Thursday, October 3rd, 1985  8:00 p.m.

BENNY CARTER  AL COHN

A CONCERT FOR ZOOT

with

JOE COHN  CAROL BRITTO  RONNIE BEDFORD

This concert is made possible through funds provided by American Family Publishers

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, Nov. 7th, 8:00 p.m.  - JAZZ LEGENDS ON FILM (Part 5)
our 5th edition of filmed performances of Satch, Billie, Bird, Fats, Duke, Count,
and other great stars from the film collection of David Chertok.
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.
POLYGRAM CLASSICS continues to pursue an ambitious and active jazz release schedule. Full plans reflect the company's bullish profile for jazz, with a variety of major historical projects that kicked off last month with a new Charlie Parker reissue program. All eight of Bird's solo Verve sessions, including alternate takes, are being issued in chronological order, with the original David Stone Martin cover art. Discs will be pressed in Europe and list priced at $6.98.

Also being released are two sets by Oscar Peterson; Ella Fitzgerald's Grammy-winning "Mack The Knife/Ella In Berlin"; and "Coun Basie Swings, Joe Williams Sings." These sets, which list at $9.98, emulates from Japanese Verve.

This month, the flood quickens with the arrival of a 10-disc set comprising Billie Holiday's entire Verve and MGM output, spanning her work from 1946-59—the final stanza of her career. The package, including previously unissued tracks and alternate takes, will also include a 36-page booklet and carry an appropriately priated price tag of $99.98. Prepared by Polydor Japan in league with the PolyGram jazz department here, it's being pressed in Japan.

There are plenty of other worthy reissues in the PolyGram pipeline as well. And stay tuned for a jazz-related feature in an upcoming column. And, in fact, has a jazz album due imminently via RCA!

THE LIFE OF RILEY — KPFA in San Francisco celebrated the birthday of Gramavision recording artist Terry Riley by playing 24 hours of his music, including his latest LP, "Cadenza on the Night Plain," by the Kronos Quartet. Pictured (l-r) at the station are Charles Amirkhanian, KPFA music director; Henry Kaiser, composer and Riley.

Saint Peter's Church in New York has been presenting "Jazz Vespers," under the direction of the Rev. John Garcia Gensel, for two decades. That noteworthy anniversary will be celebrated this Sunday (6) with an all-star "All Night Soul" marathon, from 5 p.m. until 5 a.m. Monday. Among the bigger names on the guest list: Max Roach, John Lewis, Sheila Jordan, Clark Terry and Billy Taylor, who is also producing the show.

Good news on two fronts involving New York promoter Jack Kleinsinger and his long-running "Highlights In Jazz" series. The Stash label is releasing a "Highlights In Jazz" album, recorded in concert in January. And Kleinsinger will be presenting a concert based on the "Highlights" jam session format at the Berlin Jazz Festival on Oct. 31.

ON JAZZ

GRAMMY POOP — NARAS has announced an experimental change in the nominating of jazz records for Grammy Awards. Normally this is left up to jazz craft committees in each of the seven chapters, but this year, because non-committee NARAS members have felt "disenfranchising" the jazz nominations are going to be fair game for the full body of voting members. Is this good? I'm not sure. Frankly, the committees have come up with less-than-scintillating nominations on a regular basis, so I can't imagine much harm being done this way. NARAS is hedging its bets, however, and just trying this out for one year.

We shall see.

In other NARAS news, there will be a special segment devoted to jazz on next year's Grammy Show — after last year's debacle when there was no only no jazz performances, but the reading of the jazz award winners was split between a comic (Rick Dees) and a country singer (Lee Greenwood).

NARAS is not happy when its members picket its membership meetings, as happened last year's show, but I hope NARAS has recognized the error of its ways and is not just tossing the ring in the barn.

