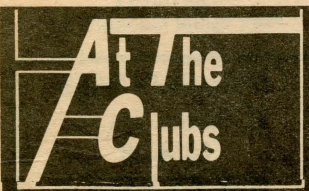


MAY 9/89 WESTENDER

Making some sound progress

Whoever said familiarity breeds contempt had no connection with the music industry where nostalgia for the sixties, even from those for whom the Summer of Love was the summer of conception, has given top ratings to oldies stations and standing-room-only to clubs where bands perform songs someone else performed better 20 years ago.

Despite originality being thrown over for familiarity by a large segment of the population, alternative bands playing their own material and creating their own audiences manage to maintain a healthy, if limited existence on the fringe.



For most, the word alternative conjures up visions of the kind of rock oriented bands that play the Railway Club or the Town Pump, but local jazz has its own alternative scene which like alternative rock suffers from a lack of venues and club-owner support.

Lunar Adventures is one of the few Vancouver bands to play all original material. Subsequently their appearances are far less frequent than those who are adept at rehashing jazz standards.

"It's one of the great frustrations and it makes it so difficult to do your own thing," says Lunar Adventures' saxophonist Coat Cooke.

Cooke says the only other place consistently willing to showcase original jazz is the Grunt Gallery and as a result the band's press kit is filled with raves from out-of-town papers while local interest and coverage remains minimal.

Cooke compares the current situation to the emergence of bebop in the fifties, when "moldy figs" refused to support the new jazz and remained loyal to the established dixieland. "Bebop is



Folk's rogue

He emerged on the folk scene with punk credentials and an attitude and was awarded Most Promising Artist in a 1987 Folk Roots readers' poll. Touring to promote his acclaimed second album One Big Joke, England's Pete Morton plays the W.I.S.E. Club with The Nyetz March 11.

the dixieland now," says Cooke.

As a reaction to venues' safe-bookings policies, Cooke, along with some fellow musicians and composers started the New Orchestra Workshop Society (NOW) in 1978, creating their own venues and producing their own concerts. NOW continues to stage shows around town.

Lunar Adventures are the sixth band in The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society's *Jazz Is* series at Isadora's, a series Bob Kerr of the Society says was created as a reaction to the lack of venues for original jazz.

Aside from local players, the *Jazz Is* series will feature players from outside the city. These include ECM recording artists the Denny Goodhew Trio, March 17 and 18 and the Jay Clayton Quartet, March 24 and 25. This

week (March 10 and 11) Brass Roots play, and Lunar Adventures wraps up the series March 31 and April 1.

The music begins at 9 p.m. and there is a \$5 cover. For reservations phone 681-8816.

—Clodagh O'Connell