

# A lesson in trombone

**JAZZ**

**Adrian Kenyon**

**I**T was fortunate there were no gigs for Perth's trombone players on Monday night.

If there had been, they would have missed the opportunity of seeing one of the true greats of this instrument in action at the Perth Jazz Society.

In fact, just about everyone who can get a note out of the trombone came along to enjoy — and to learn from — the wonderful playing of Urbie Green.

Listening to Green constructing a solo was like watching a master jeweller fashioning a glittering piece from a rough stone.

The end result was a priceless work of art.

In the department of tone and technique, Green was flawless. His timing was impeccable and his phrasing and interpretation models of perfection.

Many things stood out. For me, there was the fluency and control on the delicate little fills between the eight bar sections of "You've Changed", the almost nonchalant ease with which he slipped and slid around the melody of "I Can't Get Started", and the vigorous, romping sonorities of "Just Friends", by which time he was really cooking.

Overall, the rhythm section of Mike Nelson, Brian Bursey and Gary France performed well, especially after their sound level was adjusted following the first bracket.

At first the impression lingered that Green wasn't going to over extend himself (jet lag perhaps?).

Within the second half he seemed to locate hidden strength and the energy and intensity of the finale was almost overpowering.

For a town that is starved of big league trombone playing, this concert was one to be savoured in the memory.