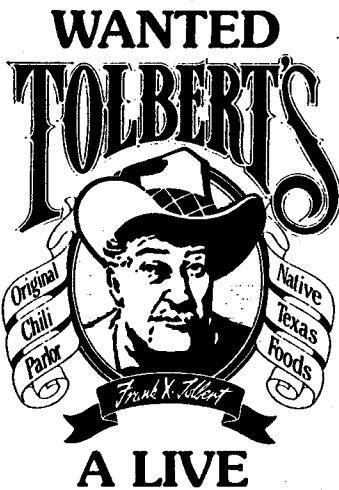




ARTS JAZZ 90



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Ultimate performance

The meaning of Arts Jazz

AS YOU READ THIS ARTICLE, TRY to imagine yourself playing in the school jazz ensemble; a musician preparing each day for that ultimate performance. Well, that opportunity has arrived with Arts Jazz '90, the Arts Magnet/Arts District Jazz Festival for Scholarships. Now students in middle and high school jazz ensembles can perform in one of the world's most outstanding concert halls, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. They will be helped by audio cassette instruction during their performance and personally instructed for 30 minutes by one of four nationally recognized adjudicators. The directors and their bands will also receive a video of their performance for a close look at what they are doing in a concert situation.

The most unique quality of this festival is that there will be no competition between students and student bands. In most jazz festivals for student musicians, awards are given in terms of first, second and third place in different categories (i.e., best soloist, best band, best saxophone, etc.). This is not the case with Arts Jazz '90. Other than scholarships awarded to deserving students, no single performers or bands will be singled out as better than others.

This concept in and of itself is refreshing for, unlike football or other competitive sports, music cannot be measured in quantitative degrees. There is no won/lost relationship in art; it is totally subjective. Who is to say, definitely, that saxophone player "A" is better than saxophone player "B"? That is why the non-competitive aspect of Arts Jazz '90 makes such fantastic sense. The students receive an opportunity to hone their craft without the pressure of worrying about who's better or worse, or if an individual has it or not.

This is the ideal working/teaching atmosphere for adjudicators Shelton Berg, Tom Cummings, Lou Fischer, Bob Meyer and clinicians Dave Alexander, Mike Drake, Kent Ellinson, Dave Bowman, Ron Jones and Tom Hanby. It allows them to interact with the students without being the "heavies" who judged them "not as good" as the next guy. The students can become closer to the professionals as performers trying to understand their art rather than simply as students.

Students will have the opportunity to attend clinics concerning jazz improvisation, the rhythm section, guitar, sax, and the trombone as they relate to jazz music. These sessions will take place at different Arts District buildings, including the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Texas Commerce Bank Building, and the Plaza of the Americas Hotel (the official host hotel of Arts Jazz '90). During the two and a half day event, more than 14 hours of jazz videos will be on tap in the lobby of the Meyerson symphony hall along with an evening jam session, booths on jazz music, albums and instruments available to all participants for a hands-on inspection.

The climax of the event will come with the scholarship awards ceremony featuring approximately 10 universities and colleges awarding scholarships from their institutions. The Arts '90 Board will award \$6,000 in cash scholarships to outstanding young talent as well.

Adjudicators will recommend that outstanding bands compete at the finals of Musicfest U.S.A. in Oakland, California, in April of 1990. There will be summer jazz camp awards given by the International Association of Jazz Educators. ■

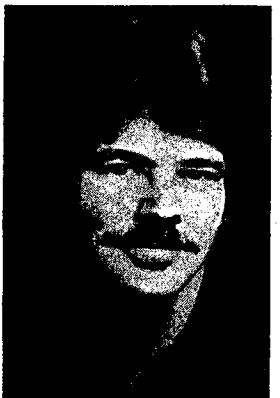
— Compiled by Bart Marantz & Buddy Mohmed



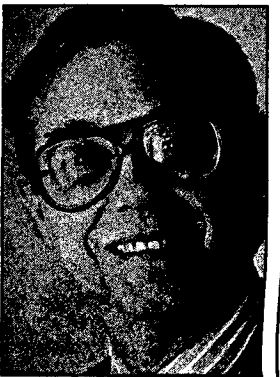
Shelton Berg



Tom Cummings



Lou Fischer



Bob Meyer



Spyro Gyra

The highlights of three full days of jazz performances

HIGHLIGHTING ARTS JAZZ '90 are performances by two of jazz's most established bands and an intriguing quartet composed of the adjudicators for the festival, as well as a glimpse into the future of jazz with a performance by the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts/Arts Magnet Jazz Combo.

