

National Endowment for the Arts



America's Highest Honor in Jazz




NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts is the largest annual funder of the arts in the United States. An independent federal agency, the NEA is the official arts organization of the United States government, dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education.

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A Message from the Chairman

Since its creation in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts has worked to further one of the country's greatest artistic inventions—jazz. The Arts Endowment's first grant in the jazz field went to George Russell (who became an NEA Jazz Master in 1990), one of the great jazz composers and theorists who helped to further jazz not only musically but academically. Since that first grant, funding has exploded from an annual budget of \$20,000 in 1970 to more than \$2.8 million in 2005.

Our premier program in jazz is the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships. In 1982, the NEA created this lifetime achievement award to recognize and reward jazz musicians who have had a major impact on the art form. Since then, 87 of jazz's greatest living artists have been honored as NEA Jazz Masters and during this time, the award has come to be regarded as the nation's highest honor in jazz.

To further expand the audiences for jazz, the Arts Endowment expanded the NEA Jazz Masters initiative to include three significant new components: NEA Jazz Masters on Tour, which brings awardees to various venues throughout all 50 states; NEA Jazz in the Schools, a curriculum for high school students that explores jazz as an art form and way to understand American history, developed in partnership with Jazz at Lincoln Center and with support from the Verizon Foundation; and a broadcasting program to provide greater public access to this great American art form on both television and radio.

The National Endowment for the Arts believes these musicians and this music deserve the greatest possible recognition. The musicians who have won this award have not only shared their art with U.S. audiences, but have spread this intrinsically American music all over the world. Jazz may well be considered America's most influential and distinguished musical export, and these NEA Jazz Masters are the eminent ambassadors who promote and practice this vibrant and vital part of our nation's cultural heritage.



Photo by Vance Jacobs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts



Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM	3
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	5
2006 NEA JAZZ MASTERS	7

NEA JAZZ MASTERS 1982–2005 (YEAR FELLOWSHIP AWARDED)

David Baker (2000)	16
Danny Barker (1991).....	17
Count Basie (1983).....	18
Louie Bellson (1994).....	19
Art Blakey (1988).....	20
Cleo Brown (1987).....	21
Ray Brown (1995).....	22
Dave Brubeck (1999)	23
Kenny Burrell (2005).....	24
Donald Byrd (2000)	25
Benny Carter (1986)	26
Betty Carter (1992)	27
Ron Carter (1998)	28
Kenny Clarke (1983).....	29
Buck Clayton (1991).....	30
Ornette Coleman (1984)	31
Miles Davis (1984)	32
Dorothy Donegan (1992).....	33
Paquito D’Rivera (2005)	34
Sweets Edison (1992)	35
Roy Eldridge (1982)	36
Gil Evans (1985)	37
Art Farmer (1999)	38
Ella Fitzgerald (1985)	39
Tommy Flanagan (1996)	40
Frank Foster (2002).....	41
Dizzy Gillespie (1982)	42
Benny Golson (1996).....	43
Dexter Gordon (1986)	44
Jim Hall (2004)	45
Chico Hamilton (2004)	46
Lionel Hampton (1988).....	47
Slide Hampton (2005)	48
Herbie Hancock (2004)	49

Barry Harris (1989)	50
Roy Haynes (1995)	51
Jimmy Heath (2003).....	52
Percy Heath (2002).....	53
Joe Henderson (1999)	54
Luther Henderson (2004)	55
Jon Hendricks (1993)	56
Nat Hentoff (2004)	57
Billy Higgins (1997)	58
Milt Hinton (1993)	59
Shirley Horn (2005)	60
Milt Jackson (1997)	61
Ahmad Jamal (1994)	62
J.J. Johnson (1996)	63
Elvin Jones (2003)	64
Hank Jones (1989)	65
Jo Jones (1985)	66
Andy Kirk (1991).....	67
John Lewis (2001)	68
Abbey Lincoln (2003)	69
Melba Liston (1987).....	70
Jackie McLean (2001)	71
Marian McPartland (2000)	72
Carmen McRae (1994).....	73
Jay McShann (1987).....	74
James Moody (1998)	75
Anita O'Day (1997)	76
Max Roach (1984).....	77
Sonny Rollins (1983)	78
George Russell (1990)	79
Artie Shaw (2005)	80
Wayne Shorter (1998)	81
Horace Silver (1995)	82
Jimmy Smith (2005)	83
Sun Ra (1982).....	84
Billy Taylor (1988)	85
Cecil Taylor (1990)	86
Clark Terry (1991)	87
McCoy Tyner (2002).....	88
Sarah Vaughan (1989)	89
George Wein (2005)	90
Randy Weston (2001)	91
Joe Williams (1993)	92
Gerald Wilson (1990).....	93
Nancy Wilson (2004)	94
Teddy Wilson (1986)	95

NEA JAZZ MASTERS BY YEAR	97
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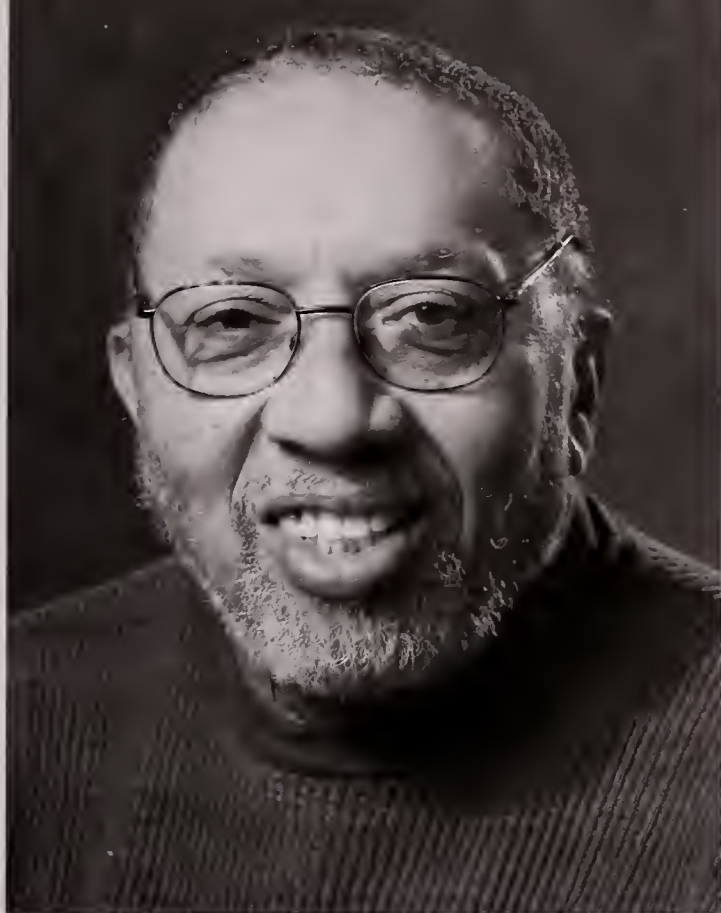


Photo by Vance Jacobs

A.B. Spellman



Introduction

THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE United States has produced three original art forms: movies, modern dance, and jazz. All speak to the genius of American culture. Film is indicative of our ability to convert new technology into a medium for mass consumption, frequently achieving the status of high art. Modern dance, an indigenous kinesthetic art capable of an unbounded range of expression, from treatments of contemporary issues to pure abstraction. And then there is jazz.

Jazz lives at the very center of the American vernacular. It is the gift of the generations of new urban African American people whose capacity for the synthesis of diverse strains of musical forms brought schottisches, quadrilles, habaneras, and marches into the bases of the blues and ragtime to create a whole new way of making music. It was built on the discipline of collective improvisation, a remarkable skill when you think about it, which allowed for maximum expression of the individual within the context of the group. Jazz is democratic and virtually without hierarchy: the composer is one more collaborator in the group, and even bandleaders do not stand above the soloists.

These qualities are entirely appropriate for what is best about America. The old jazz principle that “you’ve got to make it new” is so American that it could go on the dollar bill. These defining qualities have made jazz arguably the United States’ most welcomed cultural export. It has taken root wherever it has been planted, moving into and becoming a part of the cultures of other countries and then becoming an aspect of their national expression, in the way that Russian jazz is vastly different from Afro-Cuban jazz. Some years ago, just after apartheid had fallen, I heard a young South African ensemble that comprised an Indian pianist, a tabla player, a white female flutist, and a black bassist. Distinct traces of each of these musicians’ heritages were audible in their solos, yet they performed with intimate ease. I thought, how marvelous that, as these young people are at a point in history when they can speak to each other as equals, jazz provides the vocabulary.

It is no accident that jazz has been a favored medium of cultural diplomacy. For decades, Willis Conover’s jazz series on the Voice of America kept ears open to the United States Information Agency (USIA) all over the world. Uncounted numbers of jazz musicians have traveled abroad under the

auspices of the State Department. Many of the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters, such as Dizzy Gillespie, Randy Weston, and Billy Taylor, have toured the globe as our cultural representatives.

The NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships program was created to say to jazz musicians that their government values the way that they keep our culture rich by continually producing such fabulous music. Mastery is a difficult status to achieve. No creative discipline has more than a few true masters, for it takes exceptional talent, dedication, hard work, and

opportunity to become one. NEA Jazz Masters have demonstrated these qualities and more. The National Endowment for the Arts is honored to recognize these great artists for the outstanding contributions they have made to American culture.

A. B. Spellman

Poet and Author, *Four Jazz Lives*

Former Deputy Chairman for Guidelines & Panel Operations
National Endowment for the Arts



NEA Jazz Masters Dizzy Gillespie and Max Roach, 1956.



A Brief History of the Program

A MELDING OF AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN music and cultures, jazz was born in America, a new musical form that used rhythm, improvisation, and instruments in unique and exciting ways. Jazz came to prominence in the early 20th century when recording techniques made it possible for many more people to hear the music. By the 1930s and 1940s, jazz had become America's dance music, selling albums and performance tickets at dizzying rates. But by the 1950s, with the advent of rock and roll and the tilt in jazz toward bebop rather than the more popular swing, jazz began a decline in its popularity. It was still seen as an important and exciting art form, but by an increasingly smaller audience.

By the 1960s, when the National Endowment for the Arts was created by Congress, jazz album sales were down and jazz performances were becoming more difficult to find. The music, starting with bebop and into hard bop and free jazz, became more cerebral and less dance-oriented, focusing on freeing up improvisation and rhythm. It was moving to a new artistic level, and if this high quality were to be maintained, it would need some assistance.

NEA assistance to the jazz field began in 1969, with its first grant in jazz awarded to pianist/composer George Russell (who would later go on to receive an NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship in 1990). In a decade, jazz funding went from \$20,000 in 1970 to \$1.5 million in 1980, supporting jazz festivals and concert seasons, special projects and services to the field, and fellowships for performance, composition, and jazz study.

At the same time, the pioneers of the field were rapidly aging, and often dying without the recognition of their contribution to this great American art form. Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, two of the giants of jazz in terms of both musicianship and composition, both died in the early 1970s without the importance of their contributions being fully acknowledged and appreciated.

The National Endowment for the Arts created a new program in 1982 to recognize these artists for their lifelong contributions to and mastery of jazz: American Jazz Masters Fellowships (now called NEA Jazz Masters). These would be awarded to musicians who have reached an exceptionally high standard of achievement in this very specialized art form. In

addition to the recognition, the NEA initially included a monetary award of \$20,000 for each fellowship. The rigors of making a living in the jazz field are well documented. Jazz is an art form to which the free market has not been kind. Despite their unparalleled contributions to American art, many of the jazz greats worked for years just barely scraping by. For some, the monetary award provided a much needed infusion of income.

Demonstrating just how necessary the program was, Thelonious Sphere Monk—one of the great American composers and musicians—was nominated for a Jazz Master Fellowship in the first year of the program, but unfortunately passed away before the announcement was made. The three who were chosen certainly lived up to the criteria of artistic excellence and significance to the art form: Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie, and Sun Ra.

The panel in that first year included stellar jazz musicians themselves, including some future NEA Jazz Masters: trumpeter Donald Byrd and

saxophonists Frank Foster, Chico Freeman, Jackie McLean, and Archie Shepp. In addition, Riverside record company owner Orrin Keepnews was on the panel.

From that auspicious beginning, the program has continued to grow and provide increased awareness of America's rich jazz heritage. The recipients of NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships cover all aspects of the music: from boogie-woogie (Cleo Brown) to swing (Count Basie, Andy Kirk, Jay McShann); from bebop (Dizzy Gillespie, Kenny Clarke) to Dixieland (Danny Barker); from free jazz (Ornette Coleman, Cecil Taylor) to cool jazz (Miles Davis, Gil Evans, Ahmad Jamal); and everywhere in between. What ties all these styles together is a foundation in the blues, a reliance on group interplay, and unpredictable improvisation. Throughout the years, and in all the different styles, these musicians have demonstrated the talent, creativity, and dedication that make them NEA Jazz Masters.

National Endowment for the Arts 1991 American Jazz Masters Fellowship Awards



Buck Hill (sax) and NEA Jazz Master Clark Terry (flugelhorn) at the 1991 Awards ceremony.



Program Overview

The National Endowment for the Arts recognizes the importance of jazz as one of the great American art forms of the 20th century. As part of its efforts to honor those distinguished artists whose excellence, impact, and significant contribution in jazz have helped keep this important tradition and art form alive, the Arts Endowment annually awards NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships, the highest honor that our nation bestows upon jazz musicians. Each fellowship award is \$25,000.

The NEA Jazz Masters initiative has expanded in recent years to include a two-CD anthology of NEA Jazz Masters music by the Verve Music Group; the 50-state NEA Jazz Masters on Tour program, sponsored by Verizon, that includes community events and signings held at local Borders stores in connection with performances through a new partnership with Borders Books & Music; radio and television programming in partnership with National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting System; and NEA Jazz in the Schools, a new curriculum for high school students, developed in partnership with Jazz at Lincoln Center and supported by the Verizon Foundation.

The selection criteria for the fellowships remain the same: musical excellence and significance of

the nominees' contributions to the jazz art form. The Arts Endowment will continue to honor a range of styles, musical instruments, vocalists, and composer/arrangers when making the awards, but now awards fellowships by category: rhythm instrumentalist, solo instrumentalist, vocalist, keyboardist, arranger/composer, and the A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy, which will be given to an individual who has made major contributions to the appreciation, knowledge, and advancement of jazz.

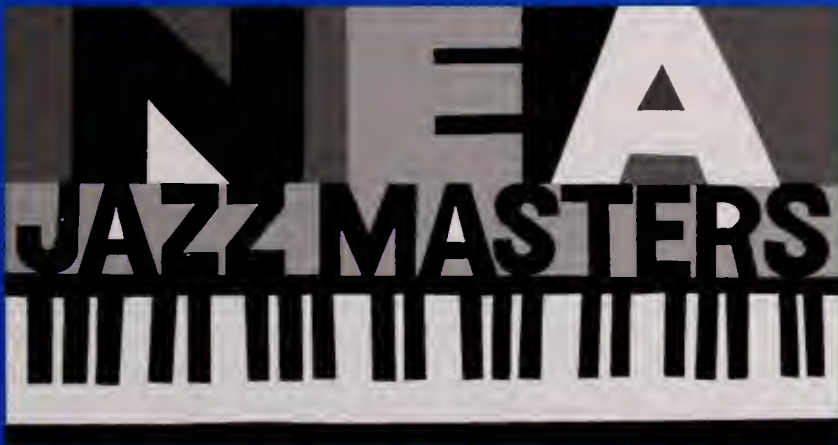
Fellowships are awarded to living artists on the basis of nominations from the public, including the jazz community. The recipients must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. An individual may submit only one nomination each year, and nominations are made by submitting a one-page letter detailing the reasons that the nominated artist should receive an NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship. Nominations remain active for five years, being reviewed annually during this period.

