

Heaths mesh jazz styles; Hiroshima has new sound

By GREGORY CLAY

The Heath Bros.

In Motion

The Heath Bros. could be appropriately termed the living jazz fossils of the 1980s. They are remnants of the old Charlie Parker-Dave Brubeck-Duke Ellington bee-bop jazz culture trying to overlap into the present highly sophisticated pop-jazz era.

Records

Their new album *In Motion* provides a mesh between these two time periods. The performers for this unusual musical task are saxophonist Jimmy Heath and bassist Percy Heath.

"Feelin' Dealin'," one of the album's better songs, could easily fit into the repertoire of a modern jazz musician. It has the medium-tempo sound reminiscent of Grover Washington Jr. "The Voice of the Saxophone" is just what the title says; the voice emits a lulling tone that's slow and moody. Jimmy's brother is in the background thumbing slowly on the old, now seldom-used, double bass.

But the tempo changes in a hurry on "Project S." This is an old-jazz-type—fast-paced, heavy-background bass with constant horn improvisation.

"Move To The Groove" features a kind of bee-bop-pop-jazz that's symbolic of the album's sound. The number is marked by a string duel between Purrone and Percy Heath. Copeland's keyboards enter and Jimmy Heath sets the tone once more with his sax.

"Passion Flower," composed by Billy Strayhorn and played by Duke Ellington, is one oldie that's been performed by many musicians. It has to be one of the hardest songs to change and in this case the Heath Bros. didn't succeed in improving Ellington's original.

Jimmy Heath added just a touch of funk to "A Time and A Place (There's)" which is again a heavy mixture of the old and new arranged into something that could appeal to the young as well as to the ancient jazzist. Jimmy's tenor sax solos liven the pace, as does the rhythm section. It could be the best selection.

In Motion, The Heath Bros.—trying to bridge the older cool-bee-bop jazz and the contemporary pop-jazz so that music listeners of today and yesteryear can find a common ground—rates an 8.5 on a scale of zero to 10.

Hiroshima

Hiroshima

Hiroshima is a city in Japan that was devastated by the atomic bomb in 1945 to end World War II. It's also the name of a new group that's coming out



with a musical mixture of jazz, soft rock and soul with vocals.

Wayne Henderson, former trombonist for the Crusaders, produced the group's new album, *Hiroshima*. The band is composed of Japanese and American musicians who sift an oriental vibration into the standard American musical sound. This new musical entity could probably be called oriental jazz, or oriental soul, oriental soft rock, etc.

"Lion Dance" is only one example of that characteristic oriental base. The key element of this selection is an instrument called a koto (which was also used by Stix Hooper on his *The World Within* album). The koto, an oblong box with 13 silk strings stretched over it, is a Japanese instrument similar to a zither. When plucked by June Okida Kuramoto, it makes a harp and kalimba-like sound.

"Roomful of Mirrors" is a vocalization featuring soloist Teri Kusumoto. It has a soft-rock and mellow sound that's bolstered by Dan Kuramoto's alto saxophone. "Kooro" is in the mold of



Lonnie Liston Smith with an oriental flavor.

Hiroshima pulsates with some soulful vocals on "Long Time Love," which is composed by Dan Kuramoto and guitarist Peter Hata. "Da-Da" is a little heavier than "Long Time Love" with a more rocking instrumental sound in some spots.

"Never, Ever" is a soulful vocalization about a man and his lady. The background female vocalists produce a harmonious rhythm that ably supports the lead singer. "Taiko Song" is a number highlighted by another native Japanese instrument mentioned in its title. The taiko is a drum with a tympanic and bass effect that's played by Johnny Mori.

Rounding out the group members are: Jess Acuna, percussion; Dave Matsumora, bass; Danny Yamamoto, drum and Japanese percussion; and Richard "Arms" Mathews, keyboards and synthesizer. **M**

Gregory Clay is a record critic for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

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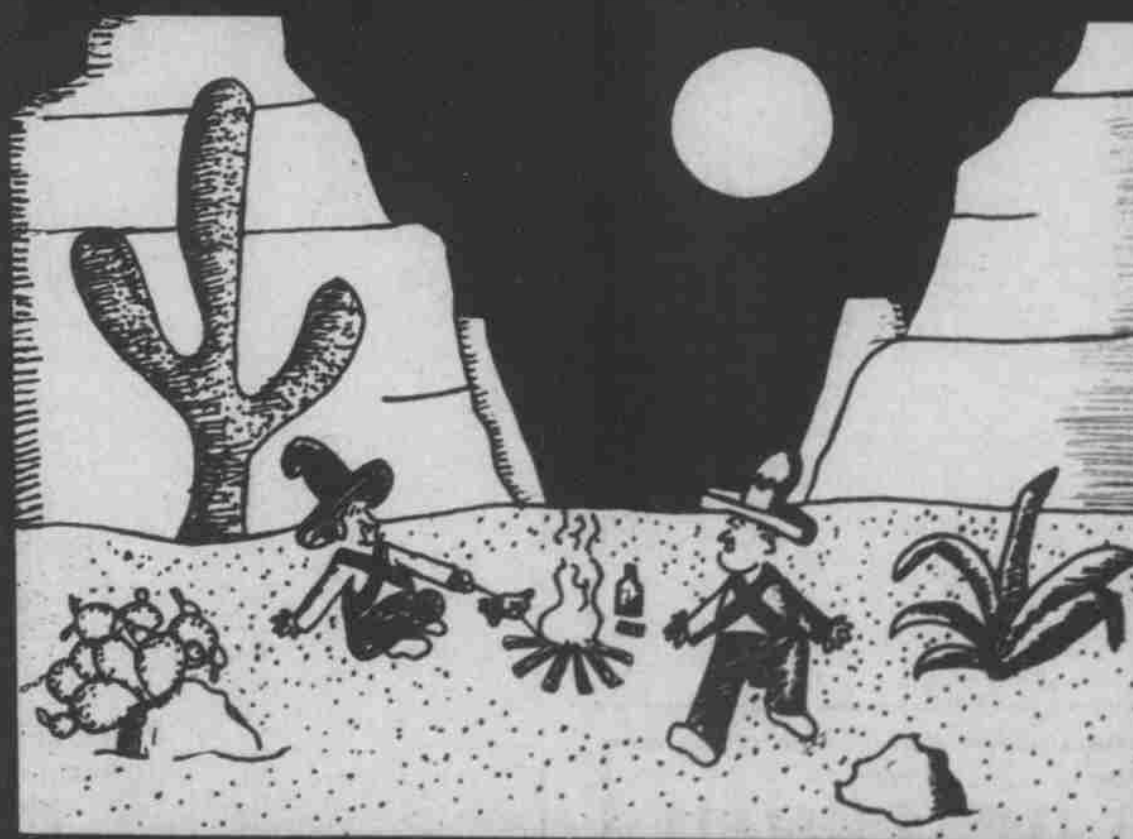
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