

Jack Kleinsinger
presents

HIGHLIGHTS IN



*To
Jack
Keep SWINING
Gute Manne*

In cooperation with
NYU Program Board

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY
14th, 1988
8:00 p.m.**

Stars of Swing

**BUCKY PIZZARELLI • SOL YAGED
MARTY NAPOLEON • JACK LESBERG**

In A Special Tribute To The King Of Swing

**PANAMA FRANCIS
and his SAVOY SULTANS**

N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center

Tickets: \$9.00

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. So. • Tel. 998-4999 Students: \$6.50

Tickets at Box Office or by Mail Order to:

**HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ • 7 Peter Cooper Road • New York, N.Y. 10010
Make Checks Payable to Highlights in Jazz • Enclose a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope**

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

Panama keepin' the beat

*Faith in rhythm
from master of
the bass drum*

By CHIP DEFFAA

JAZZ musicians have forgotten what the real ingredients of jazz were all about," declares drummer Panama Francis, a great believer in the importance of rhythm. "If they take the rhythm out of jazz, they should call it something else."

And whether Francis is leading a lightly swinging combo (as he'll be doing this week at Carlos 1) or his harder-hitting, nine-man "Savoy Sultans" (as he'll be doing at a Jan. 14 "Highlights in Jazz" concert), there's no missing his propulsive beat. He's one of the masters of the bass drum, and he likes to get people moving to his music.

A self-taught "natural" drummer, Francis powered the great bands of Roy Eldridge, Lucky Millinder, and Cab Calloway without being able to read a note of music. He had a reputation for being — like Buddy Rich — a drummer who needed only to hear an arrangement once to know it completely. (Bandleader Sy Oliver did hand him a written part one time. It consisted of two instructions: "Begin playing" and "End with the rest of us.")

Francis played at Harlem jam sessions at which bebop was born. (He believes the boppers created their new style to mask shortcomings that would have limited their success in the older style. "Charlie Parker, for instance, played fast to mask the fact that he didn't have as good a tone as Benny Carter. He even told me: 'I don't mind people copying my style, but I wish they'd find another sound.'")

He worked at Birdland in the early '50s. Then from 1953 to '63 his drums were heard on count-



New York Post: Robert Kalfus

DRUMMER MAN: Panama Francis, who has always been able to play anything after he's heard it once.

less rock-'n'-roll records. His beat contributed to the success of the Four Seasons, the Coasters, the Platters, the Flamingoes, Frankie Avalon, Fabian, Buddy Holly, Jackie Wilson, James Brown, Bobby Darin, Neil Sedaka, etc. — but the music didn't grab him, and he returned to jazz.

"My wife would ask: 'What did you record today?' And I'd say: 'I don't know.' It was just a job."

He doesn't get nostalgic over the rock-'n'-roll years. For he remembers the racism of record producers scurrying to get white singers to re-record hits created by black singers. And he remembers Alan Freed's TV show (on which he was the drummer) being taken off the air after an interracial couple

danced on the program.

One thing he did like about early rock-'n'-roll, though — and about early jazz too — was that it was danceable. "I'm one of the few bandleaders who can dance. And I like playing for people who dance."

If the music on his last two Grammy-nominated "Savoy Sultans" albums is any indicator, don't be surprised if Francis gets some people dancing in the aisles at Carlos 1 or at NYU. He'd kind of like that.

The Panama Francis Quintet plays tonight through Sunday, 9:30 p.m. on, at Carlos 1 (432 Sixth Av., near 10th St., 212-982-3260); \$10 cover, \$7 minimum. His Savoy Sultans, plus singer Julia Steele, play 8 p.m. Jan. 14 at NYU Loeb Student Center (566 LaGuardia Pl., 212-988-4889).

Old and new fills clubs

Sun Ra performs his affectionate, avant-garde renditions of Cole Porter and Jerome Kern

Thursday's "Highlights in Jazz" concert (NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Pl., 212-998-4999) features Panama Francis' Savoy Sultans, plus an all-star combo with Francis, Bucky Pizzarelli, Marty Napoleon, etc. Francis also leads a quintet through Sunday at Carlos 1 (432 Sixth Av., 212-982-3260). Tramps (125 East 15th St.