More information on submitting a nomination and all the components of the NEA Jazz Masters initiative is available on the NEA Web site: www.neajazzmasters.org.

Photo by Michael Wildeman



NEA Jazz Masters Ron Carter, Tony Bennett, and Wayne Shorter at a 1993 inaugural ball.



2006

RHYTHM INSTRUMENTALIST

Ray Barretto

VOCALIST

Tony Bennett

ARRANGER/COMPOSER

Bob Brookmeyer

KEYBOARDIST

Chick Corea

SOLO INSTRUMENTALIST

Buddy DeFranco

SOLO INSTRUMENTALIST

Freddie Hubbard

**A. B. SPELLMAN NEA JAZZ
MASTERS AWARD FOR
JAZZ ADVOCACY**

John Levy

NOTES:

Names in **bold** in biographies denote NEA Jazz Masters awardees.

All recordings listed in Selected Discography are under the artist's name unless otherwise noted.

Years listed under recordings in Selected Discography denote the years the recordings were made.



Photo by Lee Tanner

Ray Barretto

PERCUSSIONIST BANDLEADER

Born April 29, 1929 in Brooklyn, NY

The most widely recorded conguero in jazz, Ray Barretto grew up listening to the music of Puerto Rico and the swing bands of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Benny Goodman. Barretto credits Dizzy Gillespie's recording of "Manteca," featuring conguero Chano Pozo, with his decision to become a professional musician.

He first sat in on jam sessions at the Orlando, a GI jazz club in Munich. In 1949, after military service, he returned to Harlem and taught himself to play the drums, getting his first regular job with Eddie Bonnemere's Latin Jazz Combo. Barretto then played for four years with Cuban bandleader/pianist José Curbelo. In 1957, he replaced Mongo Santamaria in Tito Puente's band, with which he recorded his first album, *Dance Mania*. After four years with Puente, he was one of the most sought-after percussionists in New York, attending jam sessions with artists including Max Roach and Art Blakey and recording with Sonny Stitt, Lou Donaldson, Red Garland, Gene Ammons, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Cannonball Adderley, Freddie Hubbard, Cal Tjader, and Dizzy Gillespie. Barretto was so much in demand that

in 1960, he was a house musician for the Prestige, Blue Note, and Riverside record labels.

Barretto's first job as a bandleader came in 1961, when Riverside producer Orrin Keepnews asked him to form a charanga for a recording, *Pachanga With Barretto*.

His next album, *Charanga Moderna*, featured "El Watusi," which became the first Latin number to penetrate Billboard's Top-20 chart. In 1963, "El Watusi" went gold. In 1975 and 1976, Barretto earned back-to-back Grammy nominations for his albums *Barretto* (with the prize-winning hit "Guarere") and *Barretto Live... Tomorrow*. His 1979 album for Fania, *Rican/Struction*, considered a classic of salsa, was named Best Album (1980) by *Latin N.Y.* magazine, and Barretto was named Conga Player of the Year. He won a Grammy Award in 1990 for the song "Ritmo en el Corazon" with Celia Cruz.

Ray Barretto was inducted into the International Latin Music Hall of Fame in 1999. He was voted Jazz Percussionist of 2004 by the Jazz Journalists Association and won the *Down Beat* critics poll for percussion in 2005. His recording *Time Was, Time Is* was nominated for a 2005 Grammy Award.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Charanga Moderna*, Tico, 1962
- Hard Hands*, Fania, 1968
- Rican/Struction*, Fania, 1979
- Ancestral Messages*, Concord Picante, 1992
- Homage to Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers*, Sunnyside, 2002



Tony

Bennett

VOCALIST

Born August 3, 1926 in Queens, NY

Called “the best singer in the business” by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett was born as Anthony Dominick Benedetto in 1926 in the Astoria section of Queens, New York. By age 10, he had attracted such notice that he was tapped to sing at the opening ceremony for the Triborough Bridge. He attended the High School of Industrial Arts, worked as a singing waiter, and then performed with military bands during his Army service in World War II. After the war, he continued his vocal studies formally at the American Theatre Wing school and informally in the 52nd Street jazz clubs. His break came in 1949, when Bob Hope saw him working in a Greenwich Village club with Pearl Bailey, invited him to join his show at the Paramount, and changed his stage name to Tony Bennett.

Bennett’s recording career began in 1950, when he signed with the Columbia label, with the number one hit “Because of You,” followed by his cover of Hank Williams’s “Cold, Cold Heart.” With a string of hits to his credit, Bennett was able to exert greater artistic influence over his recordings, allowing him to express his interest in jazz, notably *The Beat of My Heart*, on which he was accompanied primarily with jazz percussionists, and *In Person with Count Basie and His Orchestra*.

In 1962, Bennett recorded “I Left My Heart in San Francisco,” the song that would become his signature, and for which he won Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Best Solo Male Vocal Performance. Over the next years, while putting out singles and albums that were consistently among the most popular in the country, he continued to infuse his singing with the spontaneity of jazz and to record and tour with bands composed almost exclusively of jazz musicians.

In the 1970s, Bennett formed his own record company and made albums including two duet recordings with pianist Bill Evans. His 1992 release, *Perfectly Frank*, a tribute to Frank Sinatra, and 1993 *Steppin’ Out*, a tribute to Fred Astaire, went gold and won him back-to-back Grammy Awards. Bennett received Grammy’s highest award, Album of the Year, in 1994 for his live recording, *MTV Unplugged*, and was honored with their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001. He continues to perform to sold-out audiences throughout the world, appearing with his stellar jazz quartet.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Beat of My Heart, Columbia, 1957

In Person with Count Basie and His Orchestra, Columbia, 1958

The Tony Bennett Bill Evans Album, Columbia, 1975

On Holiday: A Tribute to Billie Holiday, Columbia, 1996

Playin’ with my Friends: Bennett Sings the Blues, Columbia, 2001



Photo by Lee Tanner

Bob

Brookmeyer

TROMBONIST PIANIST
COMPOSER ARRANGER EDUCATOR

Born December 19, 1929 in Kansas City, MO

An innovative composer and gifted arranger for both small and large ensembles, as well as an outstanding performer on valve trombone and piano, Bob Brookmeyer has been making music for more than 50 years. A professional performer with dance bands since the age of 14, he studied composition for three years at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music, where he won the Carl Busch Prize for Choral Composition. In the early 1950s, he traveled to New York as a pianist with Tex Benecke and Mel Lewis and stayed on to freelance with artists including Pee Wee Russell, Ben Webster, and Coleman Hawkins.

After a period with Claude Thornhill, Brookmeyer joined Stan Getz in late 1952, an association that took him to California, where Gerry Mulligan asked him to join his quartet. Brookmeyer gained renown as a member of that group (1954-57) and as a member of the experimental Jimmy Giuffre 3 (1957-58), comprising Giuffre's reeds, Jim Hall's guitar, and Brookmeyer's valve trombone. His long association with Mulligan included work with the Concert Jazz Band, which Brookmeyer helped to form and maintain, and for which he wrote arrangements.

In 1961, Brookmeyer and Clark Terry formed their legendary quintet, which lasted until 1968. Brookmeyer was also busy during this time as lead trombonist and arranger-composer for The Thad Jones-

Mel Lewis Orchestra, formed in 1965. After a decade spent in California as a studio musician, Brookmeyer returned to New York in 1978 to play with Stan Getz and Jim Hall, form his own quartet, and then in 1979 rejoined the Mel Lewis Orchestra, becoming its musical director after the departure of Thad Jones.

From 1981 to 1991, Brookmeyer was busy as a composer and performer in Europe, working in both classical and jazz idioms. He began teaching at the Manhattan School of Music in 1985 and directed the BMI Composers Workshop from 1989 to 1991. He has served as musical director of the Schlewzig-Holstein Musik Festival Big Band/New Art Orchestra, the Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor at Brandon University in Manitoba, and director of the New England Conservatory's Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra. A composer whose work has been widely published, studied, and performed.

Brookmeyer has received grants in composition from the National Endowment for the Arts and nominations from NARAS for composing and performing, and he was commissioned by the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic to write a piece for an EMI disc featuring trumpet player Till Broenner. A new concert-length piece for the New Art Orchestra will be recorded in January 2006.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Gerry Mulligan Quartet, *At Storyville*, Pacific Jazz, 1956

The Blues Hot and Cold, Verve, 1960

Back Again, Sonet, 1978

Paris Suite, Challenge, 1993

Get Well Soon, Challenge, 2002

Photo by Lee Tanner



Chick

Corea

KEYBOARDIST COMPOSER ARRANGER

Born June 12, 1941 in Chelsea, MA

A groundbreaking artist both as a keyboardist (piano, electric piano, synthesizer) and as a composer-arranger, Chick Corea has moved fluidly among jazz, fusion, and classical music throughout a four-decade career, winning national and international honors including 12 Grammy Awards. He ranks with **Herbie Hancock** and **Keith Jarrett** as one of the leading piano stylists to emerge after **Bill Evans** and **McCoy Tyner**, and he has composed such notable jazz standards as "Spain," "La Fiesta," and "Windows."

Corea began playing piano and drums at an early age and enjoyed a childhood home filled with the music of **Bud Powell**, **Charlie Parker**, **Dizzy Gillespie**, and **Lester Young**, as well as **Mozart** and **Beethoven**. From 1962 to 1966 he gained experience playing with the bands of **Mongo Santamaria** and **Willie Bobo**, **Blue Mitchell**, **Herbie Mann**, and **Stan Getz**. He made his recording debut as a leader with *Tones For Joan's Bones* (1966) and in 1968 recorded the classic trio album *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs* with **Miroslav Vitous** and **Roy Haynes**. Following a short period with **Sarah Vaughan**, Corea then joined **Miles Davis'** group, gradually replacing **Herbie Hancock**. Davis persuaded Corea

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Now He Sobs, Now He Sings,
Blue Note, 1968

Return to Forever, ECM, 1972

Live in Montreux, Stretch, 1981

Eye of the Beholder, GRP, 1988

Rendezvous in New York,
Stretch, 2001

to play electric piano on the influential albums *Filles de Kilimanjaro*, *In a Silent Way*, *Bitches Brew*, and *Miles Davis at the Fillmore*.

In 1971, Corea formed the ensemble *Return to Forever* with **Stanley Clarke** on bass, **Flora Purim** on vocals, her husband **Airto Moreira** on drums, and **Joe Farrell** on reeds. Within a year, the samba-flavored group had become an innovative, high-energy electric fusion band, incorporating the firepower of drummer **Lenny White** and guitarist **Al DiMeola**. Spearheaded by Corea's distinctive style on Moog synthesizer, *Return to Forever* led the mid-1970s fusion movement with albums such as *Where Have I Known You Before*, *Romantic Warrior*, and the Grammy Award-winning *No Mystery*. In 1985, Corea formed a new fusion group, *The Elektric Band*, and a few years later he formed *The Akoustic Band*. In 1992, he established his own record label, *Stretch Records*.

On the occasion of his 60th birthday in 2001, Corea put together an unprecedented musical gathering at the *Blue Note Jazz Club* in New York City. The three-week event resulted in a double CD, *Rendezvous in New York*, and a two-hour film of the same name. He continues to create projects in multifaceted settings for listeners around the world.



Photo by Lee Tanner

Buddy DeFranco

CLARINETIST EDUCATOR

Born February 17, 1923 in Camden, NJ

A brilliant improviser and prodigious technician who has bridged the swing and bebop eras, Buddy DeFranco was born in Camden, New Jersey and raised in South Philadelphia, and began playing the clarinet at age nine. At 14, he won a national Tommy Dorsey Swing Contest and appeared on the *Saturday Night Swing Club* with Gene Krupa. Johnny "Scat" Davis soon tapped him for his big band, inaugurating DeFranco's road career in 1939. DeFranco subsequently played in the bands of Gene Krupa (1941) and Charlie Barnet (1942-43) and in 1944 became a featured soloist with Tommy Dorsey. Meanwhile, the modern jazz revolution was in progress, led by Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Excited by the improvisatory freedom of their music, DeFranco became the first jazz clarinetist to make his mark in the new idiom of bebop.

In 1950, DeFranco joined the famous **Count Basie** Septet. He toured Europe with Billie Holiday in 1954, led a quartet for three years with Art Blakey, Kenny Drew, and Eugene Wright, and then joined with Tommy Gumina in a quartet that explored polytonal music, further solidifying his reputation as a "musician's musician." His other notable concert and recording appearances have included dates with Art Tatum, Nat King Cole, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Mr. Clarinet, Norgran, 1953

Cooking the Blues, Verve, 1955

Blues Bag, Affinity, 1964

Hark, Pablo/OJC, 1985

Do Nothing Till You Hear From Us,
Concord Jazz, 1998

Getz, Lenny Tristano, Billy Eckstine, Barney Kessel, Herb Ellis, **Ray Brown**, Mel Torme, **Louie Bellson**, Oscar Peterson, and the John Pizzarelli Trio, as well as several Metronome All-Star sessions. He was a featured artist in numerous Jazz at the Philharmonic tours of Europe, Australia, and East Asia. In 1966, he became the leader of the Glenn Miller Orchestra, a post he maintained until 1974.

Since the mid-1970s, DeFranco has combined a busy teaching career with extensive touring and recording. His numerous television performances have included appearances on *The Tonight Show* with both Steve

Allen and Johnny Carson. He was a featured soloist on *Stars of Jazz*; had his own program on public television, *The DeFranco Jazz Forum*; and with his long-time musical colleague, vibraphonist Terry Gibbs, shared the spotlight on a segment of the PBS series *Club Date*. DeFranco has played at concerts and festivals throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, and Argentina. To date, he has recorded more than 160 albums, has won the *Down Beat* All Stars award 20 times, and the Metronome poll 12 times. The University of Montana, Missoula, now hosts The Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival each April.

Photo by Lee Tanner



Freddie

Hubbard

TRUMPETER

Born April 7, 1938 in Indianapolis, IN

One of the greatest trumpet virtuosos ever to play in the jazz idiom, and arguably one of the most influential, Freddie Hubbard played mellophone and then trumpet in his school band and studied at the Jordan Conservatory with the principal trumpeter of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. As a teenager, he worked with Wes and Monk Montgomery and eventually founded his own band, the Jazz Contemporaries, with bassist Larry Ridley and saxophonist James Spaulding. After moving to New York in 1958, he quickly astonished fans and critics alike with his depth and maturity, playing with veteran artists Philly Joe Jones, **Sonny Rollins**, **Slide Hampton**, **J.J. Johnson**, Eric Dolphy, and Quincy Jones, with whom he toured Europe. In June 1960, on the recommendation of **Miles Davis**, he recorded his first solo album, *Open Sesame*, for Blue Note records, just weeks after his 22nd birthday. Within the next 10 months, he recorded two more albums, *Goin' Up* and *Hub Cap*, and then in August 1961 made what many consider to be his masterpiece, *Ready for Freddie*, which was also his first Blue Note collaboration with **Wayne Shorter**. That same year, Hubbard joined **Art Blakey's** Jazz Messengers, replacing Lee Morgan. By now, he had indisputably developed his own sound and had won *Down Beat* "New Star" award on trumpet.

Hubbard remained with the Jazz Messengers until 1964, when he left to form his own small group, which over the next years featured Kenny Barron and Louis Hayes. Throughout the 1960s, Hubbard also played in bands led by

other legends, including **Max Roach**, and was a significant presence on the Blue Note recordings of **Herbie Hancock**, Wayne Shorter and Hank Mobley. Hubbard was also featured on four classic, groundbreaking 1960s sessions: **Ornette Coleman's** *Free Jazz*, Oliver Nelson's *Blues and the Abstract Truth*, Eric Dolphy's *Out to Lunch*, and John Coltrane's *Ascension*.