Each of these jazz bands will offer a slightly different twist on the definition of "jazz." The interpretations of jazz sounds from these bands will exemplify the deep musical traditions of this purely American musical genre. What these traditions invoke are memories of the big band era, the musty nightclub days and the more contemporary, crossover music of today. The public will be offered these tasty sounds in a sort of "jazz buffet" during Arts Jazz '90.

The Falconaires of the United Air Force Academy Band have been bringing the sounds of big band jazz to military personnel and the American public for more than 30 years. The 18-member group, led by drummer SMSgt Dave Hardin, is made up of enlisted professional musicians whose years of university and professional experience enable them to entertain varied audiences. The innovative arrangements by members of the band and the Academy Band arranging staff keep pace with changing musical styles and tastes.

Spyro Gyra, at the other end of the jazz spectrum and probably the most recognized names in today's "crossover" jazz, will bring their special brand of jazz to the festival. The band appeals to a wide audience with its blend of styles ranging from jazz and classical to rock and rhythm and blues. Spyro Gyra's album, "Rites of Summer," continues the group's tradition of consistently charting their own artistic course and making honest musical statements

without regard to trends and fashion.

The Adjudicators Quartet consists of the four adjudicators of the festival — Shelton Berg, Tom Cummings, Lou Fischer, and Bob Meyer — and should provide an interesting blend of new concepts and jazz traditions. Berg, Cummings and Fischer are the rhythm section for the Bill Waltrous Quartet and can be heard on Waltrous' most recent album of the same name, to be released this year. All four musicians are nationally renowned as educators and performers, each of these musicians are looking forward to performing for the younger musicians so the latter can appreciate the fact that the elders know their business when handing out advice on techniques and concepts.

The Arts Magnet Jazz Combo is the current National Association of Jazz Educators favorite for 1989, and will provide some very innovative sounds and a look into the bright future of American jazz. Under the leadership of director Bart Marantz, the Arts Magnet jazz program has become one of the most outstanding in the United States.

Bringing together such a diversity of talent, from the very future of the genre represented by the Arts Magnet Jazz Combo to the traditional flavor of the Falconaires, offers Dallasites in search of new musical traditions a very rare opportunity. In no place in America, except New Orleans perhaps, is it possible to tap into these different levels of new jazz sounds happening at Arts Jazz '90.

For the city of Dallas, Arts Jazz '90 offers a national focus for the burgeoning talent already practicing in the region, while also bringing greater exposure of the music to the citizens of the city. It will be a unique tradition, one that future generations will be proud to have witnessed in its first stages. ■

— Buddy Mohamed



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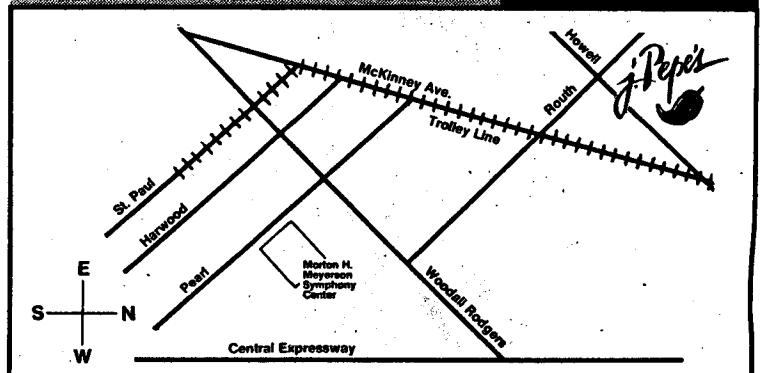
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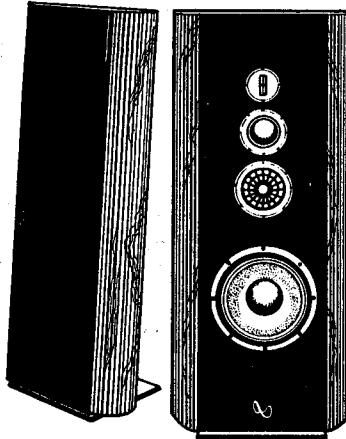
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The force behind Arts Jazz

CREDIT FOR the conception of Arts Jazz '90 must go to Bart Marantz, director of Jazz Studies at the Arts Magnet/Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.



