

# Jazz finale: an instant ovation for hot cats

By DAN McKAY  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A smashing conclusion to the Jazz Club's fifth annual Jazz Week was delivered Friday night at Eisenhower Auditorium when a twinned featuring the Sonny Fortune Quartet and State College's own Bravura played before a pitifully small crowd of a few hundred fans.

The music was fine overall, but inadequate preparation severely limited the size of the audience which came to hear this enjoyable night of jazz. Despite this handicap, Fortune's band played some of the most vibrant jazz improvisation heard locally since Sonny's playing before a much larger crowd in the same hall a year and a half ago with the Milestone Jazzstars. In fact, it's ironic that Fortune's piano player sounded at times as if he has been influenced by the technique of the jazzstars' McCoy Tyner by the way he was sprinkling twinkling chords with his right hand while grounding forth a rich melody below with his left hand.

The quartet maintained a good balance between sax, piano, electric bass and drums, jolting together firmly yet freely as they played all original material previously recorded on Fortune's many albums. Then an instant standing ovation by the sparse, faithful brought them back onstage to perform a swaying waltz rendition of the Miles Davis classic, "Four."

Some of their jams sizzled, while others were cool, but never did they depart from the masterful execution by these hot cats.

Fortune himself was in rare form, switching frequently between soprano sax, alto sax and flute without a flinch throughout the two-hour set. The fullness of his beautiful tone was especially enthralling, leading one to suspect that his lung capacity and resistance in exhaling would make him a natural underwater breath-holding champion.

## music review

The drummer's jagged jabs of polyrhythmic syncopations were fresh and creative, much like Tony Williams or some of the bebop drummers who "drop bombs" with a never-ending variety of rim shots, cymbal crashes and bass pedal drum thumps to punctuate the established tempo they simultaneously keep.

When it was all over, booking the Quartet seemed like a stroke of genius. Having Bravura play warm-up to them was a nice touch, too. It allowed one of the most popular bar bands in town to be seen and heard by those either too young or too poor to catch their act elsewhere in town.

Unfortunately, Friday's gig caught the quintet in the midst of a major personnel change which probably accounted for part of their stiffness. Newcomers Steve Aug (bass) and Muggs Gallagher (saxophone) just joined Bravura a week and a half ago. They played well enough on their own, but as a unit they were disjointed. The other members, Bob Colner (piano), Tony Hoover

(guitar) and Chris Gongolas (drums), have played together since last spring.

"Our goal is to work up enough polished original material to eventually go into the studio," Gongolas explained.

Daily enough, it often sounded as if the band members had made fright during the eight tunes they played. They would have been better off, however, loosening up their tight fusion formula to achieve a more sophisticated level of improvisation.

"You can't be a professional musician and a student at the same time," Gongolas said. "It's too hard."

Ostensibly, as long as they stay out of school and in the bars, they stand a chance of following the gold- and platinum-brickroad to success available with a recording contract.

Their tight, original compositions are similar in many respects to the fusion bands of Jeff Lorber, Chuck Mangione, Bill Bruford, Spyro Gyra and Native Son, each of which has had some degree of success with studio recordings and their subsequent airplay.

Bravura, which means "a florid, brilliant style of music," has all the earmarks of commercial success. Let's just hope their material matures beyond merely catchy riffs and moves toward a uniquely progressive approach.

In addition, they would be well-advised to make sure that whichever recording label signs them provides a professional public relations office. Gongolas, who doubles as president of Jazz Club, admitted that his advance promotion of the concert was partly responsible for the low turnout for this otherwise fine show.

