

Sunday Times
15.12.63

RECORDS

African jazz lights up under new leader

By LEON BENNETT

AFTER years of disorganised wandering, searching, looking for support and creating isolated followers, African jazz has found a leader.

He is Chris McGregor, a former Cape Town musician now settled in Johannesburg, who in the past five years has made his mark on the South African jazz scene as nobody has done before him.

JAZZ/THE AFRICAN SOUND (New Sound NSL 1011) is the first major contribution to indigenous jazz. It features Chris McGregor and band, with soloists like Kippie Moeketsi, Dudu Pukwana, Nick Moyake (saxes); Bob Tizzard, trombone; Mongesi Feza, trumpet; Sammy Marita, bass; and Early Mabusa, drums.

Others in the line-up are Barney Rabachane, Ronnie Beer, Christopher Columbus Ngcukane, Blyth Mbityana, Willie Nettle, Dennis Mpali, Ebbie Creswell, Noel Jones and Chris McGregor himself on the piano.

BRILLIANT

All the six tunes on the LP are local compositions, two by Kippie Moeketsi, two by Dollar Brand, and two by McGregor.

Moeketsi's "Switch" is brilliant, while Dollar Brand's "Kippie" is a soulful tribute to the man who has for so long been the main force fighting for African jazz appreciation.