WEEKEND JAZZ

Wednesday, January 13, 1988

VARIETY

Longplay Shorts

"Starfish," first Arista album for the Church, is due in February. "Under The Milky Way" is the lead track ... Barry Manilow and Kenny G will perform at the National Assn. of Recording Merchandisers' Scholarship Foundation Luncheon at the Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, March 12. At the NARM Convention dinner, 16 students will be awarded full-year \$6,000 scholarships. Since the program was inaugurated in 1966, 286 grants totaling \$1,700,000 have been handed out. A special tribute to the late Benny Goodman is part of the Jan. 14 "Stars Of Swing" concert of Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights In Jazz" series at the Loeb Student Center, New York U., N.Y. Performers include guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli, clarinetist Sol Yaged, pianist Marty Napoleon, bassist Jack Lesberg and Panama Francis & His Savoy Sultans.

The Guide/January 10, 1988

MUSIC

HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ — With Bucky Pizzarelli, guitar; Sol Yaged, clarinet; Marty Napoleon, piano; Jack Lesberg, bass; Panama Francis and his Savoy Sultans. N.Y.U., Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Pl. Thur., 8.

KEVIN HUNKLE/PAUL KNOPP — Trombone/piano, with Walter Perkins, Ivan Rolle. Third Street, 235 E. 11th St. Wed, 7:30. Free.

JUSTIN PAGE AND FRIENDS — Symphony Space, Bway, @ 95th St. Thur., 8.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH — Sun., 5: Jazz Vespers with Gary Brock's Cayenne Jazz Band. Sun., 7: Mark Whitecage and Liquid Time. Lex. Ave. at 54th St.

VINTAGE JAZZ AT THE VINEYARD — Music from 1930-31, featuring Barbara Lea and Nik Munson, vocals, others. 309 E. 26th St. Sun., 3 and 6:30.

NEW YORK POST, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1988

CALENDAR

CLASSICAL MUSIC & DANCE

METROPOLITAN OPERA: Debussy's "Pelleas et Melisande." James Levine conducting. Metropolitan Opera House at 8.

WAVERLY CONSORT: "Eleanor of Aquitaine and Her World," music and verse in the 12th century. Alice Tully Hall at 8.

NEW YORK CITY BALLET: "Gounod Symphony," "The Cage," "Other Dances," "Brahms/Handel." New York State Theater at 8.

POP & JAZZ

HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ: Bucky Pizzarelli, guitar; Sol Yaged, clarinet; Marty Napoleon, piano; and others. N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Pl. at 8.

JOHN PIZZARELLI JR. TRIO: 7's, 2381 Broadway at 97th Street, 8:30, 10, 11:30 p.m.

LENI, STERN, DON ELIAS, LINCOLN GOINES: Mikel's, 760 Columbus Av. at 97th Street at 9 and 11.

THEATER

"ANOTHER ANTIGONE": Comedy by A.R. Gurney Jr. about a conflict between a college professor and his student. Starring George Grizzard and Debra Mooney and directed by John Tillingar. Playwrights Horizons, 416 W. 42d St. at 8. (Opening)

BEST BET

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC: Zubin Mehta conducting; Maria Joao Pires, piano. Music of Wagner, Beethoven and Reich. Avery Fisher Hall at 8.

