

Jack Kleinsinger
presents
Highlights In

JAZZ

In association with NYU Program Board

Thursday, Feb. 20th, 1986 8:00 p.m.

A JAZZ CELEBRATION

(Highlights in Jazz' 13th Anniversary)

• DON SEBESKY and his ORCHESTRA

• JAY LEONHART and MIKE RENZI

• MARK MORGANELLI and the
JAZZ FORUM ALL STARS

with

WARREN CHIASSON • RAY DRUMMOND

BILLY HART • NIELS LAN DOKY

at N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center

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

Tickets: \$8.50

students \$6.50

Tickets At Box Office Or Mail Order To: Highlights In Jazz,
7 Peter Cooper Rd., New York, N.Y. 10010 Make Checks Payable To:
Highlights In Jazz Enclose Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope -

Coming Thursday, March 20th, 8:00 p.m.

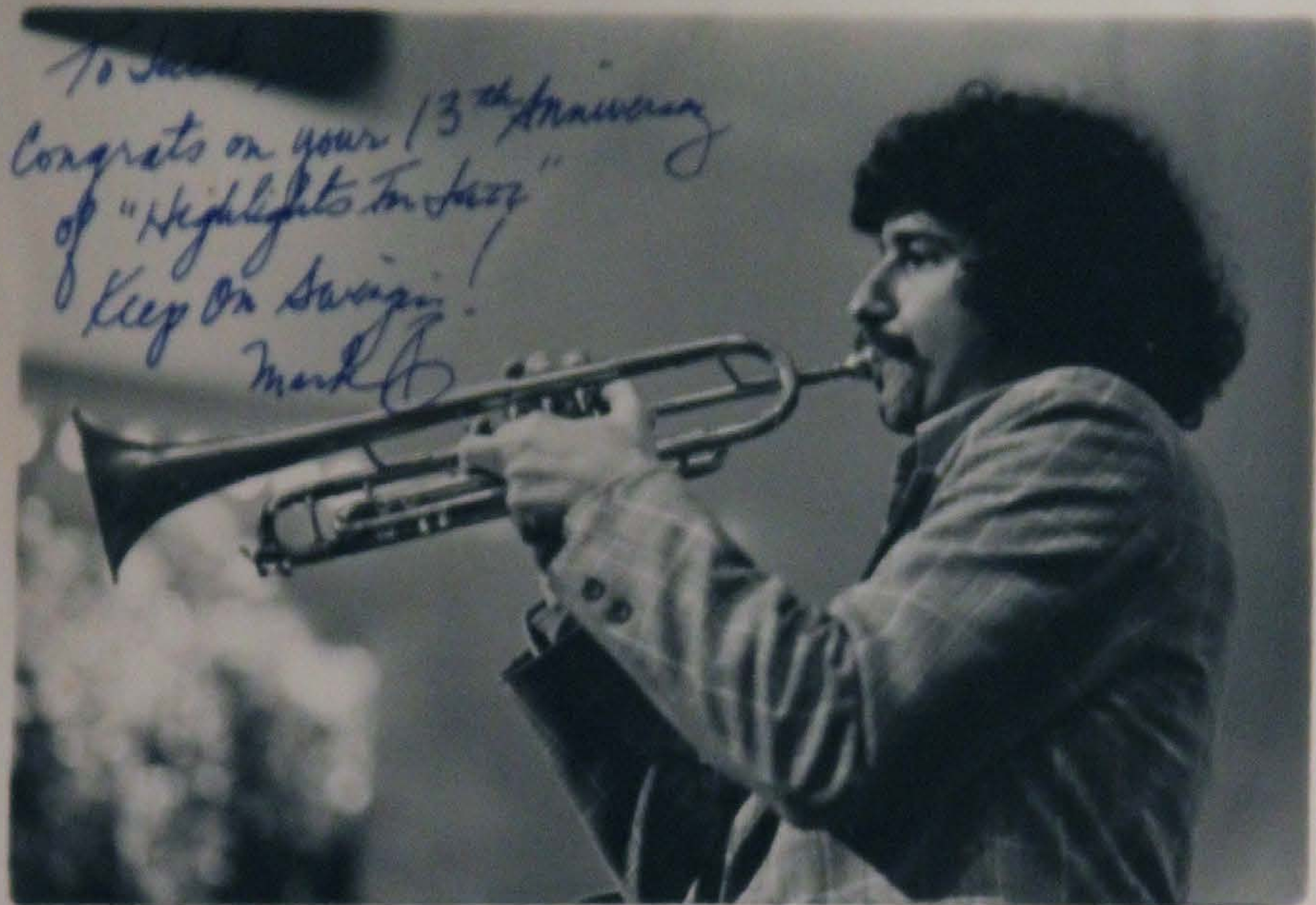
THE BASIETES MEET THE ELLINGTONIANS with Joe Newman, Norris Turney,
Frank Wess, Britt Woodman, Benny Powell, Victor Gaskin, Butch Miles,
Eddie Barefield. Mail orders accepted now: \$8.50, students \$6.50 -

• Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. Make checks payable to :
HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ

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

To Jack, THANKS!
you're great. Webber

Stay at the hotel & to Jack
all the best
Vic Jones



To Jack
 Congrats on your 13th Anniversary
 of "Highlights In Jazz"
 Keep On Swinging!
 Mark

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1986

Jazz: 'Highlights' Series

JACK KLEINSINGER'S concert series, "Highlights in Jazz," celebrated its 13th anniversary on Thursday evening at New York University's Loeb Auditorium with a program that differed from those that have usually been presented during the past 13 years.

As a rule, Mr. Kleinsinger assembles seven or eight musicians who play in various small formations and end up in a mass jam session. For the anniversary, however, the program was played by three organized groups, each of which was given an individual presentation.

