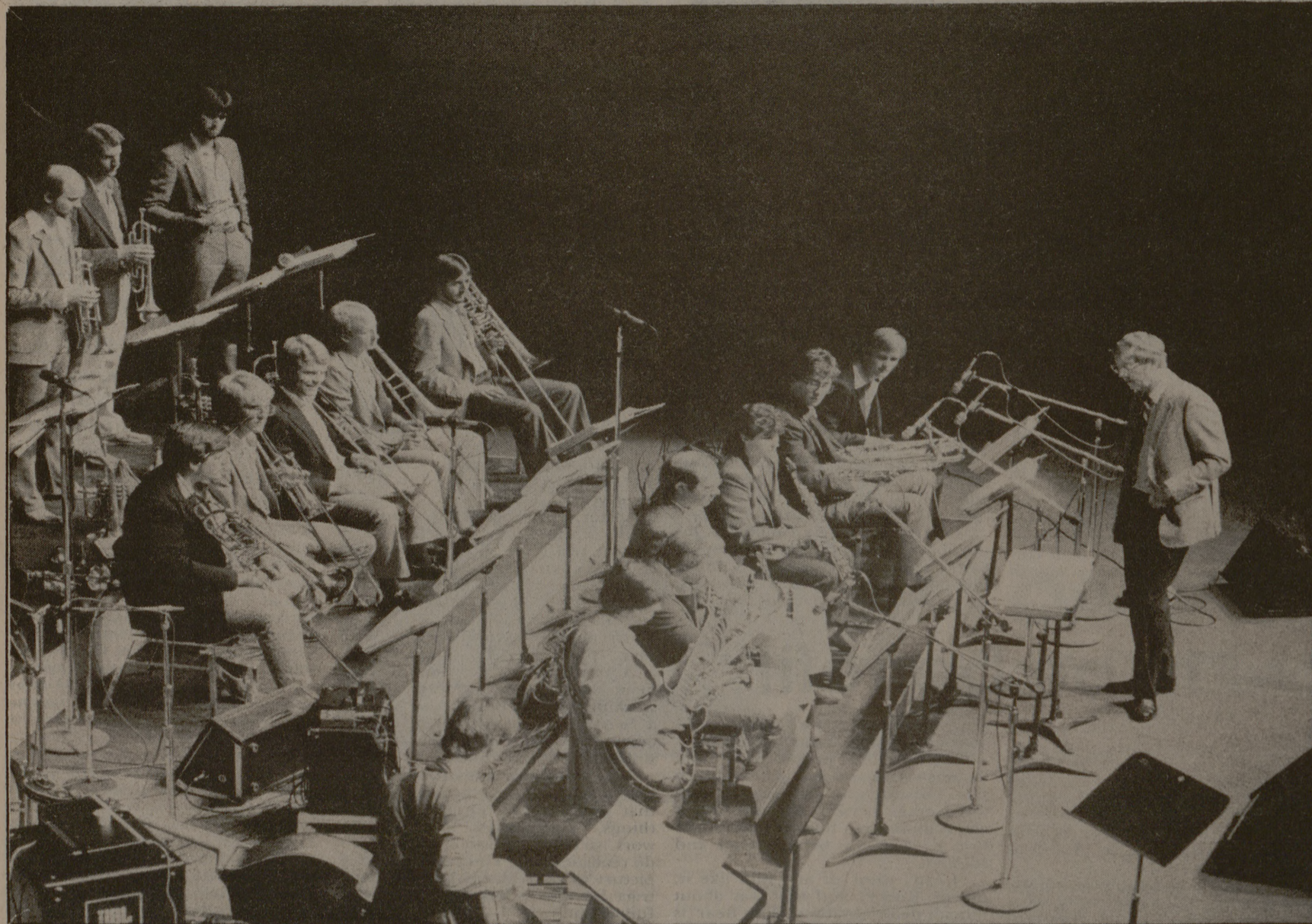


Culture that seems non-existent &



The NTSU One O'Clock Lab Band — a jazz ensemble from North Texas State University — is one of the most popular acts that MSC Basement Committee has sponsored in the past.

Come on, admit it. Texas A&M and its surrounding community is not exactly a mecca for the arts. Even so, culturally-minded folk can find respite thanks to some of the Memorial Student Center's student organizations.

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts society brings in several respected performers and productions every year. OPAS, as it is better known, is about to begin its twelfth season. Having hosted such groups as the Houston Ballet, the opera "Madame Butterfly," and performers including Flutist James Galway, OPAS continues the trend this year by bringing productions including the Black Light Theatre of Prague and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Next: MSC Townhall. Townhall brings in musicals and popular music acts. Past performances have included country music group Alabama, rock groups Cheap Trick and Huey Lewis and the News. Musicals brought to Texas A&M in the past include "Annie," "Evita" and the play "Amadeus."

