

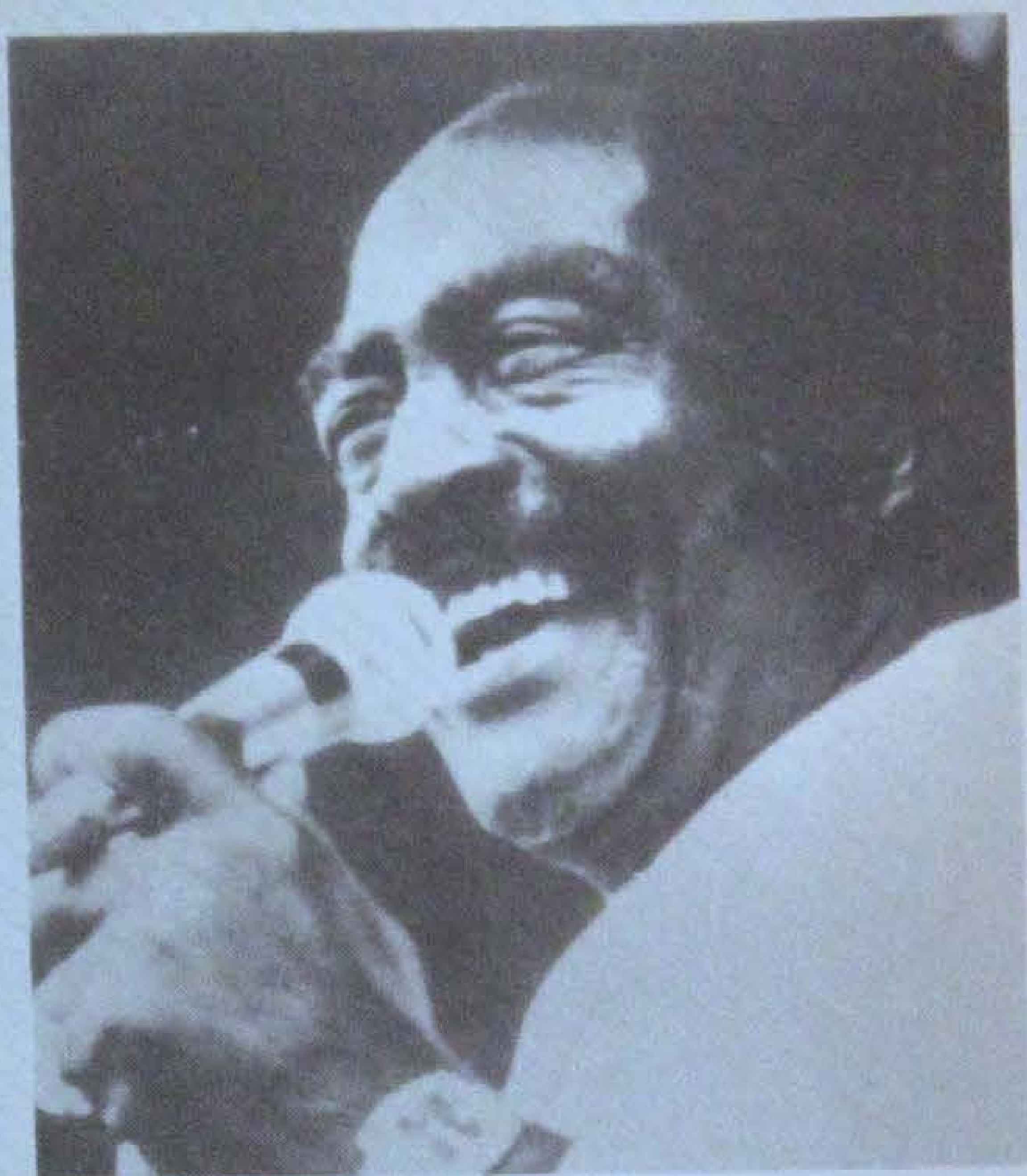
Jack Kleinsinger  
presents

# HIGHLIGHTS IN



In cooperation with N.Y.U.

