

Suite in Blue Under Sky

Likewise

Officer's Square Little River
City Sept 15 1991
Harvest Blues and Jazz
Festival Closing Show

Having missed the opportunity to viddy the Cowie-Mitchell Band on Saturday 14th, I eagerly strapped on my bunny ears and made out for Officer's Square on Queen St.

Arriving early with live music fiends in tow we claimed our spot and prepared for the best. And there it was! HA!

A beautiful and lucky afternoon with families, seniors fabs and nowers waiting curiously for the show to begin, (that's why I brought the ears!)

Maestro Dave Campbell approached the platform and switched the sound console to on. The rhythm section assembled the gear while the horn players warmed up and then I knew. Parker solos and side slipping pentatonics roared off the old army barracks wall, and hey, the show was on.

A dedication to such jazz greats as Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Charles Parker, Duke Ellington and Charles Mingus *Suite in Blue* covers a lot of ground, from old time swing thru bebop, fusion; "Free" and cross-cultural this piece explores the thread that ties these styles together; improvisation.

The suite began with bull's eye ace bass player Lloyd Hanson covering an odd meter groove

while John Alphonse's drumming showed us what years of diversity and huge technique can bring to a musical moment.

Pianist Paul Simon and guitarist Shane Arseneau unleashed perfect harmonic tension with solos from Arseneau that seemed to send the bifocals flying off more than a few awed visage. Mike Cowie took us on a trumpet/flugel journey thru Louis Armstrong to Lester Bowie, Freddie Hubbard and Miles while Chris Mitchell displayed awesome technique on four saxophones with a sound that easily filled the square.

Six hard working Maritime musicians gave an overwhelming performance to an enthusiastic gathering that afternoon. If one could assume by the applause and screams for more, we will be seeing more of these guys soon. Hail Hutch, Seabrook, volunteers and tech-crew, of super beings for making the festival a success!

Until next time
Vinnie.

**COWIE-
MITCHELL**

Joe Murphy and the Water Street Blues Band - Hot Hot Hot music from the East Coast. Thanks for visiting New Orleans, Joe, that accordion smokes.

A & A

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