

Butch Berman teaching Jazz Education at Zeman Elementary School, Fall 1998. Photo by Cheryl Morton.

January/February 2000

Volume 5, Number 3

The Prez sez: New Year's wishes

By Butch Berman

Happy New Everything - and I perceive numerous jazzy beginnings ahead. Our first new millennium newsletter is special for many reasons. We've upgraded our entire hardware/software computer system along with a variety of electronic digital goodies (once we figure 'em all out!) to bring you an even better, easier to read and pic friendly liaison between the jazz world as a whole filtered through our splendid staff of writers and brought to your mailbox six times a year.

One can never stop pursuing the ideal of a perfect jazz situation within our grasp, nevertheless, let this 2000 calendar, enclosed in this issue, be a daily reminder of what the BMF has accomplished this past half decade. And with more right-on collaborators like the Seniors Foundation, the Lied Center, and the Nebraska Historical Society - we-be-cookin'!

The BMF has already been very fortunate this year to acquire two new young and gifted people - extremely well versed in the computer/communications field and should be total assets to our staff and to you our readers. Brought to me by my New York consultant and founder of Hot Jazz Manage-

ment, Russ Dantzler, is his niece Rebecca Kaiser, who will do some troubleshooting and aid our progress - and is she capable.

Also, from our local community radio station KZUM, fellow deejay and reggae expert Carter Van Pelt has joined our team. He has a zest for life and a handle on the entertainment biz from many vantage points. As always - onwards and upwards.

The music scene, and I feel especially within the jazz community, is simply magical. Friends made, festivals sponsored, workshops for the kids, and...oh, yes, the music - what it is really all about. Sounds turning into colors enrapturing us and enlightening all who can open their hearts to the truth and love which is music - our beloved jazz.

Into 2000 as always - with music in mind,

Butch Berman

Butch Berman

"Our first new millennium newsletter is special for many reasons."

Tomfoolery: over the shoulder, into the future

By Tom Ineck

As we enthusiastically enter the millennium here at the Berman Music Foundation, it is only natural to take stock. That means taking a look back over our shoulder at 1999 before we race ahead to what promises to be another eventful year in jazz.

Early last year, the BMF-funded exhibit "Drawing on the Beat: John Falter's Jazz Portraits" opened with a gala ceremony in March at the Museum of Nebraska History, where it remains on display until April 2000. If you haven't had a chance to see the late Nebraska artist's marvelous interpretations of jazz musicians at work and play, visit the museum at 15th and P streets in Lincoln.

The 17-piece Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra proved that no one is truer to the legacy of Duke Ellington when the band performed an Ellington tribute in April at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln.

The Memorial Day weekend in May provided another opportunity to bask in the bountiful music of the Topeka Jazz Festival, where the second annual event featured outstanding performances by dozens of top-notch, but rarely heard jazz players.

In June, the BMF entourage headed south again for the 4th Annual Kansas City International Jazz Festival. Norman Hedman's Tropique, the seven-piece Latin jazz combo that has recorded two CDs under the auspices of the Berman foundation, opened the festival with one of the most exciting sets of the weekend.

Closer to home, Lincoln's Jazz in June series held few surprises, but the July Jamm festival featured long-time BMF friend Kevin Mahogany on the main stage and some of Lincoln and Omaha's best jazz musicians on the more intimate indoor stage.

A four-day trip to New York City in August gave me a chance to witness Tropique in action in the studio, as the band "waxed" its second BMF-funded CD.

In October, saxophonist Bobby Watson and Horizon brought their very hip music to the Lied Center and conducted a workshop for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, all with the financial support of the BMF.

Also in October, the foundation helped to fund the performance by pianist Jane Jarvis, bassist Earl May, and trombonist Benny Powell at a fundraiser for the Lincoln Seniors Foundation. October performances by the Seamus Blake Quartet and Burhan Ocal at the

Johnny Carson Theater and by the Cuban group Irakere at the Lied Center capped a very busy month.

Meanwhile, the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra took its 24th annual concert series up the road to the venerable Pla-Mor ballroom, where fans can kick up their heels on the dance floor while they listen to some of the best swing and jazz music in the Midwest.

It looks like more of the same this year, and I'm not complaining. I'm looking forward to the usual festivals in Topeka and Kansas City, and the possibility of the addition of the Vail Jazz Festival later in the year. I wish you all equally good listening in 2000!

