

Outdoor jazz

Milt Jackson to lead contingent of virtuoso talent at Inner Harbor

By Frederick I. Douglass

Milt Jackson, the *creme de la creme* of vibes players, will be pounding his metal-barred instrument like the village blacksmith tomorrow night in the Inner Harbor with one of the most impressive assemblages of jazz talent ever to play an outdoor concert in Baltimore.

Accompanying him will be Monty Alexander, piano; Lou Donaldson, alto saxophone; Bob Cranshaw, bass; Grady Tate, drums and perhaps vocals. Each is a virtuoso jazz artist.

Milt Jackson has been the dominant force on the vibraphone for more than a score of years. He is the standard bearer for vibists, and any musician serious about mastering the instrument absolutely has to listen to his benchmark performances on albums like "Bags & Flutes" and "The Statement," as well as the classically oriented recordings he did with the Modern Jazz Quartet.

During the past five years he has recorded some of his finest albums on the Pablo label, which is exclusively dedicated to showcasing jazz artists at their very best. Teaming up with superb artists like Oscar Peterson, Ray Brown and Joe Pass, he continues to attain new musical heights on "Montreux Jazz Festival 1975," "Quadrant" and "Feelings." His latest Pablo release is entitled "Bag's Bag," an album which highlights the shimmering tintinnabulation of Jackson hammering, caressing and tickling his vibes with two and sometimes four mallets to produce a

joyous sound.

"One of his most interesting recordings on the Pablo label is "Soul Fusion," an album which features him in tandem with Monty Alexander, the pianist who will be laying down a solid chordal foundation for the group tomorrow night.

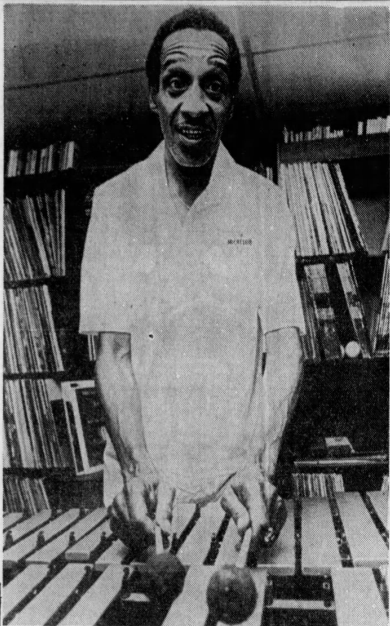
The similarity in sound between the vibes and the piano is exploited to the maximum by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Alex-

The rhythm method

ander as they chase each other up and down the scales while engaging in a fast-paced improvisational foray on the title tune "Soul Fusion." Another tasty morsel on the "Soul Fusion" album is a spirited rendition of Stevie Wonder's popular tune "Isn't She Lovely." The level of ESP between Milt Jackson and Monty Alexander is incredible and allows them to perform magical music feats before your very eyes.

Monty Alexander's most recent effort as the leader of his own group resulted in a fascinating album entitled "Jamento" which interweaves reggae, calypso and jazz idioms into a flawless and colorful musical tapestry. Mr. Alexander is a versatile pianist who can play any style of jazz from avant-garde to bop to fusion. However, I've never heard him work with a horn player and it will be interesting to hear how he blends his sound with Lou Donaldson's singing alto saxophone.

My first exposure to Lou Donaldson was hearing him make his sax preach on



Photo—Frederick I. Douglass

Milt Jackson will be playing at the Inner Harbor tomorrow night.

Jimmy Smith's classic album "The Sermon." His performance on that tune inspired me to invest in some of his other Bluenote label albums including "Hear 'Tis" and "Lou Takes Off," recordings that featured some of his crispest playing. I know he will hang right in there on the front line with Milt Jackson and Monty Alexander, belting out pungent sax riffs that will penetrate the glass in Harborplace and make people come outside to hear some first-class jazz.

With three powerful musicians like Milt Jackson, Monty Alexander and Lou Donaldson on stage, you have to have a powerful rhythm section. Bob Cranshaw, one of the most recorded bassists on the contemporary scene, will be rump-rump-

thumping his axe while he lays down a firm background for the group. Grady Tate, a percussionist who has worked with Aretha Franklin and Quincy Jones, will be whipping his drums with beaucoupy finesse, skillfully maintaining his role as the group's official time keeper.

Perhaps Grady Tate might even croon a tune or two just to let Baltimore know why his version of "Windmills of Your Mind" was nominated for a Grammy in 1968.

Cosponsored by the Left Bank Jazz Society, the Urban Services Agency and Michelob Beer, the appearance of Milt Jackson and his colleagues in the Inner Harbor might turn out to be one of the year's major outdoor cultural happenings.

AMUSEMENTS

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Movies

APEX-110 S. Broadway-Vanessa (X) JUMPERS MALL V-Richie Hwy. - Blue Lagoon (R) 7.55, 10
 7-nd Street (R) 12.30, 2.45, 5, 7.15, 9.30
 ARCADE - 408 Harford Rd. - KEY-Route 1, College Pt., Md. - Barbara's 750 Park George 1.20
 11th St. (PG) 1.45, 3.20, 4.55, 6.30, 8.05, 9.45
 BELAIR - Bell Air - Close Encounters of the Third Kind (PG) 7, 9.15
 BELTWAY PLAZA II - Dressed to Kill (R)
 BELTWAY PLAZA II - Big Red One
 BOULEVARD-380 Greenmount - Dressed to Kill (R) 2.50, 4.57, 5.35, 9.30
 CAMPUS HILLS CIN. - In-Bel Air
 The Hunter (PG) 2.28, 9.20
 CANTON 1201 Donnell Ave. - MINI-FLICK II - Pilevisville-La Capa
 Check & Check (R) 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
 CARROLL-Westminster - Urban MOVIES II - G.R. Mail - Blue Lagoon (R) 2.15, 9.15
 Countdown (PG) Starts 11:05
 CARROLLTOWNE - E-Elersburg MOVIES II - G.R. Mail - The Hunter
 Smolley & Bandt II (PG) 2, 7.15, 9.15
 Countdown (PG) Starts 11:05
 CARROLLTOWNE II - E-Elersburg MOVIES II - G.R. Mail - Smockey & Bandt II (PG) Starts 11:05
 Carrollton (PG) 2, 7.15, 9.15
 NEW-201 Park Ave.-Hunter (PG) 12.00, 12.22, 12.45, 5.57, 10.15
 3.30 The Shining (R) 5.05, 8

DRIVE-INS

BELAIR-Churchville-More American
 Griffith (PG) Up the Academy (R)
 BELTVILLE-Love Games (X) Street