

# 'The Voice of Jazz'—a Special Issue

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## the village Voice

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CONTEMPORARY JAZZ "GREATS" who will perform at the first Village Voice Jazz Concert scheduled for next Saturday evening. They are GEORGE WALLINGTON (upper left) on the piano; JAY JAY JOHNSON (lower left), Number One man nationwide on the trombone; TONY SCOTT (upper right), voted top man on the clarinet in the two major music polls; and DON ELLIOTT (lower right), front runner on the mellophone throughout the country.

### "Voice" Jazz Concert Saturday

One of the major jazz events of the season will be set in motion at Town Hall this Saturday evening at 11.30, when Jean Shepherd rings up the curtain on the first Village Voice-sponsored concert. The theme for the evening will be "Night Music for Night People." Players will include some of the major contemporary jazz "greats."

The non-musical highlight of the all-star show will be the presentation of the Downbeat and Metronome awards to the men voted Number One on their instruments in the nationwide polls conducted by both music magazines.

SEE page 9 for the first Village Voice Jazz Section.

A heavy advance sale of tickets indicates that producer Bob Maltz will have to put chairs on the stage to accommodate the crowd.

Edwin Fancher, publisher of The Voice, who will present the plaques to the winning jazzmen, said yesterday: "We on The Voice are sponsoring this concert because we feel that to give support

to the arts is fulfilling the highest and most impressive tradition of Greenwich Village. For us, this concert is a vital and exciting beginning."

### Guard Held as Alleged Abettor in Strange Suicide

About 4.30 last Sunday morning Robert Ponton, 35, was telling his troubles to railroad guard Walter Ryan over a case of beer in the B & O railroad office on Pier 52, at the foot of Gansevoort Street. Ponton, who lived nearby in the rundown Jane West Hotel, at the corner of West and Jane Streets, had once been confined to a mental institution, and was receiving aid from the Department of Welfare. At one point he said to Ryan: "If I had a gun I'd kill myself." Thinking he was joking, Ryan handed over his pistol. Ponton shot himself through the head.

Now Walter Ryan has troubles of his own. Arraigned in felony court, he was charged with abetting a suicide. This comes under the heading of manslaughter, and upon conviction carries a maximum sentence of 10 to 20 years in jail.

For apts, jobs, cars and services see the Voice Classified.



### Mr. Charles Van Doren Taps A TV Vein of Gold

by Dan Balaban

He's young! He's bright! He's handsome! And now he's rich. So what is Charles Van Doren going to do with the \$122,000 he won last Monday night on the TV giveaway program "Twenty One?"

"I'm going to take a vacation; I haven't had one since 1953. Probably go to Europe for a while. And I also want to start on another novel." That's a pleasant prospect. Writing novels is what he likes best—he does not consider it work.

To sweeten briefly from the bright side: "I looked up the tax

on \$100,000. Know what it is? \$68,000 goes to the Federal Government and \$7,000 goes to the state." Cutting down this take will be the hardest question he's faced yet.

Things Have Changed  
Things have changed for him  
Continued on page 19

Fur Clearance Sale Ends Soon  
Lewis & Lewis, 19 E. 9th St.—Adv.

### Roadway Through 'Square' Inevitable, Villagers Hear

What may be described as a skirmish in the "battle over Washington Square" flared up over the week-end.

Borough President Hulan E. Jack issued a statement, after meeting with Village leaders in his office last Friday, declaring that there was "general agreement" on the necessity of a roadway through Washington Square.

This brought an immediate and emphatic "No" from Mrs. Shirley Hayes, chairman of the Washington Square Park Committee, who denied that local civic groups had in any way given up their opposition to the project. The proposed roadway would run across the park between Fifth Avenue and West Broadway.

Stanley Rose, Mr. Jack's assistant, told The Voice that there definitely was "general agreement," which, he said, did not mean "unanimous agreement."

Changes Inevitable  
"The handwriting on the wall" for Washington Square became clear at the Friday meeting when

Village leader Judge Thomas Chimera asked Mr. Jack to "put the facts on the table." Mr. Jack replied that the park would certainly not be closed off to traffic, and that some sort of new roadway through it is inevitable.

Other civic leaders at the meeting seemed to accept the "inevitable" with some resignation. Discussion centered about the comparative merits of two one-way parallel roads or one north-south thoroughway. Alexander Heh-meyer, president of the Washington Square Association, expressed a preference for a minimal four-lane surface roadway as against a depressed one, which he felt would have "the psychological effect of cutting the park in half."

#### "What Are the Plans?"

Debate terminated and general accord crystallized behind the words of Greenwich Village Association president Philip T. Lombardo, who wanted to find out what the city plans are for the over-all Village area.

"We cannot offer," he said, "any reasoned opinion on Washington Square until we know what the city has in mind for Lower Fifth Avenue and the area south and east of the park. Until we know how changes in the park fit into an integrated picture, no sensible suggestions can be offered."

"Whatever will be done," Mr. Jack said at the conclusion of the meeting, "must aim at the protection of the children and the preservation of the cultural environment of the Village. I will ask my engineers to confer with the traffic, parks, and city planning departments, and come up with a plan that will fit in with those objectives. Then I will call you in again for further discussion."

