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THE GUIDE

MEMORIAL JAZZ CONCERT

The Don Elliott Memorial Concert will be held for the first time in the musician's hometown, Somerville, next Sunday, featuring a distinguished ensemble of jazz musicians, including Jud Walden, who is also from Somerville.

The memorial concerts to provide music scholarships have been held since 1985 in Westport, Conn., where Mr. Elliott lived at the time of his death in 1984. The first concert, at the Levitt Pavilion there, drew a record crowd of 3,600 that stayed almost five hours through a downpour.

Mr. Walden, a pianist and composer (he won a Tony for his music for "Raisin"), will be joined in the concert by Eddie Crawford on drums, Saul Fischer on valve trombone, Cliff Hoff on tenor saxophone, Vinnie Burke on bass, Bucky Pizzarelli on guitar, Nick Carella on trombone and other guest artists.

They will gather for "music and memories" honoring Mr. Elliott, a vibraphonist, trumpeter, mellophonist and singer who won the miscellaneous instrument category of the Downbeat Poll eight times.

He was a member of the George Shearing Quintet when "Lullaby of Birdland" was recorded in 1950, played with the Benny Goodman Sextet and was in the orchestras of the Arthur Godfrey and Jackie Gleason television shows.

He also participated in the first singing commercial on television and wrote many of the musical sales pitches heard on television in the 1950's. In addition, he composed music for films.

Tickets for the concert, $8 in advance and $10 at the door, will benefit the music scholarship funds of the borough's two high schools, Immaculata and Somerville, where Mr. Elliott graduated in 1944.

The concert will be from 4 to 6 P.M. in the United Reform Church, 100 West Main Street. Information: (201) 762-3094.

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