Blues Corner

By Rich Hoover

At this writing the first cold blowing snow has arrived and is actually howling from time to time. I have made my first round on my "books," and that tropical retreat is definitely delayed.

I miss some friends from down there that I haven't been with for awhile and, man, do I have the blues! So I play a few blues tunes on the stereo, the tape starts with some funky ole dude from the 50s, tellin' about hardship and worries way beyond my experience—then a swingin' fingerpopper is wantin' everybody to jump, jive and wail. Next is a guy singin' those where-is-my-woman-blues followed by I don't-need-no-woman-blues, and you know I may not feel a whole lot better, but I definitely don't feel as bad.

All of a sudden, I'm a lucky guy. I remember that I do have friends here and the one's that I miss I probably will see and be with again. The tropical retreat is a luxury that I may do later and the weather is the way it is. There is life, blues, jazz, friends, and work to be done. There is a new computer and new cameras, a fledgling webpage, things to learn, things to experience, and stories to tell.

Now that I have spewed a bit in the *Blues Corner* I want to start the millennium with a thank you to Butch Berman, kingpin of the Berman Music Foundation, for making the foundation and newsletter possible, and to all the other contributors to the 'zine for making things work so well.

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- Chuck Berg, Reviewer
Jazz Times

Jeff Hamilton Trio

Jeff Hamilton, Larry Fuller, and Lynn Seaton

Junior Mance Trio

Junior Mance, Keeter Betts, and Jackie Williams

Terry Gibbs Quartet

Topeka Jazz Festival Great Guitars

Bucky Pizzarelli, Rod Fleeman, and Danny Embrey

Six Bass Hit

All arrangements by John Clayton and Jay Leonhart

Interstring

Rod Fleeman, Danny Embrey, Bob Bowman, Todd Strait

And Featuring:

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Bass: John Clayton, Jay Leonhart, Keeter Betts, Lynn Seaton, Bob Bowman, Gerald Spaits
Drums: Jeff Hamilton, Butch Miles, Joe Ascione, Jackie Williams, Tommy Ruskin, Todd Strait
Guitar: Bucky Pizzarelli, Danny Embrey, Rod Fleeman
Vibes: Terry Gibbs
Alto Sax: Gary Foster
Tenor Sax & Clarinet: Ken Peplowski, Bob Kindred
Trombone: Dan Barrett
Trumpet: Marvin Stamm
Vocals: Rebecca Parrish



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Norman Hedman at Eastside Sound, New York, New York, for the "Taken By Surprise" recording session, August 1999. *Photo by Tom Ineck.*

January 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						<i>New Year's Day</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Bobby Watson at Brownville, Nebraska, February 1997. *Photo by Rich Hoover.*