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 7TH, 1989  
8:00 P.M.**



**JIMMY  
WITHERSPOON**

## **BLUES AND OTHER DELIGHTS**

Jimmy Witherspoon  
David 'Fathead' Newman  
Harold Ashby  
Arvell Shaw  
Bross Townsend  
Kenny Washington

## **N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center**

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. So. • Tel. 998-4949

Tickets: \$10.00

Students: \$6.50

Tickets at Box Office or by Mail Order to:

HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ • 7 Peter Cooper Road • New York, N.Y. 10010

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**COMING THURSDAY, JAN. 11TH • 8 P.M. • THE WORLD OF MILT HINTON**

Milt Hinton, Phil Bodner, Doc Cheatham, Major Holley, Jane Jarvis,  
Bob Rosengarden, Derek Smith

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*This event is made possible with funds from the  
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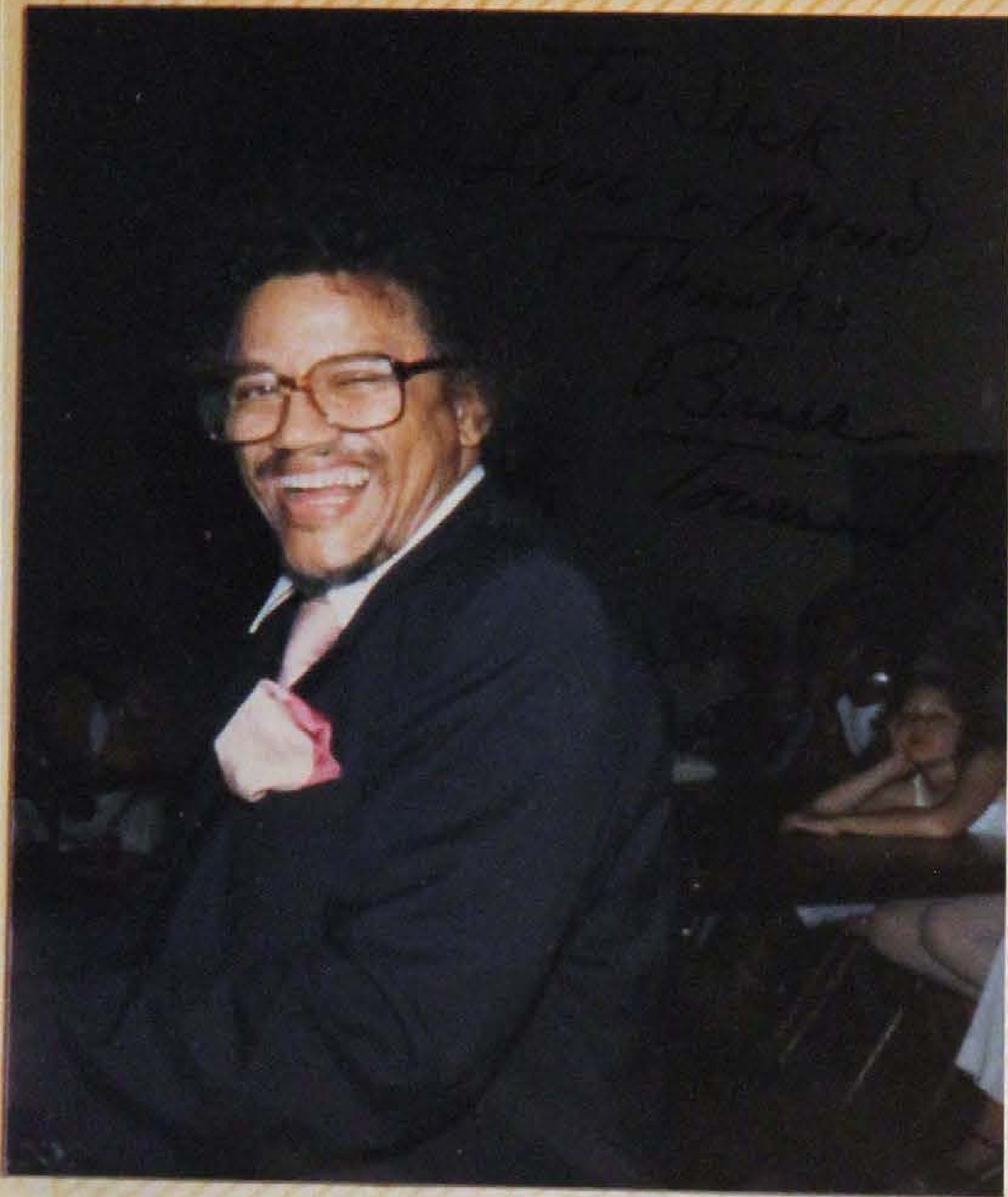
To Jack  
The Best always  
& Mum & Max & A Hope  
New Year  
your man  
Jimmy

