Jack Kleinsinger presents
Highlights in JAZZ
in association with NYU Program Board

Thursday, May 15th, 1986 8:00 p.m.

Salute to Buddy Tate

with

• Ray Bryant
• Al Grey
• David Fathead Newman
• Irv Stokes
• Phil Flanigan
• Eddie Locke

Guest of Honor: Buddy Tate

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 –

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

Tributes to celebrated jazz musicians, which have become a regular part of the "Highlights in Jazz" series during its 13-year run, have always been among the most interesting and, often, surprising of the "highlights" concerts. They raise sentimental memories and give other musicians a welcome opportunity to pay their respects, musically, to very deserving colleagues.

On Thursday the tributee will be one of the particular favorites of "highlights" audiences -- the tenor saxophonist Buddy Tate, who joined Count Basie's orchestra in 1939, filling the chair of Herschel Evans, who had died suddenly. Although Ben Webster and Chu Berry, saxophonists who were better known than Mr. Tate when Mr. Evans died, wanted to be his replacement, Mr. Basie chose Mr. Tate because, as Mr. Tate has explained, "he wanted someone who sounded like Herschel."

Like Mr. Evans, Mr. Tate was from Texas and had the urgent, swooping attack which was characteristic of tenor saxophonists from the Southwest. Mr. Tate remained in the Basie band for 10 years and, for more than 20 years after leaving the Basie band, the band that divided its time between the Celebrity Club and the Savoy Ballroom, both in Harlem.

In the 60's he began making trips to Europe and built up such a following there that, since he gave up his band in the 70's, he has spent almost all his time on the road both here and abroad.

The musicians who will play on Thursday at 8 p.m. at the NYU Loeb Student Center, LaGuardia Place and Washington Square South, will include the alto saxophonist Phil Woods, the tenor saxophonist David "Fathead" Newman, the trumpeter Irv Stokes, the pianist Ray Bryant, the bassist Phil Flanigan and the drummer Eddie Locke, and, as is customary at the "highlights" concerts, a "surprise guest." And Mr. Tate, who reached his 71st birthday in February, will provide a definitive demonstration of his tenor saxophone style that helped to swing the Basie band in its early days.

John S. Wilson

MUSIC

Highlights in Jazz: The best concerts in this long-running series have been the salutes, and this year the recipient is the great Buddy Tate. The powerful supporting cast includes Phil Woods, Ray Bryant, David Newman, and Eddie Locke.

May 15 at 8, Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place, 598-2027. (Giddins)
CAUGHT

BUDDY TATE

NYU LOEB STUDENT CENTER

NEW YORK—At the presentation of the plaque commemorating his half-century of service to jazz, Buddy Tate commented, "It's a thrill to receive this while I can still smell the flowers." Luckily, the 71-year-old Basie veteran can do a whole lot more. Tate was honored by distinguished friends in the season finale of Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights in Jazz concerts. It was a fitting wrap-up with warmth, nostalgia, and fun-loving boisterousness, the kind of evening an avowed Texas Tenor would not want to miss. True to form, Tate was in rousing good cheer as the succession of celebrants paid him tribute.

Dizzy Gillespie, whose appearance was unscheduled but not really a surprise, set the program's mood with a muted, sentimental reading of 'Girl Of My Dreams.' He then launched into 'Sunny Side Of The Street,' cutting the fool, singing and romping boisterously through one impromptu verse after another ("...Life could be so fine/ Like Manishewitz wine..."). No one mistook his lyrics for the original.

Other crowd-pleasers included the dark, full-throated trombone work of Slide Hampton and Frank Lacy (especially Lacy on 'My Funny Valentine,' mixing equal parts remorse and optimism), contrasting with the Bird-like buoyancy of altos Phil Woods and Fathead Newman. Newman's solo on 'Old Folks' was perfectly sculpted, his lines spiralling skyward with graceful invention.

Pianist Ray Bryant, bassist Phil Flanagan, and drummer Eddie Locke scored admirably all night long for their rhythmic support; they played behind everyone on the program. Bryant shined brightly during an unaccompanied turn on 'Take The "A" Train,' his left hand motorizing propulsively through the changes, while the right skipped over and around the beat.

When Tate finally took the stage, near evening's end, he brought his clarinet with him and showcased a slow 12-bar blues that began as a duet with piano. He eased into it with a low register drawl and warm, reedy tone—lazy days and a rocking chair. The rhythm joined in at the second chorus. On the next number he switched horns and, more to the audience's expectations, punched out 'Jumpin' At The Woodside' with those fat, robust blasts of tenor that serve as regional dialect. He sounded fresh and energetic, no small achievement considering the number of times he's played that particular warhorse with and without Basie's orchestra.

At the show's finale, the guest of honor was joined by all in a spirited jam. Taking the last turn, he honked and howled with wild-eyed enthusiasm, determined, I'm sure, to prove that at 71 he can still blow. The band was playing 'Things Ain't What They Used To Be,' but after Tate's solo, no one chose to believe it.

—jeff levenson

BENNIE WALLACE

ARTSCHOOL

CARRBORO, NC—Despite his seven previous albums, it's 'Twilight Time' (Blue Note 85107) that has put Bennie Wallace on the map—witness his recent TDWR award in down beat's Critics Poll. Now he's on the road with a new quartet that reflects his and that album's Southern

From left, Buddy Tate, Frank Lacy, Phil Flanagan, David "Fathead" Newman, Eddie Locke, Phil Woods, Ivor Stokes.
Jazz: Tribute to Buddy Tate

"HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ" ended its 13th season on Thursday at the New York University Loeb Auditorium with a tribute to the saxophonist Buddy Tate that gave the guest of honor relatively little chance to shine.

Instead, two unannounced visitors, who came to pay tribute to Mr. Tate — Dizzy Gillespie and the trombonist Slide Hampton — and another trombonist, Frank Lacy, who was a replacement for the originally scheduled Al Grey, combined to provide the concert with moods ranging from the mellow to the boisterous.

Mr. Gillespie, only two years younger than the 71-year-old Mr. Tate, was in a nostalgic mood as he played muted trumpet solos on "Lullaby of the Leaves" and an old and sentimental ballad, "Girl of My Dreams." Singing "On the Sunny Side of the Street," he used the lyrics to push the beat much as he had with his horn on the other tunes. Both Mr. Lacy and Mr. Hampton are robust, bull-toned trombonists who, separately, made distinctively personal use of the darker reaches of the trombone and later became the principal energizers in a jam session.

For the pianist Ray Bryant, it was a long but rewarding evening. He was the accompanist for everyone on the program, with the help of Phil Flanigan on bass and Eddie Locke at the drums, and he also had an unaccompanied solo spot in which he found some surprisingly fresh approaches to two well-worn tunes, "St. Louis Blues" and "Take the A Train."

When Mr. Tate finally came on stage, he brought his clarinet with him to play richly colored low-register blues before shifting to his tenor saxophone to recall his days in Count Basie's orchestra with "Jumpin' at the Woodside."

John S. Wilson
To my Greatest Friend,

Love,

[Signature]

[Date]