

Doug Harris...Rising Star Of Jazz

By RALPH COOPER

One of the fastest rising jazz psychosomatic "No, jazz is not psychosomatic." This is the 109 most versatile jazz, was recorded last year by the Lightmen. You Wanna Be," a recording by this group of young musicians from the 3rd ward, was also recorded and an album is scheduled to come out soon.

This group of young musicians is the Lightmen, headed up by tenor sax player, Doug Harris. The Lightmen was founded in the city of Houston about four years ago. Harris is 19 years old and was born and raised in Houston. He started playing about six months and was playing music well while in the tenth grade. I reached a high point in my playing before I was 16 years old," he remarked. Receiving his music while in high school, he played in various bands and reached the tenth grade, I wanted to get me a better understanding of music, so I dropped out of school," he said. "I went to work to support myself and my family. I bought two saxophones and practiced at home because we couldn't make too much noise at that time."

When he began to play rock and roll, it opened the door to what he wanted to play—rock and roll was when no one was playing rock and roll in Houston. He was influenced by Little Richard, Jackie Wilson and others, but he was still not satisfied. I was influenced by Junior Walker and the All-Stars and highly influenced by King Curtis."

The music he's playing now was one he learned more about during the last few years with the Lightmen. I've learned a lot more about jazz in the past five years than I had in my whole life before I learned with the Lightmen. I've learned to write charts, how to arrange, learned more about the world of music in general, and how to relate to an audience."



DOUG HARRIS of the Lightmen shows his versatility by playing tenor sax at the same time. (Photo by James Pino.) Doug is a student at Texas Southern University and the other, which I discovered one night while I was entertaining some jazz fans. Someone upon hearing his style and sounding, said, "You remind me of King Curtis."

HARRIS also feels that the Lightmen is not to try and compete against other groups because the group is unique. The group is a combination of rock and roll with jazz. "This album we're trying to do will be the best of both worlds." He explained that the playing of jazz is different from any other because it opens up a person's mind and emotions. Jazz is richer in emotions. This is what I want to accomplish with the Lightmen."

Describing "No, jazz is not psychosomatic," Harris remarked, "I constructed this album using a native Houstonian feeling. I constructed the music as far as the arrangements and melodies are concerned." The album is a cross between jazz and rock and was composed in this line. I was thinking of this album as something that would be different, from any other composition. I wanted it to be different, yet sounding

This is one of the things that I want to try and achieve because I've been a physical choreomatic means a physical emotions. This is what I wanted to create in this album. I want it to sound different from different group's. I'm trying to create my own style. I feel I can create something that is along, and sounded and shall cause a very strong emotion in the listener and other, who shall experience my music."

HARRIS who is also a composer, combined some of the Jazzy Ensemble to come out with an album that to him is a backdrop of various music. "I had a cousin who was playing Illinois in our first year. This gave me the opportunity to see how other groups were playing and helped me to improve my playing."

Astrodome during the Houston Jazz Festival. I was impressed with his style and started learning, Doug continuing, Doug is playing the Avant Garde style of playing and composing and I liked it. I was proud to get Ronnie Laws last year and get some valuable information into my style of music."

Ending, Doug explained what jazz meant to him. "I feel jazz is freedom; jazz is Southern; jazz is the blues; jazz is the rhythm that I feel when I'm getting fast at the rate I'm going; and jazz is an expression, and gives a young man the opportunity to express a thought in music and knowing what I'm playing and knowing the key to success in the industry."