

THE LEGACY OF ALBERT AYLER

by John Litweiler

TO BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING. It was Ornette Coleman who revolutionized jazz at the start of the 1960s. It was Coleman—with his contemporaries Dolphy, Rollins, Coltrane, and Taylor—who determined that the New Music would be a revolution of sensibility; they did not just introduce new techniques into jazz, they opened the art to a wholly new realm of emotions, discoveries, human statements.

Albert Ayler was part of the New Music's second wave, as Joseph Jarman would say. After Coleman and his fellows, an entire musical generation of slightly younger men whose art was formed under their influence was sure to follow. Among these players Albert Ayler was the very finest, the truest revolutionary, the one heroically original mind.

At his best, Ayler was fully as great as Coltrane, and perhaps even Coleman. All these are familiar statements; his admirers have repeated them for several years now. Very few musicians have ever aroused so much responsive excitement, pro or even

U.S. reissue, Ayler's narrative ("My name is Albert Ayler . . .," etc.) is edited out, so we fade in on his only recorded soprano solo, the funny, highly ironic *Bye Bye Blackbird*; the organization of this and *Green Dolphin Street* predict the sure freedom of the ESP-Disks. *Billie's Bounce* is his contribution to hard bop, an optimistic million miles removed from Parker's conception.

Summertime is one of the New Music's classics. The theme is an overwhelming tragic lament. Images of pathos compound throughout the brilliantly subtle structure, and the precarious optimism of Gershwin's closing chords turns into despairing pleas for the illusion of hope. Already, Ayler's extreme care for exact dramatization, the perfection of dynamic shading, the precision of volume gradations, even the concept of nuances and grace phrases determining *Summertime's* structure—these and the power of his message demonstrate an utterly unique individuality in jazz, an utterly rare sensitivity for drama and defined emotion, a Shakespearean sense of feeling and wholeness.

Not long after, Ayler began appearing regularly in New York, and all who heard

cock and Murray were Ayler's most consistent companions as his art developed.

What qualities won him such immediately enthusiastic attention and admiration? Already, though still a young musician, his influences were far behind him; pertinently, he named Bechet and Lester Young, among many others, and obviously the sense of Rollins and Coleman is prime. Hear his *Children* solo: it is Rollins' methods in their most emotional terms, reproduced with Free means. His incredibly large, fully sonorous (Larry Kart: "The biggest human sound I ever heard") sound was the most evident aspect of a most sophisticated dynamic sensitivity. (Equally, or maybe even more importantly, nobody could play more softly, and, mainly, could more exactly delineate degrees and nuances of meaning.) This music is a dramatic experience: the classic range of Ayler's perceptions was clarified by that precise construction and continuity.

Two aspects of his art were most revolutionary. Before him the ideas of microtones, "blue notes", dramatically flattened or sharpened shading originate at the beginning of jazz. In pre-Free days certain pianists (Monk, Herbie Nichols, Taylor, even Bud Powell) invented harmonies to distort or obliterate the common sense of specific tones and chord changes. Then Rollins, then Coleman, then Coltrane began to use the saxophone's specific overtones and harmonics capabilities as necessary effects. Ayler was the first to make such unusual—"freak", if you will—sounds a basis for his art.

As Ayler-haters love to point out, such weird noises come from kids first learning their horns. Now, Ayler began as a teen-aged bluesman, and as he matured into a virtuoso tenorist he very thoughtfully explored all of his horn's possibilities. His mastering the overtones and harmonics ranges was his most revolutionary technical advance. I believe it was George Russell who years ago pointed out that African music is atonal, arrhythmic, full of Ayler's kind of indeterminate note choices. If so, then Ayler's deliberated inexact pitches are a return to the basics of black music.

Equally important is Ayler's (and the Ayler groups') time. It's admirable that certain journalists originally tried to "sell" this music to a wider audience, but some love to repeat the canard that it's posited on conventional bop-swing 4/4 time. In fact, a fair amount of later Ayler is in 4/4, as are most of his composed themes in all periods. As he explained: "I like to play something that people can hum . . . from simple melodies to complicated textures to simplicity again and then back to the more dense, the more complex sounds." In most of his solos, the theme is quickly abandoned; thereafter it demands a fanatic to hear 4/4 in his manner and accenting.