FALLING LEAVES — Mean jazz series' goalie, Jack Kleinsinger's "Highlights In Jazz" — which has been keeping the mainstream flame alive for 13 years already — will be back at NYU with Benny Carter and Al Cohn in a tribute to Zoot Sims (10/3). "Jazz Legends on Film" (11/7), "Echoes of Harlem," with Jon Hendricks, Doc Cheatham, George Kelly and others (12/7), and "We Remember Satchmo" with Kenny Davern, Dick Wellstood, Arvell Shaw, and others (1/16). Jazztrack, Kwame Kwei's modern series at Greenwhich House, will feature Charlie & Deluntu (8/9), Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy (10/5), David Murray/James Newton (11/9), and Middle Passage (11/16).
On Broadway

By Allan McMillan

JACK KLEINSINGER will kick off his 13th subscription series with a concert dedicated to the late saxophonist Zoot Sims, who died a few months ago. The concert will feature Benny Carter on saxophone and trumpet, paired with Zoot’s old partner Al Cohn on Tenor Sax. Benny Carter is making a special trip from his home in California to appear at this concert, which will also feature Carol Britte on piano; Joe Cohn on guitar; Jazz veteran Ronnie Bedford on drums. The concert will take place at NYU Loeb Students Center, 566 La Guardia Place, on Thursday Night, October 3rd at 8 P.M....

VOICE OCTOBER 1, 1985

Jack Kleinsinger presents JAZZ
Highlights In

in association with NYU Program Board

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A Zoot salute at Highlights

JACK KLEINSINGER, with some help from the National Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, has turned Highlights in Jazz into the longest running, regularly scheduled concert series.

The 13th season of Highlights will open tomorrow night at 8 with a performance at the New York University Loeb Center, 506 LaGuardia Pl., Manhattan, dedicated to the late Zoot Sims, whose presence brightened many of the Kleinsinger concerts.

Benny Carter, who was to have been one of the costars, won’t perform because of his hospitalization from apparent fatigue. Saxophonist Al Cohn, however, will be joined by trumpeter Clark Terry and saxophonist James Moody. Kleinsinger said this week. With Cohn and Terry will be pianist Carol Britto, guitarist Joe Cohn, drummer Ronnie Bedford and at least one surprise guest.

"It’s going to be an intimate sort of an evening dedicated to Zoot," Kleinsinger said, "not a Zoot Sims memorial. The thrust is different. Zoot played at the very first concert we had, with Al Cohn. That helped launch our series." In 1975, Kleinsinger held an all-star concert to pay tribute to Sims.

Tickets for tomorrow night’s concert, at the box office, are $8.50, $6.50 for students.

FEATURE PICKS

HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ 12th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT — Various — Stash ST 254 — Producer: Bernard Brightman — List: 8.98

Jack Kleinsinger has been presenting organized mainstream jam sessions for a baker’s dozen years and this LP captures the looseness, the bonhomie, and the downright swinging fun of one of those concerts. Phil Bodner, Doc Cheatham, Marty Napoleon, Carrie Smith and other veteran traditionalists do their thing, and their thing swings.
To Jack I do "Tulip" for him I do "Tulip" and "Highlights" and many more for "Jack's" and "Highlights" children and a great pleasure in the house of music he built for the children's friends. Kisses Major Holley.

MAJOR HOLLEY
Jack, thank you for including me in your performances. Carol Britto
To Jack Klauser
with appreciation for your
support.
Best wishes,
Al Cohn
For Zoot Sims, kind words, sad smiles, and all that jazz

By NAEDINE HAZELL
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — The renowned jazz saxophonist John Hale “Zoot” Sims was remembered Monday in the same way he lived his life — with a few great notes.

No hushed tones or quiet tears were evident during the two-hour funeral service for Sims at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Manhattan as more than 700 people swung to the sounds of his contemporaries who applauded Sims with their craft.

The standing-room-only audience tapped their toes and snapped their fingers to the wordless but eloquent eulogies of at least 20 jazz musicians and nodded knowingly during the brief speeches and anecdotes from a few friends.

And it was just what Sims wanted, said Paul Weinstein a close friend.

“Zoot told me, ‘I want you to have a big party and have everyone bring their saxes,'” Weinstein recalled.

The 59-year-old West Nyack resident who died of cancer Saturday was remembered by bandleader Woody Herman Monday for his “warmth, kindness, great humor . . . a heck of a man.”

