

The Museum of Modern Art

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BLACK JAZZ YODELER LEON THOMAS

AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Jazz vocalist Leon Thomas will appear in The Museum of Modern Art Jazz in the Garden series on Thursday, July 30, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Thomas, best known for "the absolutely unbelievable things he can do with his voice, things which can only be described as a totally unprecedented mixture of singing, yodeling and whistling," was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, on October 4, 1937. He first came to New York in 1958 after attending Tennessee State on a music and dramatic scholarship. He toured with Art Blakey and his quintet, then replaced Joe Williams as vocalist with Count Basie and his Orchestra in 1960. After serving in the Army, Leon rejoined Basie until 1965. He then began working with musicians at the Dom in the East Village and with the Underground Musicians and Artists Association in Los Angeles, and has worked frequently with Pharoah Sanders since 1968. He will be accompanied by a quintet for his performance at the Museum. Leon's first solo album, "Spirits Known and Unknown" for Flying Dutchman Limited, is currently on the Jazz LP charts.

The Thursday night Jazz in the Garden series, headed by Program Director Ed Bland, will continue through August 27. Admission is \$1.00 in addition to the regular Museum entrance fee (\$1.50, members free). Tickets go on sale the Saturday before the concert, and are available until concert time. In case of rain, concert is cancelled.

Additional information available from Garry George, Assistant to the Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York, 10019. Telephone (212) 956-7504.