

Jazz greats fill convention slate

By IFAN PAYNE
Music Critic

When one of Manhattan's least known institutions holds its annual convention this week it seems set to make a large splash in the world of jazz.

The National Association of Jazz Educators will be holding its tenth annual national convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City. Although there will have been business meetings yesterday and today, the musical and educational segment of this jazz extravaganza gets underway on Thursday.

Longtime Manhattan resident Matt Betton was the leading spirit behind the formation of the National Association of Jazz Educators, and he is still the current Executive Director. The NAJE, which has its headquarters here in Manhattan, is now an international organization and in addition to participants from all over the United States, members from Europe will be attending the convention.

Thirty-two concerts are scheduled for the four days from Thursday through Sunday, and these will be paralleled by, and alternate with, numerous talks, films, clinics, exhibi-

tions and presented papers. In all, there will be more than ninety separate events crammed into that hectic four days, including a performance by Manhattan's Palace Jazz Band.

Amongst the better known performers and experts on hand to play and to explain and demonstrate will be Jay McShann, Billy Taylor, Dick Wright, Danny Embry, Ed Shaughnessy, Carol Comer, Don Byrd, Bill Watrous, Tommy Newsome, Free Flight, The Pete Eye Trio and Conrad Janis.

The convention will culminate in a Festival of Jazz, a concert to honor Buddy Tate, Jay McShann and Andy Kirk. This concert (for which tickets are \$9 single and \$16 for two) will take place in the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency, starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Appearing in the concert will be Tommy Newsome, the Billy Taylor Trio, Ed Shaughnessy, Conrad Janis, Free Flight, Don Menza, the Richie Cole Quartet and the Memphis State University Jazz Ensemble.

The keynote speaker for the convention will be Francis S.M. Hodsoll, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.