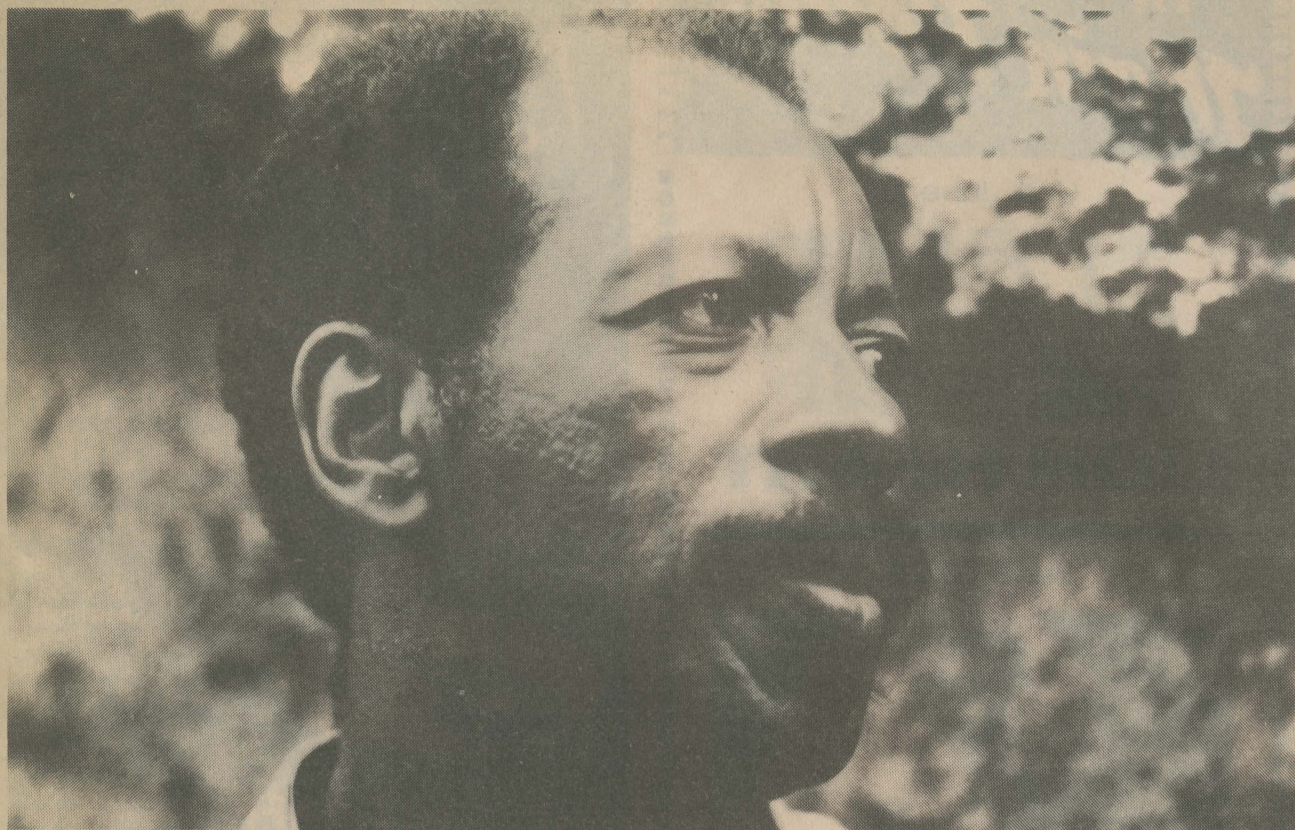


**MUSIC**



Ornette Coleman appears at the Commodore, July 3, as part of the du Maurier Jazz Festival. His show is one of columnist Alex Varty's picks in a survey of the most promising prospects at this year's festival.

# Jazz Feast on the Way

With only two weeks to go until the opening of the third annual du Maurier International Jazz Festival, public interest and ticket sales are heating up, so now's the time to plan your festival itinerary if you want to avoid missing out on some

## Off Beat

ALEX VARTY

of the most soulfully creative music ever heard around these parts. To help you pick out a schedule, here are capsule summaries of some of the "don't miss" events that the festival has in store.

Certainly you won't want to miss the gala opening on Friday, June 24 at the Expo Theatre: ex-Weather Report leader Joe Zawinul's aptly named **Zawinul Syndicate** should be explosive, with rhythm demons Cornell Rochester and Gerald Veasley driving a band that's primed to cover all the bases, from bebop to 21st-century funk; while Senegalese singer **Youssou N'Dour** has one of the finest bands to emerge from the Third (or any other) World, plus an impassioned, often heartbreakingly beautiful vocal delivery.

Three under-appreciated pianists should provide some of the festival's finest hours: veterans **Andrew Hill** and **Horace Tapscott** and relative newcomer **Michele Rosewoman** are all capable of producing music of great depth and subtlety. Hill, at the Vancouver East at 8 p.m. on June 25, was a fixture on the Blue Note scene in the '60s, producing some of that renowned era's most provocative recordings with a style that perfectly blended the bluesy touch of the hard bop players with the more cerebral approach of the young radicals of the time. Tapscott, to the best of my knowledge, has never recorded for any of the major labels, but has spent 30 years teaching and playing around the Los Angeles area, where he is almost legendary for his thorough knowledge of jazz history, and the very modern, very personal ways in which he has reinterpreted that legacy. He'll play the Western Front at 5:30 on Sunday, June 26. Rose-

woman, a New York resident, adds elements of the Afro-Cuban tradition to her similarly complete understanding of the jazz piano. She's a sparkingly powerful soloist and for this tour has assembled an equally bright band, featuring saxophone lions Gary Thomas and Greg Osby, bassist Lonnie Plaxico, and the prodigious young drummer Terri Lynne Carrington, all members of the new generation of New York-based jazz extenders. At the Vancouver East Cultural Centre on June 30.