Ayler nullified conventional time. Emotionalism, lyricism and structure were his major interests, so pure freedom of time, tonality, pitch and sonority were fundamental. Ornette Coleman used to propose the ideal of the perfectly free, unbound musical statement. Ayler, then, was the first to realize this completely in his music, and since *Spirits* and *Spiritual Unity* and *Ghosts*, only a very few have even approx-

imated Ayler's freedom.

Consider his great performances. He dominates *Mothers*, but that is a true communal realization, with a haunting, elegiac Cherry solo and Ayler's bittersweet conception. I recall critic Larry Kart's notion of artistic "masks": Ayler's big broad tones may often be optimistic, even exultant, but his lines in *Mothers* suggest a terrible sadness. The lack of tempo aids the again dynamic structure: every large phrase has its afterthought, for definition and, mainly, amplification—"This is true, and moreover, these are vital facts of this truth in addition, and even more, these further truths follow in emotional logic." Thus, as in the almost equally great *Holy Spirit*, beautiful phrases of heroic import are, in afterthought, clarified in terms of pain and acceptance.

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An undertone of classic—Hamlet-like, let's say—melancholy pervades all this music. The themes almost always end in downward motives, even the pop songs he chose for *My Name Is Albert Ayler*. The isolated sequences drift slowly into sad descending lines; an agonized yearning is inherent in the frequent fast, rising long lines that eventually are smashed with the familiar growls and helpless momentary tenor eruptions.

Compare the four famous *Ghosts* to understand the breadth of Ayler's genius. One simply offers the theme, in all its jollity, in several tempos. The second, with delightful Peacock and especially Cherry, has Ayler destroying the theme with hilarious cynicism, then fleeing into strong, various "energy" lines. But the first trio *Ghosts*, a justly-praised work, adds dark, disturbed realizations in its extended length, while the great second trio *Ghosts* totally rejects the theme's pleasing good nature. Cruelly agonized stuttered phrases appear before the solo rises to a visionary catharsis with an incredible welter of fast lines in "unknown" pitches, booms, hurtful rising phrases.

Suddenly we realize that Ayler's comic episodes are slight masks for an extremely intense sense of black humor, that his ironies are the material of classic satire, that continuous change, extreme internal disorder and passion are eternal necessities resolved within his humanely understanding and responsible frame of reference.

It's a far cry from Coltrane, for one alternative. Coltrane's musical contradictions became brilliant conflicts that found satisfaction only in violence and continued agitation. He is usually considered the greater artist—yet Ayler's broad vision and the humane responsibility of his musical philosophy are the more life-sustaining principles. As listeners we recognize and internalize Coltrane's passionate conflicts, yet as modern men and women we need Ayler's bitter humor, his resigned sorrow, his fully sensitive tragic awareness as a condition of our lives at their most ideally humane.

True, we live in a time of progressively increasing disorientation, social destruction, institutional malice, with the result being, for us and even for great creators such as Ayler, increasing fear, ignorance, vio-

lence, escapism. Albert Ayler daily struggled for professional existence against the most hardened attitudes, the most inhuman reactions and conditions. It is most important in hearing his music to understand that he visualized life in more open, more sensitive, ideally even simpler terms. His entire career was totally opposed to the mainstream of modern American existence.

You'll notice that among younger—say, under-35—musicians, Ayler's music has proven as influential as Coleman's or Coltrane's. At least part of the reason is his beautiful partners during his great period. Sometimes Peacock unsuccessfully tried to evoke free wind phrasings on his bass, but on the whole his smiling, intellectual creations were among the best jazz bass playing between early Haden and current Malachi Favors. Murray by this time had (at last!) evolved a percussion style of total accent and ensemble involvement. Partly his revolutionary approach was born of necessity (imagine any of his predecessors—Roach, Richmond, Elvin Jones, etc.—in Ayler's groups); Murray is one of those inevitable crucial figures who appear in jazz when they are needed most. And after playing in Ornette's shadow and with the straightforward New York Contemporary Five, Cherry became, with Ayler, the perfect responsive group member, growing in technique and breadth within Ayler's comparatively loose, thematically-oriented designs.

