


EDMONTON JAZZ SOCIETY

THE EJS NEWSLETTER
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**MINGUS
DYNASTY**

**JOHNNY GRIFFIN
QUARTET**

March 20 & 21 · 8 & 11pm nitely
at the Palms Café 10010-102 Street
Featuring Randy Brecker
Clifford Jordan · Roland Hanna
Mike Richmond · Billy Hart
EJS Members \$7 Non-Member \$8
Advance tickets at Mike's

March 24-28 · 9pm nitely
at the Palms Café 10010-102 Street
Tues-Thurs · EJS Members \$6
Non-Member \$7
Fri-Sat · EJS Members \$7
Non-Member \$8



Presented by the Edmonton Jazz Society & the Palms Café

MINGUS DYNASTY

Charles Mingus (1922-1979) was one of jazz music's true originals. As a master composer and legendary band leader, he produced music that reflected a wide range of styles and emotions.

The New Yorker magazine calls Mingus "incomparable" and says that his compositions, for sheer melodic and rhythmic and structural originality, may equal anything written in western music in the twentieth century.

The fact that such notable and diverse musical artists as Jeff Beck, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Joni Mitchell, Bertram Turetzky, Woody Herman, The Art Ensemble of Chicago, Lionel Hampton, John McLaughlin, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, and many others who have recorded and performed Mingus' music attests to his impact on contemporary music.

The Mingus Dynasty band was formed to help perpetuate the great musical legacy of Charles Mingus, and to keep the spirit of that music as close to the original as possible. Its fluctuating membership includes musicians who have performed or recorded with Mingus, as well as some new and established talents in jazz.

The current personnel of the band includes Sir ROLAND HANNA on piano. He performed and recorded with Mingus in the late fifties and early sixties. In fact, Roland Hanna appears on a 1959 Columbia record with Charles, titled Mingus Dynasty.

Tenor saxophonist CLIFFORD JORDAN toured with Charles Mingus in the sixties and performed on some of the finest Mingus recordings of that era including the legendary Great Concert of Charles Mingus (Prestige 34001). He has been a featured member of the Mingus Dynasty since the summer of 1980.

RANDY BRECKER is one of the most versatile young trumpet players on the scene today. Randy performed on the final three Mingus albums and on the most recent Dynasty recording. Together with his brother Michael, the Brecker Brothers have recorded and toured extensively with their jazz fusion band. Randy has performed off and on with the Dynasty since its inception.

Drummer BILLY HART has played with nearly every major figure in jazz including Miles Davis. He joined the recent Dynasty formation in July 1980 and performs on their second album.

MIKE RICHMOND, bassist, has played or recorded with Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Milt Jackson, Elvin Jones and countless others. He performed in Edmonton in 1975 with Jack DeJohnette. Mike has been a pivotal member of the Dynasty for over a year and a half.

*****Grant McCuen Community College will be sponsoring a workshop with members of the Mingus Dynasty band on Saturday March 21 at 2:30 p.m. in room 182 of the Jasper Place Campus which is located at 100 ave and 156 street in Edmonton. For more information call 483-4111 weekdays between 9 and 5.

!!!!!!!The EJS is offering a package rate for those jazz fans who wish to attend all four shows of the Mingus Dynasty band. All four shows for \$24. Tickets at Mikes and the door

JOHNNY GRIFFIN

JOHNNY GRIFFIN, the 50-year old Chicago-born tenorist, whose recordings with Thelonious Monk, Art Blakey, John Coltrane, Wes Montgomery, Wilbur Ware, Eddie Lockjaw Davis, and others, established himself as one of the most fiery and distinctive saxophonists of the '50s and '60s, returns to Edmonton and the Palms Cafe for a five night stand beginning March 24.

Johnny Griffin may not be a familiar name to all jazz listeners, but he should be. Griffin is one of a handful of traditional, swing-oriented saxophonists who, like Dexter Gordon, Gene Ammons and Hank Mobley, started playing in the late 40s and fully emerged during the fifties as one of the truly distinctive proponents of the instrument. A portion of Griffin's undeserved obscurity may be blamed on his residence in Europe since 1963. Also, since his expatriation, he has not recorded as profusely as he did 20 years ago. But since 1978 when he returned to the states for a triumphant homecoming, the word has been spreading about one of masters of the tenor saxophone.

Fortunately, Griffin's musical voyages have been well documented and many of those records are still available. At the Five Spot (Milestone) is a phenomenal record documenting his work with Thelonious Monk; Griffin's Chicago period, with Coltrane and Mobley, is available on Blowin' Sessions (Blue Note); the Eddie Lockjaw Davis-Johnny Griffin band is represented by The Toughest Tenors (Milestone); his latest efforts include Bush Dance (Galaxy), Return of the Griffin (Galaxy) [featuring Ronnie Mathews and Ray Drummond] and the soon to be released New York City Underground (Galaxy).

Johnny's regular working quartet includes RONNIE MATHEWS on piano. His brilliant playing has graced the bands of Woody Shaw and Clark Terry, among others. RAY DRUMMOND, bassist, appeared with Griffin (as did Marthews) in December 1979 at the Palms in a week of performances that will not easily be forgotten. Drummer KENNY WASHINGTON should be no stranger to jazz fans in this part of the world. His work with Betty Carter during her performances in Alberta during 1979 was extraordinary. The Johnny Griffin Quartet should not be missed. See you there!