

Jazz at St Donat's 

Poetry of Dylan set to modern jazz theme

By IFAN PAYNE

A NUMBER of jazz musicians have composed works based on literary themes — Ellington and Dankworth on Shakespeare, for example.

Stan Tracey chose Dylan Thomas and in 1964 composed his *Under Milkwood Suite* which was performed as part of the Vale of Glamorgan's festival at St Donat's last night.

The first half of the concert, however, was an undifferentiated and undistinguished event caused to a great extent by a sound system which homogenised and splattered Stan Tracey's piano sound around the room so that any interest there may have been in his Persichetti — like tone clusters was drowned in the general over-resonate clatter.

Combine this with Roy Babbington's solid as a concrete edge beam, unswinging base line and with Art Themen's unimaginative saxophone playing and it made, for me, a first whose interval had long since been pre-

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ceded by a desire for its early approach.

Under Milkwood Suite consists of a set of jazz lines interspersed between an accompanied reading of Dylan Thomas's work — here ably narrated by Michael Griffiths.

Possibly it was the context or the contrast between the spoken word and the musical interludes which gave to the latter (by association perhaps) a feeling of greater cohesion and vitality than had been apparent in the first half.

Clark Tracey's drumming in particular seemed tighter here, with a greater sense of direction, while his father's piano work had more cogency than had been the case during the first half of the concert.

The next event in the Vale of Glamorgan Festival will be Pascal Roge's piano recital at St Donat's at 7.30 this evening.