at last

By Harcourt Tynes

American women have "come a long way." They now head corporations, fly to the moon, graduate from service academies, and wield political power. They have even gained access to the locker rooms of professional male athletes. These areas were, at one time, the exclusive domain of males.

So why aren't there more female jazz musicians?

Jazz bands and jazz oriented recording companies have always been willing to hire female singers but, for some reason, the mere thought of a pretty young thing lugging a bass violin, a trombone, or a French horn seemed abhorrent to jazzmen.

On the town

Women jazz musicians admit that there have been some changes over the years, but not many. Jazz is still behind the rest of society, they say.

"Women usually only get secondary roles in jazz groups," said jazz publicist Harriet Wasser. "They are rarely in front."

Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz" concert tonight at the New York University Loeb Student Center could be a sign of things to come. The show's program, called "Women of Jazz," will star three well known jazz performers — Odetta, Chris Connor, and Emily Remler. None

of them is a bass fiddle player, but two play the guitar and the talent of all three is the envy of many of their colleagues, both male and female.

Singer-guitarist Odetta, also a veteran blues and gospel performer, is in demand all over the world. Ms. Connor, who once sang with the old Stan Kenton band, now performs with her own backup group. She has cut many recordings. Guitarist Remler, a recording artist, is a Downbeat Critics Poll winner.

Theirs is the kind of music that audiences enjoy regardless of gender.

The 8 p.m. concert will be the first of eight "Highlights in Jazz" programs taking place this year at the Loeb Center, 566 La Guardia Place, Manhattan. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6 for students. Call (212) 498-2027.

A new role

Some folks may find it difficult to imagine Carroll O'Connor doing anything else but telling Jean Stapleton to "stifle yourself" in the old "All in the Family" TV show, but the veteran actor is really too versatile to limit himself to that sort of thing.

TV viewers who became accustomed to seeing O'Connor as the stubborn and self-righteous Archie Bunker in the long-running series, which can still be seen on reruns, may be in for a surprise.

O'Connor is the star of "Home Front," a new comedy-drama by James Duff which opened Wednesday at the Royale Theatre, 242 W. 45th St., Manhattan. In "Home Front," he is an understanding and sensitive family head whose son is having trouble adjusting to life after his discharge from the military.

Frances Sternhagen, a Tony winner for her performance in "The Good Doctor," co-stars.

Will O'Connor succeed in making New York theatergoers forget Archie? We'll know soon.

Call (212) 239-6200 for ticket information.

