

And the band played and played

by NATANGA SMITH

LAST SATURDAY Andre Woodvine And The Original Unit transformed Divi Southwinds Beach Resort into an intimate setting for Jazz.

To fully appreciate this concert, the first in a series planned by the Jazz Society of Barbados, patrons would have needed a well tuned jazz ear to appreciate the intricacies of each piece.

However, Woodvine was up to the task, providing not only a little historical background on each, but also revealing what type of piece it was.

With Stefan Walcott on keyboard (the maestro behind the **1688 Orchestra**), Neil Newton on bass (back from Canada), drummer David Carnegie (back from Newcastle), and Woodvine on tenor, alto and soprano sax as well as his trusty flute, the four took their places on the stage and launched into opening number **Boys Of Summer**.

This piece lasted for nine minutes. And for three minutes the drums and the keyboard talked to each other in a call and respond. In the next piece, **Celia**, Woodvine explained that it was written for a female friend named Celia who spoke in a sing-song voice. This song had a Caribbean flavour to it.

One Of Our Beats Is Missing went from a slow tempo to a fast one. Woodvine brought out the flute in **The Departure**, an original piece still unrecorded, as was **A Bit 2 The North** – which is named after a storm.

The composition piece **Present Day** was an uptempo number that ended the first half.

Returning after the break, the quartet performed the rhythmic and melodious **Machine Chord**. Adapting the zouk beat from Martinique, **No Fret** had a piece of flute with mostly drums and keyboards.

Next was the unrecorded **Beach Buzz**, which moved the bassist to get funky on this one. Woodvine told the audience that the bridge wasn't supposed to be in spouge but it worked out beautifully.

Music is music in any form and the band did the pop ballad **More Than We Know**. **Taking A Ride To The Moon** was followed by **Happy Lypso**, a name that speaks for itself. The sax was sweet on this one.

The set ended with **Voyager**, which was written in 1992 and is the title of the first jazz CD by Woodvine. This one started out slow before building up momentum and ending on a crescendo.

The musicians took their bows and obliged the happy audience with the popular Adrian Clarke **Roxy Roundabout** that wasn't on the playlist.



DAVID CARNEGIE rocking out on drums. Inset, the animated Stefan Walcott on keys.



THE AUDIENCE loved every minute of each performance.

(Pictures by Rawle Culbard.)