

Classy Carr helps fill need

By IFAN PAYNE

THE newly-formed Cardiff Jazz Society have plunged into the deep end with a series of concerts featuring exceptional British jazz musicians.

All of the concerts take place at Gibbs in Churchill Way, Cardiff.

Their first commercial promotion took place on Thursday evening, when the society presented Ian Carr with Praxis.

REVIEW

Ian Carr has for a couple of decades been one of Britain's leading exponents of jazz trumpet and flugelhorn. Those with longer memories will recall the notable Rendell-Carr quintet of the 1960s. Those with shorter memories will

know Mr Carr for his more recent work with the jazz-rock group Nucleus.

Ian Carr has made a speciality of studying Miles Davis, the man and the music, and has indeed written a biography of the great American trumpeter.

This link with Miles Davis was made evident in the two Wayne Shorter numbers to be heard during the concert at Gibbs. Shorter wrote the two numbers, *Footprints*

and *ESP*, while with the Davis group.

Carr displayed here, as he did throughout the evening, that he is a fluent and sensitive soloist in a well-mannered bebop style. *ESP* was also notable for a sparkling keyboard solo by Richard Roberts, which contained a brief reference to Bill Evans's *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town*.

Carr responded later with an unexpected reference to Richard Rodgers's *The Surrey With The Fringe On Top* in Sonny Rollins's *Oleo*. This number also featured a fine bass solo by Ieuan Jones, which finished up with beautifully-judged rapid chords.

Ian Carr finally brought out his flugelhorn for Herbie Hancock's song title, *Dolphin Dance*, a lovely ballad that provided a satisfyingly mellow contrast to the rest of the

mostly up-tempo numbers.

Praxis are a relatively new group composed of musicians from Cardiff and Swansea. They are a young but promising group with a wealth of individual talent. More playing time and experience will enable the instrumentalists to develop the ability to play with the sensitivity behind a soloist and to learn the difficult art of getting out of his, and each other's, register.

With the considerable success of their first presentation it is evident that in addition to promoting contemporary jazz the Cardiff Jazz Society are filling a real need in the city for the encouragement of contemporary serious music in general.

The society will be back at Gibbs on July 26, with Al Gay and the Bob Tunnecliffe Quartet.