

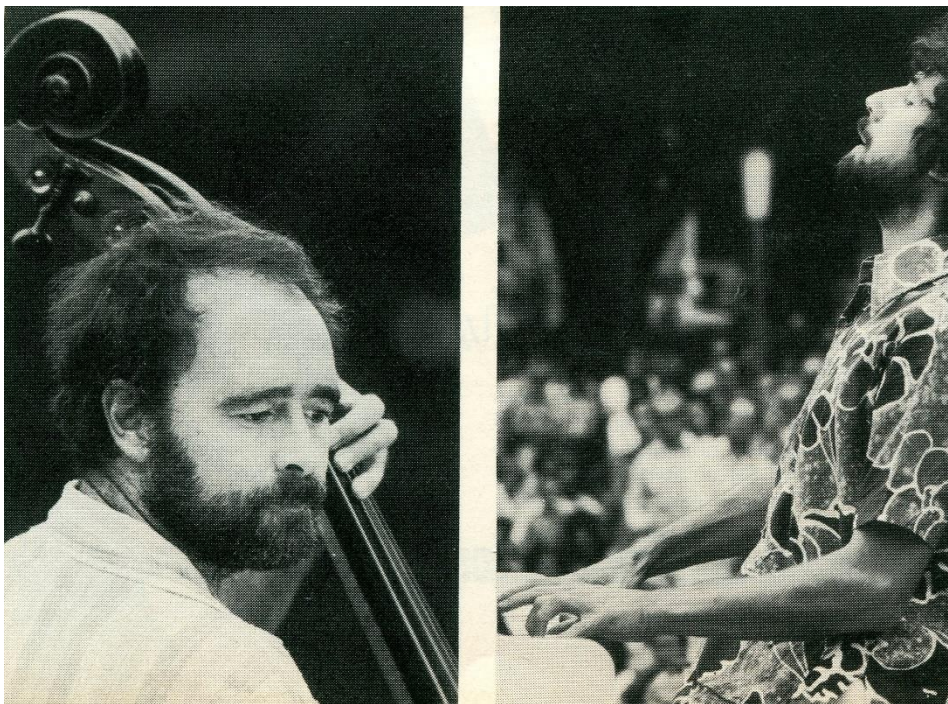
PHILIP MORRIS SAXES FIVE

by John Clare

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We did not attempt a head count of the people who turned up in Sydney's Hyde Park for a Sunday afternoon of jazz last April, but sponsors Philip Morris must have been well pleased by the roll up. The crowd, which stayed put throughout the happy recital, stretched from near the Archibald Fountain back to the Macquarie Street edge of the park. They saw and heard five topline saxophonists — Don Burrows, Charlie Munro, Bob Bertles, Peter Martin and Lee Hutchings in solo and ensemble workouts, backed by the sparkling rhythm section of Roger Frampton, piano; Jack Thorncraft, bass; and Alan Turnbull, drums.

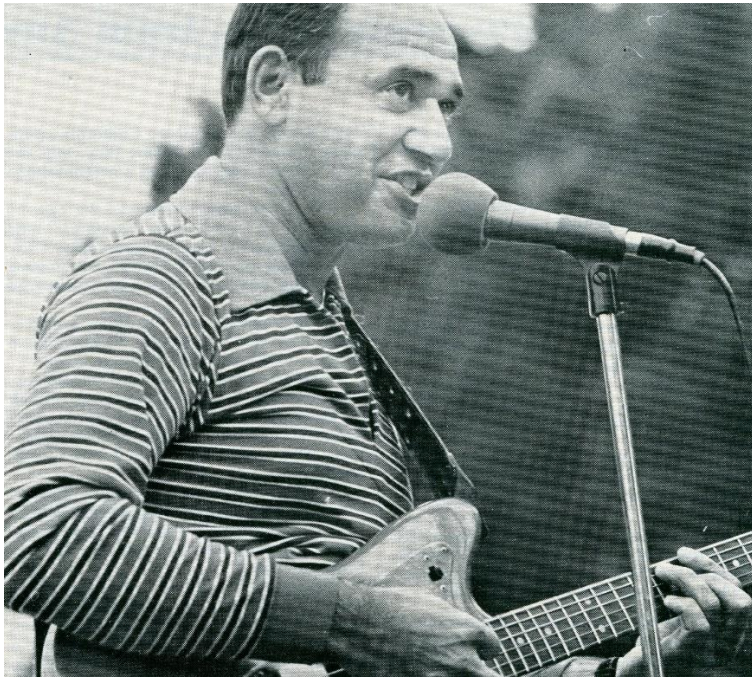
The concert was called Saxes Five, but the rhythm section, particularly Roger Frampton, came close to stealing the show on a couple of occasions. An enjoyable interlude was provided by singer/guitarist Johnny Nicol, and the show was compered by the urbane and affable Ian Neil.



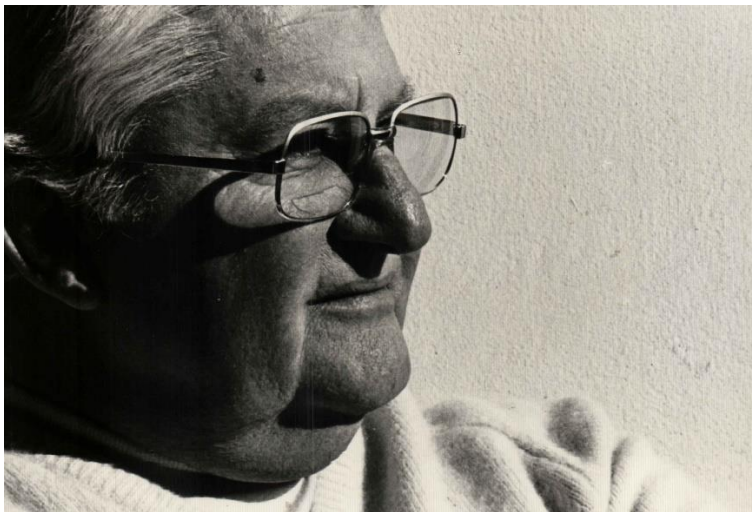
The rhythm section, including Jack Thorncraft (left) and Roger Frampton (right), came close to stealing the show on a couple of occasions... PHOTO CREDITS WALTER GLOVER

Arrangements for the saxes were by Bill Motzing and Julian Lee. They concentrated on Kern, Porter and Gershwin standards, and traditional sax section vehicles like Ralph Burns's beautiful *Early Autumn*. Most of the arrangements had overtones of the cool era of jazz — even the final Parker tune *Ornithology*, on which the weaker of

two alternative lines was chosen — but the solos were robust enough and it was delightful to hear all those sonorous and polished blendings in the open air.



An enjoyable interlude was provided by singer/guitarist Johnny Nicol (above)... PHOTO CREDIT WALTER GLOVER; and the show was compered by the urbane and affable Ian Neil (below)...PHOTO CREDIT PETER SINCLAIR



The Saxes Five wheeze was dreamt up by Andrew Whist and John Rollo of Philip Morris. The company has a great record of support for Australian music. Past projects include the Marlboro In Session concerts, the Alpine Orchestra and Daly-Wilson Big Band tours.

Philip Morris was also responsible for the original Count Basie tour of Australia, and they have some fascinating film of concerts and interviews with Basie band members. Philip Morris are currently discussing the possibility of mounting Saxes Five in Melbourne.