**Jimmy Witherspoon**



To Jacke  
Always  
Arvell

**ARVELL SHAW**



Review/Jazz

# A History of the Blues, By Jimmy Witherspoon

By PETER WATROUS

using a fat swing tone, fooling with erratic rhythms and biting on his reed to draw squeals and pops from the saxophone.

From there the show slowed down a bit with solo pieces for the band, and it was not until the full band came out to do a blues by Mr. Newman that the tension picked up. Again contrasting their styles, but this time warmed up, the two saxophonists went at it, swapping four-bar improvisations that had Mr. Newman yelping blues phrases only to have Mr. Ashby follow along. Mr. Newman coarsened his tone, or moved into the lower register, and Mr. Ashby chased him, full of humor, mimicry and invention.

Mr. Witherspoon came out next and dispensed a history of the blues, singing tunes by Petie Wheatstraw and Walter Brown along with classic pieces like "Gee Baby, Ain't I Good to You." Mr. Witherspoon does not have much range left, but he more than makes up for it by pushing his notes carefully until they bleed emotion. He isn't much of a blues shouter anymore either, and his best tunes were taken at a low volume, blues ballads that let his worn tone and his careful pitch control sound like an internal monologue sung to oneself.

Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights in Jazz concerts are the last vestige of jazz as a variety show. The format, broken up into small and large features for everybody on stage, makes them entertaining, but it rarely allows the best parts of the performance to build up speed. Thursday night's show, featuring the singer Jimmy Witherspoon, was no different.

The evening started with Duke Ellington's theme song, "Take the A Train," played by a full group — Harold Ashby and David (Fathead) Newman on tenor saxophones, Bill Wertzel on guitar, Bross Townsend on piano, Arvell Shaw on bass and Kenny Washington on drums. Pairing Mr. Ashby and Mr. Newman is a smart, foolproof idea, and on "Take the A Train" they showed why. Mr. Newman, for a long time the featured saxophonist in the Ray Charles Orchestra, soloed first, calmly explaining his case, using even, long bebop phrases. Mr. Ashby, who spent time working with the later versions of the Duke Ellington Orchestra, followed him in a radically different style,

## JAZZ

By CHIP DEFFAA

**HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ:** NYU, 566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Square, (212) 998-4949. If you thought master jazz and blues singer Jimmy Witherspoon sounded good last week on CBS TV's "Nightwatch" (even if they did maddeningly cut the segment off mid-sentence), wait till you catch him live Thursday, in what should be ideal company, including saxists Harold Ashby (whose background was deep in the blues before he joined the Duke Ellington Band) and David "Fathead" Newman.

The New York Voice, Saturday, December 2, 1989

## Delightful Blues

"Blues and Other Delights" starring the legendary blues singer Jimmy Witherspoon. The concert will take place at the NYU Loeb Student Center in Manhattan, 566 LaGuardia Place at 8 p.m., and will feature a special guest. Tickets are \$10 and \$6 for students, and can be purchased at the Loeb Student Center Box Office. For further information, call (212)998-4949.

Jack Kleinsinger  
presents **HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ**  
Thursday, December 7th • 8 PM  
**BLUES and OTHER DELIGHTS**  
Jimmy Witherspoon • David 'Fathead' Newman  
Harold Ashby • Arvell Shaw  
Bross Townsend • Kenny Washington  
**N.Y.U. LOEB CENTER**  
566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Square S.  
Tickets: \$10, Students \$6.50 • Telephone 998-4949

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VOICE DECEMBER 5, 1989

DECEMBER 7, 1989/ EXPRESS/

## Hightlights in Jazz To Present "Blues And Other Delights"

On Thursday, December 7th, Jack Kleinsinger will present as part of his "Highlights in Jazz" series "Blues and Other Delights" starring the legendary blues singer, **Jimmy Witherspoon**.

