

The arts

Paul Horn...

If Paul Horn is a jazz musician, (and he does not normally approve such labels), then the field of jazz music has won me as a convert. A near-sellout audience at the SUB Theatre Saturday night was treated to a concert of incredibly fine quality. It was an evening of relaxed music, a peaceful and pleasant experience.

During one break between songs, Paul Horn had to tell one of his musicians which song was to be played next. Then turning to the audience, he said, "You can see how well-planned our programs are, but that's the way I've always done things and I can't change now."

Perhaps this conveys the mood of the entire concert. Good music, well-played, but without the stress and tension

one normally associates with a concert.

The audience was offered a double treat halfway through the performance when the quintet got it together for an "impromptu" - one with a difference. A tape of killer whale voices was used as the background theme for this short session. It was a rare combination of man and whale creating music together. It seemed as though musical ideas flowed from whale to man and back again, creating an eerie effect.

A standing ovation brought the Paul Horn Quintet back for an encore. Their version of "Sunset Painter" provided a fine finish on an already glowing evening. A good concert with good music, in fact, so good that I went out and bought a Paul Horn album.

by Brent Kostyniuk
Photos Pat Lozinski



Whale of a concert

After the concert, Paul Horn talked about himself and his music. Each person remembers an artist for one particular performance or talent above all the others that person may have. With Paul Horn, aside from the quality of his music, he is probably remembered by many people for his work with killer whales. He tells about some of the experiences he has had with the creatures.

"They have made me aware of forms of intelligence other than human, some of which are superior to our own. Whales show enjoyment and appreciation of music. Steam or vapor comes from their blow holes when they want to show they like you. It is about the only way they have of really showing affection. The whales recognized me as a dog or cat will recognize a person, but they also showed they liked me by swimming up to the side of the pool and floating there beside me. They like to be touched, just the same as any animal, human included, likes to be touched. The whales would roll over on their back and let me scratch their tummies.

Paul Horn was included in a jazz poll conducted by Playboy magazine; he gives his opinion on this distinction. "The poll is basically a popularity contest and it is nice, but I am no longer out to prove anything. I play because I want to, and not to prove to people that I can play."

Many musicians set guides for themselves and directions for their music. Paul Horn is a different kind of musician: "I don't try to see where I am going. I follow my music rather than trying to lead it. It's a problem many performers get

into, they find something that works, and then keep repeating it without trying to change."

"Each of my albums is different. An album is like a book, any author has to write a different book each time, so should a musician. Each one of my albums shows some growth and some change. I learn from the younger members because they always have new ideas. At the same time they learn from me because I have more experience than they do. We exchange information and bring our knowledge together. Jazz musicians keep on evolving throughout their lives, always changing and learning. That is why people like Duke Ellington are still performing when they are 75."

If there was one quality of Paul Horn's music that stood out above all the others, it was a feeling of peace and tranquility. Paul talks about this: "Music is a powerful thing. A lot of performers are not aware of this and if they don't have this awareness, they can cause harm. In the same way that music can make you feel happy and relaxed, it could also lead you to violence."

Sitting with eyes closed during the concert, one realizes that his music has a quality which would make it perfect for sharing a special moment with a special person. Paul replies to this idea: "I think music can lead to certain things, even to a spiritual experience, which is the highest form of love. And yes, it can lead you to love."

While his music can create certain moods, Paul does not actively or consciously work at doing this. "I don't try to create a mood, part of me comes out

automatically. Your inner qualities come out in music, and I can't intellectualize on it."

Talking with Paul Horn is an experience and pleasure, much the same as listening to his music. The feelings created while listening to his music, whatever they may be, come as an extension of the person. The last word, however, belongs to Paul Horn.

"I am not out to prove anything. I realize I am here to make people feel good. There are a lot of hassles and hard feelings in the world today. I want to bring peace and good feelings while I'm on stage. Hopefully the people will leave the concert feeling lighter and better than when they came. I want to raise the vibrations of the people in the hall."



Hovel "snowed in"

Blizzard, having taken the roof off the Hot Box in their previous gig, caused further hysteria last Thursday at the Hovel, blowing the minds and dancing the feet off a crowd that overflowed the place. The poster said "Jazz-Funk" and it was right.

What is Blizzard? It is a collection of some of the best damn jazz musicians in the city. The purpose of the group, as Blizzardite Curt Watts said, is to "get together and play the music we want without worrying about making money." Well, if they keep on the way they're going now they won't have to worry about making money.

Blizzard originally began as a jazz quintet. Some time ago, they played at the Old-Timer's Lodge and created quite a stir. Last December the group expanded and now has: singer:

Bob Alexander; guitar: Jim Tait; piano: Ted Borowiecki; bass: John Sereda; drums: Tom Doran; trumpet: Rick Tait; trumpet: Mike Baker; saxes: Earl Seymour; trombone: Curt Watts.

The group has no real leader. Everyone is a pro and they decide together what to play. There is no one arranger either: everyone writes and arranges his own music.

This works out very well. Blizzard plays funk with a jazz flavoring. Solos are written into the music giving everyone a chance to go wild. When they play, it is impossible to keep still. You've got to keep hoppin' and boppin' or just jump out on the dance floor and do it.

Blizzard is currently playing for two weeks at Friar's. If you get a chance to go, be sure to bring your stompin' boots.

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