Beside those mentioned above and experts from various city departments, the meeting was attended by Nicholas Rossi, Lower West Side Civic League; Robert Weinberg and Miss Elsa G. Steinert, Washington Square Association; Anthony Dapollito, Mrs. Alice Viehr, and Mrs. Edith Lyons, Greenwich Village Planning Board; Louis Solomon, Village Chamber of Commerce; Stanley Isaacs, City Councilman; and Richard B. Grosso, Fifth Avenue Association.

### Lengyel Speaks Here

Emil Lengyel, newspaperman and expert on Hungary, addresses the Village Liberal Club, 224 West 4th Street, in the initial meeting of the 1957 lecture series tomorrow (Thursday), at 8.30 p. m.

The subject of his talk will be "Will the Other Satellites Follow the Hungarians in Rebelling Against the Soviet Union?"

Admission is free.

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the village

## Voice

## J A Z Z

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## Jazz: Is It True What They Say About Dixieland?

by William L. Grossman

There's an old gag about the man who, upon being pronounced dead by a physician, sat up and affirmed the contrary. "Lie down, dear," said his wife, "doctor knows best."

Not very funny, but wryly appropriate to the present situation of traditional New Orleans jazz. Barry Ulanov wrote its obituary years ago. Every now and then, as in the current issue of Down Beat, he has to remind us that the old boy is dead. Otherwise we might be deceived by the corpse's lusty voice and the curiously lifelike way it kicks its heels in the air.

## Among the Deceived

A great many intellectuals are among those deceived. They love the music, write about it, and even play it. I counted four men with post-graduate degrees in the seven-piece Red Onion Jazz Band as constituted a year or two ago (Frank Gillis was sitting in at piano).

You're not likely to find anything like this in a progressive-jazz band. Most modern jazzmen evidence a strange provincialism, even in the field of jazz itself. For although a few, such as John Lewis, have a background in European classical music, almost none of them knows much about classic jazz. They have virtually no familiarity with Oliver, Morton, etc., and the stylish critics have warned them away from Turk Murphy and the other latter-day traditionalists.

## Early Roots

Currently, however, there is a small glimmer of interest, among a few moderns, in early jazz history and techniques. They have been shown connections with the past—e.g., that a drum figure associated with a popular modern drummer really goes back to New Orleansian Baby Dodds. Next August in Lenox the cream of the

Professor William L. Grossman of NYU is the author with Jack W. Farrell of "The Heart of Jazz," recently published by New York University Press, and of articles on jazz and other subjects for Jazz Today, Metronome, Musical America, the Crisis, the Record Changer, the New York Times Book Review, the American Mercury, the Saturday Review, the Nation, and various other periodicals.

## Who's Who At Town Hall

Roy Eldridge, trumpet, has played with Artie Shaw, Gene Krupa, Benny Goodman, "Jazz at the Philharmonic," and his own groups. He is generally considered to be one of the most important trumpeters in jazz history.

Don Elliott, musician of many parts, plays a score of instruments; he has worked with George Shearing, Teddy Wilson, Terry Gibbs, Benny Goodman, Buddy Rich, and is currently leading an outfit of his own.

Adelaide Hall has spent much of her time recently in England. She was responsible for bringing Art Tatum to New York in 1932. Hers was the famous wordless vocal in Duke Ellington's "Creole Love Call."

## Internationally Famous

Coleman Hawkins gained international fame as a tenor saxophonist with Fletcher Henderson. Since then he has become one of the most influential figures in jazz.

J. J. Johnson was the first trombonist to play in the intricate bop style. Jay has been associated with all the important names in modern jazz: Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Oscar Pettiford.

Lee Konitz played with the bands of Claude Thornhill and Stan Kenton and studied under Lennie Tristano. He is one of the top-rated alto saxophonists.

## Since Teen Age

Helen Merrill has been singing professionally since teen age. She has appeared with jazz notables Earl Hines, Miles Davis, Bud Powell, and J. J. Johnson.

Charlie Mingus, bass, has gigged with Charlie Parker, Bud Powell, Duke Ellington, Art Tatum, and Stan Getz, among many others. He has of late devoted much time to composition and the use of extended musical forms.

Oscar Pettiford was a member of the first bop ensemble, playing with Dizzy Gillespie in 1943.

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## Program

## JAZZ AT TOWN HALL

Presented by The Village Voice

Saturday, February 2, 11.30 p. m.

"Night Music for Night People"

featuring

## JEAN SHEPHERD

J. J. JOHNSON, trombone

DON ELLIOTT, mellophone

OSCAR PETTIFORD, bass

COLEMAN HAWKINS, tenor sax

ZOOT SIMS, tenor sax

GEORGE WALLINGTON, piano

OSIE JOHNSON, drums

HELEN MERRILL, vocalist

TONY SCOTT, clarinet

LEE KONITZ, alto sax

CHARLES MINGUS, bass

ROY ELDRIDGE, trumpet

PHIL WOODS, alto sax

RANDY WESTON, piano

ART TAYLOR, drums

ADELAIDE HALL, vocalist

Produced and Promoted by Bob Maltz

## Sick, Sick, Sick . . . . .

by Jules Feiffer

