

"I just wanna..."

nothing wrong with any tune—what matters is how you play it."

Nevertheless, Lofsky has experimented with forms of jazz other than the standard tune, head-solos-head format. For instance, he was a member of the Michael Stuart/Keith Blackly band for six months, an experience which he describes as "fun, but not my particular cup of tea. I learned a lot about that kind of modern jazz, but I felt it was time to move on." And Lofsky still likes to jam on the occasional rock tune "just to fool around. It's all music and the more you can enlarge your scope, the better off you'll be."

Lofsky has been teaching jazz workshops at York for the past five years, despite his aversion to private teaching. "York is one of the only schools in Canada that focuses on small group improvisation," comments Lofsky on his alma mater. "I like teaching there because the students are usually pretty advanced. I don't like dealing with beginners."

It was only recently that he has

attained the kind of solvency necessary to dispense with private teaching permanently. "It's up and down for the working musician. There's only one club in Toronto (George's) and we play there twice a year. Sometimes you might be doing two gigs a night for weeks other times, like after New Year's, you can starve. Still, it beats a 9-to-5 tie-and-suit job."

Unlike many musicians who feel that playing before an audience spurs them on to new heights, Lofsky would just as soon play in his living room with the lights out. "I'm not all that crazy about playing in public—it just happens to be the way I make my living," says Lofsky whose trio will be appearing at George's April 13 to 18. "There's so many factors against you when you play in a club: bad sound systems, noisy audiences, out-of-tune pianos. I feel more inspired in my house."

Lofsky's aim for the future is to be able to keep his trio working steadily and he's hoping *It Could Happen to You* will help set up



Roman W. Pawluszyn

This man is definitely headed for Lofsky heights.

some gigs. But even if Oscar Peterson hadn't come along, Lofsky and his Les Paul would probably be just as happy. "I play because, above all, it's fun," says the man who lasted only two years

as a York student because the academic courses were cluttering up the music stand. One can almost hear the drummer count off the beat as Lofsky resolutely proclaims, "I just wanna play."

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