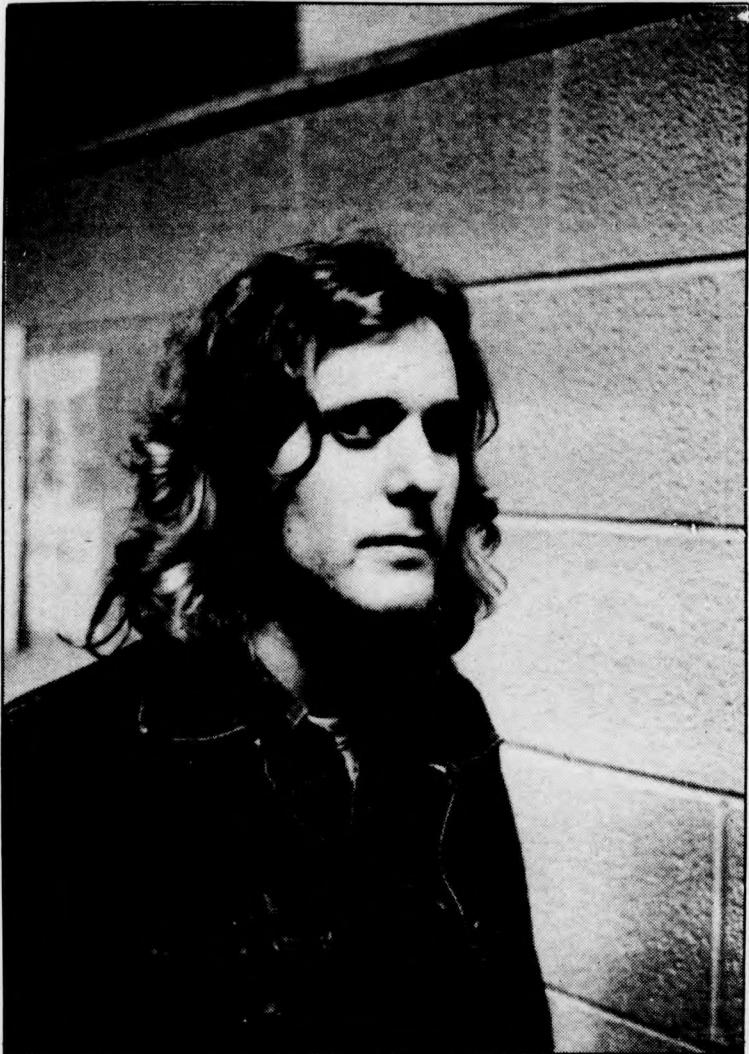


Features

Lofsky looms large



Roman W. Pawlyszyn

Roman W. Pawlyszyn

"This kind of thing doesn't happen to everybody. I'm not even sure why it happened to me."

Lorne Lofsky is finding it difficult to accept his good fortune these days. The 26-year-old former York student (and current part-time faculty member) has just released his first album, *It Could Happen to You*, and it looks as though his career might be in for a boost. With Oscar Peterson as his producer and the weight of Norman Granz's Pablo label behind him, Lofsky can't help but be surprised by it all. It's a long road from rags to jazz riches, but for Lorne Lofsky, recognition and the spoils of jazzdom loom ever closer.

With his curly, long blonde hair, Lofsky doesn't look like the typical jazzman. The solid-body Les Paul guitar he plays is usually associated more with screaming rock and roll than a mellow "Body and Soul". But when his pick hits the strings there's no mistaking the kinds of guitarists Lofsky looks up to: Ed Bickert, Jim Hall, Sonny Greenwich and Lenny Breau. And,

perhaps surprisingly, one of his favourite musicians is not a guitarist, but the late pianist Bill Evans.

"I don't really like that many guitar players, but then that's because I'm not too crazy about the instrument itself," says Lofsky. "If I really hated the guitar though, I wouldn't be playing it now. I just live with it."

