

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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FOR RELEASE

Thursday, June 20, 1966

The Ruby Braff Septet will give the opening Jazz in the Garden concert at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, tonight (Thursday, June 23) at 8:30. The mainstream jazz group consists of Ruby Braff, cornet, Buddy Tate, tenor sax, Bob Wilber, soprano sax and clarinet, Phil Woods, alto sax, George Wein, piano, Jack Lesberg, bass, and Jake Hanna, drums. Jazz in the Garden, ten Thursday evening promenade concerts, is sponsored jointly by the Museum and Down Beat magazine. The series presents various facts of the jazz spectrum, from dixieland to avant garde. Earl "Fatha" Hines and his Septet will give the June 30 concert.

Beginning tonight, the entire Museum will be open Thursday evenings until 10. The regular museum admission, \$1.00, 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 50 cents for all.

As in previous Jazz in the Garden concerts, tickets for each concert will be on sale in the Museum lobby from Saturday until the time of the 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. In case of rain, the concert will be canceled; tickets will be honored at the concert following. Other Museum activities continue as announced.

Ruby Braff, the diminutive Boston-born trumpeter, is a musician dedicated to the style of jazz called "mainstream" - the warm-toned, melodic, swinging approach rooted in the tradition of Louis Armstrong and the classic stylists of the Swing Era. While most jazzmen of his generation turned to Bebop and the modern school, Braff has consistently adhered to a basically older style. However, he is a flexible player, and has not remained untouched by the work of Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis and other modern pace-setters. Braff's work has been highly praised by the critics. John S. Wilson called him "rich, warm, deeply rooted in basic jazz," and Nat Hentoff has described his music as "heatedly tender, richly swinging, and melodically flowing and imaginative." He won the Down Beat International Critics Poll in 1955 as new

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trumpet star.

Braff has been a permanent member of the Newport Jazz Festival All Stars for several years, as well as leading his own groups. In 1965, he made a successful tour of England. He had an acting and playing role in the Broadway production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical "Pipe Dream," 1955-56.

The musicians Braff has chosen for his Museum concert include the former Count Basie tenor sax star, Buddy Tate, who led his own big band in the final concert of last season's series. Bob Wilber, who will be featured on soprano sax and clarinet, began his professional career twenty years ago as the leader of the Scarsdale Jazz Band, one of the first jazz groups to revive successfully the traditional jazz styles of King Oliver and the New Orleans past. He studied with the famous Sidney Bechet, and later led his own "Wildcats," a group made up of young and veteran jazzmen. He is a gifted composer and arranger, and is also a teacher.

George Wein, who will take an unaccustomed role as a sideman with Braff, is best known as the originator and producer of the Newport Jazz Festival and many other festivals throughout the country and the world. Prior to his career as an impresario, however, Wein was a professional jazz pianist (and sometime singer), who worked with many famous musicians. He was heard at Jazz in the Garden with his own group in 1961, and with Bud Freeman's quintet last season.

Bassist Jack Lesberg, who is an accomplished classical musician as well as an outstanding jazzman, has worked with everybody from Louis Armstrong to Leonard Bernstein. Drummer Jake Hanna was the backbone of the Woody Herman band until last year, when he left the road to take a staff job with the Merv Griffin television show band.

For Jazz in the Garden, Dan Morgenstern, New York Editor of Down Beat, is Chairman of a Program Committee consisting of Charles Graham, a sound systems specialist and a contributor to Down Beat and Sound and Fury, and Herbert Bronstein, Series Director.

For additional information, contact Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.
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