

A CITY IN THE MOOD FOR JAZZ

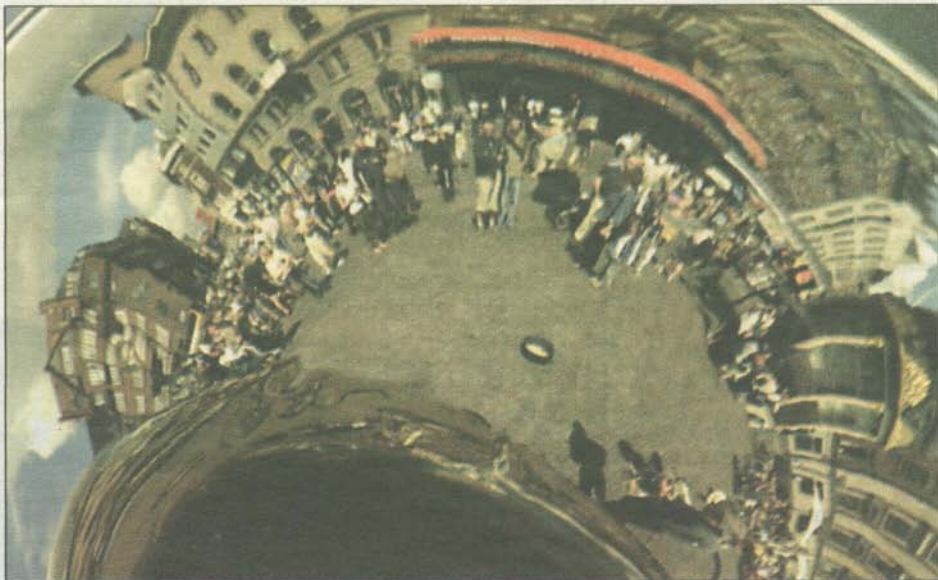
**Copenhagen Jazz Festival
2006**ALL OVER COPENHAGEN, FROM 7 - 16
JULY;www.jazzfestival.dk
(also in English)

IT'S HARDLY surprising that after 27 successful years, the Copenhagen Jazz Festival has imprinted itself into the capital's summer calendar. Ask many locals, and they'll tell you this is one of the best times to visit their city - the sun is shining, and the streets and squares are alive with vibrant, swinging sounds.

One of the special things about the jazz festival is that you don't have to be a jazz fanatic to enjoy it: it's all around you, both indoors and outdoors, and how much you want to get involved is up to you. You could go to concerts every night, immersing oneself in everything from big band to future jazz, or you could simply enjoy the entertainment offered in the parks and squares for all that feel like stopping.

The old classics are here this year: established venues like Copenhagen JazzHouse, Huset's Jazzscenen, JazzCup, La Fontaine and Løng John, venues that will continue to offer jazz every week long after the festival is over. And then there are the popular outdoor venues, at squares like Nytorv and Gråbrødre Torv, down by the anchor on Nyhavn, and in Kongens Have gardens, where the children's jazz festival is entertaining younger crowds from Saturday at 12.00 and through to Wednesday.

There's plenty of new venues this

**Brass reflection of Kongens Nytorv**

year as well, like Axelortov's Zum Biergarten, Politiken's old printing press Pressen just off Rådhuspladsen, the floating harbour stage 'Havnescenen' stationed in Islands Brygge, and close by next to Langebro Bridge, the party boat M/S Stubnitz, docking in from Rostock. In addition, the 'giant' concerts this year will be held in Tivoli and at the Royal Opera House.

Jazz covers a lot of ground, and the festival runs that gauntlet, from big band and trad to future jazz and free form electronica. Some of the concerts experiment with the urban landscape

of Copenhagen, like Saturday's basketball event in Israels Plads, 'Jazz Meets the Street', and 15 July's afternoon of jazz in the museums of Slotsholmen.

One of the most interesting things about this year's festival, however, is its world jazz theme, pushing normal definitions of jazz out to include French and Spanish composers of gypsy music, legendary artists like Salif Keita and Tony Allen and Brazilian dance stars like Sergio Mendes.

The festival opens officially at 12 midday on Nytorv in central Copenhagen, and the first street parade of

the festival kicks off from Gråbrødre Torv at 13.00.

Don't worry about the fact that the opening night concert, featuring Herbie Hancock at the Royal Opera House, is sold out, along with many of the other big name concerts. Copenhagen Jazz Festival is a festival that can be enjoyed as much down by the harbour with a bottle of beer in the hand as in a theatrical concert setting. So wherever the festival finds you over the next 10 days, enjoy!

Jane Graham