The concert will take place at NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place at 8 pm.

Appearing with Jimmy, also known as "Spoon," will be **David 'Fathead' Newman** on saxophone and reeds, **Harold Ashby** on tenor saxophone, **Arvel Shaw** on bass, **Bross Townsend** on piano a **Kenny Washington** on drums.

There will also be a **Surprise Guest**.

VILLAGE VOICE 11/28/89  
**MUSIC**

**'Highlights in Jazz':** This could be the best concert in this series in years. Jimmy Witherspoon, who is equally captivating singing "Ain't Nobody's Business" or "Embraceable You," has done much of his best work with saxophonists around, and here he'll have Harold Ashby and David Newman, as well as a rhythm section that embodies three generations of jazz—Arvell Shaw, Bross Townsend, and Kenny Washington. December 7 at 8, Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place, 998-4949. (Giddins)

**AROUND TOWN**

# Spoon Set to Shout the Blues

**J**IMMY WITHERSPOON is perhaps the last of the great blues shouters, a breed characterized by commanding, extroverted passages and an often-stirring, sermon-like approach.

Witherspoon, or Spoon, as he's known, can also touch your heart with honey-coated nuances. What sets him apart is the heritage of Jimmy Rushing and Big Joe Turner — the ability to hammer home the emotional triggers of the blues.

Spoon, who has a lustrous history of associations with such jazz giants as Buck Clayton and Ben Webster, deserves a special setting for his work. And he'll have it at 8 p.m. tomorrow, in a "Highlights in Jazz" concert at the NYU Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Square South.

With him will be David (Fathead) Newman, Harold Ashby, Arvell Shaw, Bross Townsend and Kenny Washington. Newman is a reed player who was weaned on Texas blues before he became a featured player with Ray Charles 35 years ago.

The sound of Ashby's tenor sax, clearly influenced by Webster, accompanied such blues singers as Walter Brown in his native Kansas City 20 years before Ashby joined Duke Ellington. Bassist Shaw served as backbone of the Louis Armstrong All-Stars for most of 25

instrumentalists. After performing with Jay McShann's band in the mid-1940s, he toured and recorded with the Count Basie Orchestra and with such players as Clayton, Webster, Gerry Mulligan, Harry (Sweets) Edison and Teddy Edwards.

**Sound Advice**

It has become a tradition for musicians to gather at 8 p.m. every Wednesday in Jamaica at Carmichael's Diner, at Guy Brewer and Foch Boulevards, for a jam session. "It's a happy little thing," noted alto saxophonist C.I. Williams. "The regu-

years; pianist Townsend has underpinned blues singers such as Dakota Staton and Carrie Smith, and Washington is a drummer who, at 31, seems to have absorbed the entire jazz vocabulary.

Spoon may be the main event, but that instrumental roster should contribute considerable riches to the program.

"The blues was an influence on me right from the beginning," Newman said the other day. "Growing up in Dallas, it was everywhere around me, on jukeboxes, at home on my grandmother's Victrola. I was listening to Jimmie Lunceford, Duke Ellington, Lucky Millinder, Tiny Bradshaw, Buster Smith and Hot Lips Page. It was the Big Band era, and that was what influenced me to be a musician."

Besides his work with Ray Charles, Newman's experience has included sessions with singers T-Bone Walker and Big Joe Turner. "I first met Spoon at least twenty years ago, and I've been listening to him even longer than that.

We've worked together on occasion. He's a very capable blues artist who has helped to keep this music alive."

Like Turner and Rushing, Spoon has had associations with many of the great jazz

lars are Hank Edmonds on piano, Ted Jones on bass, either Walter Perkins or Tootsie Bean on drums, and me. And various players come by to sit-in." The session, which lasts until 10:30 p.m., is a product of the Community Jazz Organization of Queens.

Pianist Butch Thompson, whose reputation was forged on radio with Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," will focus on the legacy of Jelly Roll Morton when he performs at 4 p.m. Sunday in an International Art of Jazz concert at the Ethical Humanist Society, 38 Old Country Rd., Garden City, L.I., (tickets \$10; students and seniors \$8). / ■



**Stuart Troup**



Jimmy Witherspoon will perform at the NYU Loeb Student Center tomorrow