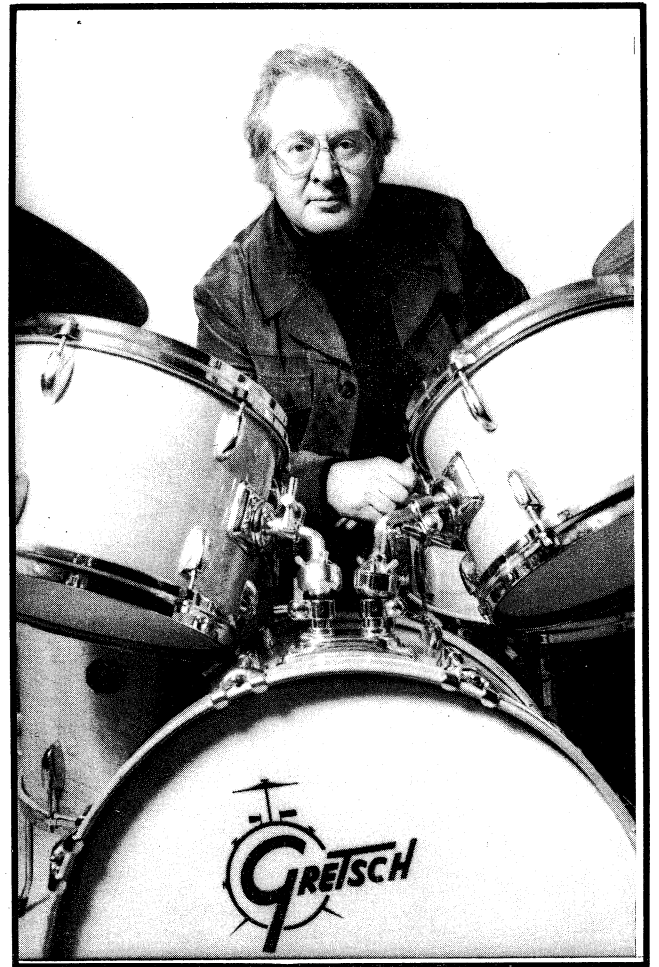


ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Mel Lewis is the drummer and co-leader of the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra which has achieved unparalleled success and longevity among contemporary big bands. Born in Buffalo (N.Y.) on May 10, 1929, Mel began playing professionally in his early teens with some of the best bands in Buffalo. As a member of Lenny Lewis' jazz orchestra he went to New York City to work at the famous Savoy Ballroom and Apollo Theater. Stints with Boyd Raeburn, Alvino Rey, Ray Anthony, Tex Beneke and Stan Kenton brought him to the forefront of the jazz scene.

Mel then settled in Los Angeles and proceeded to play a series of recording dates. He was a member of the original Hampton Hawes Trio and the Frank Rosolino quintet, and co-led a quintet with Bill Holman. He also played with Maynard Ferguson, the West Coast Big Band, the Terry Gibbs Orchestra, and the Gerald Wilson Orchestra.

As a member of Gerry Mulligan's concert jazz band, Mel began to commute back and forth to N.Y.C. and, after stints with Dizzy Gillespie and Benny Goodman (on a tour to Russia sponsored by the state department), Mel moved permanently to the prospering New York jazz scene. After establishing himself in the NBC and ABC studios (Kraft Music Hall, the Jimmy Dean Show, Barbra Streisand specials, etc.) Mel got together with Thad Jones and formed their current band. Aside from all these 'big name' people with whom he has played, Mel has done his share of weddings, bar mitzvahs, burlesque shows and, of course, thousands of recordings of all types. Mel has also served on the faculties of the New England Conservatory and William Paterson College.



Mel Lewis

Bold pioneering of the teaching and implementation of jazz skills in the schools has earned Clem DeRosa the title 'Mr. Jazz Educator.' His outstanding performing groups at the elementary, junior and senior high school levels have provided a stimulus and motivation for creative music programs throughout the country. His student groups have performed on the Merv Griffin and Johnny Carson shows, the Voice of America, the Newport Jazz Festival, and in leading concert halls including Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

Clem entered the educational field with outstanding professional credentials and is still involved as a musician, arranger and composer. He has performed and/or recorded with Charlie Mingus, John LaPorta, Teo Macero, Kenyon Hopkins, Urbie Green, Coleman Hawkins, Thad Jones, Marian McPartland, Jimmy McPartland, Clark Terry, Phil Woods, and the big bands of the 40's. Clem was one of the original members of the Stan Kenton Clinic staff (on which he still serves) and was also one of the organizers and past president of the NAJE (National Association of Jazz Educators).

