

JAZZ: Tight, melodic music.

By JIM BISCO
News Contributing Reviewer

Bobby Militello's one-night stand Thursday at The Tralfamadore Cafe may have been the beginning of the rest of his career.

After 3½ years of blowing sax and flute in the Maynard Ferguson band, the Buffalo native is seriously considering going out on his own. The sextet that he headed last night was a big step in that direction.

Two of the group members — trumpeter-flugelhornist Joe Mosello and guitarist John Chiodini — are also in the Ferguson band at the moment and two others — pianist Biff Hannon and bassist Gordon Johnson — left Maynard six months ago. Drummer Ted Moore is a friend of Militello's from his days at the Eastman School of Music.

They had been together since Sunday when Militello rounded them up to play for his brother Mike's (owner of Mulligan's) New Year's Eve bash at Kleinhans Music Hall.

Between then and the Tralf gig, the sextet rehearsed a lot of originals and some standards that they unveiled during three sets. For only four days together, the sound was surprisingly tight.

Militello likes melody and, thus, the music was highly melodic with nobody straying too far from the basic theme. The originals, contributed by Hannon and Moore, had the breeziness of Spyro Gyra's pop-jazz material.

Although most of the tunes are immediately likable, the unadventurous solos sometimes don't imbue the music with any lasting affect. Militello has a big, robust capacity in his sax work, yet he often curls around the melody lines like a lumberjack waltzing with a dainty ingenue.



Bobby Militello

that he could tape the three sets. It seems that Columbia is interested in negotiating a solo album for Bobby, so the 28-year-old saxophonist wants to send the company a sample of his stuff.

During this layover between tours with the Ferguson band, Militello is mulling his future. Three or four years on the road is the average span of a musician facing a continuous string of one-nighters for something like 17 weeks in a row.

Militello is tiring of the one-night stands. He would like to do more solo

During the layover between tours with the Maynard Ferguson band, Bobby Militello is mulling his future. His one-night stand at the Tralfamadore Cafe may have been the beginning of the rest of his career.

One response wants him to use all the breath he has in that chunky frame of his. The other response, however — which is a good portion of the record-buying public — likes that recognizable, close-to-the-vest playing, as bubbly as 7-UP fizz tickling your lips.

Chiodini aroused some raw excitement with some beautifully controlled guitar work applying rock-edged technique to some sparkingly inventive jazz lines. He appeared to be the only one to venture outside of sweet lyricism for a smoke.

Obviously, it's the record-buying crowd that Militello would like to attract. In fact, brother Mike loaned Bobby the Mulligan's sound board for the evening so

work and play longer engagements in one town. He would like to do some four-part vocal harmonization like The Four Freshmen or Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. He'd like to delve into fusion more.

The only way he could satisfy these desires is to make the break. But yet, he speaks of Maynard as almost a father figure. "I love the guy," he gushes with unabashed affection.

He's talked all of this over with Ferguson who, Militello says, is supportive of the young musician in whatever his decision might be.

The next Ferguson tour starts up the first of February. Militello is going to be doing some hard thinking within the next week.

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Chick Corea

clarinet

- 609 Anthony Braxton
- 490 Benny Goodman
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- 85 Woody Herman
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- 67 Bennie Maupin
- 66 Eddie Daniels
- 61 Alvin Batiste
- 61 Bob Wilber

flute

- 688 Hubert Laws
- 431 Lew Tabackin
- 177 Sam Rivers
- 149 Herbie Mann
- 144 James Newton
- 120 Joe Farrell
- 89 Jeremy Steig
- 82 James Moody
- 78 Bobby Militello
- 76 Sam Most
- 72 Frank Wess
- 67 Paul Horn
- 55 Bud Shank

acoustic piano

- 486 McCoy Tyner
- 460 Oscar Peterson
- 309 Keith Jarrett
- 203 Chick Corea
- 203 Cecil Taylor
- 183 Bill Evans
- 97 Monty Alexander
- 76 Barry Harris
- 61 Herbie Hancock
- 54 Andy LaVerne
- 50 Count Basie
- 50 Hank Jones
- 50 Joe Sample

electric piano

- 943 Chick Corea
- 267 Joe Zawinul
- 263 Herbie Hancock
- 86 Kenny Barron
- 69 Bob James
- 66 Sun Ra
- 64 Joe Sample
- 51 Cedar Wallon
- 49 Andy LaVerne
- 49 Bill Evans

organ

- 651 Jimmy Smith
- 245 Sun Ra
- 139 Count Basie
- 135 Richard Tee
- 64 Carla Bley
- 59 Shirley Scott
- 51 Jack McDuff

synthesizer

- 877 Joe Zawinul
- 204 Chick Corea
- 161 Herbie Hancock
- 158 Sun Ra
- 152 Jan Hammer
- 56 George Duke
- 50 Brian Eno
- 50 Richard Teitelbaum

acoustic bass

- 851 Ron Carter
- 261 Eddie Gomez
- 255 Ray Brown
- 242 Niels-Henning Orsted Pedersen
- 153 David Holland
- 152 Charlie Haden
- 126 Stanley Clarke
- 78 Mike Richmond
- 61 David Friesen

electric bass

- 971 Jaco Pastorius
- 433 Stanley Clarke
- 166 Eberhard Weber
- 161 Steve Swallow
- 63 Joe Byrd
- 61 Ron Carter
- 61 Alphonso Johnson
- 51 Mike Richmond

guitar

- 389 Joe Pass
- 296 Pat Metheny
- 228 Jim Hall
- 177 John McLaughlin
- 137 George Benson
- 135 John Abercrombie
- 86 Ralph Towner
- 85 Kenny Burrell
- 59 Earl Klugh
- 56 Larry Coryell
- 54 Al DiMeola
- 51 Barney Kessel
- 51 Steve Khan

violin

- 746 Jean-Luc Ponty
- 653 Stephane Grappelli
- 248 Lakshminarayana Shankar
- 176 Leroy Jenkins
- 106 Noel Pointer
- 86 Joe Venuti
- 71 Zbigniew Seifert
- 50 Michal Urbaniak

vibes

- 758 Gary Burton
- 500 Milt Jackson
- 412 Bobby Hutcherson
- 211 Lionel Hampton
- 119 Mike Mainieri
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- 58 Red Norvo
- 50 Jay Hoggard

McCoy Tyner



Jimmy Smith



Gary Burton



Toots Thielemans



Dizzy Gillespie