John Tchicai and Roswell Rudd join them for the jam session LP, *New York Eye and Ear Control*. It might have been a disaster like Coltrane's *Ascension*, but the more sophisticated shared principles of free time and harmonic basis guarantee part of the music's success. *AY* has one of Cherry's most original, haunting solos among the communal improvisations, but *ITT* is better because Ayler's complete dominance has the others continually regrouping around him—in places, genuine ensemble improvisation emerges. (In mid-1964, don't forget, the idea of collective improvisation was still fresh and explorative—the ideas Ayler's group evolves here were to flower a few years later into the sophisticated Chicagoans' methods.)

By May Day, 1964, Ayler had added acolytes and a regular method of ordering group performances. Don Ayler tended to serve as a Cherry to Ayler's Ornette role, and Charles Tyler was a strong, more gracefully linear Ayler-influenced altoist. Their performances began with little skitter, repeated themes, or extra-raunchy marches, or Gay 90s-like maudlin ditties, or occasionally all of these. The themes were played with a captivating wholehearted fervor, the trumpet leading, the tenor making expansive harmonic decorations.

Usually Albert Ayler would offer a sadly sentimental, quavery, out-of-tempo solo with nagging afterthoughts, like a cranky grandmother who bakes apples pies and quietly farts a lot. A repetition of one of the initiating themes would introduce each soloist; they would take turns in whirlwind tempos, then join in ensemble improvisations. It was a delightful and usually surprisingly successful music, somewhat

light in intent compared with Ayler's great works. The revolutionary techniques are evident, the solos—especially Albert Ayler's—are tremendously forceful, yet it lacks the breadth and sensitivity of Ayler's great period.

This general approach runs to *Love Cry*, about mid-1967. *Bells* is the group's first and most commonly-admired LP, but *Spirits Rejoice* is just as fine. The title track recalls Dan Morgenstern's remark, "Like a Salvation Army band on LSD" with its several themes, and *D.C.* is their best single work, truly excellent solos by the Ayler brothers and Tyler. *Angels*, by Albert, a frilly harpsichord, and Murray, returns to the great Ayler. From the beginning we hear the techniques of overblown mush, with niggling harmonies and grace phrases. But this belies a theme of immensely poignant yearning. A heart-breaking vibrato emphasizes this sense of internalized theme and decorations—in the way Billie Holiday and Lester Young offered simply theme and decorations.

This band won Albert Ayler something of a wide audience. "Wide audience" usually means little to free musicians, but Ayler did move on LPs from ESP to the more fastidiously produced Impulses. The *Greenwich Village* LP recaptures the spirit of *Spirits Rejoice* and includes *For John Coltrane*, a long alto solo (played in his tenor style). *Love Cry* is eight of the "simple, folk-like" themes played over and over, with a minimum of Don Ayler improvising, Albert generally content to harmonically decorate the dry trumpet lead. By then Tyler was on his own, and even Murray had been replaced. Ayler's choices at this point represent a dangerous narrowing of scope from his original creative premises, and his last two LPs, the rhythm-and-blues/rock/vocal works, represent a crisis in his conception.

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Among some Free musicians there is a need to "meet the public"—to emphasize features of their music that appear to have wide popular appeal. It may be conscious or an unconscious need, but it has nothing to do with selling out or going commercial: a musician *can* attempt to present a broad message without debasing or falsifying it. The most likely explanation for his last two LPs is that this philosophically assured revolutionary was convinced of his ability to communicate within any medium.

So you have, in *New Grass*, quite excellent Ayler tenor over a dull rock rhythm section, with freshly trite and banal songs and singers performing some of the most uninspired material since LPs were invented. The very dark and shocking near-unaccompanied tenor solo in the title track is essential Ayler art; solos in *Heart Love*, *Sun Watcher*, *New Generation* additionally present a somewhat more determinedly lyrical approach to the basic Ayler style, and they are also valuable. *New Ghosts*, a calypso, is played in the tone of the nastiest early-'50s r&b tenors, but the phrasing is remarkably Rollins-like—in deed, except for the tone this could pass

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con. You'll recall how, a few years ago, the jazz magazines were full of Ayler interviews and critical appraisals. Let's go back to his great period, his early records, and note the features that mark his genius as a creator.

His first LP was a nightclub set, bass and drums accompanying, in a semi-free post-Rollins style. It was issued in a very limited edition on a private European label, and remains extremely rare. *My Name Is Albert Ayler* dates from the same European years, about 1962-63, when his brief, seminal association with Taylor took place. This is Ayler soloing with a grubby (despite an able bassist) bop rhythm section, and partly because of the accompanying trio, critics universally derided the music.

