

Sunday, January 16, 1983

# *Torff tops slate*

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Music Critic

There can be little doubt that the potential highlight of this week's musical events will be the appearance on Friday evening of Brian Torff in McCain Auditorium. Indeed, if last year's performance is any guide, Brian Torff and his group may well be the highlight of the year again.

When bassist Brian Torff visited Manhattan last year, it was as an accompanist for George Shearing. Since that visit, Torff has formed his own trio, which consists of John Etheridge on guitar and Gil Goldstein, piano. To those who have been waiting to choose just one event to attend in McCain this year: this is the one. To those who have not contemplated attending anything this year: now is the time to change your mind. To those who think they know what they like, and what they like is not jazz: now is the time to learn that good music transcends categorization. To all students of musical instruments, or all those who think that they can play an instrument: you will not hear a greater music virtuoso in Manhattan this year. Period.

All those who heard Brian Torff last year are probably already lining up for the best seats and I have my fingers crossed that he will be as good original manuscript.

On Thursday evening Killer Bees, a six-piece reggae band from Shreveport, La., will be performing at the Avalon. Killer Bees have a considerable following in the south and have opened for Black Uhuru.

Also at the Avalon on Friday and Saturday evenings, Bel Airs, a four-piece rhythm and blues band from Columbia, Mo., will be appearing.

Meanwhile at Brothers, rock 'n roll lives in the form of Astra on Wednesday evening, and the ever-popular Plain Jane on Friday and Saturday.