Sims played with Herman’s “Second Herd” after a stint with Benny Goodman’s band in the 1940s. He also performed with Sonny Dunham, Bob Astor, Stan Kenton and Gerry Mulligan.

The tenor saxophonist, who was “on the road” at
Please see SIMS
on back of section

age 16, crisscrossed this country and Europe so often that he once told writer Ira Gitler, “I don’t even look out the window anymore.”

Sims, who grew up in California as the seventh child of vaudevillians Pete and Kate Sims, had lived in West Nyack for the last decade.

Sims’ sense of timing in music, as well as humor, was highly touted with illustrative stories that sent the audience into fits of laughter.

Ronnie Scott — owner of the famed London jazz club of the same name — recalled a story told to him by Al Cohn, a tenorman close to Sims.

One day shortly before Sims died, Scott said, the doctor came to his bed and “looked down at him. Zoot looked up at the doctor and said, Your looking better today, doctor”...

Pianist George Shearing, another jazz musician from England, matched his lilting memories with a sensitive version of Ralph Burn's tune “Early Autumn.”

Pianist Tom Flanagan soloed on “All to Soon”; guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli, bassist Major Holly and pianist Richard Weins soothed listeners with “In a Mellow Tone” and “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”; and Roger Kelloway, who wrote the theme to television’s “All in the Family,” played “Trees” on request from Sims’s wife Louise.

Numerous numbers, some made famous by Sims, were played by friends Ruby Braff, Scott Hamilton, John Monks, Mel Lewis, Rollin' Hanna and Bill Crow to name a few.

Condolences were sent by those who could not attend — including notes from Jimmy Rawls and Clifton Daniels, and flowers from the queen of jazz Ella Fitzgerald — and were read by Rev. John Garcia-Gensel.

Garcia-Gensel struck the only religious note when he read the 23rd Psalm and the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, but ended by encouraging the mourners to applaud the musical tribute.

“This is a celebration of life and love,” he said.

Speaking moments after a touching rendition of “Prelude to a Kiss” by bassist Milt Hinton and pianist Dick Hyman, Jack Kleinsinger — who books New York University's Highlights in Jazz series — recalled a 1975 tribute to Sims.

After receiving an award in honor of his achievements, Sims thanked the audience for “coming in and filling up the joint,” Kleinsinger recalled as his gaze settled on two photographs of Sims, propped on music stands at the front of the church.

“I think if Zoot were here he'd like to thank all of you for coming and filling up the joint,” Kleinsinger said, with a small catch of his breath.
MEMORIES OF ZOOT

They came to praise John Haley Sims, the brilliant saxophonist who died Saturday.

By Stuart Troup

VERWHELMING affection for Zoot Sims, the extraordinary jazz saxophonist who died of cancer at the age of 59 on Saturday, filled St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Manhattan Monday night. It was visible in the faces of the 2,500 who gathered; it was audible in the short graceful recollections by the speakers; it was almost palpable in the rich, plaintive outpouring from the musicians.

If the tears were few, it was because the speakers evoked so much to cheer about John Haley Sims, the man whom almost everyone called Zoot. They cheered his musicianship, of course: Author Albert Goldman noted that "Zoot fulfilled an ideal of the perfect jazz musician." Gerry Mulligan, in a telegram, said, "I learned more about playing the saxophone from him than from anyone else."

They cheered his character: "There will be only one Zoot, certainly from a musical standpoint, but even more as a human being," said Woody Herman, in whose band Sims played in the late '40s. They cheered his humor: Ronnie Scott, owner of the London jazz club that bears his name, said that one recent day at Mount Sinai Hospital, when the doctor arrived to see Sims, the musician told him, "You're looking better today, doctor."

They cheered his love of nature: The Rev. John Garcia Gensel, the associate pastor of St. Peter's, who has long ministered to the jazz community, recalled the loving care with which Sims nourished roses and tomatoes in his garden in West Nyack.

Jack Kleinsinger, the impresario who produced a tribute to Sims in 1975, suggested, "If Zoot were here tonight, he would say to you, 'I want to thank you all for coming and filling up the joint.'"