



## Summergarden

### SONNY ROLLINS

SUMMERGARDEN, The Museum of Modern Art's series of free evenings in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, continues on Friday, July 19, with a rare solo appearance by master tenor saxophonist, Theodore Walter "Sonny" Rollins. Rollins will improvise on jazz standards, his own compositions, and the sounds of the city. SUMMERGARDEN is made possible by a grant from Mobil, the series' sponsor for nine seasons in the seventies.

Since the forties, Sonny Rollins has played with some of the great innovators in American music, including Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Bud Powell, Max Roach, Thelonious Monk, Tadd Dameron, J.J. Johnson, and Fats Navarro. In collaboration with these artists he experimented with a variety of new forms, yet he has always maintained a distinctive musical identity.

In 1956 Rollins joined one of the most formidable ensembles of the day, a quintet led by drummer Max Roach and trumpeter Clifford Brown. During his association with that group, he recorded albums such as Saxophone Colossus, establishing himself as a leading jazz innovator.

His solo performances have been rare--captured on a handful of live recordings made in nightclubs. Rollins's SUMMERGARDEN performance--which he says will be his last solo concert--will be recorded by Fantasy Records

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**Friday and Saturday evenings in the Sculpture Garden of  
The Museum of Modern Art are made possible by a grant from Mobil**

for release in October. The unique environment of the Museum's Sculpture Garden is appropriate for this historic event, since Rollins prefers performing "wherever there is no ceiling."

Although Rollins has "retired" twice to study music and philosophy, he has returned to performing each time with stylistic changes, while retaining his characteristic visionary voice. He recently told Cashbox magazine: "If I ever reach the point I'd like to reach, I would be able to play in a way that would transcend all current styles and ways of playing so my music would be free of all restrictions, yet would be a part of everything that's happening." Acclaimed by Billboard as "the master of the unaccompanied tenor saxophone," Rollins has helped to define the evolution of American music.

Earlier this year, Rollins travelled with his band in Europe and Japan and throughout the United States. In August he plans to visit Rio de Janeiro to give his first South American performances. In May of 1986 he will premiere a composition for tenor saxophone and symphony orchestra in Tokyo with the Yomiuri Shinbun Orchestra.

On Wednesday, July 17, the music of Sonny Rollins will be featured on the noon radio program "Around New York" in a segment hosted by Brooke Wentz on WNYC (FM 94).

Through SUMMERGARDEN, the Museum's Sculpture Garden is open free to the public on Friday and Saturday evenings in July and August, from 6 to 10 p.m. Performances are scheduled for Fridays at 8 p.m. In the event of rain, performances take place the following evening (Saturday) at 8 p.m. Entrance begins at 6 p.m. through the Garden Gate at 14 West 54 Street, between Fifth Avenue and The Avenue of the Americas. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Refreshments are available at the Garden Cafe.

SUMMERGARDEN is made possible by a grant from Mobil. Project director for the series is Andrew B. Caploe; associate project director is Peter S. Pretsfelder.

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For more information contact the SUMMERGARDEN office at 212/708-9850 or the Department of Public Information at 212/708-9750.