

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 107

Friday, August 26, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FINAL JAZZ IN THE GARDEN CONCERT AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Booker Ervin Quartet will give the final Jazz in the Garden concert of the season at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Thursday, September 1, at 8:30 p.m. Ervin, on tenor sax, will be joined by Jaki Byard, piano; Junior Booth, bass; and Sonny Brown, drums. Jazz in the Garden, ten Thursday evening promenade concerts, is sponsored jointly by the Museum and Down Beat magazine.

The entire Museum is open Thursday until 10. The regular Museum admission, \$1.25, admits visitors to galleries and to 8 p.m. film showings in the Auditorium; there is no charge for Museum members. Admission to the jazz concert is an additional 50 cents for all. In case of rain, the concert will be canceled. Other Museum activities continue as announced.

For Jazz in the Garden, Dan Morgenstern, New York Editor of Down Beat, is Chairman of a Program Committee consisting of Charles Graham, a sound systems specialist, and Herbert Bronstein, Series Director.

Booker Ervin, born in Texas, studied at the Berklee School of Music in Boston. Drafted in 1950, he played tenor sax with a U.S. Air Force band on Okinawa. He later worked with the Ernie Fields band and other Texas groups until 1957, when he moved to New York. There he was discovered by bassist-composer Charles Mingus, with whom he worked for a number of years. Subsequently, he formed a cooperative group with pianist Horace Parlan, "The Playhouse Four," worked with pianist Randy Weston's sextet, and, since 1964, has been leading his own groups. In October of 1964, Ervin went to Europe, where he stayed for 18 months. His Museum concert will be his first in New York since his return. Ervin appeared previously in Jazz in the Garden as a guest performer with the Teddy Charles group in 1960, and again with Horace Parlan and Randy Weston, both in 1961.

A strong, virile player with an adventurous but solidly grounded approach to jazz, Ervin is considered by many American and European critics to be the most important and original tenor saxophonist to appear in jazz since John Coltrane. Ervin's music is perhaps best described as contemporary, but with swinging roots. Recent series of albums on the Prestige label have won acclaim in the jazz press. Featured with the Ervin quartet will be pianist Jaki Byard, who successfully led his own group in last year's Museum series, and who has appeared on four of Ervin's albums. Bassist Junior Booth, currently with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, was a member of this year's Dollar Brand Quintet, as was drummer Sonny Brown.

\* \* \* \* \*

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Circle 5-8900.