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World Sax Quartet: joyous improv

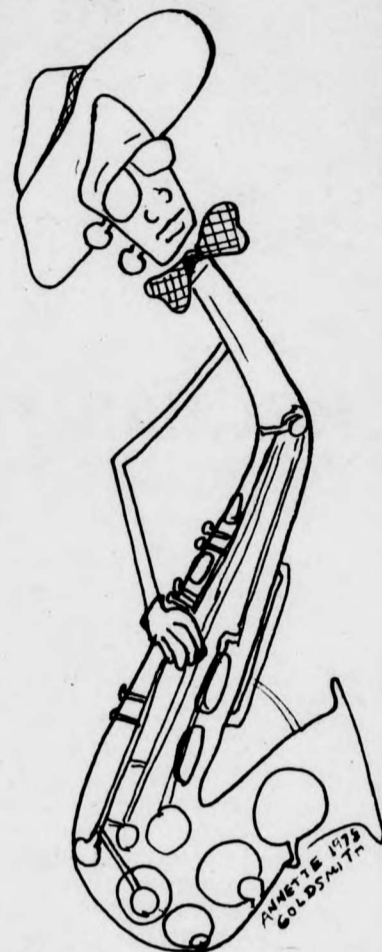
By Paul Stuart

The World Saxophone Quartet breezed into Burton auditorium and brought the 77-78 Performing Arts series of the Faculty of Fine Arts to a ringing finale on Tuesday night.

The quartet features Julius Hemphill and Oliver Lake on alto and soprano saxes, Hamiet Bluiett on baritone, and David Murray on tenor and alto. They all play flute, Bluiett brings along his clarinet. All but Murray a New Yorker, are from St. Louis. Collectively they bring an impressive amount of musical experience to their concerts, having played with the likes of Anthony Braxton, Ron Carter, and Charles Mingus.

An appreciative audience heard the quartet play their highly improvisational, post-Coltrane jazz for well over two hours. It's music which demands concentration — and rewards it.

In one piece Murray played a languid theme evocative of last tangos on sultry summer evenings, while all around him was an incredible braying, squawking, screaming menagerie of sound. But not for long. The music of these virtuoso performers of what they prefer to call "African-American music," is constantly transforming itself into its opposite. The quartet can glide from a free form din to a melodic blanket of sound with ease, and considerable precision.



They are into it body and soul. Lake plays transported, eyes closed; while Bluiett and Hemphill, sober and scholarly, exchange quick, thoughtful glances as if evaluating an interesting new concept at a seminar. Meanwhile, off in a corner, Murray is twirling around on one foot. Jazz is Joy.

The whole thing is done with considerable humour. At one point the crowd laughed with delight as Murray took the mouthpiece off his sax and produced a shrill tweetering that stood out over the other instruments, which sounded like they were having a family feud.

As he left the stage for the last time, Bluiett held his baritone over his head in triumph as the applause rained down.

At a reception after the concert Lake said that the group plays together intermittently, giving each member time to pursue his own individual interests. Sometimes they have bass and drums; as for Tuesday...

"Tonight there was a rhythm section. We were the rhythm section. I can always hear the drums."

When I said I was amazed that the quartet never got lost in all that rapid-fire improvisation, Lake replied:

"We're not lost. We're in Toronto, Downsview. It's 1978. Tonight. How can we get lost? We're alive."

In other words: *You* may get lost college kid, but not us. We know how it's done, because we've been doing it a long time.

If you want to hear how it's done, the quartet's first album, *The World Saxophone Quartet Live At Moers, Germany*, will soon be available on Ring records.

NOTICE OF CYSF ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

The annual general election of the Council of The York Student Federation (CYSF) will be held on Wednesday, **March 15, 1978**. An advance poll will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 1978 in Central Square.

Nomination period for all positions opens: Monday, February 20, 1978 at 9:00 am
closes: Friday, March 3, 1978 at 5:00 pm.

Nomination forms for all positions will be available during the nomination period from the office of the Chief Returning Officer which is in the CYSF offices in 105R, Central Square.

Campaign period for all positions opens: Friday, March 3, 1978 at 5:01 pm.

closes: Monday, March 13, 1978 at 12:00 midnight.

All candidates are expected to familiarize themselves with the CYSF RESOLUTION GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS, copies of which are available for inspection at the office of the Chief Returning Officer.

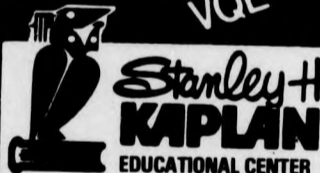
Garfield Payne
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