



Chris McGregor (right), the Big Band leader, leaves his piano to swing the boys with real fire!

by **Aggrey  
Klaaste**

# This is Big — too good to miss

**CHRIS MCGREGOR'S** festival big band is the band of personalities —BIG personalities in the South African jazz scene. For the first time we have had the cream of our players together.

The band opened at Atteridgeville early this week, had another concert at Kwa-Thema on Thursday and played to a White audience on Friday.

In Atteridgeville, friend Jack Sitholo said a tiny crowd of 250 were there.

## No 'body'

At Kwa-Thema the crowd was also disap-

pointing. Some people say this was why one had the feeling there was no "body" to the playing.

But the fact is there was no "body" in the band — it's too much a musical ganging-up of big personalities who unwittingly push one another over.

One could hardly expect less really, what with Kiepie Moeketsi, ever volatile, sometimes unbelievably fast, sometimes plain

funny and, in contrast, Dudu Phokwane pushing the living daylights out of every blow.

I'm beginning to feel that Nick Moyake is one of the only saxmen of late who has the BIG SOUL and the technique to boot.

Whatever the results, it would be criminal for any jazz fan to miss this band. Such things come once in a life-time.