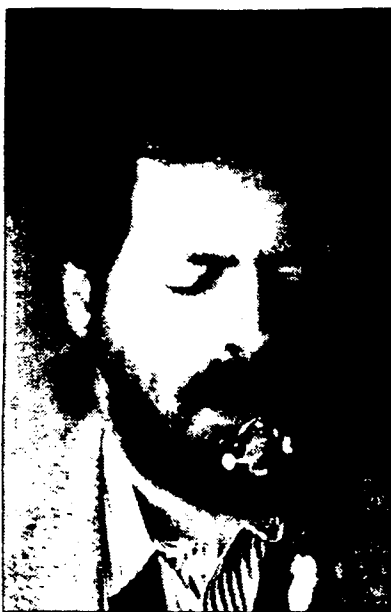


Rising sax star returns to alma mater in clinics, concert

A rising tenor sax star, Jed Levy, returns to his alma mater, Bridgewater-Raritan High School East, for a concert at 8 p.m. on June 1, following a day of clinics with students at four local schools.

Levy, a 1976 graduate of B-R East



JED LEVY
... rising star

JAZZ BEAT

Tek Talmont

and now living in Jamaica, N.Y., recently was home visiting his parents, and while at the Bridgewater Post Office, ran into the school's fine arts chairman, Rick Coulter, sporting an "Arts '89" button advertising the recent "Sight and Sound" festival.

As the two discussed Levy's school days, when no such festivals were held, they hit on the idea of Levy returning to recount his experiences as a professional jazz musician and give a concert.

The schedule calls for clinics at Hillside School at 9 a.m., B-R East at 10:50 a.m., B-R West at 12:50 p.m. and Eisenhower School at 2:20 p.m., topped by the concert that evening. Tickets, at \$5, will be available at the door and in advance by mail. Write to: Gary Myer, B-R East Fine Arts Department, Box 301, Martinsville 08836.

Levy's group will include pianist Peter Madsen, featured on his first album, "Good People." The bassist will be Cecil McBee with Jeff Williams on drums.

A different quartet, with guitarist

Peter Leitch, drummer Eliot Zigmund and bassist Harvey Swartz, can be heard tomorrow at the Cornerstone, in Metuchen.

Levy is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston. He lists pianist Jaki Byard as one of his chief influences. In developing his own sound on tenor, Levy said he has "listened" to numerous greats, including Wayne Shorter and Ellingtonians such as Paul Gonsalvez and Ben Webster, and of course, Charlie Parker.

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B-R East jazz benefit tonight

BRIDGEWATER — The Jed Levy Quartet — a jazz group featuring a former township resident — will perform a benefit concert at 8 o'clock tonight to raise money for the Bridgewater-Raritan High School East band.

Levy, 30, is a saxophonist who lives in New York City and tours internationally. He is a 1976 graduate of B-R East and is revisiting his alma mater to encourage musical and artistic expression among students.

"I think young people's involve-

ment with music is a very positive thing," said Levy. "There seems to be a renewed interest in the arts in Bridgewater and I'm trying to lend my support and do what I can do encourage it."

The quartet has cut an album entitled "Good People" released on Reservoir Records, Levy said.

Other group members are Peter Madsen on piano, Cecil McBee on bass, and Jeff Williams on drums.

Tickets for the benefit are \$5 and may be purchased at the door.