In the 1970s, Hubbard achieved his greatest popular success with a series of crossover albums on Atlantic and CTI Records, including the Grammy Award-winning *First Light*. He returned to acoustic hard bop in 1977 when he toured with the V.S.O.P. quintet, which teamed him with the members of Miles Davis' 1960s ensemble: Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, **Ron Carter**, and Tony Williams. In the 1980s, Hubbard again led his own groups, often in the company of **Joe Henderson**, and he collaborated with fellow trumpet legend Woody Shaw on a series of albums for the Blue Note and Timeless labels.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ready for Freddie, Blue Note, 1961

Hub-Tones, Blue Note, 1962

Straight Life, Columbia, 1970

Live, CLP, 1983

New Colors, Hip Bop Essence, 2000



Photo by Leroy Hamilton

John
Levy

MANAGER BASSIST

Born April 11, 1912 in New Orleans, LA

Renowned as a leading representative of jazz musicians, and as the first African American to work in the music industry as a personal manager, John Levy was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1912. His mother was a midwife and nurse, and his father was an engine stoker on the railroad. When Levy was six, his family moved to Chicago, where a well-meaning schoolteacher would encourage him to find a steady job at the post office. He did work there for a while, but he also began gigging around town as a jazz bassist.

In 1944, Levy left Chicago with the Stuff Smith Trio to play an extended engagement at the Onyx club on New York City's 52nd Street. Over the next years, he was to play with many jazz notables, including Ben Webster, Buddy Rich, Errol Garner, **Milt Jackson**, and **Billy Taylor**, as well as with Billie Holiday at her comeback performance at Carnegie Hall in 1948.

In 1949, George Shearing heard Levy play at Birdland with Buddy Rich's big band and hired him for his own group, which featured **Buddy DeFranco**. As Levy toured the

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Stuff Smith, *The 1943 Trio*, Progressive, 1943

Billie Holiday, *The Complete Decca Recordings*, GRP, 1944-50

Erroll Garner, *Penthouse Serenade*, Savoy, 1945

Billy Taylor, *1945-49, Classics*, 1945-49

George Shearing, *Complete Savoy Trio and Quintet Sessions*, Jazz Factory, 1945-50

country playing with the original George Shearing Quintet, he gradually took on the role of road manager. Finally, in 1951, Levy put aside performing to become the group's full-time manager, making music-industry history and establishing the career he would follow for the next half-century.

Levy's client roster over the years has included Nat and Cannonball Adderley, **Betty Carter**, Roberta Flack, **Herbie Hancock**, **Shirley Horn**, **Freddie Hubbard**, **Ahmad Jamal**, Ramsey Lewis, **Abbey Lincoln**, Herbie Mann, Wes Montgomery, **Carol Sloane**, **Joe Williams**, and **Nancy Wilson**.

as well as Arsenio Hall (the only comedian he has managed among some 100 entertainers). In recognition of his achievements, Levy has received awards such as a certificate of appreciation from Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley (1991), induction into the International Jazz Hall of Fame (1997), and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Los Angeles Jazz Society (2002). John Levy continues to be active today in representing his clients.

Photo by Vance Jacobs



Gerald Wilson leads his orchestra during the 2005 NEA Jazz Masters ceremony and concert in Long Beach, California.



1982–2005

NOTES:

Names in **bold** in biographies denote NEA Jazz Masters awardees.

All recordings listed in Selected Discography are under the artist's name unless otherwise noted.

Years listed under recordings in Selected Discography denote the years the recordings were made.

Since 2004, NEA Jazz Masters have been awarded by categories, which are listed next to years for these Fellows.



Photo by Roy Avery/CISIMAGES

David Baker

TROMBONIST CELLIST COMPOSER ARRANGER EDUCATOR

Born December 21, 1931 in Indianapolis, IN

A true jazz renaissance man, David Baker has been active in the jazz community as musician, composer, educator, conductor, and author. Of all the NEA Jazz Masters, he is one of the most active as a college and university educator.

Baker's music career began on the trombone in the early 1950s as he worked with local groups, as well as Lionel Hampton, while working on his doctorate at Indiana University. He lived in California in 1956-57, playing in the bands of Stan Kenton and Maynard Ferguson, and returned to Indiana in 1958, leading his own big band for two years. He then attended the School of Jazz in Lenox, Massachusetts in 1959-60, joining a stellar class of musicians that included members of the Ornette Coleman Quartet. Shortly thereafter he worked with the George Russell band, playing on some of his influential early albums. In Russell's band, Baker's trombone playing displayed exceptional technique, utilizing avant-garde effects to accent the songs.

An accident to his jaw eventually forced Baker to abandon his promising career as a trombonist. He switched to the cello in 1962, concentrating on composition. As a composer he has contributed a broad range of works, from

small ensemble to orchestral, often straddling the fence between jazz and chamber music. He has also worked on purely chamber and orchestral works. By the early 1970s, he had returned to the trombone—playing on Bill Evans' 1972 album *Living Time*, with George Russell arranging—while continuing to play the cello as well. Although a strong player on both instruments, he is most renowned for his compositions.

Baker became a distinguished professor of music at Indiana University and chairman of the Jazz Department in 1966. He has published in numerous scholarly journals and has written several musical treatises as well as having authored more than 70 books on jazz and African American music. Since 1991, Baker has been the artistic and musical director of the acclaimed Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra.

He has received numerous awards and citations, including being nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for his composition *Levels*, a concerto for bass, jazz band, woodwinds, and strings. He has served as a member of the NEA's National Council on the Arts, was founding president of the National Jazz Service Organization, and is former president of the International Association for Jazz Education.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

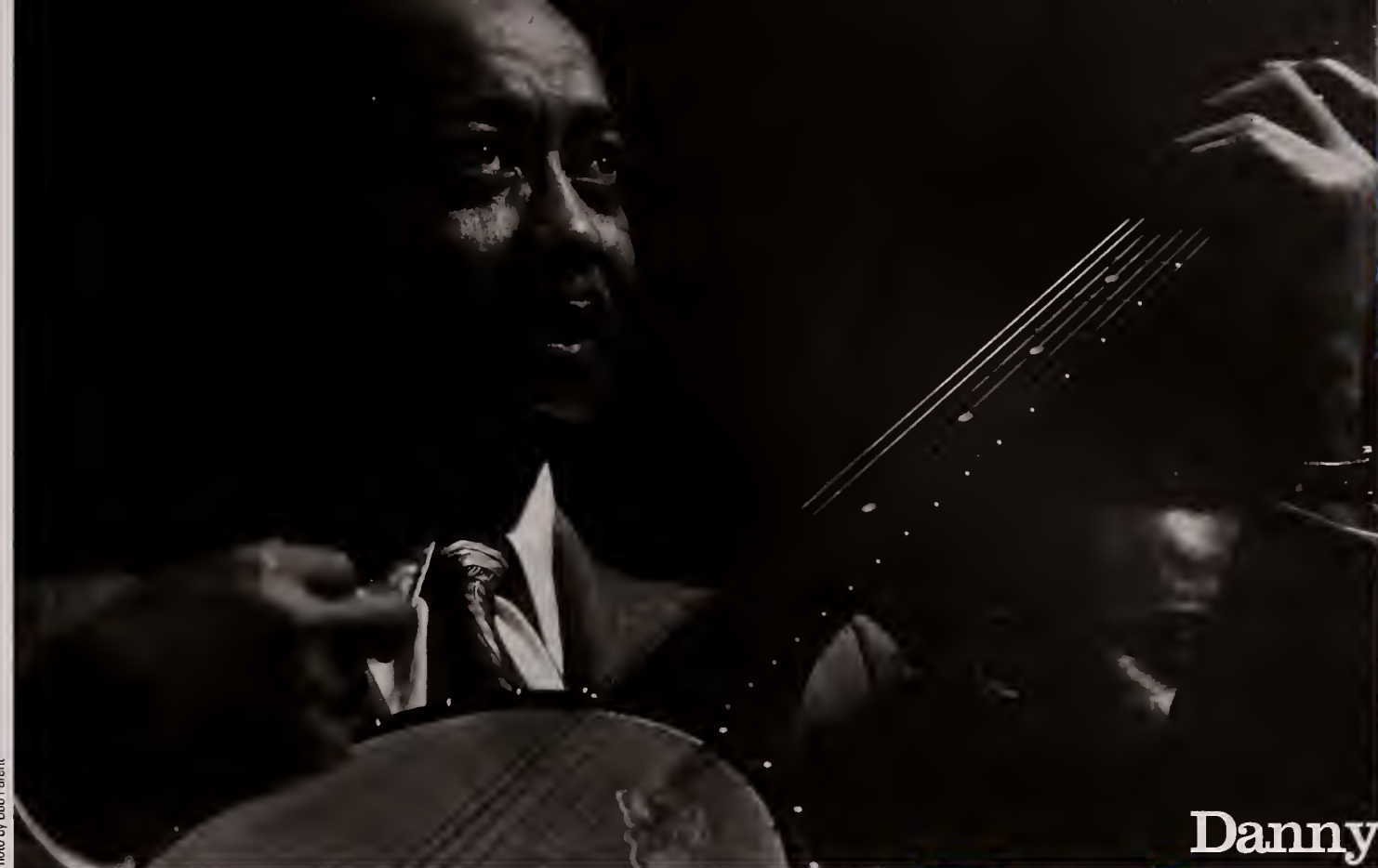
George Russell, *Stratusphunk*, Original Jazz Classics, 1960

George Russell, *Ezz-thetics*, Original Jazz Classics, 1961

George Russell, *The Stratus Seekers*, Original Jazz Classics, 1961

Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, *Big Band Treasures Live*, Smithsonian Recordings, 1996

Steppin' Out, Liscio, 1998



Danny

Barker

GUITARIST BANJOIST VOCALIST COMPOSER EDUCATOR

Born January 13, 1909 in New Orleans, LA
Died March 13, 1994

Upholder of the New Orleans tradition of jazz and blues, this master guitar and banjo player was as well known for his humor and storytelling as for his playing. Many of the younger New Orleans musicians also credit him with providing invaluable information, instruction, and mentoring.

He started his musical training on the clarinet, instructed by the great Barney Bigard, and moved on to the drums, taught by his uncle, Paul Barbarin. These instances of musical mentoring and instruction available in New Orleans would inspire him to carry on the tradition of mentoring younger musicians. He later took up the ukulele and the banjo, and began finding work with jazz and blues artists such as the Boozan Kings and Little Brother Montgomery. In 1930 he moved to New York, where he met his wife, vocalist Blue Lu Barker, with whom he frequently recorded. He also wrote many of the songs she performed, such as "Don't You Feel My Leg." By then he had switched from banjo to guitar and found work with Sidney Bechet, James P. Johnson, Albert Nicholas, Fess Williams, and Henry "Red" Allen. He spent the rest of the 1930s working with the big bands of Lucky Millinder, **Benny Carter**, and Cab Calloway, with whom he stayed for seven years.

In the late 1940s he traveled as a freelance musician, making recordings in Los Angeles and New Orleans. In 1947, Barker appeared on the *This Is Jazz* radio series, and

began playing banjo again. He returned to New York in 1949, working with trombonists Wilbur De Paris and Conrad Janis, and accompanied his wife on gigs. In the early 1960s, he led his own band at Jimmy Ryan's on 52nd Street, then returned to the Crescent City in 1965. Barker continued playing up to the end of his life, even appearing on the Dirty Dozen Brass Band's 1993 recording, *Jelly*. A number of his compositions have been widely interpreted, such as "Save the Bones for Henry Jones."

Just as important as his performing career were his educational activities. When he returned home to New Orleans in 1965, he worked for 10 years as an assistant curator for the New Orleans Jazz Museum, helping to continue interest in the culture and tradition of the music. He also mentored young musicians through his leadership of the Fairview Baptist Church Brass Band. Barker was a writer as well, co-authoring with Jack Buerkle a study on New Orleans music, *Bourbon Street Black*, and writing his memoirs, *A Life in Jazz*.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Blue Lu Barker, *1938-39, Classics, 1938-39*

Blue Lu Barker, *1946-49, Classics, 1946-49*

Save the Bones, Orleans, 1988

Blue Lu Barker, *Live at New Orleans Jazz Festival*, Orleans, 1989

Dirty Dozen Brass Band, *Jelly*, Columbia, 1993

William "Count" Basie

PIANIST ORGANIST COMPOSER ARRANGER BANDLEADER

Born August 21, 1904 in Red Bank, NJ
Died April 26, 1984

Though a pianist and occasional organist, Count Basie's fame stems mainly from his history as one of the great bandleaders. Basie's arrangements made good use of soloists, allowing musicians such as Lester Young, **Buck Clayton**, **Sweets Edison**, and **Frank Foster** to create some of their best work. Although his strength was as a bandleader, Basie's sparse piano style often delighted audiences with its swinging simplicity.

Basie's first teacher was his mother, who taught him piano. Later, the informal organ lessons from his mentor Fats Waller helped him find work in a theater accompanying silent films. In 1927, Basie found himself in Kansas City, playing with two of the most famous bands in the city: Walter Page's Blue Devils and the Bennie Moten band. In 1935, Basie started his own Kansas City band, engaging the core of the Moten band. They performed nightly radio broadcasts, which caught the attention of music producer John Hammond. In 1936, Hammond brought the Basie band to New York, where it opened at the Roseland Ballroom. By the next year, the band was a fixture on 52nd Street, in residence at the Famous Door.

During this time the key to Basie's band was what became known as the "All-American Rhythm Section:" Billie Green on guitar, Walter Page on bass, and **Jo Jones** on drums. The horns were also quite potent, including Lester Young, Earl Warren, and Herschel Evans on saxophones; Buck Clayton and Sweets Edison on trumpets; and Benny Morton and Dicky Wells on trombones. With a swinging rhythm section and top-notch soloists in the horn

section, Basie's band became one of the most popular between 1937-49, scoring such swing hits as "One O'Clock Jump" and "Jumpin' at the Woodside." Lester Young's tenor saxophone playing during this period, in particular on such recordings as "Lester Leaps In" and "Taxi War Dance," influenced jazz musicians for years to come. In addition, Basie's use of great singers such as Helen Humes and Jimmy Rushing enhanced his band's sound and popularity.

Economics forced Basie to pare down to a septet in 1950. By 1952 he had returned to his big band sound, organizing what became euphemistically known as his "New Testament" band, which began a residency at Birdland in New York. The new band retained the same high standards of musicianship as the earlier version, with such standouts as Frank Foster, Frank Wes, Eddie "Lockjaw" Smith, Thad Jones, and **Joe Williams**. Foster's composition "Shiny Stockings" and Williams' rendition of "Every Day" brought Basie a couple of much-needed hits in the mid-1950s. In addition to achieving success with his own singers, he also enjoyed acclaim for records backing such stars as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and **Tony Bennett**. Basie continued to perform and record until his death in 1984.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Original American Decca Recordings, MCA, 1937-39

April in Paris, Verve, 1956

The Complete Atomic Basie, Roulette, 1957

Count Basie and the Kansas City 7, Impulse!, 1962

The Basie Big Band, Pablo, 1975



Louie

Bellson

DRUMMER COMPOSER ARRANGER BANDLEADER EDUCATOR

Born July 6, 1924 in Rock Falls, IL

Referred to by Duke Ellington as “not only the world’s greatest drummer...[but also] the world’s greatest musician,” Louie Bellson has expressed himself on drums since age three. At 15, he pioneered the double bass drum set-up, and two years later he triumphed over 40,000 drummers to win the Gene Krupa drumming contest.