February 2000

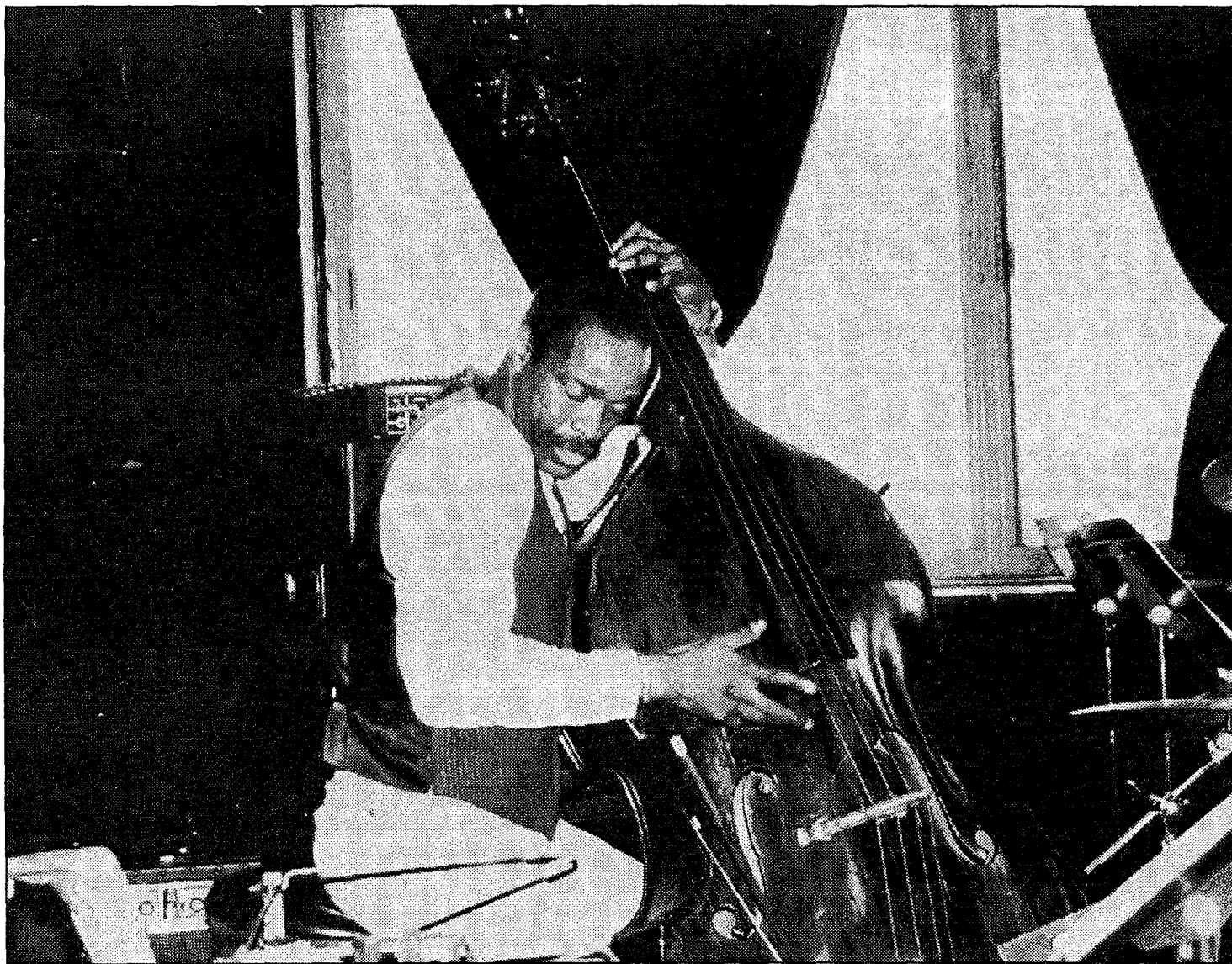
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						<i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<i>Valentine's Day</i>					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<i>President's Day</i>	<i>Washington's Birthday</i>				
27	28	29				



Jack Lesberg at the State Historical Society's John Falter reception, Lincoln, Nebraska, March 1999. *Photo by Peter Hasselbalch.*

March 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Butch Berman's Birthday</i>	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Alex Blake at Montana Studios, New York, New York, for Andrienne Wilson's "She's Dangerous" recording session, May 1997. *Photo by Michele Michaels.*

April 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Palm Sunday					Good Friday	
23 Easter Sunday	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



Tommy Campbell at Eastside Sound, New York, New York, for Andrienne Wilson "She's Dangerous" recording session, May 1997. *Photo by Butch Berman.*

May 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	May Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
	Memorial Day					



Karrin Allyson with Tommie Ruskin at Jazz in June, Lincoln, Nebraska, June 1997. *Photo by Rich Hoover.*



Andrienne Wilson with Norman Hedman's Tropique at Jazz in June, Lincoln, Nebraska, June 1997. *Photo by Rich Hoover.*

June 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	Flag Day	22	23	24
Father's Day	26	27	28	29	30	
25						



Dennis Irwin and Joe Lovano at the Kansas City International Jazz Festival, Kansas City, Missouri, June 1998. *Photo by Tom Ineck.*

