

The Museum of Modern Art

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The Roy Eldridge Quintet, a newly-formed group with Richie Kamuca as co-leader, will appear in Jazz in the Garden at the Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, July 29, at 8:30. Eldridge on trumpet and Kamuca on tenor saxophone will be joined by Richard Wyands, piano, Ben Tucker, bass, and Allen Dawson, drums. The quintet plays the seventh in a series of ten Thursday evening promenade concerts sponsored jointly by the Museum and DOWN BEAT magazine.

The regular Museum admission, \$1.00, admits visitors to galleries, open Thursdays until 10 p.m. Tickets for Jazz in the Garden are an additional 50 cents. 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. Sandwiches and soft drinks are available to concert-goers in the Garden Restaurant. Dinner is served to the public in the Penthouse Restaurant from 6 to 8. In case of rain, the concert will be canceled; tickets will be honored at the concert following.

In a career that has spanned four decades, Roy "Little Jazz" Eldridge has perfected a trumpet style, crackling, driving, biting, that personifies Swing. Born in Pittsburgh in 1911, Eldridge left home at 16 to join the band in a traveling carnival show. After playing with the groups of Horace Henderson, Zach Whyte, and Speed Webb, he joined McKinney's Cotton Pickers, one of the leading big bands of the day. Subsequently, he was a star sideman in other famous bands, including that of Fletcher Henderson. In 1937 he formed his own band.

In April, 1941, Eldridge became one of the first Negro musicians to be featured with a white band when he joined drummer Gene Krupa's orchestra. At that time Eldridge was the leading trumpet voice in jazz. His was the first significant departure from the dominating style of Louis Armstrong, and he had a strong influence on younger musicians, including his leading disciple, Dizzy Gillespie. After leaving Krupa in 1943, Eldridge became a staff musician at CBS radio, then toured with Artie Shaw's band, and again led his own groups. During the 50s and 60s,

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Eldridge was featured with Benny Goodman, toured with Jazz at the Philharmonic, lived and worked for several years in Paris, and most recently led singer Ella Fitzgerald's quartet. Eldridge appeared previously in Jazz in the Garden in 1961.

Co-leader Richie Kamuca at 35 is one of the most individual tenor saxophonists of the Lester Young school. He has worked with the bands of Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Chet Baker, Shorty Rogers and Shelly Manne, has appeared in the movie Kings Go Forth (1959) and is a prolific recording artist. His partnership with Eldridge indicates the trumpeter's continued youthful and fresh approach to jazz.

For Jazz in the Garden, Dan Morgenstern, New York editor of DOWN BEAT, is Chairman of a Program Committee consisting of David Himmelstein, editor of FM magazine, Charles Graham, a sound systems specialist, and Herbert Bronstein, Series Director.

The series will continue August 5 with the Jaki Byard Quartet.

Photographs and additional information available from Linda Goldsmith, Assistant,
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