Bellson has performed on more than 200 albums as one of the most sought-after big band drummers, working with such greats as Duke Ellington (who recorded many of Bellson’s compositions), **Count Basie**, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Woody Herman, Oscar Peterson, **Dizzy Gillespie**, Louie Armstrong, and **Lionel Hampton**. He toured with Norman Granz’s all-star Jazz at the Philharmonic, and worked with many vocalists, including **Ella Fitzgerald**, **Sarah Vaughan**, **Tony Bennett**, Joe Williams, and his late wife, Pearl Bailey, for whom he served as musical director. He also appeared in several films in the 1940s, including *The Power Girl*, *The Gang’s All Here*, and *A Song is Born*.

A prolific composer, Bellson has more than 1,000 compositions and arrangements to his name, embracing jazz, swing, orchestral suites, symphonic works, and ballets.

As an author, he has published more than a dozen books on drums and percussion, and is a six-time Grammy Award nominee. In 1998, he was hailed—along with **Roy Haynes**, **Elvin Jones**, and **Max Roach**—as one of four “Living Legends of Music” when he received the American Drummers Achievement Award from the Zildjian Company.

Bellson also is a highly sought-after educator, giving music and drum workshops and clinics, teaching not only his dynamic drumming technique but also the jazz heritage. He has been awarded four honorary doctoral degrees from Northern Illinois University, Denison University, Augustana College, and DePaul University.

In 2003, a historical landmark was dedicated at his birthplace in Rock Falls, Illinois, inaugurating an annual three-day celebration there in his honor.

Continuing to compose and record, his 2005 recording, *The Sacred Music of Louie Bellson*, showcases his prowess for blending orchestral music, choir, and big band. He continues to perform with his big band after more than 65 years onstage, still thrilling audiences worldwide.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Live in Stereo at the Flamingo Hotel, Vol. 1,
Jazz Hour, 1959

Dynamite!, Concord, 1979

East Side Suite, Musicmasters, 1987

Black, Brown & Beige, Musicmasters, 1992

Live from New York, Telarc, 1993

1988



Photo by Bob Parent

Art Blakey

DRUMMER BANDLEADER

Born October 11, 1919 in Pittsburgh, PA

Died October 16, 1990

Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers not only supplied consistently exciting and innovative music for nearly 40 years, but also provided the experience and mentoring for young musicians to learn their trade. Though self-taught, Blakey was already leading his own dance band by age 14. Blakey's first noted sideman job came in 1942 with Mary Lou Williams, whom he joined for a club engagement at Kelly's Stables in New York. The following year he joined the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra, where he stayed until joining Billy Eckstine's modern jazz big band in 1944. A subsequent trip to Africa, ostensibly to immerse himself in Islam, revealed to him that jazz was truly an American music, which he preached from the bandstand thereafter. He adopted the Muslim name of Abdullah Ibn Buhaina, but continued to record under Art Blakey.

In the early 1950s, he worked with such greats as Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Horace Silver, and Clifford Brown. The latter two became members of the Jazz Messengers, which was originally a cooperative unit. Brown, then Silver, left to form their own bands and Blakey became the leader of the Jazz Messengers. The Messengers went on to play in a style that critics called hard bop, a logical progression on the bebop style that was more hard-driving and blues oriented. The Messengers made a concerted effort at rekindling the black audience for jazz that had begun to erode when the ballroom era of jazz declined.

Blakey powered his bands with a distinctive, take-no-prisoners style of drumming that recalled the thunderous and communicative drum traditions of Africa. Though his drumming became among the most easily recognized sounds in jazz, Blakey always played for the band, prodding on his immensely talented colleagues' solos.

From the first Jazz Messengers band he formed, Blakey has welcomed generations of exceptional young musicians who have evolved into prominent bandleaders and contributors themselves. That list, reading like a Who's Who of jazz, includes Donald Byrd, Johnny Griffin, Lee Morgan, Benny Golson, Wayne Shorter, Freddie Hubbard, Keith Jarrett, Woody Shaw, Joanne Brackeen, Bobby Watson, James Williams, and three of the Marsalis brothers (Wynton, Branford, and Delfeayo). His mentoring of these musicians, helping them to hone their skills and preparing them to lead their own bands, has helped

keep the jazz tradition alive and thriving. For the remainder of his career, Blakey continued to take the Jazz Messengers message across the globe.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

A Night at Birdland, Vols. 1-2, Blue Note, 1954

Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers with Thelonious Monk, Atlantic, 1957

Moanin', Blue Note, 1958

Buhaina's Delight, Blue Note, 1961

Keystone 3, Concord, 1982

Cleo

Brown

PIANIST VOCALIST

Born December 8, 1909 in Meridian, MS
Died April 15, 1995

Cleo Brown bears the distinction of being the first woman instrumentalist honored with the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship. Her family moved to Chicago in 1919 and four years later, at age 14, she started working professionally with a vaudeville show. Her brother Everett, who worked with "Pine Top" Smith, taught her the boogie woogie piano style that became her trademark.

Brown performed in the Chicago area during the late 1920s. In 1935, she replaced Fats Waller on his New York radio series on WABC, and soon began recording. Her version of "Pine Top's Boogie Woogie" was influential on pianists that came after her, and she is credited with being an early influence on **Dave Brubeck**, who played during the intermissions of her shows, and **Marian McPartland**, among others. Through the 1950s she worked frequently at that city's Three Deuces club, establishing a reputation as a two-fisted, driving

pianist. Brown began to gain international renown for her work, and she continued to perform regularly in New York, Hollywood, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco until 1953, making records for Capitol Records and performing with the Decca All-Stars, among others.

Brown then dropped out of the music business completely and took up full-time nursing. After retiring from nursing in 1973, she returned to music, spending her latter years as a church musician in her Seventh Day Adventist Church in Denver, Colorado. In 1987, Marian McPartland sought out Brown as a guest on her long-running radio series, *Piano Jazz*. A recording of the program was released as *Living in the Afterglow*, Brown's last recording. Although all the numbers are gospel songs (many are originals by Brown), they are played in the same rollicking style as her 1930s recordings.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Various Artists, *Boogie Woogie Stomp*,
ASV/Living Era, 1930s-40s

The Legendary Cleo Brown, President, 1930s

Boogie Woogie, Official, 1935-36

Here Comes Cleo, Hep, 1935-36

Living in the Afterglow,
Audiophile, 1987



Photo by Bob Parent

Ray Brown

BASSIST EDUCATOR

Born October 13, 1926 in Pittsburgh, PA

Died July 2, 2002

Ray Brown's dexterity and rich sound on the bass made him one of the most popular and prolific musicians in jazz for over 50 years. *The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD* notes that Brown is the most cited musician in the first edition of the guide, both for his own small ensemble work and as a sideman, testifying to his productivity.

Brown studied the piano from age eight and began playing the bass at 17, performing his first professional job at a Pittsburgh club in 1943. His first significant tour was with bandleader Snookum Russell in 1944, whereupon he moved to New York the following year. By 1946 he was working in Dizzy Gillespie's band, and in 1948 he formed a trio with Hank Jones and Charlie Smith. In 1948, he married Ella Fitzgerald and became musical director on her own tours and her Jazz at the Philharmonic tours until their breakup in 1952. In 1951, he began a stint with the Oscar Peterson Trio that lasted until 1966. It was in Peterson's group that Brown's prowess on the bass began getting attention, anchoring the trio's sound in both the piano-guitar and piano-drums configurations.

In the mid-1960s, Brown co-led a quintet with vibist **Milt Jackson**, with whom he had worked in the 1940s as part of Dizzy Gillespie's rhythm section and later as a member of the Milt Jackson Quartet, the precursor to the Modern Jazz Quartet. In the late 1970s to early 1980s, Brown formed his first full-time trio, which was to become his favored touring and performance unit over the next couple of decades, and utilized a variety of up-and-coming musicians in his bands, including pianists Gene Harris, Monty Alexander, Benny Green, and Geoff Keezer and drummers Jeff Hamilton, Lewis Nash, Gregory Hutchinson, and Kariem Riggins.

Brown was also been involved in jazz education, including authoring the *Ray Brown Bass Book 1*, an instructional volume. He served as mentor to numerous young musicians, including those who have passed through his groups and special guests he invited to play on a series of 1990s recordings for the Telarc label titled *Some of My Best Friends are....* These have included pianists, saxophonists, trumpeters, and vocalists. Some of the great younger bassists, such as John Clayton and Christian McBride, count him as a major influence on their sound.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Oscar Peterson, *The Ultimate Oscar Peterson*, Verve, 1956-64

Much in Common, Verve, 1962-65

Summer Wind: Live at the Loeb, Concord, 1988

Some of My Best Friends Are.... The Sax Players, Telarc, 1995

Ray Brown with John Clayton and Christian McBride, *Super Bass 2*, Telarc, 2001



Dave

Brubeck

PIANIST COMPOSER

Born December 6, 1920 in Concord, CA

Dave Brubeck, declared a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress, continues to be one of the most active and popular jazz musicians in the world today. His experiments with odd time signatures, improvised counterpoint, and a distinctive harmonic approach are the hallmarks of his unique musical style.

Born into a musically inclined family—his two older brothers were professional musicians—he began taking piano lessons from his mother, a classical pianist, at age four. After graduating from College of the Pacific in 1942, he enlisted in the Army, and while serving in Europe led an integrated G.I. jazz band.

At the end of World War II, he studied composition at Mills College with French classical composer Darius Milhaud, who encouraged him to introduce jazz elements into his classical compositions. This experimentation of mixed genres led to the formation of the Dave Brubeck Octet that included Paul Desmond, Bill Smith, and Cal Tjader. In 1949, Brubeck formed an award-winning trio with Cal Tjader and Ron Crotty, and in 1951 expanded the band to include Desmond. Brubeck became the first jazz artist to make the cover of *Time* magazine, in 1954, and in 1958 performed in Europe and the Middle East for the U.S. State Department, leading to the introduction of music from other cultures into his repertoire. In 1959, the Dave Brubeck Quartet recorded an experiment in time signatures, *Time Out*. The album sold

more than a million copies, and Brubeck's "Blue Rondo a la Turk," based on a Turkish folk rhythm, and Desmond's "Take Five" appeared on jukeboxes throughout the world.

Throughout his career, Brubeck has continued to experiment with integrating jazz and classical music. In 1959, he premiered and recorded his brother's *Dialogues for Jazz Combo and Orchestra* with the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein.

In 1960, he composed *Points on Jazz* for the American Ballet Theatre, and in later decades composed for and performed with the Murray Louis Dance Co. His musical theater piece, *The Real Ambassadors* starring Louis Armstrong and **Carmen McRae**, was also written and recorded in 1960 and performed to great acclaim at the 1962 Monterey Jazz Festival. The classic Dave Brubeck Quartet with Paul Desmond, Eugene Wright, and Joe Morello was dissolved in December 1967 and Brubeck's first of many oratorios, *The Light in the Wilderness*, was premiered in 1968.

In the early 1970s, Brubeck performed with three of his musical sons. He later led a quartet that featured former Octet member Bill Smith. His current group is with Bobby Militello, sax and flute; Randy Jones, drums; and Michael Moore, bass. He has received many honors in the U.S. and abroad for his contribution to jazz, including the National Medal of Arts, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Austrian Medal of the Arts.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Jazz at Oberlin,
Original Jazz Classics, 1953

Time Out, Columbia, 1959

The Real Ambassadors,
Columbia/Legacy, 1961

Classical Brubeck,
Telarc, 2002

Private Brubeck Remembers,
Telarc, 2004



Photo by Lee Tanner

Kenny Burrell

GUITARIST COMPOSER EDUCATOR

Born July 31, 1931 in Detroit, MI

Kenny Burrell pioneered the guitar-led trio with bass and drums in the late 1950s. Known for his harmonic creativity, lush tones, and lyricism on the guitar, he is also a prolific and highly regarded composer. Born in Detroit in 1931, he found musical colleagues at an early age among Paul Chambers, **Tommy Flanagan**, **Frank Foster**, Yusef Lateef, and the brothers Thad, Hank, and **Elvin Jones**. While still a student at Wayne State University, he made his first major recording in 1951 with **Dizzy Gillespie**, John Coltrane, **Percy Heath**, and **Milt Jackson**.

After graduation, he toured for six months with the Oscar Peterson Trio and then moved to New York, where he performed in Broadway pit bands, on pop and R&B studio sessions (with Lena Horne, **Tony Bennett**, and James Brown), in jazz venues, and on jazz recordings. He went on to work and/or record with such artists as Nat King Cole, Billie Holiday, Stan Getz, Gene Ammons, Kenny Dorham, Benny Goodman, Coleman Hawkins, and **Jimmy Smith**. As a leader, he has recorded more than 90 albums and is a featured guitarist on more than 200 jazz recordings, including ones with **Art Blakey**, **Herbie Hancock**, and **Quincy Jones**.

Kenny Burrell's compositions have been recorded by artists including **Ray Brown**, June Christy, Grover Washington, Jr., Frank Wess, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. His extended composition for the Boys Choir of Harlem was premiered at New York's Lincoln Center, and his "Dear Ella," performed by Dee Dee Bridgewater, won a 1998 Grammy Award.

In addition to performing and recording, he is a professor of music and ethnomusicology at the University of California at Los Angeles. A recognized authority on the music of Duke Ellington, he developed the first regular college course ever taught in the United States on Ellington in 1978. In 1997, he was appointed Director of the Jazz Studies Program at UCLA, where he has enlisted such faculty members as George Bohanon, Billy Childs, **Billy Higgins**, Harold Land, Bobby Rodriguez, and **Gerald Wilson**.

Kenny Burrell is the author of two books, *Jazz Guitar* and *Jazz Guitar Solos*. In 2004, he received a Jazz Educator of the Year Award from *Down Beat*. He is a founder of the Jazz Heritage Foundation and the Friends of Jazz at UCLA and is recognized as an international ambassador for jazz and its promotion as an art form.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Kenny Burrell & John Coltrane,
Prestige/OJC, 1958

Midnight Blue, Blue Note, 1963

Guitar Forms, Verve, 1964

Live at the Blue Note, Concord Jazz, 1996

*Kenny Burrell & the Boys Choir of
Harlem, Love is the Answer*,
Concord Jazz, 1997

Photo by Bob Parent



Donald

Byrd

TRUMPETER FLUGELHORNIST EDUCATOR

Born December 9, 1932 in Detroit, MI

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

First Flight, Denmark, 1955*Early Byrd*, Blue Note, 1960-72*Electric Byrd*, Blue Note, 1970*Black Byrd*, Blue Note, 1974*A City Called Heaven*, Landmark, 1991

he became more active as an educator, teaching at New York's Music & Art High School. He held clinics for the National Stage Band Camps, giving private lessons and instruction. Among the college and university teaching appointments that followed were Rutgers University, Hampton University, Howard University, North Carolina Central University, North Texas State, and Delaware State University. He also earned a law degree between teaching appointments.

At Howard University, where he was chairman of the Black Music Department, he brought together a group of talented students to form Donald Byrd & the Black-byrds, a pop-jazz band that had a hit record for Blue Note, and continued to record—sans Byrd—for the Fantasy label. His recorded innovations also included the use of vocal chorus, which resulted in his popular recording of "Cristo Redemptor," as well as his engagements of gospel texts.

A pioneer jazz educator on African American college and university campuses, as well as general colleges and universities, Donald Byrd has also been a leading improviser on trumpet. Raised in the home of a Methodist minister and musician, he learned music in the then highly regarded music education system in the Detroit high schools. Byrd went on to earn degrees from Wayne State University and the Manhattan School of Music, eventually earning a doctorate from the University of Colorado School of Education. He studied music with the famed teacher Nadia Boulanger in Paris in 1963.

