

Lunar Adventures flying on the fringe

Making a living as a jazz musician is difficult enough. Making a living as a musician who plays on the experimental fringe of jazz would seem to be impossible.

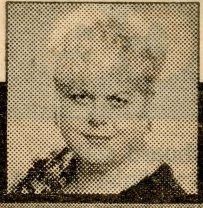
Nevertheless, the members of Lunar Adventures have been making their entertaining and original musical mark for four years as a quartet and even longer with the New Orchestra Workshop.

With a CD ready for release on the Los Angeles-based Nine Winds label, which has distribution in North America, Europe and Japan, the group — Coat Cooke, saxophones; Ron Samworth, guitar; Clyde Reed, Oregon bass; Gregg Simpson, drums/percussion/sound collages — is looking forward to a somewhat rosier future.

"We did a seven-city cross-Canada tour this summer," says Cooke.

"It was successful — but we played in venues where 75 to 100 people was a respectable house.

Renee Doruyter



"I'm hoping the CD will give us a chance to tour in Europe and Japan, where there's more interest in stuff that hasn't been seen on Entertainment Tonight. I think there's more curiosity there about experimental music and performance art."

Cooke arrived in Vancouver from Winnipeg in 1975 and is one of the original members of the New Orchestra Workshop.

"I've played in every type of band — Latin, R&B, rock, jazz — you've got to live, right? By 1979 I was composing in earnest — I was tired of hacking out bar tunes.

"The NOW orchestra, a 17-piece band, gave me a chance to hone my skills, to write for a large ensemble. I was approaching other musicians and composers, saying 'don't write stage band stuff — there's lots of that around. We have no money, we can't pay you, but here's this interesting instrumentation and here's a chance to use your imagination.'

"There's all kinds of influences — East Indian, African, improvisational, rock, the blues — what we do is some kind of synthesis of all these.

"I call it a 'contemporary urban sound.' And we're not doing it just to be different. I decided that if I was going to do anything with music, it had to say something for me, what moves me — and this does."

Lunar Adventures performs tonight at 9 at the Glass Slipper, 185 East 11th Avenue (at Main), tickets (\$5) at the door, and again Oct. 6 at a reading by poets Gre-

gory Corso and Alan Ginsberg at the Italian Cultural Centre.



The mainstream jazz of Roy Reynolds and friends is back on Thursday afternoon — at least for the moment.

Andiamo Restaurant at Sinclair Centre has been persuaded to give Thursday jazz a shot, Oct. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m.

If enough people turn out, there's a good chance it will become a regular thing.



Vocalist Kenny Colman has his way with popular jazz standards at Chardonnays with the Cuddles Johnston Quartet, 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Trumpeter Bill Clark takes a quartet into the Soft Rock Cafe Sunday, 7:30-10:30 p.m., and Ross Taggart, Torben Oxbol and Graham Boyle are at Crickets, Richmond Inn, 8:30-11:30 p.m.