

The University Musical Society

of

The University of Michigan

Presents

Bob Greene's

"World of Jelly Roll Morton"

TOMMY BENFORD, *Drums*

JOHN BUCHER, *Cornet*

BOB GREENE, *Piano*

HERB HALL, *Clarinet*

MILT HINTON, *Bass Player*

EPHRAIM RESNICK, *Trombone*

JOHN SMITH, *Guitar*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1975, AT 8:00
POWER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

The Program

Jelly Roll Morton was America's first jazz composer, and the range and scope of his work is very large. Since Bob Greene's "World of Jelly Roll Morton" is constantly exploring this literature, no printed program is possible. Instead, Mr. Greene's narration, before and after most of the selections, forms a moving commentary telling about the music and placing it in the vivid settings of Jelly's life in the music world of New Orleans, Chicago, and New York.

About Jelly Roll Morton

As he tells it, his name was Ferdinand La Menthe—Jelly Roll Morton—and part of his family came from the shores of France and settled in a Louisiana town. He was playing piano when the century was new—raggy notes and funky horns from the District, blowing over into the French Quarter at dawn.

The music ran through him, and with his two perfect hands he added the riffs, the breaks, the Spanish tinge and haunting chords to create a new kind of music. They called it Jazz. Jelly said he invented it, and he may have been right. For he was the genius who took ragtime—and made it hot.

He played the Gulf Coast, always writing tunes, America's first jazz composer, the ready grin, the diamond in his front tooth, the cheer, the words, always the humor. Carl Sandburg compared him to Gershwin, but Jelly would have said he was greater than that. He was Mr. Jelly Lord.

His melodies captured Chicago in the "20s." And in Chicago he formed probably the best New Orleans band that ever recorded—the Red Hot Peppers.

Columbia Records.

