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HE SWITCHED FROM CLASSICS TO JAZZ

ONE of the "personalities" of the national jazz festival at Orlando today, and leading exponent of the "South African sound" which the organizers hope to foster—is a White band-leader-arranger, Chris McGregor (above).

A 26-year-old former music student at the University of Cape Town, he switched from classical studies to jazz. "The sound I wanted to express—an essentially South African sound—could not be created in the European traditions of Bach, Mozart and Haydn," he says.

Now Chris, known in his world as an offbeat, warmhearted individualist, has become one of the leaders of the present "breakthrough" in South African jazz.

His septet—himself "on piano," with six of the best African instrumentalists—is said by some local critics to be playing the best jazz the country has ever heard. The group was formed after the last jazz festival.

Taking advantage of the gathering of the country's best jazz musicians, Chris is doing an experiment: a week of concerts in the City Hall with a 17-piece band, later this month.