As he recalls his past it becomes obvious that, despite what he says, Lofsky really is in love with his instrument. He tells of his first, "Grange" a \$16 pawnshop terror that he acquired when he was 13. The strings were so far above the fingerboard of the guitar that the instrument sent Lofsky "into tears with pain. I figured I wanted to try it, though," says Lofsky, so the "Grange" was good for two years of agony.

Even then, Lofsky knew he wanted to be a professional musician, but he didn't actually begin to support himself with his music until after he switched to playing jazz from the rock he was

weaned on: "When I was 19, I spent a summer playing James Gang and Johnny Winter tunes in a basement, and I just got so bored playing the same progressions all the time." It was at this point that a friend played him some old jazz albums. Although he didn't understand what was going on musically, he liked what he heard.

Lofsky's first big break in the jazz scene came when flautist Kathryn Moses offered him the guitar chair in her band. Word spread quickly about the soft-spoken guitar whiz and he developed a respectable reputation locally, playing with Moses as well as his own group. Then came the turning point.

It was while playing at George's that Lofsky first encountered his future producer and link to Pablo records—Oscar Peterson, who happened to be in the audience. "I met him and talked with him briefly," recalls Lofsky. "He said he liked my playing, but I thought he was just being nice or something."

A couple of months later, Lofsky received a phone call from Peterson asking him if he was interested in recording an album. "It was totally out of the blue and took me completely by surprise," he says. "Oscar's got a lot of clout at Pablo, and when Pablo was looking for someone to carry the torch for them, he suggested me."

Recorded in Toronto, the album is a trio date using local musicians with whom Lofsky has been playing off and on: Kieran Overs on bass (another ex-Yorkman), and drummer Joe Bendsza. Peterson does not play on the record—in fact, the only time Lofsky has ever played with the pianist was when he made a guest appearance on Peterson's TV show last year. Peterson's role on the album was purely supervisory. "He helped with the odd arrangement here and there, but a lot of it was left up to me, which was nice," says Lofsky. "You couldn't ask for anyone easier to work with than Oscar."

Except for one Lofsky original, the songs on the album are all standards and old jazz tunes: "Nancy with the Laughing Face", "It Could Happen to You", "Blue in Green". On a record in which the most recent tune is "Giant Steps", Lofsky might be accused of dredging out the old chestnuts for their bump-tillionth go-round. "I play these tunes because I like them and feel comfortable with them," says Lofsky. "There's

See 'I', page 10.

Good Luck to the Graduates

Morguard Trust Company
6 Crescent Road
Toronto
967-0880

 **YIN COURT** 

CANTONESE AND
SZECHUAN STYLE
CHINESE FOOD
667-8282

FREE DELIVERY AFTER 4:30 P.M.
10% DISCOUNT ON PICK-UP
OVER MINIMUM ORDER

1033 Steeles Avenue West
(1 block west of Bathurst)

Your Host: Benny Chan

Compliments of

 **MOTOROLA**

3125 Steeles Ave. East
Willowdale, Ontario
M2H 2H6

Data Processing Graduates
Looking for Key Positions in
The Industry Call,

**CALYX CONSULTANTS at
862-1202.**

Specialists in the Placement of
E.D.P. Professionals in
Toronto, Ontario and Cross-
Canada.

We will provide career
guidance and consultation
in order to make your search
successful.

CALYX CONSULTANTS LTD.
145 King St. W.
Suite 1106
Toronto, Ont.
M5H 1J8

BASSELS

Thurs.-Sat., April 2-4

LADY

All Next Week, April 6-11

DIAMOND

(The Hardest Rock on Earth)

38 Rivalda Road

Weston 745-1774

CAREER 1981

ASSISTANT MANAGERS

Wholesale Marketing of Canada is looking for 12 good people to learn and grow with our business. These people must be young thinking, high motivated, ambitious, willing to travel and have a burning desire to succeed.

If this is you and you have a car and can start immediately—call us to get in on the ground floor of the fastest growing wholesale company in Canada.

Call Shelley
259-3262