



**THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF
MONK/BMI COMPOSERS COMPETITION**

**Institute Will Present Jack Perla With Award at its
International Jazz Trumpet Competition Finals**

(WASHINGTON DC) - Composer Jack Perla of Oakland, California has been chosen by the Thelonious Monk Institute to receive the fifth annual BMI Composers Award. Mr. Perla, selected from a field of more than eighty contenders, will be presented with the \$10,000 grand prize and perform his winning original composition at the finals of the eleventh annual Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition on Friday October 24th (8:00 pm) at the Smithsonian Institution.

The contestants were judged on the basis of originality, creativity and excellence in the construction of a five to ten minute jazz composition using up to five instruments, and featuring the trumpet. Judges for the contest were jazz notables Pat Metheny, Terence Blanchard and Michael Brecker.

Mr. Perla has been composing and performing for 15 years. His compositions include music for orchestra, chamber ensembles and solo instruments. His premiere recording as jazz pianist and composer - *Swimming Lessons for the Dead* - includes Roman Candles, the piece which prevailed at the competition, released through Speak Your Peace Records in fall of 1997.