

# JAZZ VANGUARD & GRAWOOD RAPS

By **MARY ELLEN JONES**  
and **MARK ALBERSTAT**

LAST FRIDAY NIGHT THE Jazz Vanguard performed before an enthusiastic crowd of students in the Grawood Lounge. Their performance was a highlight to the student Winter Carnival festivities.

This dynamic band, made up of Halifax-based musicians, was a refreshing change from the ordinary Friday night fare at the Grawood. The band has performed at the lounge several times, bringing more jazz fans out with each successive performance.

Robin Shier, trumpet player and founder of the band, said the band has been together since September, rehearsing for approximately one month before its first gig, which was at the Grawood.

Despite having little time to rehearse between performances because of other commitments, the band captivates its audience with its agility in improvisation. The music performed is felt by the audience as much as it is played on stage.

"It takes a lot of listening," said Shier. "to play jazz is a communication of the performer, not just to the audience but also to the band members. There is a great deal of bouncing things off one another."

Shier said the response from Dalhousie has been "wonderful," adding that a place like the Grawood is a perfect setting for the type of music they play.

He is pleased with the turnout of students from Dalhousie. "When we formed the group everyone was apprehensive, wondering if we would even get a gig, but the turnout keeps getting better all the time. It proves there are people responsive to creative music."

The band consists of Don Plamer (saxophone), Greg Amirault (guitar), Pat Kilbride (bass), Robin Shier (trumpet) and Scott Ferguson (drums).

In choosing band members, Shier said he "wanted a group that would play modern music, in particular my own compositions. I picked the best player who could fill the role."

Among the band's plans for the future are cutting an album and touring the Maritime provinces.

"We would like to go to St. F.X. and play there. There is also a possibility of Sydney and Mount Allison," said Shier.

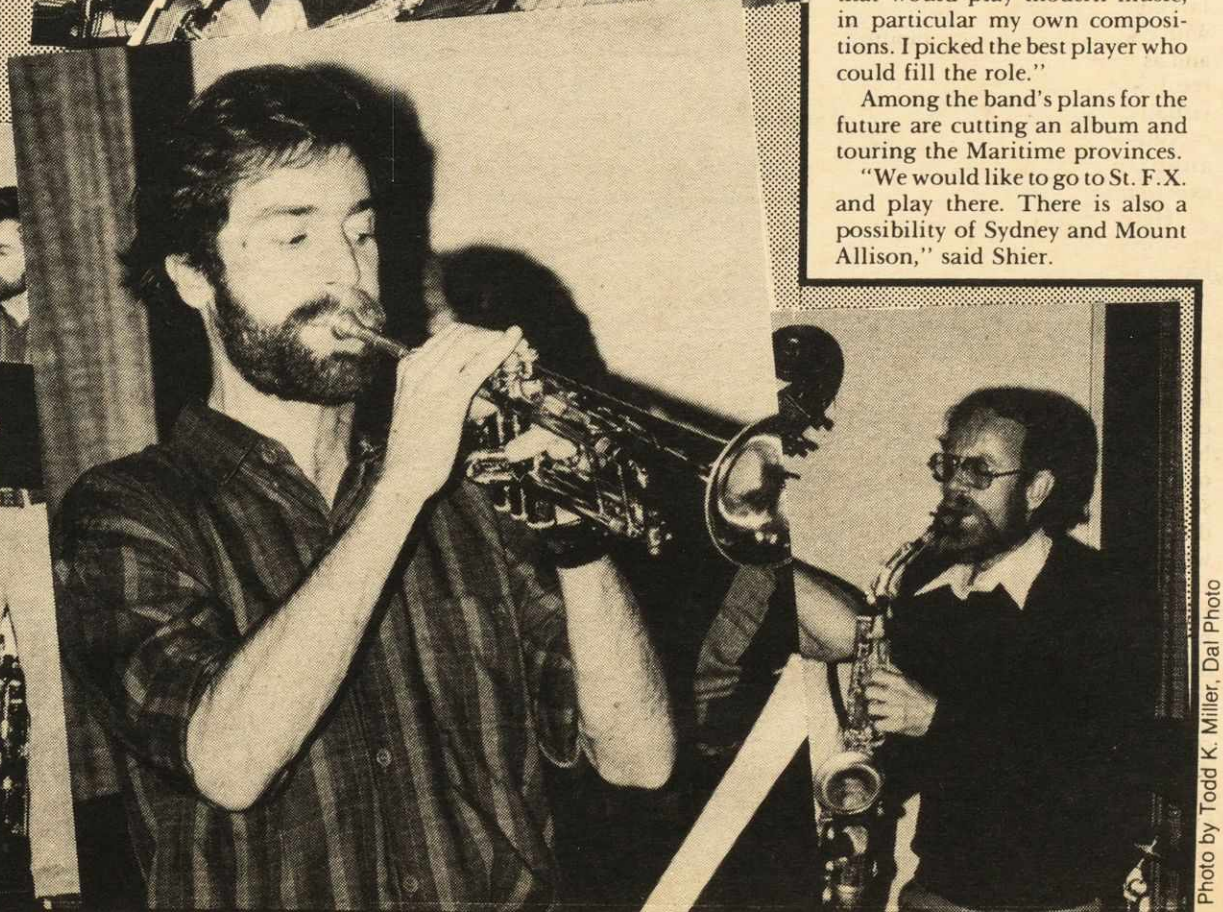


Photo by Todd K. Miller, Dal Photo