

ALBERT AYLER OCTET PLAYS JAZZ CONCERT

The Albert Ayler Octet indicated at a concert at the Village Theater on Saturday night that the jazz avant-garde really does have a song in its heart. However, the song turned out to be rather monotonous—a sing-song country jig that served as an ensemble theme on several occasions.

Once past these keening ensembles, Mr. Ayler and his musicians moved into the customary avant-garde array of shrills, flutters, squeaks and despairing shouts. There was little to distinguish Mr. Ayler, on tenor saxophone, or his brother, Donald, on trumpet, from other saxophonists and trumpeters who squeal and rant on their instruments. Michel Sampson offered a slight change of pace since he made his statements on violin, showing very agile bowing and plucking.

Two string bassists, Bill Folwell and Alan Silva, joined in several brief, challenging duets, which brightened the evening considerably. Mr. Ayler's group also included Joel Friedman, cellist, George Steele, trombonist, and Beaver Harris, drummer. The program—called "Music of the Year 2000!!"—was devoted to Mr. Ayler's compositions.

JOHN S. WILSON

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