

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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No. 91
For Release
Thursday,
July 28, 1960

The new George Russell Sextet, in its first New York appearance, will give the seventh Jazz in the Garden concert at the Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, July 28, at 8:30 p.m. Russell describes his career as composer, arranger and soloist as the active attempt "to enrich the jazz language, produce new rhythms, new tonal combinations and, particularly, new forms." On piano, Russell will be joined by Al Kiger, trumpet, Dave Baker, trombone, Dave Young, tenor sax, Ted Snyder, bass, and Joe Hunt, drums. Metronome Magazine is co-sponsor and producer of the Museum's series of ten Thursday evening promenade concerts.

Although essentially self-taught, George Russell has been influenced by Stravinsky, Bartok, Berg and Ravel. He was born in Cincinnati in 1923, where he began his musical life at 15 as a drummer in a local night club. At 17 he was studying music at Wilberforce University and playing in the college dance band. At 20 he played drums for Benny Carter, wrote for Carter, and arranged for Earl Hines. He has since composed for Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy De Franco, and Charlie Parker. All About Rosie, a jazz work in three movements, was commissioned by the Festival of Fine Arts, Brandeis University, in 1957. Russell's many recordings on Decca, RCA Victor, Columbia and Atlantic include his own compositions, notably The Day John Brown was Hanged, Concerto For Billy the Kid, Ezz-Thetic, and Ye Hypocrite, Ye Beelzebub. Jazz in the Space Age represents Russell's most ambitious use of his Lydian Chromatic Concept of Tonal Organization, a theory based on 12-tone intervals.

Al Kiger, Dave Baker, and Dave Young, who recorded Jazz in the Space Age with Russell, are, with Joe Hunt, former students at the University of Indiana. Kiger, born 28 years ago in Muncie, also studied at the University of Michigan. He has played with various jazz groups, including that of Dave Baker. Baker, briefly with Stan Kenton in 1956, taught for a year at Lincoln University; he has made several recordings, among them Jazz Goes to College, with Don Jacoby. Dave Young, 27, attended Jordan College of Music and Kentucky State. He played in the Third Armored Division Band while in the army. A professional at 15, 22-year-old Joe Hunt was tympanist with the Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra. He played at the French Lick Jazz Festival in 1959 and with the Jazz Contemporaries. Ted Snyder went to Butler University after a four-year stint in the Navy (1950-54), played for one summer with the Artie Shaw band, and with groups around Indianapolis and his native Hammond. The Sextet will move into the 5-Spot August 1.

Admission to the Museum is 95 cents. There is no additional charge for the jazz concert, which will be cancelled in case of rain.

Further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. CI 5-8900.