

Sunday, July 10, 1988

**Lunar Adventures  
Centennial Library Theatre**

Nine days of Jazz City concerts in the basement of the Centennial Library came to an end Saturday with the cry of an alto sax, the swelling feedback of an electric guitar, a bass' bagpipe-like drone.

The sounds were courtesy of Vancouver's Lunar Adventures. Playing to a, ahem, crowd of 35, the quartet provided one of the more interesting performances of Jazz City '88 — and demonstrated there's still some life

left in the old "fusion music" carcass.

In fact, saxman Coat Cooke, guitarist Ron Samworth, bassist Clyde Reed and drummer Gregg Simpson have concocted a compelling ensemble sound from diverse inspirations — Ornette Coleman, Pat Metheny, John Scofield (circa the Bar Talk LP), Captain Beefheart, John Surman, even Celtic music.

All these elements came together in a very heady brew Saturday, from the catchy Coleman-esque funk of Cooke's Ranul, to the rollicking strains of Simpson's Celtic Calypso, and to the foreboding and feedback of Brooklyn. Occasionally it all sounded like the mating calls of rogue police sirens but in every instance these "free" tendencies were balanced with winning lyrical touches.

(again). All are good players, yet there was a tentative quality to their work together. This problem did seem to go away as they got into the set, however, and the free improvisational tunes were dynamic and interesting. Hammett-Vaughan was in fine voice, taking up the slack of the missing saxophonist with lots of non-verbal improv.

The final group, Unity, opened with a blaze of horns, bass and drums, all-out full-strength. Later, the individuals surfaced—Graham Ord on saxophone, Daniel Lapp on trumpet, Paul Blaney on bass, and Roger Baird staying in the drummer's seat. The frenetic pace occasionally calmed to sparse moments in which the sweet tones of the horns could really be appreciated.

This band capped the evening with a driving energy that, unfortunately, was not there in the small audience. Perhaps the Vancouver jazz audience is saving itself for the festival. If you missed this three-band special, catch Lunar Adventures July 3 at the Commodore, opening for Ornette Coleman. Unity opens for Andrew Hill on June 25 at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, while Hammett-Vaughan's Turnaround opens for Michele Rosewoman on June 30 at the Cultch. **Maura Volante**

GEORGIA STRAIGHT JUNE 24/1988

**Lunar Adventures, Unity,  
Kate Hammett-Vaughan**

Review: Centre Culturel Francophone,  
Sunday, June 19

Centre concerts bow out  
on sweet and sad notes

A sweet/sad feeling permeated the summer evening last Sunday when the New Orchestra Workshop presented its final show at Le Centre Culturel Francophone, which will soon be shut down. The three bands (and the audience) revealed many faces familiar to the Centre from previous New Orchestra Workshop concerts at the centre. Coat Cooke's Lunar Adventures was followed by a band fronted by Kate Hammett-Vaughan, with Graham Ord's Unity closing the show. All three will be at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival that gets underway this week, and all showed the talent that has gotten them there.

Lunar Adventures—which consists of Coat Cooke on saxophones, Ron Samworth on electric guitar, Clyde Reed on bass, and Gregg Simpson on drums—may be dominated by Cooke's writing, but on the stand it's a whole concerted effort. Though all the players do get a chance to stretch out, they don't simply trade solos, but generally maintain the intensity of four instruments full-out. Comfortable with each other, the ensemble felt very free to go on adventures, far and wide.

Kate Hammett-Vaughan wasn't with her regular group, Turnaround, so that level of familiarity wasn't quite there in her set. Roger Baird was on drums, Scott White played bass, and Ron Samworth was on guitar

**The Commodore**

Saturday, June 25  
**LADIES NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA**  
18 Male Dancers, 10 Former Chippendales  
6 Man Male Waiter Revue  
Doors 7 pm • Showtimes 8 pm to 10:30 pm  
**RANDY (ELVIS) FRISKIE & HIS BAND**  
Gentlemen welcome at 11 pm

Wednesday, June 29  
**NEW ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SERIES #4**  
Showcasing Vancouver's Hottest new Artists

**TIN DRUM** (former members of Beverly Sisters & M.T. Vessels)  
**THE DOTS** (4 gals — country rock)  
**NERVOUS FELLAS** (Rockabilly)  
Advance or \$4 at door

Friday, July 1 **Jazz Festival**  
**SALIF KEITA** and his 13 piece band from Mali  
with special guests

**THEMBA TANAN'S AFRICAN HERITAGE**

Saturday, July 2 **Jazz Festival**  
An Evening with  
**BILL BRUFORD'S EARTHWORKS**

Sunday, July 3 **Jazz Festival Finale**  
**ORNETTE COLEMAN & PRIMETIME**  
with guests **LUNAR ADVENTURES**

Friday, July 8  
Record/Video Release Party with  
Story Plain/BMG Recording Artists  
**SPIRIT OF THE WEST** with special guests  
**THE HOT TABLE TWISTERS**

Tickets VTC/CBO and all usual outlets  
Info & Charge by Phone 280-4444  
870 Granville Mall  
681-7838