But actually, the creation is magnificent. Ayler carries all the pieces, so that even *C.T.*, the free track, almost works. In the

him immediately recognized his uniqueness. Don't forget that in the early '60s Free musicians and fans were a tiny, near secret underground group—and that really means *underground*, without the current fashionable or P.R. overtones. They played at obscure coffee houses, on fleeting tavern gigs, sometimes at musicians' homes, and in rare concerts at churches, schools, art galleries, etc. (Today, of course, the scene has progressed: now you can hear the music at obscure coffee houses, fleeting tavern gigs, rare spontaneous sessions, some concerts, etc.)

Ayler did much sitting in back then, his presence guaranteeing these fugitive affairs as memorable ones. Along the way, he joined forces with trumpeter Don Cherry, bassist Gary Peacock and drummer Sunny Murray for travels and recording. As it happens, this was one of the very finest modern jazz groups—in fact, Pea-

players are trying to do a thing to trumpeters. (Only a joke, sax players!) It did seem fitting that the sole trumpeter should be Hubbard, because this program had been quality all the way. And certainly Hubbard is at least one of the best, if not the best, of young trumpeters around.

There are a lot of really good musicians performing today. People who feel com-

trumpet to fluegelhorn, he demonstrated great "chops", unique hand dexterity, and a superb musical mind. (It's how he coordinates all of this.)

Barron had a solo shot on *Black Angel* which ended with a pulchritudinous modulation into *Rainy Day*. Hubbard then took over and, playing fluegelhorn, with the help, oddly enough, of a faulty sound

all night long.

Bass contributed outstanding support and his solos, if not outstanding, were at least enjoyable to listen to. On a couple of numbers he picked up the Fender bass, which he was obviously uncomfortable with, playing restricted rhythmic ostinatos. I guess I'm too old-fashioned and traditional to understand the current attraction to that instrument.

Louis Hayes was Louis Hayes. Always on time, always ready to play with the least amount of effort and the greatest amount of musicianship. I've seen him in a number of different settings: with Oscar Peterson, Horace Silver and Cannonball Adderley. He has always responded with elegance and affirmation of his skills.

The thing that puzzles me most about Hubbard is why he plays inside. It seems to me he could do anything he wants to do. I've heard him play free and he's as comfortable with that as he is with anything else. I really don't think he needs the $II^7 = V^7$ progressions or the other tricks that keep musicians hung up on diatonic concepts and inside. Well, that's his thing, and his thing is enjoyable to listen to.

One closing remark. I would like to thank Ken McIntyre and Wesleyan University for giving me and the other students the opportunity to see this fine series of concerts. —Bill Cole

Frank Wright/Noah Howard

Cami Hall (Formerly Judson Hall), New York City

Personnel: Wright, tenor saxophone; Howard, alto saxophone; Bobby Few, piano; Muhammad Ali, drums.

Frank Wright and company had too much going from them to miss at Judson, sorry, Cami Hall. Like many of their fellow players, they have achieved little recognition and less exposure in the United States. Wright and Howard made two LPs each for ESP, and Few and Ali have been heard backing Albert Ayler, Pharoah Sanders, and others, but their names are still relatively unfamiliar to most listeners. Their quartet, however, is far from an *ad hoc* grouping of adventurous players. It is a working unit, with six months of recording and performing throughout Europe behind it. This Jazz Spotlight production was the quartet's first appearance since the successful European trip, and, armed with mutual understanding and energy to burn, they proceeded to raise the roof for two and a half hours, nonstop.

While a few listeners who evidently had been expecting something quite different left early, most of those present were mesmerized by the music. It started calmly enough, with a lyrical saxophone duet. Ali arrived onstage and began (rhythmically) nailing down his drums as Few's piano faded up under the horns. After a few minutes of melodic reflection, with both saxophonists displaying rounded, full-bodied sounds, Howard disappeared into the wings and Wright and Ali jumped into some full-tilt energy playing. Only Few was miked, but his piano swirled far underneath the tearing, screaming, propulsive sounds of Wright and Ali.

Wright is an exciting player who com-

municates his involvement and joy to the audience through skipping dances, pirouettes into the air, and broad smiles when the band is spectacularly taking care of business. He plays broad, asymmetrical phrases, often rising from deep, heavy sounds through the natural overtones of the horn and up to great whooping shrieks with his entire body behind them. He often favors an Earth Mover approach, getting down under the flailing drums and pushing upward with dark, thick strokes.