Byrd played in the Air Force band during 1951-52, then relocated to New York. Some of his earliest gigs in New York were with the George Wallington group at Cafe Bohemia. He joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers in December 1955. Following his Messengers experience, he worked in a variety of bands with Max Roach, John Coltrane, Red Garland, and Gigi Gryce, refining his playing skills. In 1958 he co-led a band with fellow Detroiter Pepper Adams, which continued for the next three years.

In the early 1960s, he became a bandleader of his own touring quintet. During 1965-66 he was a house arranger for the Norwegian Radio Orchestra. It was also at this time that

Benny

Carter

SAXOPHONIST TRUMPETER ARRANGER COMPOSER BANDLEADER

Born August 8, 1907 in New York, NY

Died July 12, 2003

Benny Carter made memorable impressions as a great bandleader and improviser with a highly influential style. Largely self-taught, Carter's first instrument was the trumpet, although the alto saxophone eventually became his principle instrument. Some of his earliest professional jobs were with bands led by cornetist June Clark and pianist Earl Hines, where his unusual ability to play both trumpet and saxophone was highly regarded. In 1930-31 he spent a year with the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra, then for a short time he succeeded Don Redman as musical director of McKinney's Cotton Pickers. During the early 1930s, he also made his first recordings with the Chocolate Dandies, which included Coleman Hawkins. In 1932, Carter formed his own big band. At various times the band included such significant players as Ben Webster, Chu Berry, **Teddy Wilson**, Dicky Wells, Bill Coleman, and Sid Catlett.

In 1934, Carter dissolved his band and migrated to Europe the next year, where he served as a staff arranger for the BBC Orchestra in London until 1938. His work in Europe took on an ambassadorial tone, playing as a freelance soloist with musicians in England and France and

leading a multiethnic band in Scandinavia in 1937. Growing restless, Carter returned to the U.S. in 1938 and assembled a new big band, which became house band at the Savoy Ballroom through 1940. In 1942, with another new band in tow, he settled in Los Angeles, his longtime home base. With lucrative film studios calling, Carter began scoring films and television. He became one of the first African Americans to be employed in the field, easing the way for other black composers. His first film work was in 1943 on *Stormy Weather*.

Starting in 1946, with his composing and arranging skills in constant demand, Carter disbanded his orchestra and became largely a freelance player. He participated in tours with Jazz at the Philharmonic and wrote arrangements for major singers such as Ray Charles, **Ella Fitzgerald**, Peggy Lee, **Sarah Vaughan**, and Louis Armstrong. Many of his subsequent recordings, such as the widely hailed *Further Definitions*, were evidence of the depth of his composing and arranging mastery. He received the National Medal of Arts in 2000.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

All of Me,
Bluebird, 1934-59

Jazz Giant,
Original Jazz Classics, 1957-58

Further Definitions,
Impulse!, 1961-66

In the Mood for Swing,
MusicMasters, 1987

Harlem Renaissance,
MusicMasters, 1992

Photo by Bob Parent



Betty

Carter

VOCALIST BANDLEADER EDUCATOR

Born May 16, 1930 in Flint, MI

Died September 26, 1998

Betty Carter developed a legendary reputation, along with **Art Blakey**, as one of the great mentors for young jazz musicians. Equally legendary was her singing prowess, creating a distinctive style of improvisation that could transcend any song.

Carter studied piano at the Detroit Conservatory, a skill that served her well later in her career in writing original songs. Growing up in Detroit, she was exposed to numerous jazz greats who passed through town, even getting a golden opportunity as a teenager to sit in with Charlie Parker. Carter's big break came in 1948, when she was asked to join the **Lionel Hampton** band. Developing her vocal improvisations during the three years with the band led to her singular singing style. Hampton, impressed with her saxophone-like improvisatory vocals, dubbed her "Betty Bebop." After leaving Hampton's band, she worked variously with such greats as **Miles Davis**, **Ray Charles**, and **Sonny Rollins** before creating her own band.

Although she recorded for major record labels early in her career, Carter became increasingly frustrated with record company dealings and disparities and formed her own label Bet-Car in 1971, one of the first jazz artists to do so. Selling her own recordings through various distributors, she was able to sustain her performing career. Carter was uncomfortable with studio recordings, but live recordings, like *The Audience with Betty Carter*, demonstrate her remarkably inventive singing and her ability to drive the band.

Carter's bands served a dual purpose: for her to create her own great music and to help the young musicians develop their craft. Many of the musicians who passed through her groups went on to lead their own groups, such as Geri Allen, Stephen Scott, Don Braden, and Christian McBride.

She also developed a mentoring program called Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead through links with organizations like the International Association for Jazz Education, 651 Arts, and the Kennedy Center. The program was a one-to-two week teaching seminar where nationally selected promising young jazz musicians learned from Carter and other seasoned musicians, culminating

in a final concert of instructors and students together. Jazz Ahead was one of Carter's proudest achievements, and she worked with the program up until her death.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

I Can't Help It,
Impulse!, 1958-60

At the Village Vanguard,
Verve, 1970

The Audience with Betty Carter,
Verve, 1979

Look What I Got,
Verve, 1988

Feed the Fire,
Verve, 1993



Ron

Carter

BASSIST CELLIST COMPOSER EDUCATOR

Born May 4, 1937 in Ferndale, MI

Ron Carter's dexterity and harmonic sophistication have few rivals in the history of bass in jazz. In addition to the bass, he has also employed both the cello and the piccolo bass (a downsized bass pitched somewhere between cello and contrabass), one of the first musicians to use those instruments in jazz settings.

His pursuit of music began with the cello, at age 10. One of the many students aspiring to be musicians in the Detroit public schools, he switched to the bass at Cass Tech High School. He studied at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and eventually made his way to New York City, where he earned his master's degree in Music from the Manhattan School of Music in 1961. He began freelancing, playing with a host of jazz greats, such as **Chico Hamilton**, **Randy Weston**, **Bobby Timmons**, **Thelonious Monk**, and **Art Farmer**. He cut three substantial albums with the great saxophonist **Eric Dolphy**, two under Dolphy's name and one under Carter's. Carter's *Where?* and Dolphy's *Out There* were groundbreaking in that Carter played cello against Dolphy's bass, creating a rich lower texture against which Dolphy could contrast his horn playing.

In 1961, he joined **Miles Davis** in what would become the most famous jazz quintet that included **Wayne Shorter**, **Herbie Hancock**, and **Herbie Hancock**. Davis even recorded some of Carter's compositions— notably "R.J.,"

"Mood," and "Eighty-One"—and the rhythm section of Carter, Williams, and Hancock powered the horn section to greater heights. He remained with Davis from 1963-68, whereupon he grew tired of the rigors of the road, preferring to freelance, lead his own groups, and teach. Among the cooperative bands he performed with during the remainder of the 1960s were the **New York Jazz Sextet** and the **New York Bass Choir**.

Throughout the 1970s, he was a recording studio bassist in high demand, though he never stopped gigging with a variety of artists and bands, including several touring all-star units such as the **CTI All-Stars**, **V.S.O.P.** (ostensibly a reunion of the Davis band minus the leader), and the **Milestone Jazzstars**, which included **Sonny Rollins** on tenor saxophone, **McCoy Tyner** on piano, and **Al Foster** on drums.

His freelance work has continued throughout his career, including chamber and orchestral work, film and television soundtracks, and even some hip hop recordings. Carter continues to record with young musicians such as **Stephen Scott** and **Lewis Nash**, and his college and university teaching career has also been quite active. He is Distinguished Professor of Music, Emeritus of the City College of New York, and has received honorary doctorate degrees from The Berklee School of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, and the New England Conservatory in Boston. He has also written several books on bass, including *Building A Jazz Bass Line*.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Miles Davis, E.S.P.,
Columbia, 1965

Live at Village West,
Concord, 1982

Eight Plus,
Dreyfus, 1990

Brandenburg Concerto,
Blue Note, 1995

The Golden Striker,
Blue Note, 2002

Photo by Bob Parcent



Kenny

Clarke

DRUMMER BANDLEADER

Born January 2, 1914 in Pittsburgh, PA

Died January 26, 1985

Kenny Clarke, known among musicians as “Klook” for one of his characteristic drum licks, is truly a jazz pioneer. He was a leader in the rhythmic advances that signaled the beginning of the modern jazz era, his drum style becoming the sound of bebop and influencing drummers such as **Art Blakey** and **Max Roach**.

Clarke studied music broadly growing up, including piano, trombone, drums, vibraphone, and theory while in high school. Such versatility of knowledge would later serve him well as a bandleader. Clarke moved to New York in late 1935, where he first began developing his unique approach to the drums, one with a wider rhythmic palette than that of the swing band drummers. Instead of marking the count with the top cymbal, Clarke used counter-rhythms to accent the beat, what became known as “dropping of bombs.”

He found a kindred spirit in **Dizzy Gillespie** when they hooked up in Teddy Hill’s band in 1939. A key opportunity to further expand his drum language came in late 1940 when he landed a gig in the house band (with Thelonious Monk on piano, and Nick Fenton on bass) at Minton’s Playhouse. It was this trio that welcomed such fellow travelers as guitarist Charlie Christian, Gillespie, and a host of others to its nightly jam sessions. These sessions became the primary laboratory for their brand of jazz, which came to be called bebop.

A stint in the Army from 1943-46 introduced him to pianist **John Lewis**. After their discharge he and Lewis joined Gillespie’s bebop big band, which gave Clarke his first taste of Paris during a European tour, a place that even-

tually became his home for nearly 30 years. After returning to New York, he joined the **Milt Jackson Quartet**, which metamorphosed into the Modern Jazz Quartet in 1952. Though he and Lewis remained friends, Clarke chafed at what he felt was the too-staid atmosphere of the MJQ. In 1956, he migrated to Paris, working with Jacques Helian’s band and backing up visiting U.S. jazz artists.

During the years 1960-73, he co-led the major Europe-based jazz big band with Belgian pianist Francy Boland, the Clarke-Boland Big Band. The band featured the best of Europe’s jazz soloists, including a number of exceptional U.S. expatriate musicians living in Europe. Among these were saxophonists Johnny Griffin and Sahib Shihab, and trumpeter Idrees Sulieman. After the disbanding of his big band, he found numerous opportunities both on the bandstand and teaching in the classroom, remaining quite active as a freelancer, often working with visiting U.S. jazz musicians, until his death in 1985.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Modern Jazz Quartet,
The Artistry of the Modern Jazz Quartet,
Prestige, 1952-55

Bohemia After Dark, Savoy, 1955

Discoveries, Savoy, 1955

Kenny Clarke Meets the Detroit Jazzmen,
Savoy, 1956

Clarke-Boland Big Band,
RTE, 1968



Photo by Bob Parent

Wilbur "Buck"

Clayton

TRUMPETER COMPOSER ARRANGER BANDLEADER EDUCATOR

Born November 12, 1911 in Parsons, KS
Died December 8, 1991

A valued member of a variety of classic big bands, Buck Clayton was versatile enough to thrive as a bandleader, session man, and trumpet soloist. Clayton first studied piano with his father beginning at age six, taking up the trumpet at age 17. He played in his church's orchestra until 1932 when he moved to California, taking various band jobs. In 1934, Clayton assembled his own band and took it to China for two years.

He joined Count Basie's band in Kansas City in 1936 at the height of its popularity, playing his first prominent solo on "Fiesta in Blue." He wrote several arrangements for Basie, including "Taps Miller" and "Red Bank Boogie," before joining the Army in 1943. Following his discharge, he performed around New York through the end of the decade. Jazz at the Philharmonic tours took him overseas, and he made record sessions with artists like Jimmy Rushing and wrote charts for Duke Ellington and Harry James. In the early 1950s, he partnered with pianist Joe Bushkin in the first

of the influential Embers quartets. Other artists he worked with include Benny Goodman, **Teddy Wilson**, Eddie Condon, Sidney Bechet, and Humphrey Littleton. His ability to improvise in a variety of styles made him much in demand for sessions, especially with vocalists such as Billie Holiday.

Physical issues with his embouchure—how the mouth forms against the mouthpiece of the instrument—caused him to relinquish the trumpet from 1972 until late in the decade, when he was able to resume playing. While he was unable to perform, Clayton wrote arrangements for various bands. That skill was fully exercised when he put together his own big band in the mid-1980s, playing almost exclusively his own compositions and arrangements. He also became an educator, teaching at Hunter College in the 1980s. He continued to freelance for the remainder of his career, being called upon as an honored soloist, and spent much of his last two decades teaching, lecturing, and arranging.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Classic Swing of Buck Clayton,
Original Jazz Classics, 1946

Buck Special, Vogue, 1949-53

Jam Sessions from the Vaults,
Columbia, 1953-56

Buck and Buddy,
Original Jazz Classics, 1960

A Swingin' Dream, Stash, 1988



Ornette

Coleman

SAXOPHONIST TRUMPETER VIOLINIST COMPOSER

Born March 9, 1930 in Ft. Worth, TX

Ornette Coleman is one of the true jazz innovators, whose sound is instantly recognizable and unquestionably unique. Coleman's work has ranged from dissonance and atonality to liberal use of electronic accompaniment in his ensembles, as well as the engagement of various ethnic influences and elements from around the globe. While experimenting with time and tone, his strong blues root is always evident.

For the most part, Coleman has been self-taught, beginning on the alto saxophone at age 14. Coleman's earliest performing experiences were mostly with local rhythm & blues bands. Coleman eventually settled in Los Angeles in 1952. His search for a different sound and approach, a means of escaping traditional chord patterns and progressions, led some critics to suggest that he did not know how to play his instrument. However, he was studying harmony and theory zealously from books while supporting himself as an elevator operator. His performances in clubs and jam sessions were often met with derision if not outright rejection and anger from his fellow musicians and critics. Coleman soldiered on, honing his sound with like-minded musicians, including trumpeter Don Cherry, drummer Billy Higgins, and bassist Charlie Haden.

The year 1959 was an important one for Coleman and his band mates: he signed a recording contract with Atlantic Records, recording the first album to really present his new sound, *Tomorrow Is The Question!*; his quartet was invited to participate in what became a historic session at the Lenox School of Jazz in Massachusetts, being championed by John Lewis and Gunther Schuller; and the band began an extended engagement at the Five Spot Cafe in New York.

Meanwhile, Ornette Coleman was developing an approach to his music that he was to dub "harmolodics."

Coleman's albums for Atlantic, while tame by today's standards, were quite controversial at the time. Perhaps the most controversial of this series of albums was *Free Jazz*, recorded with a double quartet as essentially one continuous collective improvisation, which influenced avant-garde recordings in the 1960s and 1970s. After that recording, Coleman took time off from playing and recording to study trumpet and violin.

Since that time Coleman has expanded his compositional outlook. His writing includes works for wind ensembles, strings, and symphony orchestra (notably his symphony *Skies of America*, recorded with the London Philharmonic). Coleman's ongoing experiments have taken him to Northern Africa to work with the Master Musicians of Joujouka, and in recent years he has performed with an electric ensemble he calls Prime Time. A recipient of Guggenheim Fellowships for composition, a MacArthur grant, and the prestigious Gish Prize in 2004, Coleman continues to astound audiences with his imaginative approaches to music.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Shape of Jazz to Come,
Atlantic, 1959-60

Free Jazz, Atlantic, 1960

At the Golden Circle, Stockholm,
Vol. 1-2, Blue Note, 1965

In All Languages,
Verve/Harmolodic, 1987

Colors,
Verve/Harmolodic, 1996



Photo by Bob Parent

Miles

Davis

TRUMPETER FLUGELHORNIST COMPOSER BANDLEADER

Born May 25, 1926 in Alton, IL
Died September 28, 1991

Miles Davis is arguably the most influential jazz musician in the post-World War II period, being at the forefront of changes in the music for more than 40 years. Born into a middle-class family, Davis started on the trumpet at age 13. His first professional music job came when he joined the Eddie Randall band in St. Louis from 1941-43. In the fall of 1944 Davis took a scholarship to attend the Juilliard School, a convenient passport to New York. It didn't take him long to immerse himself in the New York scene and he began working 52nd Street gigs alongside Charlie Parker in 1945. Soon, Davis found work with Coleman Hawkins and the big bands of Billy Eckstine and Benny Carter.

