

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

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The Soft Machine will give tonight's Jazz in the Garden concert (Thursday, July 11) at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, at 8:30. This English, hard rock group consists of Robert Wyatt, drums, lead singer; Michael Ratledge, organ; Kevin Ayers, bass.

This summer's Jazz in the Garden series, directed by Ed Bland, features a variety of contemporary musical styles including some of the various attempts at synthesizing jazz and rock. The Pazant Brothers, a Harlem group, will give the July 18 concert. The concert to have been given by the Clark Terry Quintet on June 27 was cancelled because of rain, and has been rescheduled for August 29.

The entire Museum is open Thursday evening until 10 throughout the summer. The regular Museum admission, \$1.50, admits visitors to galleries and to 8 p. m. film showings in the Auditorium; there is no charge for ~~Museum~~ members. Admission to jazz concerts is an additional 75 cents for members and public.

As in previous Jazz in the Garden concerts, tickets for each concert are on sale in the Museum lobby from the preceding Saturday until the time of the Thursday evening performance. A few chairs are available on the garden terraces, but most of the audience stands or sits on the ground. Cushions may be rented for 25 cents. Beer and sandwiches are available for concert patrons. When a concert is cancelled because of rain, tickets are honored for the following Thursday. Other Museum activities continue as announced.

The Soft Machine attempts to fuse psychedelic rock and avant-garde jazz. They have the equipment of a psychedelic rock group, such as the fuzz box (distortion filter), wa-wa bass, and a drummer with two bass drums. They often produce an electrified, free-form jazz with a musical syntax akin to early 20th century classical music. In addition, their music has a beat and a moving bass line, that is jazz-inspired.

Traditional jazz has used the formal patterns of the blues and the pop song -- and their harmonic patterns as a set of limiting conditions to be played with as inventively as possible, thus setting up a sense of musical adventure. Sounding like
(more)

an amplified lion's roar, The Soft Machine attempts to spontaneously improvise a total composition, substituting a total musical adventure for the partial adventure of the traditional jazz soloists. All controls and limits are discovered while playing.

While searching for a new musical freedom, the lead singer (and drummer) upon occasion strips down to his bikini.

An early source of inspiration to some members of the group was Cecil Taylor. The music of The Soft Machine frequently sounds like electrified, avant-garde jazz.

Further information and photographs are available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Joan Wiggins, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. 245-3200.