

# Trumpeter Maynard Ferguson Blows Big Band Sound At Abington Jan. 12

Trumpeter Maynard Ferguson will perform in concert at Abington High School on Jan. 12. This event is being sponsored by the Junior Class Council.

Twenty or so years ago when Maynard Ferguson first came to the attention of jazz fans, the high-note trumpet player was considered some sort of a freak. Some jazz fans predicted, "He'll blow his brains out in five years."

It's 1973 now, and Ferguson still has not lost his lip and his

feel for good jazz and contemporary music. His tone is rich and full, and he continues to wring every last ounce of sound out of those high notes.

MAYNARD began his musical training at age four when he started learning the piano and violin. He enrolled in the French Conservatory of Music in Montreal at the age of nine where he studied all instruments in the saxophone family as well as the clarinet and slide trombone. He finally

settled down to the trumpet.

Maynard formed his first band when he was 15 and was possibly the world's youngest bandleader—the average age of his sidemen was about 30.

In 1948, he started working in the United States first with Boyd Raeburn's big band and then with Jimmy Dorsey and Charlie Barnet. Maynard moved on to Stan Kenton's Orchestra, staying with Kenton until 1953 when he went to Hollywood to become firstcall trumpet man for Paramount

Pictures. He then formed his first American band which was based at Birdland, the legendary New York jazz club. This band was known as the "Birdland Dream Band", and its members included some of the top session men in New York.

Maynard was on the road in 1956 with a new brand of musicians. They traveled and performed together until the fall of 1967 when they disbanded. Maynard then signed with Harold Davison to tour England with an all-star British big band called "Top Brass".

WHILE VISITING Manchester, Maynard met a long-time fan and fellow trumpet player, Ernie Garside who owned the now legendary Club 43. After telling Garside he would like to remain in Britain, they formed the forerunner of the band that Maynard now leads on tours through all of Europe.

"All I've ever wanted was to be influenced by everything in life that turned on my joy centers," says the 44-year-old Ferguson. "I've just wanted to play my own pleasure game. I'm serious about meditation, but not earnest. It's a philosophy of joy."

Ferguson has tanned skin and salt and pepper hair. He is described as "a plump and friendly dog, grinning, relaxed, totally open-hearted and maddeningly vague."

His music tells of the big bands of today. Charts like "Hey Jude"; "El Dopa"; "Theme From Shaft"; "Bridge Over Troubled Water"; "Fire And Rain"; and "Maria" bridge that generation gap and bring young and old people alike back to the Big Bands.



'THE IRON LIP' . . . Trumpeter Maynard Ferguson and his band will perform in concert in the South Campus Auditorium at Abington High School.

with the likes of Jimmy Dorsey, Charlie Barnet and Stan Kenton, but has gone on to earn fame in his own right. His big band sound and wide repertoire of both old favorite and contemporary tunes make