

# Esoteric jazz groups to the fore

By MARKE ANDREWS

Some of Vancouver's more interesting jazz groups will take part in the New Orchestra Workshop Creative Music Series, beginning Wednesday at the Centre Culturel Colombien.

The series, co-sponsored by the Coastal Jazz and Blues Society, is the second to be held at the 100-seat centre, located at 795 West 16th. Last fall, a three-night series featured such groups as the Paul Plimley Octet and the Vancouver Art Trio.

The concert series is the brainchild of the New Orchestra Workshop Society, which began in the late 1970s and has recently been reborn. The society's six-man board went looking for a place where non-mainstream bands could play.

"The basic concept is to feature bands doing their own music," said Coat Cook, a saxophonist with the group Lunar Adventures, which plays March 25, and one of the organizers of the series. "There are no venues in town for these bands and no one promoting

local composers."

The series, to run on successive Wednesday nights, kicks off on Feb. 18 with the free-form Vancouver Art Trio sharing a bill with the Ornette Coleman-inspired Coast Quartet. On Feb. 25, the Vancouver Art Trio returns.

Alto saxophonist Campbell Ryga and trombonist Hugh Fraser lead the Fraser-Ryga Quartet on March 4, backed by Chris Nelson on bass and Buff Allen on drums. Bruce Freedman, the sax player for the Vancouver Art Trio, returns to the CCC on March 11 with the quartet Chief Feature, a band that blends traditional and avant-garde forms.

Guitarist Philippe Lapointe leads a trio on March 18, and Lunar Adventures, a quartet, plays on the 25th. The series closes April 1 with the Paul Plimley Group, led by the always interesting pianist, with bassist Clyde Reed and drummer Gregg Simpson.

Admission is \$5, \$4 to CCC members. All concerts begin at 8 p.m.