

NOV. 1977

VIC GIBBONS
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The Band are off to West Germany after a week's break for the 'second leg' of the annual winter tour. The German audience will have a preview of the new line-up which will not be seen in England until December 30th.. The Band is enlarging to an 8 man line-up with the addition of Sammy Rimington on clarinet and alto-sax. This will result in John Crocker being more frequently featured on tenor sax.

Sammy has UK commitments with his own quartet during November and December so will not 'officially' join up in this country until the night of December 30th at the 100 Club in London.

The 'Echoes of Ellington' tour of 1975 was captured 'live' and the intended issue of the album has been delayed due to the 'takeover' of Transatlantic Records. That name is now defunct and the new distributors of Black Lion Records are Logo Records who operate from the old Transatlantic premises in London.

The 'Echoes of Ellington' album will be a three-disc boxed set featuring almost the entire concert programme: one set by the Band: one set by the two guests with Chris' rhythm section and the third set with the Band augmented by Russell Procope (alto,clarinet) and Wild Bill Davis (piano). The release is scheduled for February 1978 and the retail price will be £6.99.. We will announce later a special offer rate for Fan Club members.

Plans are now well advanced for another special Spring tour in 1978. Provisionally titled 'Swingtime 78', the tour will take place in the UK April 13th-23rd and the special guests are ex-MJQ star John Lewis and Roy 'Little Jazz' Eldridge. As far as we are aware this will be the first-ever industrially sponsored jazz tour. The sponsors are Eumig who will use the tour as a primary platform for launching a new range of high performance home cassette centres. The full itinerary will be announced shortly but dates so far confirmed are:

- Thu April 13th: Leas Cliff Pavilion: FOLKESTONE
- Sat April 15th: St Andrews Hall: NORWICH
- Sun April 16th: Royal Exchange Theatre: MANCHESTER
- Thu April 20th: Fairfield Halls: CROYDON
- Sun April 23rd: Town Hall: HUDDERSFIELD

Any fresh-air fiends happening to be in the Luton area on Saturday November 19th could do worse than wander to People's Park where the biggest ever Cyclo-Cross event to be staged in this country - The Daily Telegraph International Cyclo Cross Grand Prix - takes place. In the field will be Chris Barber-sponsored Keith Mernickle and Tony Bartlett. The not so energetic may prefer to watch the proceedings on BBC's Grandstand.

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After completion of the current European tour the Band starts a round of UK dates with an 'interlude' from December 2nd until December 9th for a short Sudan tour:

Thu Nov 24th: Northumberland College: ASHINGTON: Northumber.
Fri Nov 25th: Albert Hall: Dumbarton Rd: STIRLING : Scotland
Sat Nov 26th: Pavilion Gardens: BUXTON: Derbs.
Sun Nov 27th: St. Ivo Centre: ST. IVES: Huntingdon: Cambs
Mon Nov 28th: Hatfield Jazz Club: Red Lion: HATFIELD: Herts
Tue Nov 29th: Town Hall: HAMMERSMITH: London W6.
Wed Nov 30th: Lings Theatre: Billing Road: WESTON FAVELL:
Northampton.
Sat Dec 10th: William Hulme's Grammar School: Springbridge
Rd. Alexandra Park: MANCHESTER
Sun Dec 11th: Silverman Hall: NELSON: Lancs (Lunchtime conc.
Mon Dec 12th: Riverdale Hall: LEWISHAM: London SE13
Tue Dec 13th: Good Companions: Mayflower St.: PLYMOUTH
Wed Dec 14th: Green Lawns Hotel: FALMOUTH
Thu Dec 15th: Quaglino's: Bury Street: LONDON SW1
Fri Dec 16th: Hugh Christie School: TONBRIDGE: Kent
Sat Dec 17th: RAF Scampton: SCAMPTON: Lincs
Sun Dec 18th: Repertory Theatre: Broad Street: BIRMINGHAM
Mon Dec 19th: Victoria Rooms: BRISTOL
Fri Dec 30th: 100 Club: Oxford Street: LONDON W.1.
Sat Dec 31st:
Sun Jan 1st:
Mon Jan 2nd: The Jacquard Club: Magdalene St.: NORWICH

Following a tour of Scandinavia, the next UK working period will be February 15th-21st.

On November 28th the Band records during the day for BBC Radio 2's Band Parade. Transmission date is not known but the programme goes out every Thursday evening - so watch Radio Times for details.

On December 12th they record a session for the new Radio 2 afternoon programme The David Hamilton show, for transmission later that month.

Pat Halcox plays a guest spot with the Bernie Allen Band at The Wheel of Fortune, Theale, Nr. Newbury on Thursday December 1st.

The Band appears live on Pebble Mill, BBC1, on Monday December 19th.