MARANTZ

Labeled "one of the country's most successful music teachers" by *D* magazine in July of 1989, Marantz has continued his excellence as a musical teaching professional for one reason — he loves it.

Since coming to BTWHSPAVA in 1983, his teaching program has won a total of 45 *Down Beat* Dee Bee Jazz Awards, and during the past five years, the Arts Magnet High School has led North America (U.S. and Canada) in this prestigious competition (1984-89). These awards are a testament to the school's tradition of excellence on the student level as well as on the educational level.

Marantz' own musical experience goes well beyond most similarly placed educators. He has toured and played with a variety of shows and artists, including Ray Charles, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Staff Band at El Casino Freeport, Grand Bahamas, and has performed for Norwegian Caribbean Cruise Lines in

the house band of the *M.S. Skyward*. He also works with Dave Alexander Productions, serving the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex as a contractor/musician.

In fine tuning his own sound, Marantz has pushed the Arts Magnet program to the forefront of jazz education. With Arts Jazz '90 he hopes to establish a solid jazz tradition in the city of Dallas — a place for aspiring artists to travel to in hopes of achieving greater success.

Interest in the concept of Arts Jazz '90 has been phenomenal thus far. Beginning at the local level, the city of Dallas and Dallas Mayor Annette Strauss have sanctioned and praised the event for its scope and how it promises to add to the cultural amenities of the city. On a state level, Governor Bill Clements got in on the act by making it a state-sanctioned event and also praising it for its influences. Not bad for a first run event that has yet to be witnessed.

It is this kind of outside confidence that has inspired Marantz and the many people who have pulled together to make Arts Jazz '90 a reality. Within five years Marantz boldly predicts that this scholarship festival will receive national and international status. In only its first year of production, the festival has already sparked national media attention and such an event can only grow larger in scope. ■ — Eric J. Hirschhorn

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ARTS JAZZ '90 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1990 8 PM

BIG BAND NIGHT: The Falconaires
Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center
Free to the public

(Tickets available one hour before performance in Meyerson Lower Lobby Box Office)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1990

10 AM Middle and High School Bands Perform for Adjudicators-Meyerson Symphony Hall

10:30 AM "The Rhythm Section" at BTWHSPVA Band Hall-Room 141

1 PM Adjudications Continue-Meyerson

2:30 PM Skylobby-Texas Commerce Tower-Mr. John Hanby

(Clinic on Jazz and Commercial Music on Guitar)

8 PM Concert at Meyerson-Arts Jazz Combo

(1989 Convention Winners-International Association of Jazz Educators)

& Clinicians Quarter-Free to the Public (Pick Up Tickets One Hour Before Performance in the Lower Lobby Box Office)

10:30 PM Arts Jazz '90 reception at the Plaza of the Americas-The Passetrelle Room

10:30 PM Jam Session for Students at the Plaza of the Americas-Ball Room

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1990

10 AM Middle and High School Bands Continue Adjudications-Meyerson

10:30 AM Museum of Art-Clinic with Mr. Ron Jones (Jazz Improvisation and the Sax)

2:30 PM at the Plaza-Mr. Dave Bowman-Clinic on Jazz and the Trombone-Grosvenor Room

4 PM Clinic at the Plaza with Jay Beckenstein-leader of Spyro-Gyra-Windsor Room

7:15 PM Arts Jazz '90 Scholarship Awards Ceremony at the Meyerson

8:30 PM Spyro Gyra in Concert at the Meyerson-\$17.20 per ticket through Rainbow Ticketmaster

VIDEO SCHEDULE FOR THE LOBBY-MEYERSON

9 AM Richie Cole at The Vanguard

10 AM Nat King Cole: A History

11 AM Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers

1 PM Johnny Griffin Quartet at The Vanguard

3 PM Saxe and Brass in New Orleans

4 PM Louis Armstrong-A History

9 AM History of Jazz by Billy Taylor

10 AM Manhattan Transfer Concert

11 AM Buddy Rich Big Band Concert

1 PM Mel Torme/Mel Lewis Big Band

2 PM Miles Davis-A History

3 PM Dave Brubeck in Concert