During the late 1940s, a number of musical contemporaries began to meet and jam regularly at the small apartment of arranger-pianist Gil Evans. Among them were saxophonists Gerry Mulligan and Lee Konitz, and pianist John Lewis. Out of this group of musicians, Davis formed the nonet to record his first major musical statement, *Birth of the Cool*. In addition to the standard piano, bass and drums rhythm section, Davis' nonet horn section used French horn and tuba along with trombone, alto and baritone saxophones, lending the band a unique harmonic sound.

In 1945, Davis assembled his first important band with (alto) Coleman, (bass) Red Garland, Paul Chambers, and Philly Joe Jones, adding pianist "Cannonball" Adderley in 1958. By this time Davis, influenced by George Russell's theories, had begun playing modes rather than standard chord changes, which led to his most famous album (and the all-time biggest selling jazz album), *Kind of Blue*, in 1959.

Davis also continued an important musical partnership with Gil Evans, recording four releases in five years: *Miles Ahead*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Sketches of Spain*, and *Quiet Nights*.

In 1964, Davis assembled a new band of younger musicians, which became known as his second great quintet. This included Herbie Hancock, Tony Williams, Ron Carter, and Wayne Shorter. By this time, the Miles Davis Quintet was recording mostly originals, with all the band members contributing memorable tunes. Davis' horn playing also changed, increasing the spacing of notes to create more suspense in the music.

In 1968, Davis again changed direction, leading the way for electric jazz with the release of *In a Silent Way*. By the 1969 release of *Bitches Brew*, the transformation was complete as he deepened the electronic elements and rock rhythms of his music. By the mid-1970s, following the debilitating effects of a 1972 auto accident, Davis went into semi-retirement. He returned to the scene in 1980 and resumed touring in 1981, with even newer fans in his wake. From then to 1991, Davis remained vital and popular despite some criticism that he had softened his electric approach.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Birth of the Cool,
Capitol, 1949-50

Kind of Blue,
Columbia, 1959

The Complete Live at the Plugged Nickel,
Columbia, 1965

Bitches Brew, Columbia, 1969

Amandla,
Warner Brothers, 1989



Dorothy

Donegan

PIANIST VOCALIST EDUCATOR

Born April 6, 1924 in Chicago, IL
Died May 19, 1998

Blessed with an enormous orchestral capacity at the keyboard, Dorothy Donegan was fluent in several styles of jazz as well as with European classical music. Underrated by some due to her proclivity towards showy flamboyance and her penchant for entertaining an audience, she was nonetheless an exceptional pianist with a rich harmonic sense.

Given her virtuosity, it's no wonder her earliest influence and one of her champions was the peerless master of the piano, Art Tatum. Encouraged by her mother to be a professional musician, Donegan was playing piano for a dollar a night at Chicago's South Side bars when she was only 14. She subsequently attended the Chicago Conservatory, Chicago Music College, and the University of Southern California, where she studied classical piano.

In 1943, Donegan gave a concert at the Orchestra Hall in Chicago, the first African American performer to do so. This created publicity that led to some work in film (*Sensations of 1945*) and theater (*Star Time*). Her playing career was largely centered around nightclub engagements, as Donegan was more comfortable in a live setting than a studio.

In the 1950s, she developed her flamboyant performance style, which at times tended to obscure her extraordinary piano playing, deep sense of swing, and wide-ranging repertoire. She would often spice her performances with uncanny impressions of other pianists and singers, skills that enhanced her abilities as an entertainer.

She spent the bulk of her career performing in trios with bass and drums. Her appearance at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in 1980 broke all previous attendance records. In the early 1990s, her show-stopping appearances on Hank O'Neal's Floating Jazz cruises brought her talents to the attention of another generation of jazz fans. She also lectured at several colleges and universities, including

Harvard, Northeastern, and the Manhattan School of Music, and received an honorary doctoral degree from Roosevelt University in 1994. Donegan

performed at the White House in 1993 and gave her last major performance at the Fujitsu Concord Jazz Festival in 1997.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Dorothy Romps: A Piano Retrospective,
Rosetta, 1953-79

Makin' Whoopee, Black & Blue, 1979

Live in Copenhagen 1980,
Storyville, 1980

Live at the 1990 Floating Jazz Festival,
Chiaroscuro, 1990

Live at the Floating Jazz Festival
1992, Chiaroscuro, 1992



Photo by Michael Wildeman

Paquito D'Rivera

SAXOPHONIST CLARINETIST FLUTIST COMPOSER

Born June 4, 1948 in Havana, Cuba

The winner of four Grammy Awards, Paquito D'Rivera is celebrated both for his artistry in Latin jazz and his achievements as a classical composer. Born in Havana, Cuba, he performed at age 10 with the National Theater Orchestra, studied at the Havana Conservatory of Music and, at 17, became a featured soloist with the Cuban National Symphony.

D'Rivera co-founded the Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna and served as the band's conductor for two years. In 1973, he was co-director of Irakere, a highly popular ensemble whose explosive mixture of jazz, rock, classical, and traditional Cuban music had never before been heard. The band toured extensively and in 1979 was awarded the Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Ensemble.

In 1981, while on tour in Spain, D'Rivera sought asylum in the United States embassy. Since then he has toured the world with his ensembles—the Paquito D'Rivera Big Band, the Paquito D'Rivera Quintet, and the Chamber Jazz Ensemble.

His numerous recordings include more than 30 solo albums. In 1988, he was a founding member of the United Nation Orchestra, a 15-piece ensemble organized by Dizzy Gillespie to showcase

the fusion of Latin and Caribbean influences with jazz. In 1991, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Carnegie Hall for his contributions to Latin music. That same year, as part of the band Dizzy Gillespie and the United Nation Orchestra, he along with **James Moody, Slide Hampton**, Airtó Moreira, Flora Purim, Arturo Sandoval, Steve Turre, and others were featured on the Grammy Award-winning recording, *Live at the Royal Festival Hall*.

He has appeared at, or written commissions for, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Library of Congress, the National Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Costa Rican National Symphony Orchestra, Simón Bolívar Symphonic Orchestra, and Montreal's

Gerald Danovich Saxophone Quartet. He serves as artistic director of jazz programming at the New Jersey Chamber Music Society and is artistic director of the Festival Internacional de Jazz en el Tambo (Punta del Este, Uruguay). He has become the consummate multinational ambassador, creating and promoting a cross-culture of music that moves effortlessly among jazz, Latin, and classical. D'Rivera received the National Medal of Arts in 2005.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Blowin', Columbia, 1981

Dizzy Gillespie and the United Nation Orchestra, *Live at the Royal Festival Hall*, Enja, 1989

Portraits of Cuba, Chesky, 1996

Brazilian Dreams, MCG Jazz, 2001

Big Band Time, Pimenta, 2003



Harry "Sweets" Edison

TRUMPETER

Born October 10, 1915 in Columbus, OH
Died July 27, 1999

Known in the jazz world as "Sweets," for both his disposition and his playing ability, Edison was a consummate big band section trumpeter and skilled soloist whose ability to enhance a piece without overpowering it was renowned.

A self-taught musician, his earliest gig came in high school with the Earl Hood band. From 1933-1935, he played in the Jeter-Pillars Orchestra, a prominent territory band of the time. After moving to New York in 1937, he spent six months with Lucky Millinder's band, until joining Count Basie later that year. It was with Basie that he truly began to distinguish himself, not only as a strong member of the trumpet section, but also as a distinctive soloist. His warm sound, using repeated notes that he would bend and ripple, was a welcome contrast to the usual high-note, piercing solos of most trumpeter players. Edison stayed with the band from 1938 until Basie disbanded in 1950.

Rarely a bandleader under his own name, he spent the bulk of his career working with singers and with big bands on the road and in the recording studio. Edison's work with Billie Holiday and the Nelson Riddle Orchestra backing

Frank Sinatra during the 1950s is some of his finest, accenting the vocals and setting up the mood of the songs. His echoing trumpet on Sinatra's *Songs for Swingin' Lovers*, for example, helped set the pace of the songs, playing off

Sinatra's phrasing of the lyrics. Edison provided some of the bright moments in Holiday's output

in the 1950s on albums such as *Songs for Distingue Lovers*. His tasteful playing created a great demand from singers for his services, and besides Sinatra and Holiday, Edison played behind Ella Fitzgerald, Josephine Baker, Sarah Vaughan, and Nat "King" Cole. Edison was also a welcome addition to the big bands he worked with, including Buddy Rich, Louie Bellson, and Quincy Jones.

Although leaving the Basie band as a full-time member in 1950, he rejoined the band on many subsequent occasions for the rest of his career. He worked as musical director for such artists as Redd Foxx and Joe Williams, and collaborated with other soloists, such as Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis and Oscar Peterson. Valued for his superb sense of dynamics, he carved out a beautiful trumpet style noted for its simplicity and good taste. He also found a home in film and television soundtrack work.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Frank Sinatra, *Songs for Swingin' Lovers*,
Capitol, 1955-56

Jawbreakers,
Original Jazz Classics, 1962

Edison's Lights,
Original Jazz Classics, 1976

Swing Summit, Candid, 1990

Live at the Iridium,
Telarc, 1997



Photo by Bob Parent

Roy Eldridge

TRUMPETER PIANIST VOCALIST

Born January 30, 1911 in Pittsburgh, PA
Died February 26, 1989

Also known as "Little Jazz," Roy Eldridge was a fiery, energetic trumpeter, the bridge between the towering trumpet stylists Louis Armstrong and **Dizzy Gillespie**. Some of the great rhythmic drive of Eldridge's later trumpet exploits could be traced to his beginnings on the drums, which he began playing at age six. Eldridge's older brother Joe, who played alto saxophone, was his first teacher.

In 1930, Eldridge moved to New York, heading straight to Harlem where he gained work with a number of dance bands before joining the Teddy Hill band. By 1935, Eldridge and saxophonist Chu Berry (who would later join the **Count Basie Orchestra**) were Hill's principal soloists, and after gigs they would go around town on cutting contests, challenging musicians to see who could play the best: with his lightning speed and awesome range, Eldridge rarely lost. After Hill's band, Eldridge became the lead trumpeter in the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra, where his upper register abilities were highlighted. It didn't take long for Eldridge to exert himself as a bandleader, forming his own octet in 1936 in Chicago, a band that included his brother Joe.

By the end of the 1930s, after freelancing with a wide array of bands, Eldridge gained notice as one of the swing

bands' most potent soloists. In 1941, he joined drummer Gene Krupa's band. Not only did he provide trumpet fireworks for Krupa's outfit, he also sang, recording a memorable duet with the band's female singer, **Anita O'Day**, on the tune "Let Me Off Uptown" in 1941. Later, after Krupa's band disbanded in 1943 and a period of freelancing, he toured with the **Artie Shaw** band in 1944. Then Eldridge led his own bands, usually small swing groups.

In 1948, Norman Granz recruited Eldridge for his Jazz at the Philharmonic, an ideal situation since Eldridge was one of the ultimate jam session trumpeters. He toured briefly with Benny Goodman and took up residence in Paris in 1950, where he made some of his most successful recordings. He returned to New York in 1951 and continued freelancing with small bands, including work with Coleman Hawkins, **Benny Carter**, **Ella Fitzgerald**, and Johnny Hodges. He made notable albums for Verve Records alongside Hawkins and continued freelancing and leading a house band at Jimmy Ryan's club in New York. A stroke in 1980 stopped him from playing the trumpet, but Eldridge continued to make music as a singer and pianist until his death in 1989.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

After You've Gone,
GRP/Decca, 1936-46

Little Jazz: The Best of the Verve Years,
Verve, 1951-60

Roy and Diz, Verve, 1954

Just You Just Me,
Stash, 1959

Montreux '77,
Original Jazz Classics, 1977



Gil

Evans

PIANIST COMPOSER ARRANGER BANDLEADER

Born May 13, 1912 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Died March 20, 1988

As an arranger, Gil Evans has few peers in jazz history. His style is instantly recognizable, often using unusual brass colorations for jazz, such as combinations of tuba and French horn. Arranging started early for Evans, leading his own band when he was 16 and taking piano gigs at local hotels. In junior college, he and Ned Briggs joined forces to lead a 10-piece band modeled after the popular Casa Loma Band. The band was the house band at the Rendezvous Ballroom in Balboa Beach, California, where they remained for two years, up until 1937.

In 1937, singer Skinny Ennis took over leadership of the band, retaining Evans as pianist and arranger as they moved to Hollywood, where they were regularly featured on the Bob Hope radio show. In 1941, Claude Thornhill, who had been associated with the Hope show, hired Evans as an arranger for his first orchestra, which lasted for seven years. Evans was influenced by Thornhill's unusual voicings, particularly for brass and woodwinds.

Evans settled permanently in New York in 1947 and his unusual arrangements for Thornhill began to attract the attention of some of the nascent beboppers of the time, including Miles Davis, John Lewis, and Gerry Mulligan. It was around this time that Evans' apartment became a meeting ground for these and other musicians seeking fresh

approaches. These musical and conversational exchanges led to the recording of Miles Davis' *Birth of the Cool* session for Capitol Records. That album was marked by its cooler, less bustling tempos than was characteristic of bebop, the modern jazz of the day. Several Evans arrangements stood out, especially "Moondreams" and "Boplicity."

Evans spent much of the 1950s as a freelance arranger, until 1957 when he began working with Davis on the first of their four collaborations, *Miles Ahead*, featuring Davis on flugelhorn as the only soloist, an unusual arrangement in jazz at the time. Over the next few years, Evans and Davis worked together on *Porgy and Bess*, *Sketches of Spain* and *Quiet Nights*.

In the 1960s, Evans began making his own recordings, displaying his unusual voicings and distinctive settings for some of the best soloists of the time, such as Steve Lacy, Wayne Shorter, and Eric Dolphy. In the 1970s, Evans began exploring the music of Jimi Hendrix and taking on some of the accoutrements usually associated with rock music, including guitars, synthesizers, and electric bass. In the 1980s, his shifting cast of exceptional soloists included Billy Harper, George Adams, Howard Johnson, John Scofield, and David Sanborn, and Evans would have occasional weekly shows at New York clubs such as the Village Vanguard and Sweet Basil.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Miles Davis, *Sketches of Spain*,
Columbia, 1959-60

Out of the Cool,
Impulse!, 1960

The Individualism of Gil Evans,
Verve, 1963-64

Svengali, Atlantic, 1973

*Gil Evans Orchestra Plays the Music
of Jimi Hendrix*, Bluebird,
1974-75

Art

Farmer

TRUMPETER FLUGELHORNIST FLUMPETER

Born August 21, 1928 in Council Bluffs, IA
Died October 4, 1999

One of the more lyrical of the post-bop musicians, Art Farmer helped to popularize the flugelhorn in jazz. He switched to a hybrid instrument known as the flumpet later in his career, an instrument that combined the power of the trumpet with the warmth of the flugelhorn.