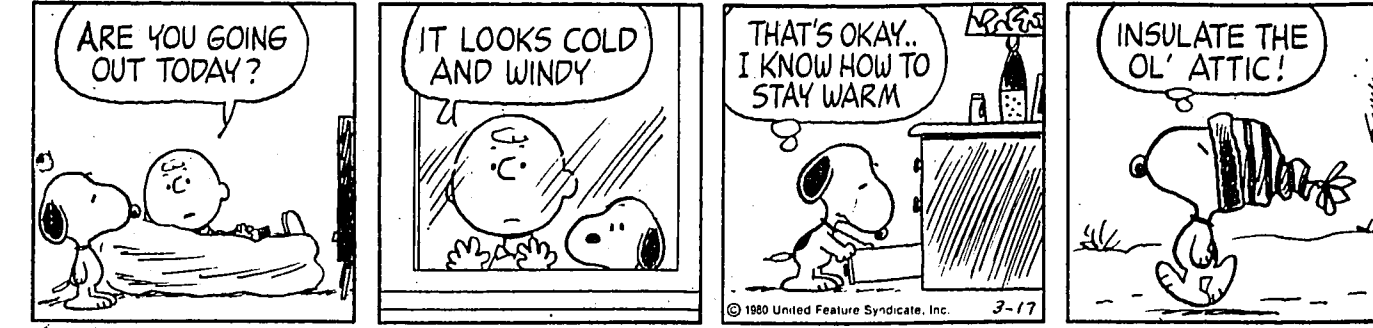


Photo by Stef Varter

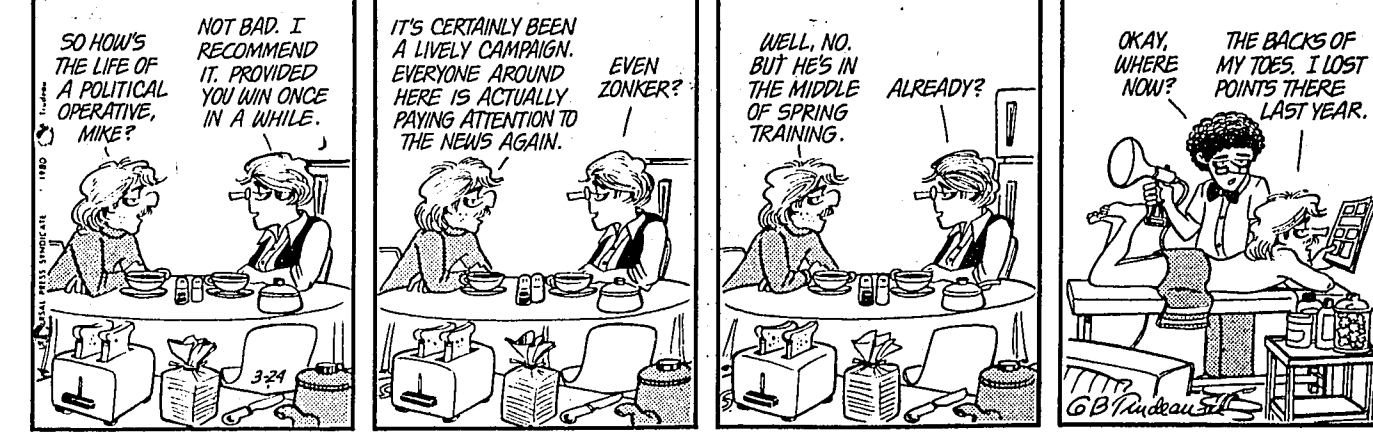
### Feelin' the beat

This drummer for the Sonny Fortune Quartet gave a performance that was both fresh and exciting in Friday night's concert in Eisenhower.

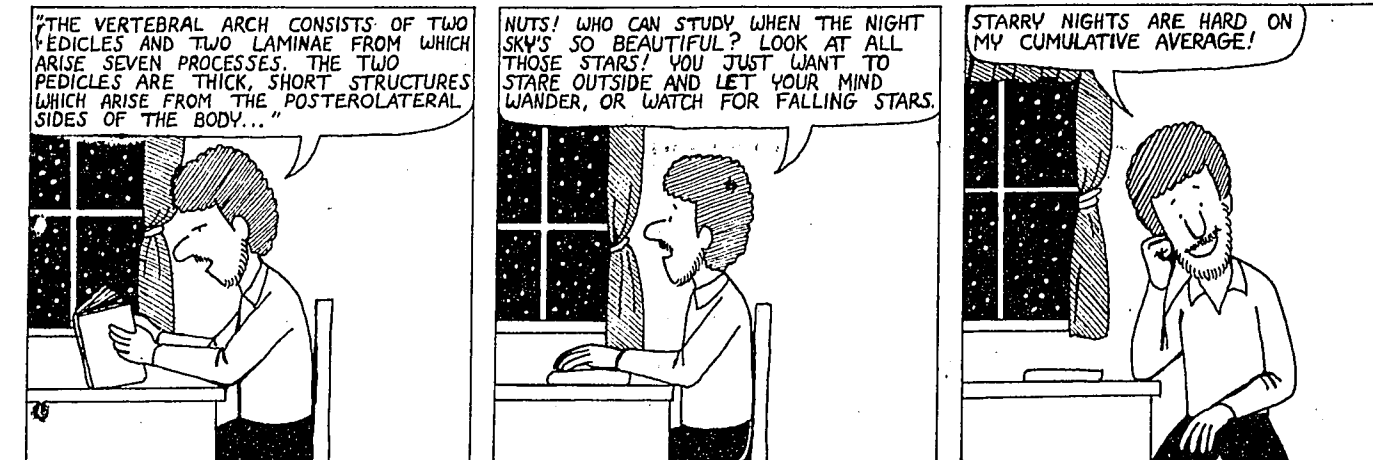
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SPECIAL EVENTS  
Monday, March 24

Music in Interesting Times Lecture, 3 p.m., Music Bldg. Recital Hall. Samuel Bayard, English emeritus, on "Pennsylvania Folk Music," and performance by the Rustical Quality String Band.

Sports: fencing (women) vs. Barnard College/Columbia Univ., 3 p.m. Shakespear Film, Romeo and Juliet (1937), 6:30 p.m., Room 101 Chambers. Beta Gamma Sigma meeting, 7 p.m., Room 367 Willard.

France-Cinema, Autumn Sonata, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship meeting, 7 p.m., Eisen. Chapel.

Spanish Dept. Lecture, 8 p.m., Room 101 Kern. Jose Martin Recuerda, playwright, on "Creacion, arraque y evolucion de un autor dramatico durante la Espana de Franco y la transicion a la democracia."

Barbara O'Connor, French horn, 8:30 p.m., Music Bldg. Recital Hall.

Daily calendar information around the clock, 955-1100.

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The Daily Collegian Monday, March 24, 1980—13

**Across**

- On the deep
- Did the Australian crawl
- Belgian syllables
- 14 Frigid
- 15 Borealis
- 16 One of Lear's daughters
- 17 Borealis
- 18 Words to Brusca
- 19 Borealis
- 20 Sport
- 21 Start of a quote by Weston
- 22 Church
- 23 Extremely fearful
- 24 Show parts
- 27 — Quixote love letters
- 30 Error's part
- 33 Summard
- 34 Regatta prep
- 36 Second part of the quote
- 40 Right angle
- 41 Hatched eggs
- 42 Hatched eggs
- 43 Author of "Smiley's People"
- 44 "I'm a rebel"
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**Down**

- Function Improbability
- March man
- Burnham's reply
- Line drink
- Humorous
- 30 Party female
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**Crossword**  
by Mike Shenk  
Answers in tomorrow's Collegian classifieds.

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