

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Roland Kirk Quartet will give the eighth Jazz in the Garden concert of the season at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Thursday, August 11, at 8:30 p.m. Kirk, on tenor sax, flute, strich, and mangello, will be joined by Lannie Smith, piano, Edward Mathias, bass, Charles Crosby, drums, and Leonard Thomas, vocals.

Jazz in the Garden, ten Thursday evening promenade concerts, is sponsored jointly by the Museum and Down Beat magazine. The series will continue August 18 with the Art Farmer Quintet, and August 25, the Jackie McLean Quintet.

The entire Museum is open Thursday evenings until 10. The regular Museum admission, \$1.25, 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.

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 Herbert Bronstein, Series Director.

Roland Kirk, now thirty, has been blind since the age of three. At four he began to play the bugle, soon graduating to trumpet. While at the Ohio State School for the Blind in his native Columbus, he was exposed to classical music. When he was about 12, he decided upon the saxophone as his favorite instrument, and though he received some instruction, he is mainly self-taught. He was playing professionally with Boyd Moore's band by the time he was fifteen.

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A few years later, Kirk had a dream in which he played two instruments simultaneously. He told this to a music store proprietor, who took him to the basement where there were several old instruments. There Kirk found a manzello, a now-extinct saxophone resembling a soprano sax. He fixed it up, and began to play it with his tenor sax. After some years of work with bands in California and the southwest, Kirk returned to Columbus to form his own group. Here, he found another odd horn, a strich, a kind of elongated alto saxophone, the sound of which he liked. At first, he played this horn by itself, but soon added it to the other two. His fame spread locally, and in 1960 he was asked to record for a major company in Chicago. A German jazz critic, who was at the recording session, invited him to tour Europe. Later Kirk came to New York to do more recording, and met Charles Mingus, the famous bass player and bandleader, who asked Kirk to join his group. Subsequently, Kirk formed his own quartet, and has been touring in the US and Europe with great success.

Dan Morgenstern says, "In addition to the three saxophones, Kirk is also an accomplished flautist, and occasionally plays instruments of his own x devising. One of his trademarks is a small siren, which he plows to climax his choruses on other instruments. A description of Kirk might imply that he is a musical circus act. Nothing could be further from the truth. Kirk is a musician of enormous vitality and great imagination, and uses his uncanny facility to create music, not novelty effects. Kirk has won the Down Beat critics and readers polls for several years running, on flute and on miscellaneous instrument. He is also a prolific composer of jazz originals, among them "We Free Kings," "Rolando," and "Rip, Rig, and Panic."

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y: 10019. Circle 5-8900.