He and his late twin brother, bassist Addison Farmer, were raised in Phoenix, Arizona. Farmer took up the piano, violin, and tuba before settling on the trumpet at 14. He later moved to Los Angeles and worked with Horace Henderson, and Floyd Ray, eventually traveling east to New York with the Johnny Otis Revue in 1947. In New York, he studied with Maurice Grupp and freelanced in the clubs. In 1948 he returned to the West Coast and found work with Benny Carter, Gerald Wilson, Roy Porter, Jay McShann, and Wardell Gray through 1952. He toured with Lionel Hampton in 1952-53, moving once again to New York after the tour.

Between 1954-56, he intermittently co-lead a band with Gigi Gryce, then joined Horace Silver from 1956-58, and Gerry Mulligan from 1958-59, with whom

he appeared in two films: *I Want to Live* and *The Subterraneans*. Farmer's performances with the various groups earned him a reputation for being able to play in any style.

In 1959, he and Benny Golson formed the Jazztet, whose first incarnation lasted until 1962. The Jazztet's tightly arranged music defined mainstream jazz for several years. Farmer switched to the flugelhorn in the early 1960s, finding a rounder, mellower sound with the instrument, and co-lead a band with guitarist Jim Hall until 1964. He worked in Europe from 1965-66, and when he returned stateside he again co-lead a band, this time with Jimmy Heath. In

1968 he moved to Vienna, joined the Austrian Radio Orchestra, and worked with such European outfits as the Clarke-Boland Big Band, and Peter Herbolzheimer. He toured Europe and Asia with Jimmy Smith's band in 1972, and his appearances in the U.S. became rarities.

In 1982, Farmer and Golson re-formed the Jazztet for a short while. Otherwise his performances in the U.S. were on an annual basis. For a time he teamed up with yet another saxophonist, Clifford Jordan, for annual New York visits. He continued to lead his own bands on occasion, particularly at festival time. In 1991, he began employing the flumpet, specially designed for Farmer by David Monette.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- When Farmer Met Gryce*,
Original Jazz Classics, 1954-55
- Meet the Jazztet*, MCA/Chess, 1960
- Live at the Half Note*,
Atlantic, 1963
- Blame It on my Youth*,
Contemporary, 1988
- Silk Road*, Arabesque, 1996



Ella

VOCALIST

Fitzgerald

Born April 25, 1917 in Newport News, VA

Died June 15, 1996

It is quite apropos that Ella Fitzgerald was the first vocalist recipient of the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship, as she is considered by most people to be the quintessential jazz singer. The purity of her range and intonation, along with her peerless sense of pitch, made her a signature singer. In addition, her scat singing, using the technique of a master instrumental improviser, was her hallmark. These characteristics make her an enduring purveyor not only of jazz and the art of improvising, but also of the classic American songbook.

Fitzgerald was raised in Yonkers, New York, and her first artistic proclivities were as a dancer, even though she sang with her school glee club. At 17, she entered the famous amateur show competition at the Apollo Theatre, which led to her being hired as a singer for Chick Webb's orchestra. She soon became a popular attraction at the Savoy, and Fitzgerald recorded her first song, "Love and Kisses," with Webb in June 1935. Three years of steady work later, she had her first major hit with her rendition of "A-Tisket, A-Tasket." That lightweight ditty remained a popular request throughout Fitzgerald's ensuing decades.

When Chick Webb died in 1939, Fitzgerald assumed leadership of the band for the next two years, beginning her solo career. In 1946 she began an enduring relationship

with producer Norman Granz, becoming part of his Jazz at the Philharmonic concert tours. At the time her regular trio leader was bassist **Ray Brown**, to whom she was married from 1947 to 1953. By 1955, Granz had become her manager and had begun recording Fitzgerald for his Verve label.

This affiliation led to her recording with numerous greats, including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington,

Count Basie, and Oscar Peterson. Among the landmark recordings she made with Granz were her historic songbook treatments of the music of Ellington, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart, Harold Arlen, Johnny Mercer, and Ira and George Gershwin.

Fitzgerald's superb intonation and crystal clear voice was also blessed with a rhythmic flexibility to effortlessly swing. Though she came up in the swing era, Fitzgerald also could hang with the best of the beboppers. Her ability to scat with the most skilled instrumentalists served her well on such notable voice-as-instrument hits as "Lady Be Good," "Flying Home," and "How High The Moon." Each became enduring parts of her repertoire. She forged memorable partnerships with her piano accompanists, most notably **Tommy Flanagan** and Paul Smith.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

75th Birthday Celebration,
GRP, 1938-55

*The Complete Ella Fitzgerald
& Louis Armstrong on Verve,* Verve, 1956-57

Sings the Duke Ellington Songbook,
Verve, 1956-57

The Complete Ella in Berlin, Verve, 1960-61

Montreux '77,
Original Jazz Classics, 1977



Photo by Lee Tanner

Tommy Flanagan

PIANIST

Born March 16, 1930 in Detroit, MI
Died November 16, 2001

Tommy Flanagan was noted as both a stimulating accompanist and a superb small ensemble leader, playing with some of the biggest names in jazz. A product of a noteworthy arts education system in the Detroit public schools, he began his musical pursuits on clarinet at six years old, switching to the piano at age 11. At 15, he made his professional debut. Thereafter he performed with fellow Detroiters **Milt Jackson**, Rudy Rutherford, Billy Mitchell, **Kenny Burrell**, and Thad and **Elvin Jones** as part of the fertile Detroit jazz scene in the 1950s.

Flanagan moved to New York in 1956, securing his first job as a replacement for Bud Powell at Birdland. Powell, along with Art Tatum and Nat "King" Cole, was a major influence on Flanagan's playing. Throughout the 1950s, he worked with many of the biggest names in jazz, including J.J. Johnson, Miles Davis, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Sonny Rollins, Coleman Hawkins, Jim

Hall, and **Tony Bennett**, playing on some of the landmark recordings of that decade. One of his most significant recordings was with John Coltrane on the wildly influential recording, *Giant Steps*. His playing on the complex title track, using space between the notes to contrast Coltrane's rapid-fire attack, was especially inspired.

He also met and began performing with **Ella Fitzgerald**, an association that lasted until the end of the 1970s, his trio touring exclusively with her from 1968-78. After leaving Ella Fitzgerald in 1978, some of his best, most compelling work was in the trio format, with George Mraz on bass and Elvin Jones or Lewis Nash on drums. Influenced by the playing and arrangements of Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk, Flanagan's lyrical playing and harmonic sophistication placed him in the top echelon of jazz pianists. He was an especially tasteful interpreter of Billy Strayhorn, Thad Jones, and Tadd Dameron's music. Flanagan was a multiple jazz poll winner, and in 1992 was recipient of the prestigious Danish Jazzpar prize.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Thelonica,
Enja, 1982

Beyond the Bluebird,
Timeless, 1990

Giant Steps, Enja, 1992

Let's Play the Music of Thad Jones,
Enja, 1993

Lady Be Good. For Ella,
Verve, 1994

Photo by Bob Parent



SAXOPHONIST COMPOSER ARRANGER BANDLEADER EDUCATOR

Frank Foster

Born September 23, 1928 in Cincinnati, OH

Although best known for his work in the **Count Basie** Orchestra (and as the composer of the Count Basie hit, "Shiny Stockings"), Frank Foster's saxophone playing owes more to the bebop of Charlie Parker and Sonny Stitt than the swing of Basie.

Foster began playing clarinet at 11 years old before taking up the alto saxophone and eventually the tenor. By the time he was a senior in high school, he was leading and writing the arrangements for a 12-piece band. Foster studied at Wilberforce University in Ohio before heading to Detroit in 1949 with trumpeter Snooky Young for six weeks, becoming captivated by its burgeoning music scene. Drafted into the Army, Foster left Detroit and headed off to basic training near San Francisco, where he would jam in the evenings at Jimbo's Bop City.

After being discharged in 1953, two life-changing events happened to Foster: he sat in with Charlie Parker at Birdland and he was asked to join Count Basie's band, where he stayed until 1964. Foster's fiery solos contrasted nicely with Frank Wess' ballad work, providing Basie with an interesting contrast. Foster, already an accomplished composer by this time, learned from Basie how to simplify arrangements to make the music swing. He soon was providing compositions and arrangements for the band ("Blues Backstage," "Down for the Count," the entire *Easin' It* album just to name a few), with his most popular number being "Shiny Stockings." He also was an extremely successful

freelance writer, creating a large body of work for jazz, including works contributed to albums by singers **Sarah Vaughan** and Frank Sinatra, and a commissioned work for the 1980 Winter Olympics, *Lake Placid Suite*, written for jazz orchestra.

In the 1970s, Foster played with contemporary musicians such as **Elvin Jones**, George Coleman, and Joe Farrell and began expanding his compositions. He led his own band, the Loud Minority, until 1986 when he assumed leadership of the Count Basie Orchestra from Thad Jones. While playing the favorites, Foster also began introducing original material into the playlist. Foster resigned as the musical director of the orchestra in 1995 and began recording albums again. In addition to performing, Foster has also served as a musical consultant in the New York City public schools and taught at Queens College and the State University of New York at Buffalo.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Count Basie, *Verve Jazz Masters*,
Verve, 1954-65

No Count, Savoy, 1956

Fearless,

Original Jazz Classics, 1965

Shiny Stockings, Denon, 1977-78

Leo Rising,
Arabesque, 1996



John Birks 'Dizzy'

Gillespie

TRUMPETER COMPOSER BANDLEADER

Born October 21, 1917 in Cheraw, SC

Died January 6, 1993

Dizzy Gillespie's effect on jazz cannot be overstated: his trumpet playing influenced every player who came after him, his compositions have become part of the jazz canon, and his bands have included some of the most significant names in the business. He was also, along with Charlie Parker, one of the major leaders of the bebop movement.

Gillespie's father was an amateur bandleader who, although dead by the time Gillespie was ten, had given his son some of his earliest grounding in music. Gillespie began playing trumpet at 14 after briefly trying the trombone, and his first formal musical training came at the Laurinburg Institute in North Carolina.

Gillespie's earliest professional jobs were with the Frankie Fairfax band, where he reportedly picked up the nickname Dizzy related to his outlandish antics. His earliest influence was **Roy Eldridge**, who he later replaced in Teddy Hill's band. From 1939-41, Gillespie was one of the principal soloists in Cab Calloway's band, until he was dismissed for a notorious bandstand prank. It was while with Calloway that he met the Cuban trumpeter Mario Bauza, from whom he gained a great interest in Afro-Cuban rhythms. At this time he also befriended Charlie Parker, with whom he would begin to develop some of the ideas that would form bebop while sitting in at Minton's Playhouse in Harlem.

From 1941-43, Gillespie insouciantly with a number of big bands, including that of Earl "Fatha" Hines. Hines' band contained several musicians Gillespie would interact with in the

development of bebop, such as singer Billy Eckstine, who formed his own band featuring Gillespie on trumpet in 1944.

1945 was a crucial year for both bebop and Gillespie. He recorded with Parker many of his small ensemble hits, such as "Salt Peanuts," and formed his own bebop big band. Despite economic woes, he was eventually able to keep this band together for four years. His trumpet playing was at a peak, with rapid-fire attacks of notes and an amazing harmonic range. A number of future greats performed with Gillespie's big band, including saxophonists Gene Ammons, Yusef Lateef, Paul Gonsalves, **Jimmy Heath**, **James Moody**, and John Coltrane. The rhythm section of **John Lewis**, **Milt Jackson**, **Kenny Clarke**, and **Ray Brown** became the original Modern Jazz Quartet.

He took various bands on State Department tours around the world starting in 1956, the first time the U.S. government provided economic aid and recognition to jazz. Those excursions not only kept Gillespie working, they also stimulated his musical interests as he began incorporating different ethnic elements into his music, such as the Afro-Cuban rhythms he weaved into his big band arrangements. Never losing his thirst for collaboration, Gillespie worked with a variety of jazz stars as well as leading his own small groups on into the 1980s.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Complete RCA Victor Recordings 1937-1949, Bluebird, 1937-49

Dizzy's Diamonds, Verve, 1954-64

Birk's Works: Verve Big Band Sessions, Verve, 1956-57

Gillespiana/Carnegie Hall Concert, Verve, 1960-61

Max + Dizzy, Paris 1989, A&M, 1989

1996



Photo by Lee Tanner

Benny

Golson

SAXOPHONIST COMPOSER ARRANGER EDUCATOR

Born January 25, 1929 in Philadelphia, PA

Benny Golson is as renowned for his distinctive compositions and arrangements as for his innovative tenor saxophone playing. Major cornerstones of his career have included not only notable additions to the jazz canon, but also included his work in film and television studios, and in education.

Golson began on the piano, at age nine, moving to the saxophone at age 14. He earned a degree from Howard University, then joined Bull Moose Jackson's band in 1951. Arranging and composing became a serious pursuit for him at the early encouragement of composer-arranger Tadd Dameron, who he met in Jackson's band. Other early band affiliations included **Lionel Hampton**, Johnny Hodges, and Earl Bostic. He toured with the **Dizzy Gillespie** big band from 1956-58, then joined **Art Blakey's** Jazz Messengers. His robust playing added extra kick to the band, and his solo on Bobby Timmons' song "Moanin'" is a classic. With the Messengers, Golson's writing skills blossomed as he contributed pieces for the band that have forever entered the jazz canon, including "Along Came Betty," "Blues March," "I Remember Clifford" (written upon the death of his friend Clifford Brown), "Killer Joe" (which later became a hit for Quincy Jones), and "Are You Real?"

After leaving the Messengers, he and **Art Farmer** formed the hard bop quintet known as the Jazztet. The original incarnation of the Jazztet lasted from 1959-62. In 1963, he moved to California and began to concentrate on composing and arranging. He scored music for European and American television and films, and essentially discontinued touring until 1982, when he and Farmer revived the Jazztet briefly. Thereafter he played more frequently, working in all-star aggregations, and completing commissioned assignments, such as an original orchestral work for the 100th anniversary of the Juilliard School of Music in 2005. His soundtrack credits include *M*A*S*H*, *Mission Impossible*, *Mod Squad*, and *Ironside*.

In 1987, Golson participated in a U.S. State Department tour of Southeast Asia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma, and Singapore. As a tribute to Art Blakey, Golson organized the "Jazz Messengers—A Legacy to Art Blakey" tour of the U.S., Europe, and Japan from 1998 to 2000.

As an educator he has lectured, given clinics, and performed extended residencies at New York University, Stanford University, University of Pittsburgh, Cuyahoga Community College, Rutgers University, William Paterson College, and Berklee College of Music. Among his awards is a 1994 Guggenheim Fellowship. Currently, he is putting the finishing touches on two books: a major college textbook and his autobiography, which will be published in late 2005 by Ibbot Music, Inc.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Benny Golson's New York Scene,
Original Jazz Classics, 1957

Up Jumped Benny, Arkadia Jazz, 1986

Tenor Legacy, Arkadia Jazz, 1996

One Day, Forever, Arkadia, 1996-2000

Terminal 1, Concord Jazz, 2004



Photo by Lee Tanner

Dexter

Gordon

SAXOPHONIST

Born February 27, 1923 in Los Angeles, CA
Died April 25, 1990

Dexter Gordon was one of the leading bebop tenor saxophonists, with his near-vibratoless sound and prodigious ability to improvise. He was a strong influence on the tenor saxophonists who came after bebop, especially **Sonny Rollins** and **John Coltrane**.