Helping hand



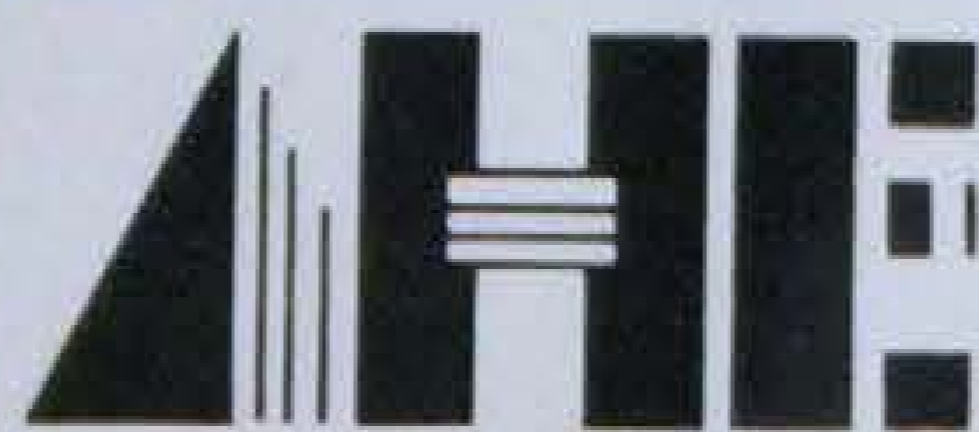


To the
Chris Connor

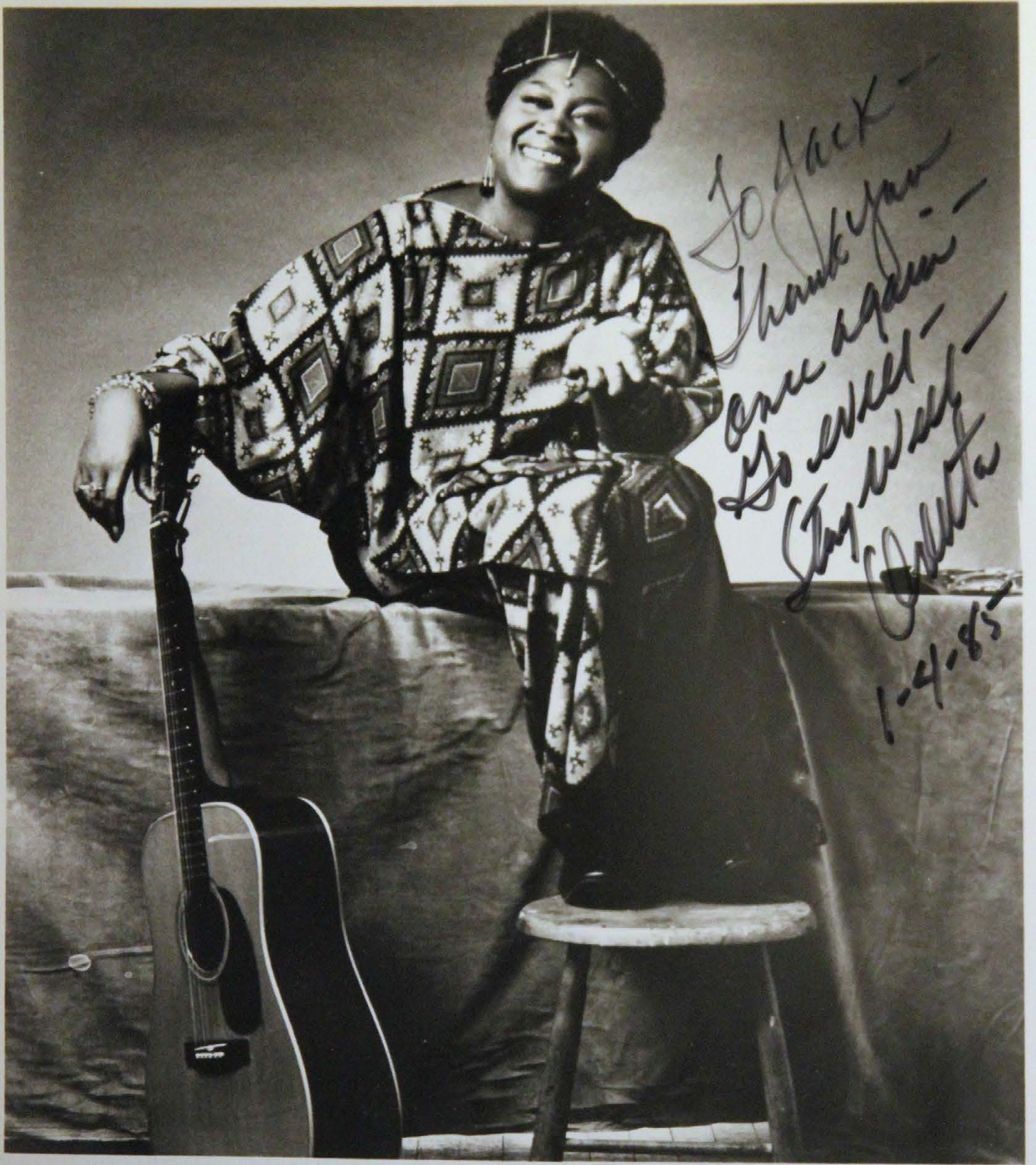
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ODETTA

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Jazz women highlighted at NYU

NEW YORK—Showcasing veteran vocalists Chris Connor and Odetta and "introducing" guitarist Emily Remler, Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights in Jazz presented its first all-woman show, Women Of Jazz, recently at New York University's Loeb Student Center.

Since 1974 the 700-seat NYU auditorium has housed Highlights, now New York's longest running, regularly scheduled jazz series. With tickets priced at \$7.50 and \$8, thanks to public funding from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Kleinsinger's eight yearly shows may be the best jazz bargain in town.

First up was Emily Remler (pictured). Barely opening her eyes and never uttering a word, the intensely concentrated Remler delivered a blazing set. Odetta, who enjoys talking about her songs as much as playing them, offered a folk-inspired repertoire, underscoring her stature as vocal empress of the folk/blues genre. With her colorful, flowing clothes, dazzling forehead pendant, and trademark incense still burning from her guitar, Odetta's more than a visual reminder of the '60s folk revival. Acknowledging the influences of singers Josh White and Leadbelly, Odetta rendered a



MELAPNE SELMAN

highly idiosyncratic version of the latter's classic *Goodnight Irene*.

Former big band vocalist, now a club singer, Chris Connor swung through *Black Coffee*, *Crazy He Calls Me*, and a signature rendition of *Lush Life*. An able trio—bassist Steve Laspina, drummer Tony Tadesco, and pianist Richard Rodney Bennett, who took several fine solos—supported Connor's velvety contralto.

The Women Of Jazz lineup was more of a mixed bag than the thematically booked Highlights usually showcases, but no one in the audience seemed to mind at all. —kate walter



Mitchell Seidel

Guitarists Larry Coryell and Emily Remler talk shop backstage at New York University's Loeb Student Center in Greenwich Village. Remler was one of the featured performers in Jack Kleinsinger's 'Highlights in Jazz' concert series. The program that featured her, called 'Women of Jazz,' also featured singers Odetta and Chris Connor. Coryell, in the audience, stopped by the dressing room to say hello.