July 2000

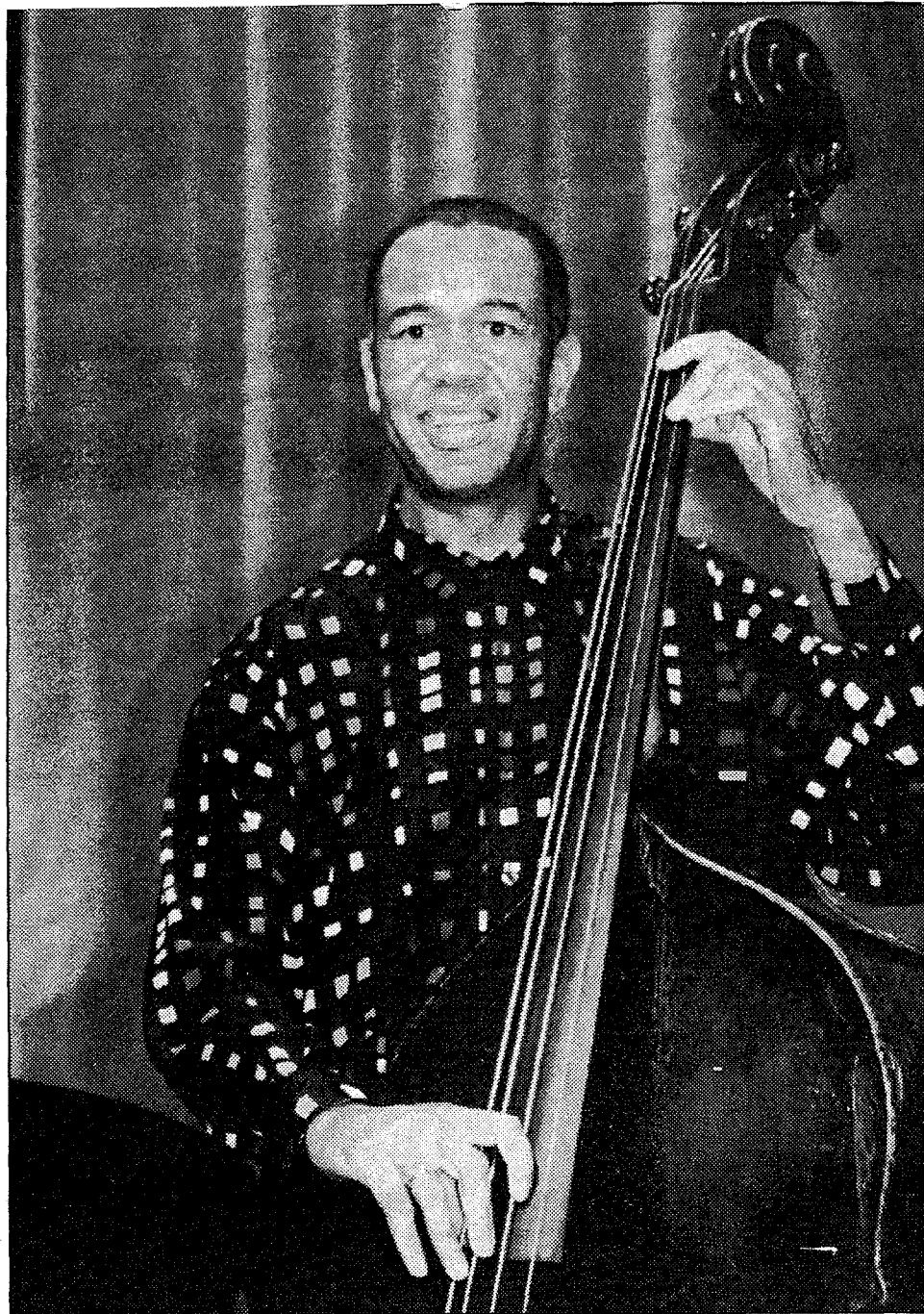
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Independence Day				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Ahmad Alaadeen at Eastside Sound, New York, New York, for Norman Hedman's Tropique "Taken By Surprise" recording session, August 1999. *Photo by Rich Hoover.*

August 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



John Clayton at the Topeka Jazz Festival, Topeka, Kansas, May 1999.
Photo by Rich Hoover.

September 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Earl May, Jane Jarvis, and Benny Powell at a Lincoln Seniors Foundation benefit, Lincoln, Nebraska, October 1999. *Photo by Rich Hoover.*