Howard followed Wright's solo with a statement centered in the alto's "false" upper register. Dressed in a long white garment of eastern origin, he had the effect of a dervish, wailing hell-for-leather and moving like a man in a trance. Next, Few offered a piano solo that used a variety of effects well; he has grown considerably since he last played in New York. His familiar sustained tremolo passages were interspersed with sections that effectively contrasted the extreme upper and lower registers, and with moving bass-and-treble criss-crosses in a style that might be described as space stride. Ali seemed to draw energy from the music and at the same time turn the energy back with an all-out drive that created incredible kinetic movement without references to standard meter. He is one of the most powerful of a growing number of drummers who can swing like mad without limiting the rhythmic variety and flexibility so essential to the "New Music."

An hour or more of furious playing passed like so many seconds. Less to-

gether groups which go in for energy manifestations often break down at this point, unable to find a release for the high tension which inevitably results from such a surfeit of energy and force, but Wright kept interest and power together by steering the music into a re-examination of



Frank Wright

some notable facets of its origins. A reference to melodic fragments of *My Favorite Things* launched Howard on his most lyrical solo of the evening; his rich alto sound conveyed the heritage of his home town, New Orleans. Wright then reworked a four note fragment of *A Love Supreme* at considerable length. Though the music

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for a Rollins solo. There is Ayler's own singing "in tongues" here, too, with traces of his saxophone approach in the quavery vocal—a nice diversion.

In the end, it's good Ayler, and you can overlook the accompanying sinners. His last LP was his worst artistic mistake. In four of the six pieces, Ayler's tenor is secondary to ponderously banal, unreal out-of-tempo vocals. You quickly get the fear that Ayler really believed in such childlike lies as "A man is like a tree, a tree is like a man," or "Music is the healing force of the universe." His bagpipe piece is pretty ordinary, for him, and the saddest piece has a skillful, convincing rock-blues quartet with Ayler for the most part nagging unsuccessfully at moss-covered r&b phrases.

The average soul music fan would find this music hickish, the average rock fan would miss the necessary inhuman brutality or introverted sentimentalism. Ayler avoided the most popular or useful modern lies, but his own kind of humbug was hardly an improvement. Mostly, these last two LPs prove that Ayler really did remain creative and individualistic despite the surroundings.

Of Albert Ayler's value there is no question: for a time, at least, he was one of the several great jazz originals, and every one of his recorded works is important. Of his importance in the development of jazz, I've already noted his revo-

lutionary ideas of saxophone technique, structure, ensemble organization. But I wonder if certain Coltrane-Pharoah Sanders works might have been conceived without Ayler's previous models of technique. Charles Tyler was certainly affected by Ayler's music, and most importantly, an entire movement of free jazzmen, the Chicagoans, formed their art during Ayler's ascendancy: you can certainly hear Ayler in saxists Maurice McIntyre and Henry Threadgill; even Joseph Jarman's most advanced saxophone ideas suggest Ayler's techniques, and Roscoe Mitchell's work is a further step in the structurally and dynamically highly sensitive area that Ayler (and before him Rollins, Monk, Coleman and Lester Young) developed.

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Does anyone disagree? Can anyone claim, at this stage of the dissolution of America, that Ayler's ideas were unimportant? Ayler's creations, even at the end, were far larger than life: his conflict and pain and poverty were those of a hero, albeit Ayler was a hero unfortunately like you and me in outward appearance. His was a classic art. His strange death prematurely deprived American music of all kinds of one of its outstanding vital forces. If we are to become a civilization, Ayler's kind of humanist understanding, his depth and complexity, even his kind of contrasting simplicities and innocences, must become part of our character. We cannot all be heroes, but it may be that we can someday be the more sensitive individuals Albert Ayler thought we might be.

of Howard and Wright may owe more to Albert Ayler's universe than to Coltrane's, the tribute was fitting, an acknowledgment of spiritual as well as musical inspiration.

The rest of the concert was like a trip back into time, but with the sharp immediacy and furor of the present. Wright played a spiritual tune straight out of the Protestant Hymnal, lovingly and with feeling. Then he and Howard fell into powerful blues riffing again jumping off from a very simple, distilled phrase. With Few's funky chording behind them and Ali kicking things along, the quartet sounded like a 1950s' rhythm and blues band, freer to be sure, but with the same power, inflection and drive. Few played a fantastic solo that transmuted soul stylings into a polytonal explosion of interweaving lines, with the down-home feeling intact, and the horns returned to riff out a flagwaving finale.


