

# *the groove for big festival*

**O**N ALMOST EVERY FLOOR of Dorkay House, Johannesburg, all this week you could hear the cool combos blowing their hearts out in steamy sessions sometimes lasting six hours without a break.

They were practising for the National Jazz Festival, which will start tomorrow in the Orlando stadium.

The festival, which will go on into the night, is expected to attract 10,000 Africans, according to Mr. Ian Bernhardt, of Union Artists. It will be Soweto's greatest event in entertainment for many years.

## **10 BANDS**

The biggest item will be the contest between the progressive jazz groups.

Ten bands have been selected from the preliminaries, including King Konger Mackay Davashe's "Jazz Dazzlers," last year's winners, and Chris McGregor's seven "Blue Notes," a band considered by many local critics to be the country's top group.

Chris McGregor will be one of three White performers in the festival. A pianist and former Cape Town University music student, he is one of the chief organizers.

Three other groups are to be the Mbaqanga section—the kwela jazz

of the townships, which has a very definite "beat"—the solo singer section and the group singer section. The sponsors are offering nearly R2000 in prize money.

## **CITY HALL CONCERT**

Each jazz band must include at least one original number—preferably based on a "South African sound."

"This is a deliberate effort to foster the peculiarly South African sound in our jazz," Mr. Bernhardt said.

The festival will be followed by concerts at the Johannesburg City Hall from September 16 to 19. The performers will comprise one big band, selected by Mr. McGregor from the best soloists tomorrow.

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Close-up of the trumpeter in a new, six-man Johannesburg jazz group—one of the 10 bands selected to compete for a R500 prize at the big, national jazz festival in Orlando tomorrow.