

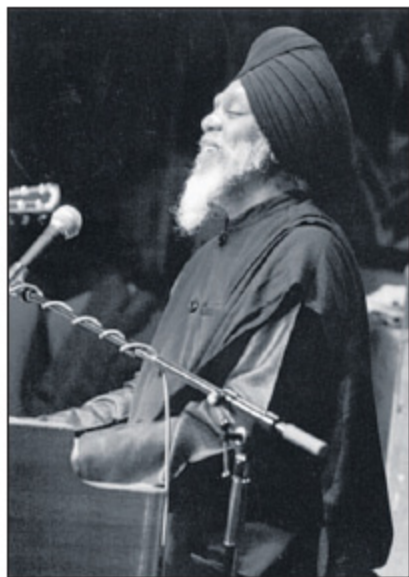
JAZZ

Dr Lonnie Smith

Dr Lonnie Smith may cut a distinguished figure with his long white beard and turban, but, like Dr John or Dr Seuss, you'd be wise to think twice about calling him in cases of heart attack.

He's more than qualified to tend to one type of organ, though: the Hammond B-3, a relationship that started when a music shop owner gave the aspiring young musician a brand new model on condition that he could move the hefty instrument out of the store. The heavy lifting was worth it, as nearly five decades later, Smith is one of the acknowledged masters of the twin-keyboarded organ.

Born in New York state, Smith moved to New York city in the 1960s, joining jazz guitarist George Benson's quartet. Smith's debut under his own name, *Finger Lickin' Good*, and subsequent albums for Blue Note, such as 1968's *Turning Point*, showed him to be as adept at whipping up the Hammond's distinctively whirring sound into psychedelic soul-jazz wig-outs as he was at smoothing his fingers across fluid, late-night grooves.



He went on to explore a dirtier funk sound, switching to clavinet for the 1971 album *Mama Wailer*, and deftly transplanted songs by Jimi Hendrix and Beck to a jazz setting with 1994's *Purple Haze* and 2003's *Boogaloo To Beck*. Drummer Eric Kalb and guitarist Melvin Sparks join the Doctor for this residency, an operation that will at least take the blues away.

Abi Bliss

*Tomorrow until Thu, Sela Bar,
20 New Briggate, Leeds, 8pm,
£12. Tel: 0113 242 9442.
www.drionniesmith.com*