Townhall usually schedules music groups at short notice as a kind of tag-on appearance. The organization schedules groups that are on tour

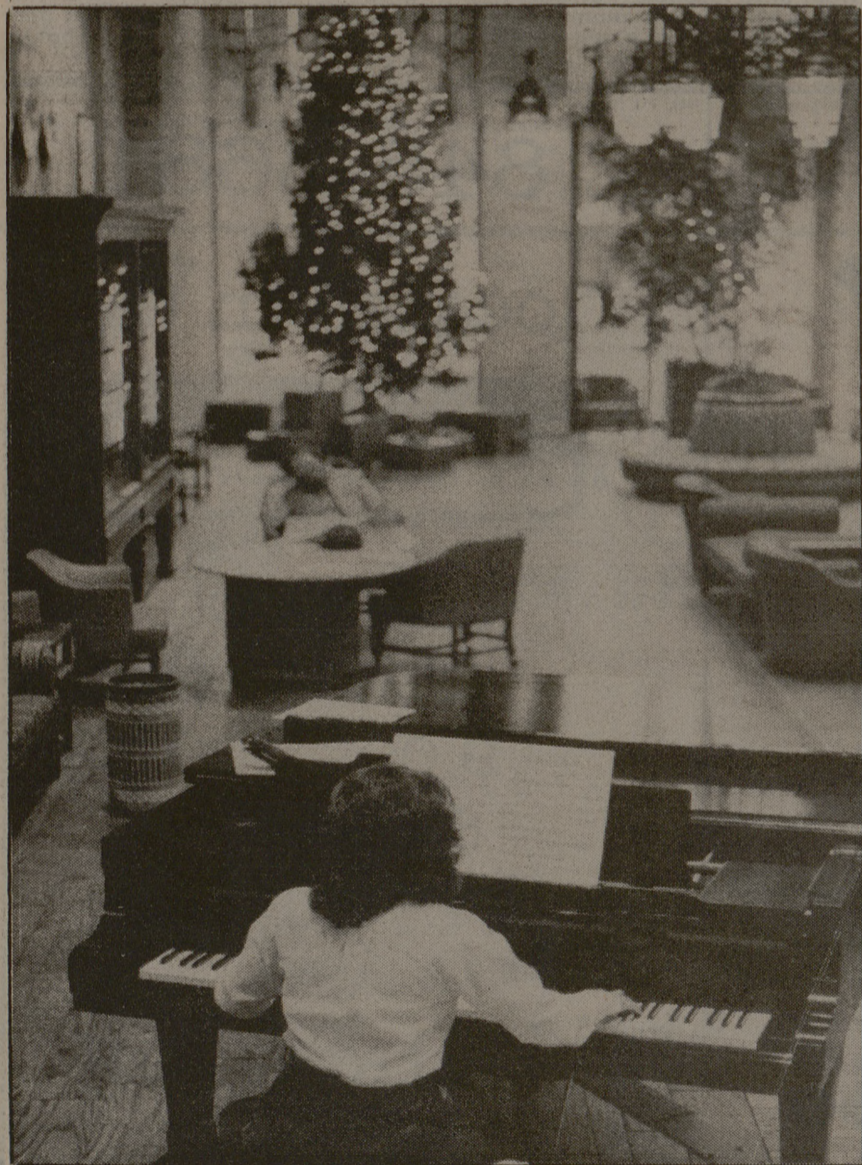
and catches them between appearances in cities such as Dallas and Houston.

The other music-oriented organization on campus is MSC Basement. MSC Basement presents alternative entertainment — eclectic or less-known local or almost-local acts and performers. Last year Basement sponsored performances by the NTSU One O'Clock Lab Band, a jazz ensemble from the North Texas State University — and a comedy troupe Second City.

If you prefer art to music, the University Art Exhibits and the MSC Arts Committee has a lot to offer. The two organizations (the latter is not a student function, but the Arts is) bring various exhibits to the University, and occasionally work together to bring bigger exhibits to campus.

Texas A&M students get into the act, too, thanks to organizations such as vocal music programs and the TAMU Jazz Band and the TAMU Symphonic Band. The organizations — overseen by sponsors — are made up of students who practice and perform at the University and occasionally take their show on the road both in and out of state.

Even here in Aggieland...



Even anonymous would-be stars pop up around campus. Seldom can a person stroll into the Memorial Student Center without hearing the tinkling of piano keys — keys of a piano in the main lounge of the MSC that is there for students to practice on. It's a welcome and well-used resource, and those who take advantage of it are usually entertaining to the passer-by.



The Dance Arts Society — which is one of the newer student organizations at Texas A&M — is open to anyone who wishes to be a member.



Members of the Dance Arts Society practice for one of its performances in Rudder Auditorium. The dancers use the studio in East Kyle for practice and to teach and attend dance classes.