Jim Harrison, who hopes to make Jazz Spotlight features at Cami Hall a regular experience, deserves support if the quality of the music continues to match the heights reached by Wright and Company. Regular working bands like this one are a necessity if the possibilities of free interaction are to be fully realized, and their obvious enjoyment and high spirits, as well as their feeling for the traditions of their art, make them a must-see combination. Hopefully they will be able to stay together in the economic quicksand of the U.S. jazz scene and continue to inspire us. —Bob Palmer

Discographical Notes

Ayler's first LP, the Scandinavian night club trio set in a limited edition, is of course long unavailable. I do not own, additionally, two other important Ayler LPs: *Spirits*, recorded in Europe with a quartet including trumpeter Norman Howard, and Sunny Murray's first LP, *Sunny's Time Now*, produced by the American Jihad label, which Ayler nonetheless dominates and which also includes Don Cherry. Both are extremely unavailable, in Europe and here, and both are products of Ayler's great period, far superior to the later ESPs and Impulses.

My Name Is Albert Ayler is Fantasy 86016; and includes his first masterpiece, *Summertime*. **Ghosts** is Fontana SFIL 925/888 606 AY, with the two quartet *Ghosts* and *Children*, *Holy Spirit*, *Vibrations*, and *Mothers*; the better record stores often do have the **Ghosts** LP.

Spiritual Unity is ESP-Disk 1002, with the two trio *Ghosts* plus *The Wizard* and *Spirits*. Nowadays, all ESPs are in the Schwann Catalog, and good stores stock the ESPs anyway. This and the Fontana are the greatest Ayler collections.

Bells is ESP-Disk 1010; **Spiritual Unity** is ESP-Disk 1020; **New York Eye And Ear Control** is ESP-Disk 1016. Of Ayler's Impulse records, **Albert Ayler In Greenwich Village**, with *For John Coltrane* but without Charles Tyler, is A-9155; **Love Cry** is 9165; **New Grass**, with *Heart Love*, *New Generation*, *Sun Watcher*, and his sixth recorded *Ghosts*, is 9175; the unfortunate **Music is the Healing Force of the Universe** is 9191. 



Freddie Hubbard: "... great chops, unique hand dexterity, and a superb musical mind."

fortable with their horns, people who are called virtuosos for one reason or another, people who can negotiate a score or who can blend well with musicians to successfully pull off a difficult arrangement. But Hubbard is on another level.

If you have any doubt about this, listen to his improvisations. Listen to his sequences of notes. The people who can really play rarely rely on centers for security. They play intervallic relationships which are difficult to hear and have very little tonal continuity. Then there's time and phrasing: creating shapes which are sometimes jagged, sometimes smooth, sometimes conical, sometimes plane-like. But the really exceptional musicians put this all together to create an experience, and Freddie Hubbard is a truly exceptional musician.

The concert started about an hour late and lasted 3½ hours with a short intermission. The chapel was packed and the gathering was enthusiastic, as it had been for the three preceding concerts.

Hubbard's portfolio for this concert ranged from the serenely beautiful *Black Angel* by Kenny Barron to the rollicking *Red Clay*. Piece after piece after piece, Hubbard played flawlessly. Switching from

system (something which marred the rest of the concert), penetrated the abyss of musical thought. He then leaped, with the help of double time, into chromatic lines with turns and imitations, transposing through sequences. And with all of this an echo created by the reproduction unit, which gave the piece a *Rosemary's Baby* feeling—eerie, strung out.

Barron was almost inaudible all night. Chapels are not always the best places to hear a musical performance unless the sound system is good. The mikes kept going off and Barron, along with Cook, was most affected by this technological faux pas. On the one piece where he could be heard, *Black Angel*, he again evinced why he is a prodigious two-hand line player. Like Hubbard, he hears the difficult intervallic relationships, and he really hears the blues.

Cook played with more vigor and aggressiveness than I had heard from him in a long time. It was really too bad that the mike kept going out, because I know that some of his concentration was lost when he had to switch back and forth or was having the mikes switched for him by Hubbard. But it didn't diminish his statements, which were clear and direct

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