

jazz in

The Arts Council is embarking on a national review of jazz in the U.K. this autumn. We welcome that review, which music officer Rajan Hooper promises will take nothing for granted, and consider all arguments. We see this therefore, as an opportunity for vigorous representation.

The Arts Council's own research has indicated that the audience for jazz in the United Kingdom is the same size as that for opera - however the amount of public subsidy that each opera attendee enjoys is £7.95 while the poor jazz enthusiast receives less than ten pence!

In our last issue, we reported the Arts Council's new review of the British jazz picture. In this issue of *Jazz in Yorkshire & the north* we ask you, as a member of the British jazz community, to consider a couple of key issues.

Firstly, why does it seem so readily accepted by the Arts Council that there should be such an absurd imbalance in funding between various performing art forms, with jazz being singled out for particularly parsimonious treatment? In terms of subsidy per head, opera buffs receive £ 7.95, classical music freaks get £ 1.66, ballet fans waltz off with £ 5.47, and contemporary dance followers (few and far between) enjoy £1.56 - but jazz enthusiasts benefit to the tune of a mere eight and a half pence.

Secondly, why are the Arts Council satisfied with a situation where the infrastructure for the promotion, development and delivery of jazz is almost non-existent when compared to other art forms. How many professional administrative staff service a seventy piece symphony orchestra? Probably more than service the entire British jazz scene.

Thirdly, in spite of, rather than thanks to Arts Council sup-

port, jazz has been one of the success stories of the eighties and nineties with audience figures growing by 20% between 1986 and 1991. Many British jazz musicians have developed international reputations, there is not a city in the U.K. without a vibrant jazz scene, jazz is played in almost every conceivable setting, festivals not only enrich the cultural life of the country but bring economic benefits to small towns and inner city areas alike. One of the features of the jazz audience in the United Kingdom is its size - almost three million people attend live jazz events during a year. One commentator has called it "probably the largest single-interest group in the country to be virtually ignored by government funding and public service broadcasting."

Do you think that the Arts Council is being fair to the countless excellent British jazz musicians (many of whom bring great credit to this country overseas), to the large jazz audience or to the armies of volunteers whose selfless work, week in week out, maintains the level of jazz activity that we enjoy?

If progress can be made towards a fundamental change in

the Arts Council's attitude, it could have a profoundly positive effect on jazz's status within the cultural life of the U.K.

We urge you to write to your M.P. and ask for answers to these questions. Specifically you might ask:

- a) **WHY** is there such an absurd discrepancy in Arts Council funding levels for jazz as opposed to other art forms?
- b) **WHY** does the Arts Council appear to make no effort to recognise the infrastructural needs of the British jazz community?
- c) **WHY** does the Arts Council choose to ignore the well-documented British jazz success story?

Write today - don't leave it to others, this is an opportunity that might not occur again. Write to your M.P. at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. You owe it to your fellow members of the British jazz community - musicians, volunteer workers, fans. Above all, you owe it to yourself - after all, it's your money that's being spent!

THE BURTON ALE 1993 JAZZ TOUR
 FRIDAY 29th OCTOBER
 THE DOME, DONCASTER LEISURE PARK
 BOX OFFICE : Doncaster (0302) 370999

LEEDS JAZZ

- October 7 **BILLY JENKINS VOICE OF GOD COLLECTIVE**
- October 21 **STEVE NOBLE TRIO**
- October 28 **DJANGO BATES DELIGHTFUL PRECIPICE**
- November 11 **EDWARD VESALA - SOUND & FURY**
- November 18 **ANDY SHEPPARD'S BIG CO-MOTION**
- November 23 (tbc) **PHAROAH SANDERS**
- December 6 (tbc) **MIKE STERN TRIO**
- December 9 (tbc) **MICHAEL CLARKE'S THE FUNK STOPS HERE**

All concerts start at 8.30pm Doors open 7.30pm

LEEDS IRISH CENTRE
 YORK ROAD, LEEDS

For further information call 0532 742486