

## Comments

The period from 1973 to 1976 was important because first of all the WF was not only continuing the openness which we had come together with during the Intermedia years, but was fostering a number of experimental jazz ensembles who regularly rehearsed and performed. This set the stage for the NOW years (1978-82) when a greater degree of professionalism came into play. The NOW Creative Music Festivals which WF co-produced was a valuable precursor to present day jazz activities.

I remember recoding with various bands while the ever-obliging members of the WF ate dinner in an adjoining room. Given that it has functioned as a living space concurrently with events programming our performances were barely domesticated in those days.

We also got a chance to hone our skills as producers of concerts of other music than our own: Karl Berger's Creative Music Workshops were seminal in attracting a whole new generation of players to this music.

The many events (scheduled and otherwise) which Al Neil gave through the years was a testament to his founding presence in the jazz scene in Vancouver and continued to give him a quality venue for his work. The history I have with Al, of course goes back to the trio, (1965) and the Sound Gallery / Motion Studio / Intermedia years (1966-72). I always felt that the WF continued something of the spirit of those days with the spontaneous collaborations and no holds barred playing.

In short, the period of the 70's and 80's was enriched immeasurably by the existence of the WF and the opportunities extended to the music scene in all its facets which, of course, continue into this decade.