In only three years the du Maurier festival has already established a worldwide reputation as one of the places to hear the jazz avant-garde, and three concerts in that idiom that should not be missed are **George Lewis's** solo recital at the Western Front (June 27), the double-bill of **Semantics** with the **Lussier/Derome/Cora** trio at the VECC (July 1), and the **Ornette Coleman/Lunar Adventures** package at the Commodore on July 3.

Lewis is an outstanding trombone technician, a master of contemporary approaches to his instrument, and also a pioneer in the uncharted waters of computer music. When he puts the two together, the results can be bizarrely unpredictable, or blissfully lovely, but always eminently musical.

Semantics is one of the wildest groups playing the

festival. With New Yorkers **Samm Bennett**, **Ned Rothenberg**, and **Elliott Sharp** on board, their influences run the gamut from Japanese shakuhachi music to Yoruba drumming to Jimi Hendrix. Perversely humorous and infinitely inventive, their range and scope has boosted them out of the improvising underground and onto the avant-punk record label SST, where they can be heard stretching out on music that's radical, rhythmic, and memorably melodic. Multi-instrumentalists **Rene Lussier**, **Jean Derome** (from Montreal), and **Tom Cora** (from New York) will open with a set that's sure to be similarly intense and surprising.

The Vancouver band **Lunar Adventures**, arguably this city's most interesting "fusion" ensemble, will unleash its spiky chops as a fitting appetizer for the latest edition of Ornette Coleman's controversial **Prime Time** outfit, which now apparently includes a tabla player, but will be without flash bassist **Jamaaladeen Tacuma**, out on the road with his own band. Ornette is always interesting—whether you think he's a genius or not—and our consensus is that he is. There's no denying that few other artists can match his scope, from acoustic quartet jazz to avant-funk to full-scale symphonic works.

If something a little more

straightforward is calling you, hear the **Horace Parlan/Archie Shepp** duet instead (also on July 3, but at the VECC at 8 p.m.). Shepp, one of the '60s jazz radicals who came up in Coleman's wake, has mellowed remarkably, and along with the rich-sounding pianist Parlan, now flexes his considerable saxophone capabilities on vintage blues, gospel, and Bird numbers that sing and swing with warmth, humour, and quiet fire.

Two bands led from the rhythm section but long on saxophone talent will explore the modern approaches to the jazz tradition at the VECC on June 29: local drummer **Claude Ranger** will lead a three-horned quintet (Perry White, Rob Frayne, and Phil Dwyer will blow, Skywalk's Rene Worst will bass) that could be mightily impressive, while ex-Ornette bassist **Charlie Haden**, one of the world's most musical human beings and a poetically beautiful player, will work with ex-Rolling Stones sax sideman **Ernie Watts**, pianist **Alan Broadbent**, and drummer **Paul Motian** in an ensemble that should, theoretically, be able to do just about anything from the deep blues to the most abstract pointillisms.

And, finally, for more magnificent African singing, catch **Salif Keita**, with Themba Tana's **African Heritage**, at the Commodore on Friday July 1: like Youssou N'Dour, Keita is a modern West African wailer who combines traditional sounds (in his case, the Afro/Arabian vocal styles of Mali) with the sophisticated electronics and irresistible rhythms of Afro/American funk. Advance reports indicate that he's a concert performer on a par with Stevie Wonder or Peter Gabriel.

No one can fault this year's festival for range or diversity: these may be our recommended events, but there and dozens of other worthwhile concerts planned. Stay tuned for a look at some of the Vancouver musicians that will be prominently featured over the 10-day program, and in-depth interviews with and appreciations of some of the visiting masters. ■



Bassist Charlie Haden is part of a VECC line-up that includes sax player Ernie Watts.

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 Gentlemen Welcome at 11:00 pm  
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**THEMBA TANA'S AFRICAN HERITAGE**  
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Record/Video Release Party with  
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**THE HOT TAMALES TWISTERS**  
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- Tues. 21 **EVENING OF AWARENESS**  
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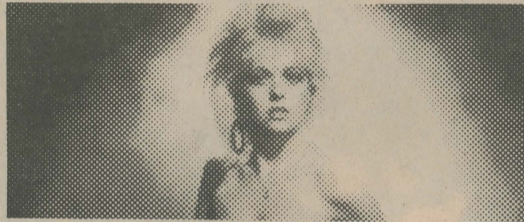
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Fri. June 24 1040 KICKS presents  
**FISH'S SURPRISE PARTY**  
with **THE BARRACUDAS**  
Tix VTC/CBO

Fri., Sat., June 17, 18 1040 KICKS presents  
from Toronto, Capitol Recording Artists



## THE JITTERS

with guests  
**Ben Hur**  
Tix VTC/CBO

Sun. June 19 Sunday Services with  
**KYLE STEIN** with guest  
**Tasi Sharpe**

Wed. June 22 Triple Bill!!!  
**CANNON HEATH DOWN,**  
**CATHERINE WHEEL, TIN GOD**

Thurs. June 23  
LG73 presents  
Vancouver Debut Performance!  
Capitol Recording Artists

## STRANGE ADVANCE

plus guests  
**Big Medicine**  
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Doors 8 pm



Sat. June 25 Du Maurier Jazz Fest!  
A&M Recording Artist  
**MANTECA**  
Tix VTC/CBO

Sun. June 26 Sunday Services with  
**ASSAULT** and **GENGHIS KHAN**

Mon. June 27 **TYSON vs SPINKS**  
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