VOICE JANUARY 12, 1988

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In Cooperation with NYU Program Board

Thursday, Jan. 14th — 8:00 p.m.
Stars of Swing

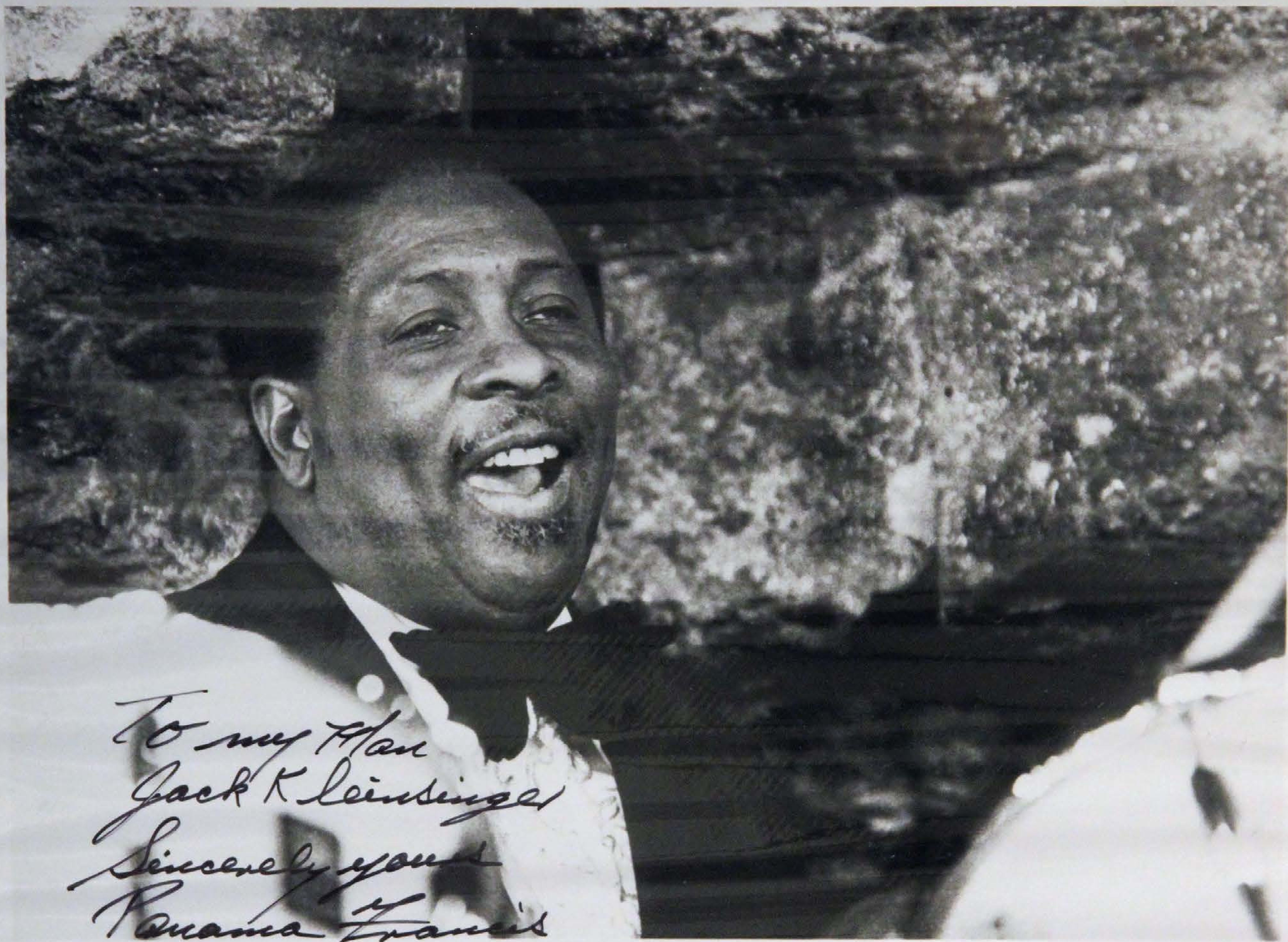
Bucky Pizzarelli • Sol Yaged
Marty Napoleon • Jack Lesberg
Panama Francis & Savoy Sultans

at N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center
566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Sq. So.
Tickets: \$9.00, Students: \$6.50 Tel 998-4999

To Jack:-
BEST WISHES
Sol Yaged



SOL YAGED



To my Man
Jack K. Leinsinger
Sincerely yours
Panama Francis

PANAMA FRANCIS AND HIS SAVOY SULTANS