October 2000

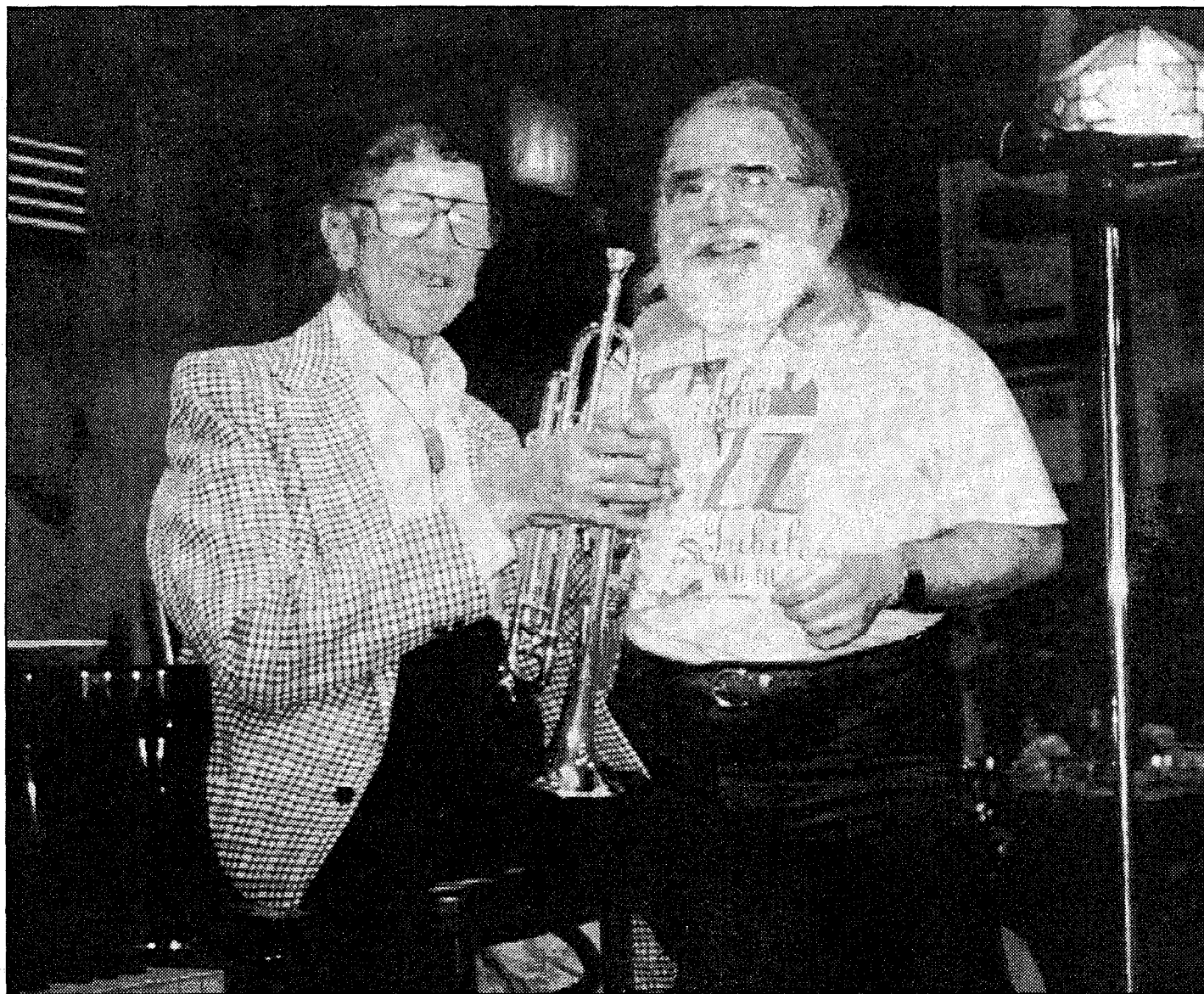
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Columbus Day</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>				



Kevin Mahogany with Kenny Barron and Ray Drumond at a workshop at Southeast High School, Lincoln, Nebraska, October 1996. *Photo by Rich Hoover.*

November 2000

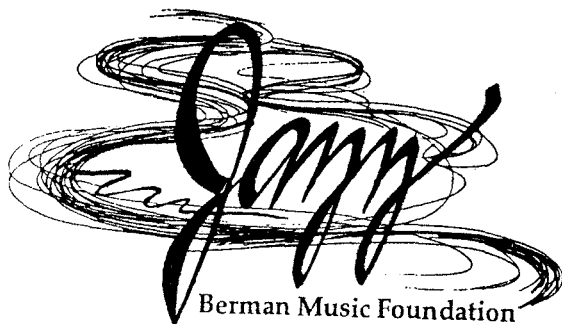
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		<i>Election Day</i>				<i>Veteran's Day</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>		
26	27	28	29	30		



Doc Cheatham and Butch Berman at a Sunday Jazz Brunch at Sweet Basil, New York, New York, Summer 1996. *Photo by Russ Dantzler.*

December 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Christmas Day					



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Back row: Dave Hughes, Tony Rager, Dan Stogsdill, Wade Wright. Front: Rich Hoover, Butch Berman. Not pictured: Tom Ineck. Taken at the Belvederd Hotel, NYC, March 1999. Photo by Liz Keim.

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