



# THE BLUE NOTES



**Chris McGregor.** (Pianist, leader and arranger). Born 24 th December 1936, Somerset West. Grew up in the Transkei where he studied the piano with various teachers. After Matriculation he read for a Bachelor of Music at the South African College of Music: here he first became conscious of the jazz-movement in Cape Town. Started playing jam-sessions with various people and in 1958 met Dollar Brand who became his prime influence. In 1959 he formed his first sextet to play opposite Dollar Brand's group at a Cape Town jazz-club. Subsequently he formed a professional trio, then a Sextet including for the first time Dudu Pukwana who had come to Cape Town as a pianist accompanying a vocal group. Next followed the musical show *Mr. Paljas* where McGregor wrote the arrangements for an 8-piece band including Nick Moyake. In 1962 he started a jazz-workshop in Cape Town and brought the group evolving from it to the 1962 Jazz Festival in Johannesburg. This group was disbanded and the Blue Notes formed, which played in Cape Town, and shared first prize at the National Jazz Festival 1963. After the festival McGregor formed the present group.

**Nick Moyake.** (Tenor Sax). Born 29th January, 1934, Port Elizabeth. In 1951 he formed his own vocal group, started playing alto-sax in 1953, working locally often in company with Dudu Pukwana. In 1958 he joined *African Jazz and Variety* with whom he arrived in Johannesburg. Here he made recordings and for a short time led his own group called *The Disciples*. First met McGregor when he joined the band for the musical *Mr. Paljas*. In 1962 he was with the *Jazz Giants*, and since then he has been with McGregor.

**Mongezi Feza.** (Trumpet). Born May 11th 1945, Queenstown. Was taught to play the trumpet by an elder brother. Went to East London in 1960 and played with local bands. In 1962 he came to Johannesburg for the National Jazz Festival with Eric Nomvete's group. Early in 1963 he joined Ronnie Beer's group in Cape Town and later joined the present group.

**Louis Moholo.** (Drums) Born 10th March 1938, Cape Town. In 1958 he started playing drums with Cup-and-Saucer Nkanuka's and other Cape Town bands. In 1962 he came to the Jazz Festival with Cup-and-Saucer's *Jazz Associates*. Returning to Cape Town he joined Ronnie Beer's group with whom he played in the 1963 Festival, after which he joined McGregor.

**Dudu Pukwana.** (Alto-sax). Born 18th July 1938, Port Elizabeth. Was taught the piano by his father and as a child earned his pocket-money as a party-pianist. Started learning alto-sax in 1957 after meeting Nick Moyake and played both instruments in various local groups. In 1960 he arrived in Cape Town where he met McGregor and began the association which has lasted until the present group—except for a break in 1962 when he formed the *Jazz Giants* with Nick Moyake and drummer Makaya Ntshoko. In the National Jazz Festival 1962 he was voted the best alto-saxophonist.

**Samson Velelo.** (Bass). Born 27th October 1934, Johannesburg. Sang in his school-choir and in 1958 formed his own vocal quartet. In 1959 he started playing bass and played with Dollar Brand during Brand's Johannesburg visit of that year. In 1962 and '63 he was with *Dinqaka* and during 1963 he featured his own trio at a Johannesburg coffee-bar. Joined McGregor in 1963.