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In Cooperation With N.Y.U. Program Board

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Thurs., April 14th - 8 p.m. • Thurs., May 12th - 8 p.m.

- Buck Clayton's Big Band
- : Tri-State McDonald's High School Jazz Ensemble
 - Special Guest:

RED RODNEY

at N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. South • Tel. 998-4999

Tickets: \$9.00 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 -

* Specify April 14 or May 12 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. AUGUST 1988 DOWN BEAT

HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ—BIG BAND BASH

LOEB STUDENT CENTER/ NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, NY

subscription series now in its 15th year, presented a big band concert this spring that spanned several generations of jazz musicians. The small auditorium was packed with fans of Buck Clayton's, the legendary trumpeter and Basie veteran, anticipating the sounds of his two-year-old big band, which in its brief existence has generated a healthy following. The concert opened with the Tri-State McDonald's High School Jazz Ensemble, with trombonist Steve Turre, and another trumpet great, Red Rodney, as special guests.

The McDonald's Ensemble is selected by audition from hundreds of students from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Their spring concert is their chance to experience a truly professional level performance. Under the direction of Justin DiCiocco, jazz director at NYC's prestigious La Guardia High, these young aspirants did pretty fair justice to some challenging charts. Kind Of Blue featured Turre on conch shells, and an almost-cooking Anthro-



Buck Clayton and Red Rodney

Walter Blanding on tenor, in addition to Turre's and Rodney's. Rodney was at his lyrical best on I Can't Get Started, backed by a promising rhythm section which showed sensitivity quite beyond their years.

Clayton's band extends the sound and style that he expounded so eloquently and for so long with Basie, Billie Holiday, Lester Young, and others—warm, relaxed, highly melodic, and swinging. Though various

physical ailments forced him to give up playing years ago, he kept up with his other musical involvements—producing, hosting jam sessions, and composing and arranging, an area often overshadowed by his renown as a performer.

Now in his mid-'70s, he cut an elegant figure on stage as he led the band through his book of compositions and charts. The seasoned musicians that make up his ranks include: Loren Schoenberg, tenor; Spandy Davis and Randy Sanke, trumpet; Marty Napoleon, piano; Howard Alden, guitar; and Wes Landers, sitting in for Mel Lewis who usually fills the drum chair.

Through an hour-long set, Clayton's swinging charts seemed to just play themselves. The band kept up a steady groove, rising to the more up-tempo Beechwood Drive and Avenue C. Their lush sonority glowed as they settled into ballads such as In A Parisian Mood, with a graceful solo by Paul Cohen on trumpet, and Angel In Blue, featuring Joe Temperley's agile baritone.

The young McDonald's musicians and everyone else certainly got an earful of great intonation, articulation, and the kind of purely joyful playing that a band of this caliber and experience can really express.

-stephanie stein

VILLAGER DOWNTOWN

Buck Clayton at NYU

Former Count Basie star Buck Clayton will appear with his big band at Jack Klein-singer's "Highlights in Jazz" concert, Thursday, May 12, 8pm, at NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place.

In recent months Clayton has been appearing in some of the major New York jazz clubs. Among the players who will be appearing with the Buck Clayton Big Band will be Marty Napoleon on piano; Harold Alden on guitar; Spanky Davis on trumpet; Loren Schoenberg on tenor; Randy Sandke on trumpet; and Paul Cohen on trumpet. Also appearing will be the Tri-State McDonald's High School Jazz Ensemble with guest trumpet star Red Rodney. Tickets are \$9 and \$6.50 for students. For information call 998-4999.

VOICE MAY 10, 1988

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Thursday, May 12th - 8:00 p.m.

Big Band Bash

Buck Clayton's Big Band

Tri-State McDonald's

High School Jazz Ensemble

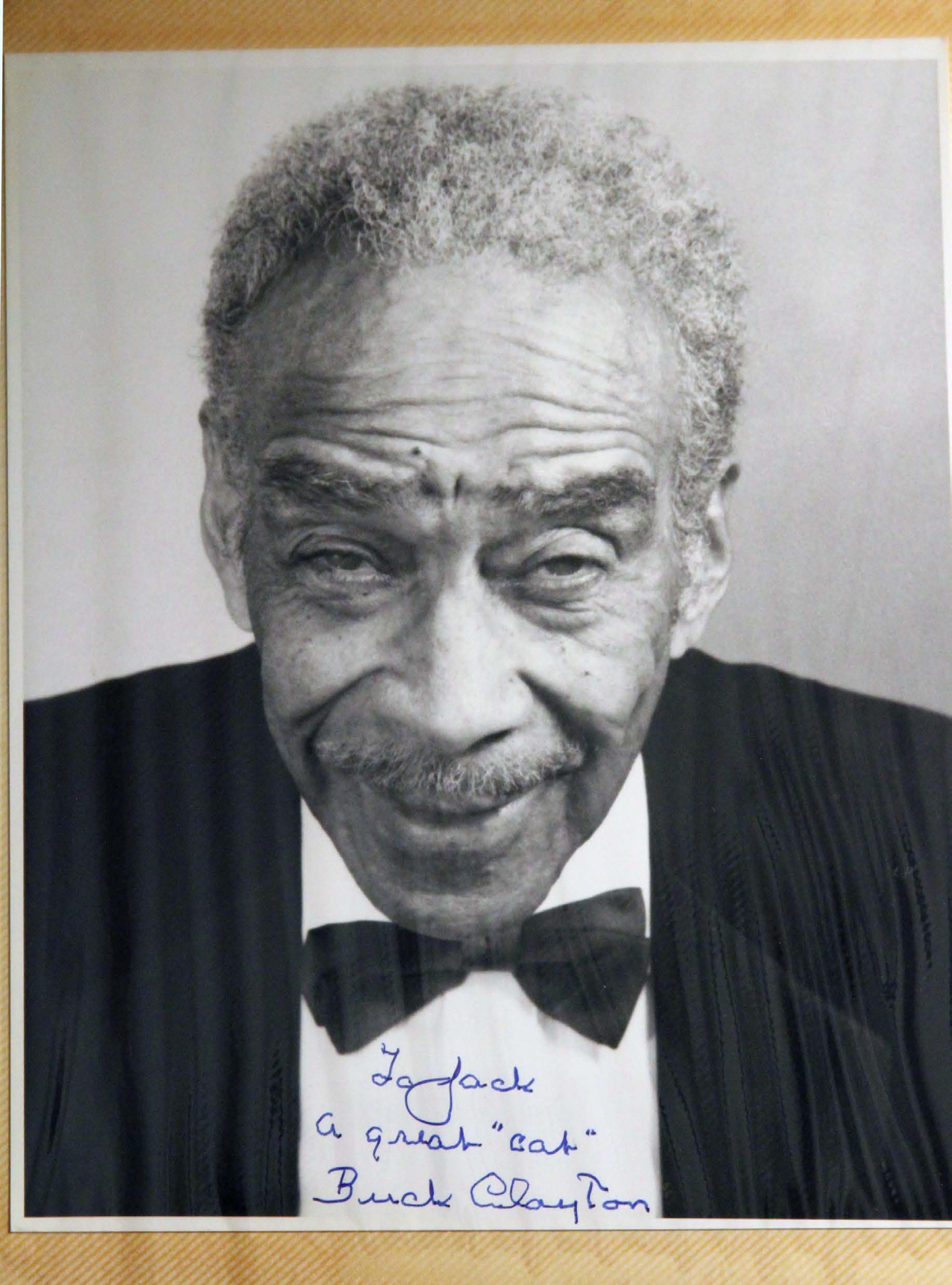
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STEVE TURRE



