

VOCAL JAZZ *It's the Big Thing In Northwest, Climaxed At Mt. Hood College Bash*

By DAVE DEXTER JR.

PORTLAND, Ore.—Presented for the first time 11 years ago, Mt. Hood Community College's annual Northwest Vocal Jazz Festival has emerged in 1978 as the largest in the nation.

More than 1,500 high school singers representing 120 schools in Oregon, Washington and Northern California appeared at this year's recent event. Honored by the festival's director Hal Malcolm was Dave Lambert, who in 1947 formed the first large professional vocal jazz ensemble and who is remembered for his records with Gene Krupa's big band.

At the competition, the 120 schools are classified into five divisions. Each school vocal group may perform for 20 minutes. No more than 24 voices may be used.

"Each year it gets stronger," says Malcolm, who once arranged and conducted the Pastels for Stan Kenton and whose professional work has involved the Four Freshmen, the Modernaires, the King Sisters and others. Malcolm led his own 13-piece dance band, as well, before

he joined the music department of Mt. Hood Community College in suburban Gresham in 1967.

Among the judges brought here last month to adjudicate the groups were George Bruns, retired music chief at Walt Disney Studios, Burbank; Jimmy Lyons, executive director of the Monterey Jazz Festival; Phil Herring, of Stan Kenton's Creative World, and others of the academic and music journalism fields.

"Singing standards in jazz have risen even more than instrumental standards in the last decade or so," Malcolm says. "Young people today work harder, they read better, they sacrifice more to practice, rehearse and study and they are more dedicated to continuing in music, after school ends, as professionals."

After all the winning schools are announced along about 11 p.m. and trophies awarded, Malcolm leads his mixed 24-voice jazz chorus onstage to animalistic shrieks of pleasure from more than 3,000 young music students crowding Mt. Hood College's spacious gymnasium.

For this is the best—the major

league of vocal jazz ensembles—and every high school music student on the West Coast is in awe of the Malcolm contingent.

The Mt. Hood voices record their own album every year. In 1978, they waited until the week after the applause of the festival faded, then drove into Portland to tape 10 songs on 16-track equipment, accompanied by a spirited Mt. Hood College rhythm section.

To a legion of high school vocalists, this new '78 LP will be eagerly sought and constantly studied. In Texas and other areas, the big, swinging stageband is king on-campus. In the green Pacific Northwest, it's the vocal jazz that dominates. Malcolm sees his festival at a crossroads.

"Either we spread it out over two days and welcome perhaps 100 additional high school groups," he mumbles. "Or we confine it to present capacity and turn away dozens of applications."

"A decision must be made. This thing's getting bigger than any of us."

Looming Up: 7 Days Of Newport Fest

NEW YORK—The Newport Festival's continued love relationship with this city continues for another year, with this year's opening concert June 23 featuring a tribute to Sarah Vaughan.

The Carnegie Hall bash, sponsored by Schlitz, features the "Sassy One" and her trio plus the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis band.

Producer George Wein's efforts have resulted in seven days of activities in this area with salutes to Latin jazz, the late trumpeter Clifford Brown, American songwriters, Lionel Hampton and a boost to Newport's 25 years of festivals. The concerts are mainly centered at Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall with the last two days in upstate Saratoga Springs.

This is the lineup:

June 23: New Orleans Preservation Hall Jazz Band at Waterloo Village, in Stanhope, N.J.

June 24: New York Jazz Repertory Co. playing the music of Louis Armstrong and King Oliver, Waterloo Village, Stanhope, N.J., 5 p.m.; Ella Fitzgerald at Carnegie Hall 8 p.m.; Latin jazz at Avery Fisher Hall with Tito Puente and his band; Machito and his Afro-Cuban band, Dizzy Gillespie, Cal Tjader, Mongo Santamaria 8 p.m.; Count Basie and his band with Joe Williams, Carnegie Hall, midnight; Ornette Coleman and Cecil Taylor, Avery Fisher Hall, midnight.

