

Cool cold jazz: this is the life!

BY THE SPORT EDITOR

JOBURG:— Dorkay House is a buzzing beehive of activity as bands and groups in a frantic rush knock into shape the tunes they have arranged and also composed for the mammoth Cold Castle Festival on Saturday at Orlando Stadium (from 12 noon to 10 p. m.). And what a pot-pourri this promises to be!

Good news for jazz fans who are going to pack out the spread that is Orlando Stadium comes in the form of Dudu Phukwane, exciting alto saxophonist. He will be there.

It was first feared that because he and his group are the instrumental backing to "Back In Your Own Backyard" which is on tour and presently in East London, he would not make the Cold Castle Festival.

Well, he is back and as exciting as ever. He will be playing at the festival. He came back with Martin Gijima (bass) and Nicholas Moyake (tenor sax).

The trio with Chris McGregor, Dennis Nene (trumpet), Christopher Columbus (baritone sax) and Eli Mabuza (drums) will form the Chris McGregor Septet. A strong entry.

I found Mackay Dvashe tinkering with Kippie Moeke-tsi's alto up on the third floor at Dorkay House. He was working over an intricate Patrick Matshikiza original. The Jazz Dazzlers will be there minus Dennis Nene and Eli Mabuza.

The numbers the competitors are presenting at the festival are top secret at the moment. I do not know them myself and I was at the rehearsals last night.

If this will help you, I heard the Chris McGregor Septet work-out an indigenous piece called "Oo Soga" which has overtones of a cha-cha tune. They belted it out a number of times. Then they worked on a thing called

"Darling."

And just for the record (there is somebody around here who doubts my musical genius) both these tunes were in F sharp.

(We say it again: get back to the sports pages, Siwani.

—Editor)



Those fingers hugging that bull fiddle (bass) belong to Martin Gijima. He'll be belting it out hot at the Festival tomorrow at Orlando Stadium. Will team up with Chris McGregor (piano), Chris Columbus (baritone sax) Eli Mabuza (drums), Dennis Nene (trumpet), Dudu Phukwane (alto sax) and Nicholas Moyake (tenor sax). There'll be other combos from all over the country.

Good luck boys. The best man wins!