

Entertainment

A bad P.A. and a long delay

McCoy Tyner shines despite technical flaws

By DAVID CHODIKOFF

The McCoy Tyner Sextet entertained a capacity crowd of music lovers last Thursday night in Burton Auditorium. The spirit of the audience was not dampened even though there were technical difficulties and lengthy delays.

The first problem that arose was a half hour delay in the start of the concert, presumably due to a travel mix-up. The audience was forced to wait another forty minutes at intermission while the sound crew finally figured out that the system was not working properly. These time incidents agitated the jazz fans but the real crime of the evening was the poor sound system. The distortion was so bad and obvious in some of the solo spots that McCoy Tyner shook his head in total disgust. No one could blame him.

ELONGATED VIOLIN

The talent and the energy of the musicians definitely made up for the lack of facilities and organization of the concert. Once the show began, Tyner and company started musically "cooking".

Tyner introduced the first number by playing a stringed instrument, resembling an elongated violin, that sounded like a sitar. The piece featured a superb double bass solo, soprano and alto saxophone breaks as well as an overly loud drum solo. Although the piano sounded extremely distorted, Tyner's break was well performed. The second number was of the same style as the first with variation in instrumentation. There was the usage of drums, piano double bass and a mostly unheard flute.

The last number before intermission was long and sometimes very tedious to listen to, and even

the "licks" of the tenor saxophone solo were repetitive. Near the end of the number there was a percussion battle. At least a battle seemed to

be happening between the drummer banging his symbols, McCoy Tyner clanging a bell and the percussionist hitting a hollow bell.

The number, however, went over well with the audience, despite the fact the sound system had gotten progressively worse.

The second half of the concert was excellent. The numbers they did were long but enjoyable. The best selection of this half of the show was the beautiful tenor saxophone-piano duet which when finished left the audience in a state of amazement. The change in pace of the music and the styles of Tyner and Ronald Bridgewater left a deep impression upon the audience after the performance.

Other highlights of the second half were the soprano solo in the first number, the use of flutes and recorder in the third number, and a dazzling finishing number showing off the showmanship of the percussionist.

LAID BACK

The musicians on the whole interacted well. McCoy Tyner was laid back and it really was a shared performance. Everybody on stage had their moments. It was too bad that Tyner had the habit of tapping his foot excessively loud. His drummer's drowning out tendencies were disturbing, and there was a lack of proper microphones for the horns. Besides many of the problems, the concert was a success and people did leave with a two hour fill of the best in jazz.

The concert was the fifth of the Performing Arts Series, presented by York's Faculty of Fine Arts. The sixth presentation of the Series occurred yesterday at Burton as the Utah Repertory Dance Theatre came to town. That troupe will be reviewed in next week's Excalibur.

The next segment of the Performing Arts series takes place Monday, February 28, when the Baroque Dance Ensemble gives the first of two shows in McLaughlin Hall.



The Ice Follies are in town, and will remain at the Gardens for the remainder of the month. It's generally the same old flesh parade, with some new choreography, but our favourite's still the Cookie Monster.

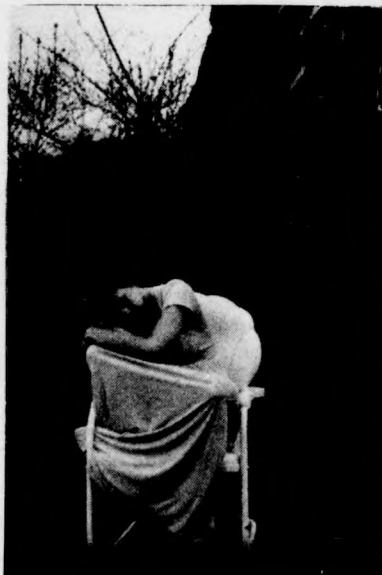
Pianist comes to Stong

Lawrence Pitchko, a young Ontario pianist now studying and will perform at 8 p.m. today in the third of the Stong College Concert Series being held in Sylvester's (201).

Born in St. Catherines in 1953, Mr. Pitchko began his musical studies

at the age of four. He has performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

His concert this evening will include Brahms' Sonata N. 3 in F. Minor, Messiaen's Catalogue d'Oiseux, and Chopin's Sonata N. 3 in B Minor.



UPCOMING

Cultural activities of the Department of French Literature

You are cordially invited to a photography exhibition, "Les Sentiments" by Maria Pikula, French and photography student of York University.

Calumet College Outdoors Club Cross Country Ski Equipment Clinic

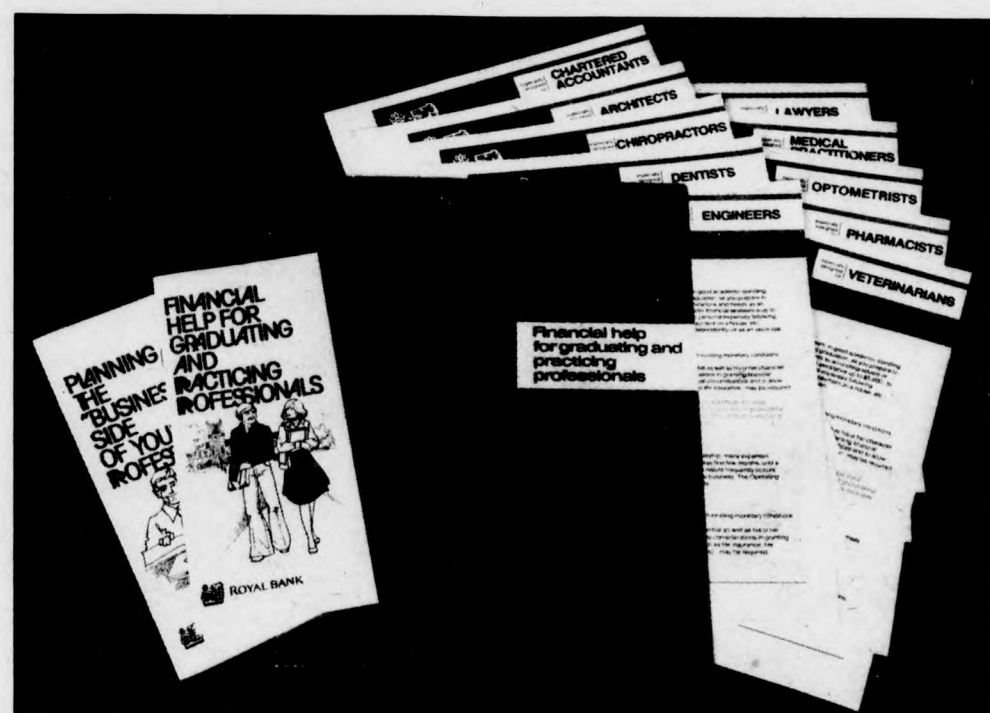
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Wednesday, January 26 - 5 p.m.

Calumet Lounge (Atkinson I)

(Questions? - Contact R. Seaman - 3641)



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