It was a balanced and varied program of groups that are rarely heard in concerts — Mark Morganelli's Jazz Forum Allstars, whose habitat is jazz clubs; Jay Leonhart, the bassist-turned-songwriter-and-singer, with Mike Renzi at the piano, a duo that is a cabaret attraction, and Don Sebeskey's 11-piece orchestra, which is more apt to be heard on records than in person.

Mr. Sebeskey's orchestra plays a

repertory of his own arrangements which, at their best, reflect the rich, moody colors and fascinating voicings of Gil Evans's writing. This was particularly true of two pieces Mr. Evans has arranged and played with his own orchestra, "Django" and "Moon Dreams." But Mr. Sebeskey expanded on the Evans foundations, making them even stronger.

Mr. Leonhart's songs were amusing vignettes that focused on various kinds of desperation — writer's block, life in the Middle Ages, the love life of lions, a sketch of his eccentric Uncle Jim. They emerged in Mr. Leonhart's rhythmic delivery as a mixture of Dave Frishberg, Bob Dorough and Edwin Arlington Robinson. Basic, swinging jazz for the evening was provided by Mr. Morganelli's group, highlighted by Warren Chaisson's gentle vibraphone solo on Bill Evans's "Waltz for Debbie" and the mellow-toned trumpet of Mr. Morganelli.

John S. Wilson

VOICE FEBRUARY 18, 1986

Jack Kleinsinger
 presents **HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ**
 in association with NYU Program Board

Thursday, Feb. 20, 1986 at 8 p.m.

Highlights in Jazz's 13th Anniversary

- DON SEBESKY and his orchestra
- JAY LEONHART and MIKE RENZI
- MARK MORGANELLI and the
JAZZ FORUM ALL STARS

N.Y.U. Loeb Center

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. So.

Tickets \$8.50, Students \$6.50. Tel: 598-2027

NIGHT LIFE

BY STUART TROUP

Concerts with an informal air

WHEN THE late Zoot Sims was honored at a Highlights in Jazz concert years ago, he stood at the microphone and announced to the producer, "This was a good gig, Jack." Then Sims turned to the audience and said, "And I want to thank all you people for coming in and filling up the joint."

That kind of warm informality has marked the concert series that Jack Kleinsinger has staged eight times a year since 1973 at New York University's Loeb Student Center. "It's a family gathering, a home for some people," he said the other day. "The musicians feel a certain closeness to the audience."

The concert series will mark its 13th anniversary at 8 tomorrow evening with a celebration featuring the Don Sebesky Orchestra, a performance by bassist/composer/singer Jay Leonhart and pianist Mike Renzi, and an appearance by Mark Morganelli and the Jazz Forum All-Stars. The center is at 566 LaGuardia Pl., just off Washington Square (tickets \$8.50, \$6.50 for students).

"I think we reach an audience that — because of age, economics or lifestyle — doesn't attend clubs," Kleinsinger said. "We get older people, high school kids and people whom I know don't have too much. They're a jazz audience, but I know from the letters I get and those I speak with that we're reaching people who otherwise might be cut off from live jazz. And, for the most part, we're giving them something they can't get in clubs."

An example of how responsive his audiences are occurred a number of years ago when a concert was scheduled on St. Patrick's Day. "In honor of the holiday, I guess, Murphy's Law was in effect," Kleinsinger said. "Everything went wrong. There had been a bomb scare at NYU during the day, and they closed the building. So when we arrived, nothing had been done; we had to set up everything. As we were putting out the chairs, I realized there was no piano on the stage, and Billy Taylor was one of the scheduled performers. Then I spotted an old beat-up grand piano at the back of the theater." Getting it to the stage, however, was still a problem.



Bassist Jay Leonhart to join Highlights in Jazz concert

"I called the school office, and they said the people who move it had left for the day. So I went out front where people were standing in line for tickets, and found ten people to help me." They had to pay to get in, but Kleinsinger told them they wouldn't have to stand on line and would have the pick of the best seats.

"We rolled the piano down the aisle, and they helped me hoist it on to the stage. There were even a couple of ladies who were helping. Then we got a piano tuner to come over, and the show started ten minutes later."

The tribute to Sims was one of the annual celebrations held for living musicians. Among those honored in the past have been Mel Lewis, Hank Jones, George Duvivier, Lionel Hampton, Doc Cheatham, Roy Eldridge and Milt

Hinton. "Those to me were the most exciting," Kleinsinger said. "We always schedule a surprise unannounced guest and at the Mel Lewis concert, for instance, we wound up with four of them."

Ray Barretto was the surprise that Kleinsinger had in mind, and Roland Hanna, Toots Thielemans and Pacquito D'Rivera spontaneously joined the program. "Pacquito bought a ticket, and I spotted him in the audience and sent him home for his horn. That's the kind of informality, the lack of pretentiousness, that we're aiming at."

The not-for-profit concerts receive funding from the State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and individual contributors. "And it exists," Kleinsinger added, "through the good will of the musicians."

DAILY NEWS, Thursday, February 20, 1986

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TONIGHT IN NEW YORK

A 13th on 20th

Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights in Jazz" series marks its 13th birthday tonight at 8 at NYU's Loeb Student Center (Washington Square South and LaGuardia Place, 212-598-2027). Titled "A Jazz Celebration," the program will feature the Don Sebesky Orchestra plus singer-bassist Jay Leonhart and pianist Mike Renzi. Tickets are \$8.50, \$6.50 for students. A surprise guest is promised.

7/20/86 To Jack:- With my very Best Wishes.
Thanks for everything!! Warren Chiasson



WARREN CHIASSON



To Jack:
your concerts
are a gas, and
it is so
wonderful with you.

Jay Leonhart

JAY LEONHART