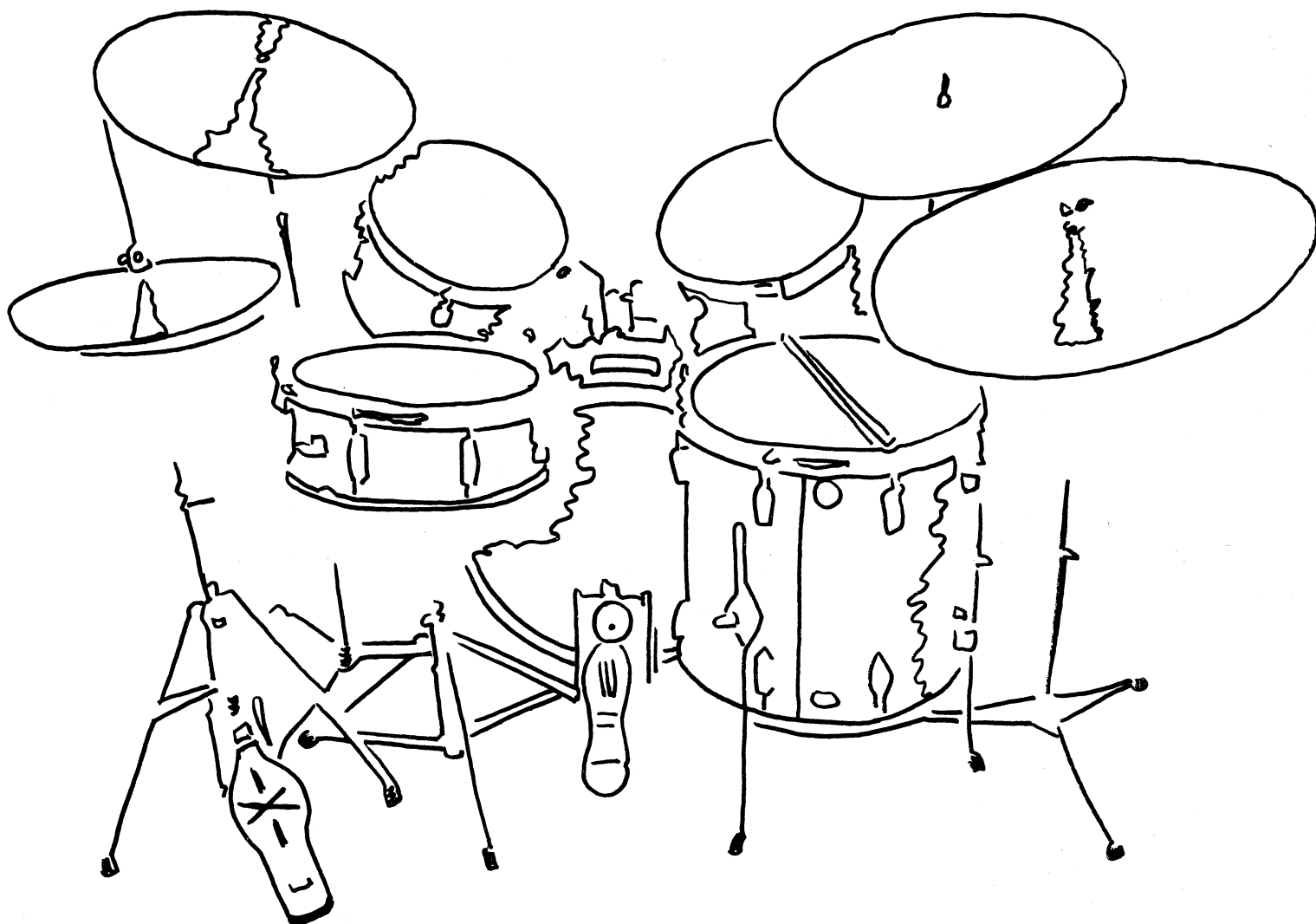


Clem DeRosa

IT'S TIME

for the big band drummer

by Mel Lewis
& Clem DeRosa



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FOREWORD

The material presented in this book will help fill the void we have observed in the musical growth of many student drummers. After becoming technically accomplished, they must be concerned with improving and applying their skills in a more musical approach.

In spite of the many jazz styles, we are concentrating our suggestions and opinions on big band jazz drumming. The title explains the thrust of the book: IT'S TIME for the Big Band Drummer, for indeed, without time, the heart of any arrangement is destroyed.

We hope that the material presented will enhance your playing. Please remember that time, taste, and tone are as important as technique, and that they are essential in making your performance a musical entity.

Good Luck,

Mel Lewis
Clem DeRosa

Mel Lewis
Clem DeRosa

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I - EQUIPMENT	1
BASS DRUM	2
SNARE DRUM	3
TOM TOMS	4
CYMBALS	4
STICKS	6
BRUSHES	6
PART 2 - TECHNIQUE	8
RIFF PATTERNS	8
FILLS	9
PART 3 - READING (drum parts from Jones/Lewis library) ...	11
“CHERRY JUICE”	12
“THANK YOU”	21
“CENTRAL PARK NORTH”	24
“TIP TOE”	31
“61ST & RICH’ IT”	38
CLOSING REMARKS	47