

# Multi-racial band plays in new Jo'burg jazz club

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JOHANNESBURG'S first jazz club, "Downbeat," opened in Hillbrow this week to the music of a multi-racial jazz group.

Led by pianist Chris McGregor, a European, the group includes a Coloured, Sammy Maritz (bass), and three Natives, Louls Mohole (drums), Dudu Pukwane (saxophone) and Mongezi Feza, an 18-year-old trumpet player.

## Members only

The club has been started by a young married couple Vim and Ruth St. Moritz, because they believe there is a need for a place where South Africa's jazz enthusiasts can listen to "pure jazz."

"That's why we are charging a

stiff membership fee of R2 a month and 35c for every visit," said Vim. "The idea is to come and listen, not socialise and natter," added Ruth.

The club is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, to members only.

Pipe-smoking Chris McGregor, aged 26, was a classical concert pianist and lecturer in music in Cape Town before suddenly switching to jazz a few years ago.

He was born in the Transkei. He has been a constant performer with Native musicians and has gathered his present group from various parts of South Africa.

Their wide repertoire of "jazz classics" includes many compositions by Native jazzmen like Dollar Brand and Kippie Mokerzi.