The Museum of Modern Art

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Ed Bland, composer, arranger, and record producer, has been appointed Director of this summer's <u>Jazz in the Garden</u>, a series of ten Thursday evening promenade concerts at The Museum of Modern Art.

Musical and Budget Consultant to a number of record producers and such artists as George Benson, Country Joe & the Fish, Richie Havens, and Junior Wells, Mr. Bland is currently consultant to Lionel Hampton Enterprises. In addition to advising Lionel Hampton in updating his musical portfolio and preparing recording sessions, Mr. Bland writes arrangements for his orchestra. He is the composer of a hit of the 1967 Newport Jazz Festival -- "Greasy Greens" played by Hampton's orchestra.

Mr. Bland studied musical composition with John Becker, Jeanne Boyd, and Wallingford Riegger. As a youth, he played in and around Chicago with such jazzmen as King Cole, Red Allen and Art Tatum.

Active also in the film world, Mr. Bland wrote, directed and produced a semidocumentary film on negro life and its relation to jazz -- "The Cry of Jazz" -which has been widely distributed.

The concerts, which Mr. Bland is selecting this year, will feature a variety of styles of contemporary music. He describes the new 1968 <u>Jazz in the Garden</u> program in this way: "Instead of Hard Bop, or jazz styles derived mainly from the late '40s and '50s, the scope of the series will be broadened to include Chicago and other blues styles, Gospel music, Psychedelic and Far-Eastern jazz, jazz rock, folk rock, and folk music in addition to the more standard jazz acts."

The first concert will be held on Thursday, June 20 at 8:30 p.m.; the others will follow, weather permitting, on successive Thursdays in the Sculpture Garden through August 22. Admission to the Garden is 75 cents; cushions may be rented for 25 cents. Programs will be available at the Information Desk.

From June 20 through September 5, the Museum will be open until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday evening. The regular Thursday film will be shown in the Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. The Garden Restaurant will serve sandwiches, beer and soft drinks to those attending the jazz concert; the Penthouse Restaurant will be open to the public for dinner.