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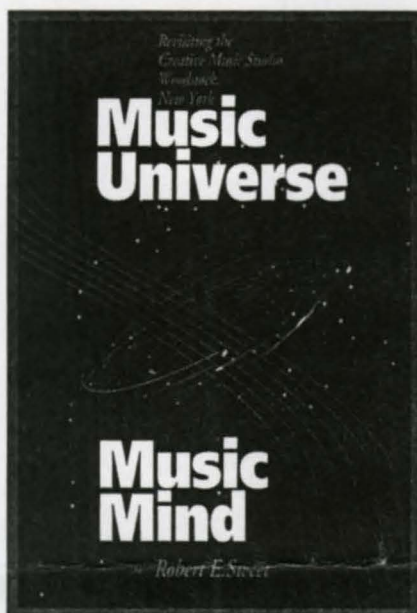
his fifth wife Ann Davison, and every relative, friend, associate, and significant musician he could find. Filled with hilarious stories about Davison's exploits (his nickname "Wild Bill" was well-earned), the narrative traces the cornetist's life quite thoroughly. It will prove entertaining and informative even to readers who are not familiar with Davison's music. There are two faults: Next to nothing is said about Wild Bill's life in the 1980s (he was active up until the end), and no discography is included. But otherwise, *The Wildest One* (available from Avondale Press, Box 351, Monkton, MD 21111) is a gem.

Chris McGregor was unique. A white South African pianist-composer, McGregor led inter-racial groups in his native land during the early days of apartheid. He emigrated to Europe in 1964 with the other members of his band, the Blue Notes (which included altoist Dudu

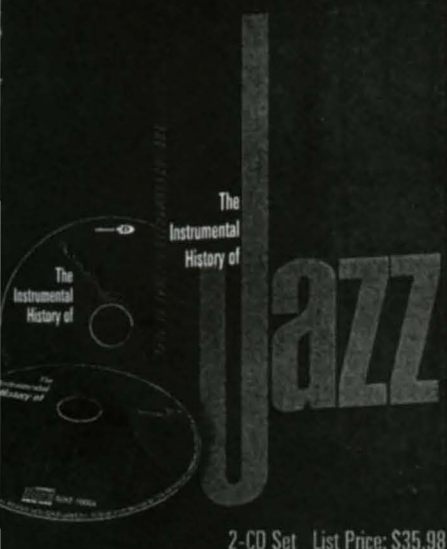
Pukwana, trumpeter Mongezi Feza, bassist Johnny Dyani, and drummer Louis Moholo), and later led an

unusual big band called the Brotherhood of Breath up until his premature death in 1990. McGregor had a respect for the jazz tradition along with the desire to combine his South African folk heritage with aspects of avant-garde jazz. His wife **Maxine McGregor's** definitive book, *Chris McGregor & The Brotherhood of Breath* (Bamberger Books, 260 pages), is at its most exciting when it discusses the remarkable dangers that McGregor and his musicians braved on a daily basis while trying simply (and apolitically) to create music in early-'60s South Africa. One breathes a sigh of relief when, after much red tape and some foul-ups, McGregor and his players finally escape to Europe. However, the general apathy that they faced from the European jazz community, coupled with the early death of all the musicians except for Moholo, made the group's

European years less of a success than the musicians had hoped. As the discography that closes the book shows, none of Chris McGregor's music has yet been made readily available in the U.S. But his important story awaits a good read. (Available from Bamberger Books, P.O. Box 1126, Flint, MI 48501-1126.)



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