June 26: Count Basie band; Mer-

cer Ellington and the Duke Ellington orchestra, Roseland Ballroom, 9 p.m.; Clifford Brown Tribute featuring Max Roach, Nick Brignola, Junior Cook, Ted Curson, Bill Hardman, Harold Mayburn, Helen Merrill, Danny Moore, Warren Smith and Chris White, NYU Loeb Center, 8 p.m.

June 27: "Schlitz Salutes The American Song" with Mel Torme, Stan Getz, Jimmy Rowles, Gerry Mulligan, Irene Kral, Mercer Ellington and the Duke Ellington orchestra, Alberta Hunter, Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m.; Maynard Ferguson and his band and the Stan Getz quintet, Avery Fisher Hall, 8 p.m.

June 28: "Three Pianos And A Guitar:" McCoy Tyner, Bill Evans, Mary Lou Williams and Larry Coryell, Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m.; George Duke band, Flora Purim, Airtio, Raul de Souza, Avery Fisher Hall, 8 p.m.

July 1: Jonah Jones quintet, World's Greatest Jazz Band, Staten

Island Ferry, 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.; Lionel Hampton Tribute: Hampton all-star band, Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m.; Stan Kenton orchestra and the L.A. Four (Laurindo Almeida, Ray Brown, Bud Shank, Jeff Hamilton), Avery Fisher Hall, 8 p.m.

"Jazz Today And Tomorrow:" George Benson, Gary Burton, Chick Corea, Dizzy Gillespie, Dexter Gordon, Herbie Hancock, Al Jarreau, John Lewis, Jean-Luc Ponty, Sonny Rollins, Gil Evans, Flora Purim, Airtio, George Russell, Charles Mingus and others, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., noon-midnight.

July 2: Big bands: Count Basie band, Mercer Ellington and the Duke Ellington band, Maynard Ferguson band, Woody Herman band, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis band, Stan Kenton band, Buddy Rich band, New York Jazz Repertory Co., Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Jazz Beat

LOS ANGELES—Oscar Peterson has been signed to do a special for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.'s television wing. The show, "Superspecial," will feature Peterson's "Canadiana Suite" and is slated for airing in early 1979 in Canada, Europe and Japan.

Peterson's suite will also bow on Pablo Records to tie in with the tv special. Peterson and producer Norman Granz will finish the recording in L.A. later this month.

The Universal Jazz Coalition's "Salute To Women In Jazz" takes place at CasaBlanca 2 (formerly Birdland) in Manhattan June 26-29 during the run of the Newport Jazz Festival. Among the 26 women to be honored are Maxine Sullivan, Carol Sloane, Corky Hale, Betty Carter, Blossom Dearie, Dorothy Donegan, Helen Humes, Alberta Hunter, Marian McPartland, Mabel Mercer, Hazel Scott and Mary Lou Williams.

Trumpet/bandleader/arranger Don Ellis has called it quits as far as being a touring player... due to doctor's orders. The 43-year old musician says he'll concentrate on writing for films, television and big bands... Dexter Gordon makes his Monterey Jazz Festival bow on the opening concert Sept. 15 with his quartet. Also on the opening bill are Stan Kenton and his band.

WUSF-FM, Univ. of South Florida station in Tampa, is boosting avant-garde jazz in its programming, according to Mike Cornette, operations manager/jazz music director... Tenor-

man extraordinaire Scott Hamilton's second effort for Concord pairs him with such stalwarts as Nat Pierce, Jake Hanna, Cal Collins and Monty Budwig... Supersax has cut its second LP for MPS in Europe. This time the LP contains only one tune by Charlie Parker. What? Isn't the basic idea for the band to play "Bird's" music? The new work features arrangements by Bud Powell, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Med Flory, the band's leader.

An LP of previously unissued cuts by Thelonious Monk is being compiled for CBS by Terry Adams. Monk supposedly has not been in the studio since 1968. The double LP, a summer release, includes material cut with a big band at Lincoln Center during the 1963 Newport Jazz Festival with Hall Overton arrangements. All the material was cut between 1962-65.

Chick Corea and Joe Farrell team on a new Inner City LP "Soft Space." All the cuts are Jeff Lorber originals. The pianist is a member of the band on the LP... Carla Bley Band, set to tour Europe June 24-Aug. 1 will include Chicago trumpeter George Lewis. ECM Records is working on the tour since it distributes the Watt label for which she records.

The Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan opened its eighth season of free concerts in its sculpture garden Friday and Saturday (2-3). Jazz programs are slated for the next four weeks. (Continued on page 59)

Billboard Best Selling Jazz LPs®

This Week	Last Report	Weeks on Chart	TITLE Artist, Label & Number (Distributing Label)
1	1	18	WEEKEND IN L.A. George Benson, Warner Bros. 2Wb-3139
2	2	34	FEELS SO GOOD Chuck Mangione, A&M SP 4658
3	3	18	RAINBOW SEEKER Joe Sample, ABC AA 1050
4	4	25	LIVE AT THE BIJOU Grover Washington Jr., Kudu KUX 3637 (Motown)
5	5	10	SAY IT WITH SILENCE Hubert Laws, Columbia JC-35022
6	7	5	CASINO Al DiMeola, Columbia JC 35277
7	6	5	MODERN MAN Stanley Clarke, Nempor JZ 35303 (CBS)
8	NEW ENTRY		ELECTRIC GUITARIST John McLaughlin, Columbia JC 35326
9	9	12	WEST SIDE HIGHWAY Stanley Turrentine, Fantasy F-9548
10	10	10	LOVE ISLAND Deodato, Warner Bros. BSK 3132
11	8	5	LOVELANO Lonnie Liston Smith, Columbia JC 35332
12	24	3	BALTIMORE Nina Simone, CTI CTI 7084
13	14	5	JUST FAMILY Dee Dee Bridgewater, Elektra 6E-119
14	15	8	BURCHFIELD NINE Michael Franks, Warner Bros. BSK 3167
15	13	18	HERB ALPERT & HUGH MASEKELA Horizon SP 728 (A&M)
16	17	5	SPINOZZA David Spinozza, A&M SP 4677
17	12	18	HOLO ON Noel Pointer, United Artists UALA 848-11
18	27	3	INNER CONFLICTS Billy Cobham, Atlantic SD 19174
19	25	3	BOP-BE Keith Jarrett, ABC IA 9334
20	38	3	SPYRO GYRA Spyro Gyra, Amherst AMH 1014
21	23	12	LOVE WILL FIND A WAY Pharoah Sanders, Arista AB 4161
22	NEW ENTRY		EVERYDAY, EVERYNIGHT Flora Purim, Warner Bros. BSK 3168
23	NEW ENTRY		HEART TO HEART David Sanborn, Warner Bros. BSK 3189
24	21	8	LET'S DO IT Roy Ayers, Polydor PD1-6126
25	35	3	BRAZIL—ONCE AGAIN Herbie Mann, Atlantic SD 19169
26	22	51	LOOK TO THE RAINBOW—AL JARREAU LIVE IN EUROPE Warner Bros. 2BZ 3052
27	NEW ENTRY		SKY BLUE Passport, Atlantic SD 19177
28	20	31	HEADS Bob James, Columbia JC 34896
29	16	13	THE MAD HATTER Chick Corea, Polydor PD 1-6130
30	11	18	THE PATH Ralph MacDonald, Marlin 2210 (TK)
31	19	5	PEG LEG Ron Carter, Milestoné M9082 (Fantasy)
32	18	16	FUNK IN A MASON JAR Harvey Mason, Arista AB 4157
33	NEW ENTRY		MAGIC IN YOUR EYES Earl Klugh, United Artists UA LA 877
34	NEW ENTRY		DON'T ASK MY NEIGHBORS Raul de Souza, Capitol SW 11774
35	32	10	ROSEWOOD Woody Shaw, Columbia JC 35309
36	NEW ENTRY		GLIDER Auracle, Chrysalis CHR 1172
37	31	3	MOONSCAPES Bennie Maupin, Mercury SRM-1-3717
38	33	57	FRIENDS & STRANGERS Ronnie Laws, Blue Note BN-LA730-H (United Artists)
39	28	18	EASY LIVING Sonny Rollins, Milestone M-9080 (Fantasy)
40	26	8	THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID Flora Purim, Milestone 9081 (Fantasy)

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