Gordon took up the clarinet at age 13, switching to the saxophone at 15. His first formal teacher was Lloyd Reese, who had other notable students, including Charles Mingus and Buddy Collette, with whom Gordon interacted in Reese's student band. Gordon left school in 1940 and joined a local band before taking a position with the **Lionel Hampton** band from 1940-43, cutting his first recordings with the band in 1942. Back home in Los Angeles, Gordon played with Lee Young (brother of Lester) and Jesse Price, and made a subsequent record with Nat "King" Cole at the piano.

Gordon began to garner attention when he moved to New York in 1944 to join the Billy Eckstine Orchestra. He recorded with Eckstine and made his own recordings for the Savoy label. Through the remainder of the 1940s, he played and recorded with the major figures in bebop, such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Tadd Dameron. Between 1947 and 1952, he played horns with fellow tenor saxophonist Wardell Gray for

a series of classic two-tenor duels, including their classic recording of "The Chase." Continuing to freelance throughout the 1950s, he began touring Europe as a soloist in the early 1960s to acclaim, eventually settling in Copenhagen in 1962.

Gordon continued to play in Europe as a soloist, making a series of recordings for the Danish label

Steeplechase. He added the soprano sax to his arsenal in the early 1970s. During a trip back to the States in 1976, he took a gig at the Village Vanguard and the response to his playing was overwhelming. He found willing partners in several musicians of a younger generation, including trumpeter Woody Shaw. The response prompted him to return permanently to the U.S., where he made a series of well-received records for the Columbia label. Included was a notable return to his two-tenor battle days, this time with fellow expatriate Johnny Griffin.

The culmination of the decade-long renewal of interest in Gordon was his starring role in the film *'Round Midnight*, which garnered an Oscar nomination. Thereafter, until felled by ill health, he continued to tour with his own potent quartets and returned to his former record label, Blue Note, for a brief time following his film success.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Dexter Gordon on Dial: The Complete Sessions, Spotlite, 1947

Doin' Alright, Blue Note, 1961

Go!, Blue Note, 1962

Something Different, Steeplechase, 1975

Great Encounters, Columbia, 1978



Jim

Hall

GUITARIST COMPOSER

Born December 4, 1930 in Buffalo, NY

Jazz guitarist Jim Hall's technique has been called subtle, his sound mellow, and his compositions understated; yet his recording and playing history is anything but modest. He has recorded with artists ranging from Bill Evans to Itzhak Perlman and performed alongside most of the jazz greats of the 20th century. The first of the modern jazz guitarists to receive an NEA Jazz Masters award, his prowess on the instrument puts him in the company of Charlie Christian, Wes Montgomery, and Django Reinhardt.

After graduating from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Hall became an original member of the **Chico Hamilton** Quintet in 1955 and of the Jimmy Giuffre 3 the following year—both small but musically vital ensembles of the era. Hall continued to hone his craft on **Ella Fitzgerald's** South American tour in 1960, a fruitful time in which his exposure to *bossa nova* greatly influenced his subsequent work. From there, he joined **Sonny Rollins'** quartet from 1961-62, and appears on *The Bridge*, Rollins' first recording in three years after a self-imposed retirement. The interplay between Rollins' fiery solos and Hall's classic guitar runs make this one of jazz's most essential recordings.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Jimmy Giuffre 3, *Trav'lin' Light*, Atlantic, 1958

Sonny Rollins, *The Bridge*, RCA, 1962

Ron Carter and Jim Hall, *Live at Village West*, Concord, 1982

Something Special, Music Masters, 1993

Grand Slam: Live at the Regattabar, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Telarc, 2000

Hall then co-led a quartet with **Art Farmer**, recorded a series of duets with noted saxophonist Paul Desmond, and performed as a session musician on numerous recordings.

His extensive ensemble experience has produced a control of rhythm and harmony so that Hall's playing, while grounded in scholarly technique and science, sounds both rich and free.

He eventually formed his own trio in 1965, which still performs and records today. Well-studied in classical composition, Hall has produced many original pieces for various jazz orchestral ensembles. His composition for jazz quartet, "Quartet Plus Four," earned him the Jazzpar Prize in Denmark. His influence on jazz guitarists, including such disparate ones as Bill Frisell and Pat Metheny, is immense. Hall continues to explore new avenues of music, even appearing on saxophonist Greg Osby's 2000 recording, *Invisible Hand*, with legendary pianist Andrew Hill. He also has worked in smaller settings as well, often in duets with jazz greats such as pianists Bill Evans and Red Mitchell, and bassists **Ron Carter** and Charlie Haden. In addition to numerous Grammy nominations, Hall has been awarded the New York Jazz Critics Circle Award for Best Jazz Composer/Arranger.



Photo by Lee Tanner

Foreststorn “Chico” Hamilton

PERCUSSIONIST BANDLEADER COMPOSER EDUCATOR

Born September 21, 1921 in Los Angeles, CA

Chico Hamilton is almost as well known for his band leadership and ability to discover talented newcomers as for his subtle, creative drumming. As a teenager growing up in Los Angeles, Hamilton started playing regularly for the first time with a band that included classmates Charles Mingus, Dexter Gordon, and Illinois Jacquet. He made his recording debut with Slim Gaillard, and studied drumming with jazz great Jo Jones during his military service from 1942-46.

After working briefly with Jimmy Mundy, Count Basie, and Lester Young, Hamilton joined Lena Horne's band in 1948, staying with her on and off for six years, including a tour of Europe. During this time, he also became an original member of the legendary Gerry Mulligan Quartet, which included Mulligan, Chet Baker, and Bob Whitlock. Successfully recording with them for three years (1952-55) on the Pacific Jazz label, Hamilton got his first shot as bandleader.

In 1955, he formed the Chico Hamilton Quintet, utilizing an unusual combination of instruments: cello, flute, guitar, bass, and drums. One of the important West Coast bands, the Hamilton group made their film debut in the movie *The Secret Formula of Success*, as well as highlighting jazz on a *Documentary Day*, the film about the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival. The present great band started in 1962 with Albert

Stinson on bass, Gabor Szabo on guitar, Charles Lloyd on tenor sax and flute, and George Bohanon on trombone, bringing a fresh, new sound to jazz once again. Over the years, Hamilton's bands have had various personnel, but the quality of the musicianship has remained high. Some of the players who Hamilton nurtured in his bands include Jim Hall, Eric Dolphy, Ron Carter, Arthur Blythe, Larry Coryell, and John Abercrombie.

During the 1960s, Hamilton formed a company to score feature films and commercials for television and radio. In 1987, Hamilton was on the originating faculty at Parsons New School of Jazz in New York. During the same year, he formed a new quartet called Euphoria, and began touring in Europe. The quartet met with great popularity, and in 1992, their album *Arroyo* placed in the Jazz Album of the Year category in the *Down Beat* Reader's Poll. In 1995, a documentary of Hamilton's extraordinary life and career, *Dancing to a Different Drummer*, directed by Julian Benedikt, was presented twice on the French-German Arts Network, ARTE. In June 1999, Hamilton received a Beacons of Jazz award from the Mannes College of Music at the New School University in New York City, where he is presently teaching. He is working on his autobiography and will be releasing four new albums in 2006 in celebration of his 85th birthday.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Complete Pacific Jazz Recordings of the Chico Hamilton Quintet, Mosaic, 1955-59

Man From Two Worlds, Impulse!, 1962

Dancing to a Different Drummer, Soul Note, 1993

Foreststorn, Koch, 2000-01

Thoughts of..., Koch, 2002



Lionel

Hampton

VIBIST DRUMMER PIANIST VOCALIST BANDLEADER

Born April 20, 1908 in Louisville, KY
Died September 30, 2002

Featuring outstanding sideman and soloists, as well as his own swinging vibe playing, Lionel Hampton's bands during the 1940s and 1950s were among the most popular and most exciting in jazz. Hampton was raised in the Midwest, primarily in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he received his first musical training. His career began behind the drums, taking his first music job in a newsboys band sponsored by the *Chicago Defender*.

In 1928, Hampton moved west to California, landing first in the Paul Howard Orchestra, later working with bandleaders Eddie Barefield and Les Hite. In 1929 he took up the vibraphone with the Hite band, which at the time was led by Louis Armstrong, becoming a pioneering figure in the use of vibes in a jazz band.

Hampton made his recorded debut on an Armstrong version of "Memories of You" in 1930. By 1934, Hampton had become leader of his own band, performing at Sebastian's Cotton Club in Los Angeles. Benny Goodman saw Hampton perform at one of his gigs and recruited him to augment his trio, with **Teddy Wilson** and Gene Krupa, for a 1936 recording date. Hampton remained in Goodman's band through 1940, occasionally replacing Krupa on the drums. Hampton became well known with the Goodman band, and started his own big band, achieving his biggest recorded hit with "Flying Home" in May 1942, driven by Illinois Jacquet's unforgettable tenor saxophone solo.

Hampton's popular big band boasted such potent musicians as **Dexter Gordon**, Clifford Brown, Fats Navarro,

Johnny Griffin, Charles Mingus, **Art Farmer**, **Clark Terry**, Cat Anderson, Wes Montgomery, and singers Dinah Washington, **Joe Williams**, **Betty Carter**, and Aretha Franklin. He toured the globe and continued to nurture young talent, often providing some of the earliest band experiences to musicians who went on to become leaders in their own right. His band became the longest established orchestra in jazz history.

Lionel Hampton received numerous awards of merit, including several honorary doctoral degrees, the National Medal of Arts, and the Kennedy Center Honors. His diligent work with the jazz festival at the University of Idaho in Moscow led to it being renamed the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in 1985. The university's music department shortly followed suit and became the Lionel Hampton School of Music. Winner of numerous polls, Lionel Hampton had been an honored soloist into the 1990s, performing in numerous festivals as part of all-star assemblages. In 2001, he donated his vibraphone to the Smithsonian Institution.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Complete Lionel Hampton, Bluebird, 1937-39

Hamp: The Legendary Decca Recordings, Decca, 1942-63

Hamp and Getz, Verve, 1956

Reunion at Newport, Bluebird, 1967

Made in Japan, Timeless, 1982

Slide

Hampton

TROMBONIST ARRANGER COMPOSER EDUCATOR

Born April 21, 1932 in Jeannette, PA

Slide Hampton's distinguished career spans decades in the evolution of jazz. At the age of 12 he was already touring the Midwest with the Indianapolis-based Hampton Band, led by his father and comprising other members of his musical family. By 1952, at the age of 20, he was performing at Carnegie Hall with the **Lionel Hampton Band**. He then joined Maynard Ferguson's band, playing trombone and providing exciting charts on such popular tunes as "The Fugue," "Three Little Foxes," and "Slide's Derangement."

As his reputation grew, he soon began working with bands led by **Art Blakey**, **Dizzy Gillespie**, **Barry Harris**, **Thad Jones**, **Mel Lewis**, and **Max Roach**, again contributing both original compositions and arrangements. In 1962, he formed the Slide Hampton Octet, which

included stellar horn players **Booker Little**, **Freddie Hubbard**, and **George Coleman**. The band toured the U.S. and Europe and recorded on several labels.

From 1964 to 1967, he served as music director for various orchestras and artists. Then, following a 1968 tour with **Woody Herman**, he elected to stay in Europe, performing with other expatriates such as **Benny Bailey**, **Kenny Clarke**, **Kenny Drew**, **Art Farmer**, and **Dexter Gordon**. Upon returning to the U.S. in 1977, he began a series of master classes at Harvard, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, De Paul University in Chicago, and Indiana University. During this period he formed the illustrious World of Trombones: an ensemble of nine trombones and a rhythm section.

In 1989, with **Paquito D'Rivera**, he was musical director of Dizzy's Diamond Jubilee, a year-long series of celebrations honoring Dizzy Gillespie's 75th birthday. Slide Hampton's countless collaborations with the most prominent musicians of jazz were acknowledged by the 1998 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Arrangement with a Vocalist. Most recently, he has served as musical advisor to the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band. A charismatic figure, master arranger, and formidable trombonist, Slide Hampton holds a place of distinction in the jazz tradition.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Slide Hampton and His Horn of Plenty, Strand, 1959

World of Trombones, 1201 Music, 1979

Roots, Criss Cross, 1985

Dedicated to Diz, Telarc, 1993

Spirit of the Horn, MCG Jazz, 2003

Photo by Lee Tanner



Herbie

Hancock

KEYBOARDIST COMPOSER

Born April 12, 1940 in Chicago, IL

Herbie Hancock's talent as a pianist was evident when, at age 11, he performed Mozart's *D Major Piano Concerto* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He began playing jazz in high school, initially influenced by Oscar Peterson and Bill Evans. Also at this time, a passion for electronic science also began to develop, so Hancock studied both electrical engineering and music composition at Grinnell College in Iowa. His love of electronics led Hancock to be a pioneer in the use of electric piano, clavinet, and synthesizer in jazz.

In 1961, trumpeter **Donald Byrd** asked the young pianist to join his group in New York, leading to Blue Note offering him a recording contract. His first album as leader, *Takin' Off*, which included the hit single, "Watermelon Man," demonstrated a gift for composition and improvisation. His talent impressed **Miles Davis** enough to ask Hancock to join his band in 1963. In the five years he worked with Davis, who became a mentor as well as an employer, Hancock established his standing as one of the greatest pianists of all time. Along with **Ron Carter** (bass) and **Tony Williams** (drums), Hancock altered the role of the rhythm section in jazz to include expanded solos and spontaneous changes in mood and tempo. He also composed a number of pieces for the

band as well as for his outstanding solo recordings with Blue Note. It was toward the end of his tenure with Davis that he began to use electric piano.

After leaving the band in 1968, Hancock continued to explore the use of electronic instruments in his music. In 1973, he formed a quartet whose first recording, *Head Hunters*, launched him into jazz stardom and became a best-selling jazz album. In the late 1970s, Hancock revived the old Miles Davis band (**Freddie Hubbard** stood in for Davis) under the name V.S.O.P. and they toured extensively.

Throughout his career, he has demonstrated stunning artistic versatility, and in 1983, "Rockit," a single that resulted from a collaborative effort with the rock band Material, became a hit on MTV. Hancock then switched gears completely, partnering with Gambian *kora* virtuoso Foday Musa Suso that culminated in two albums, *Village Life* and *Jazz Africa*. He also has written scores for several films, including *Blow-Up* in 1966, *Death Wish* in 1974, and *'Round Midnight*, for which he won an Academy Award in 1987. Hancock has won eight Grammy Awards in the past two decades, and continues to work as a producer and in both the electric and acoustic spheres of jazz.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- The Complete Blue Note Sixties Sessions*, Blue Note, 1962-69
- Head Hunters*, Columbia, 1973
- V.S.O.P.*, Columbia, 1977
- Village Life*, Columbia, 1985
- Gershwin's World*, Verve, 1998



Photo by Lee Tanner

Barry Harris

PIANIST COMPOSER ARRANGER EDUCATOR

Born December 15, 1929 in Detroit, MI

Barry Harris is part of an exceptional crew of Detroit-bred jazz musicians, including **Tommy Flanagan** and **Donald Byrd**, who rose through the extraordinary arts education program in the public school system during the 1930s and 1940s. Harris' earliest musical mentor was a church piano-playing mother who exposed him to piano lessons at age four. He became seriously immersed in jazz in the mid-1940s and fell under the spell of Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, and Bud Powell. As a professional, he would become a key translator of Monk's music.

Detroit was blessed with a high-energy jazz scene during the 1940s, and Harris was house pianist at one of the hottest spots, the Blue Bird Lounge. At the Blue Bird and later at the Rouge, he backed such traveling soloists as **Miles Davis**, **Wardell Gray**, **Max Roach**, **Sonny Stitt**, **Lee Konitz**, and **Lester Young**. Displaying an early interest in passing the torch through education, Barry began teaching his bebop theories as early as 1956, tutoring young talent such as **Joe Henderson**. It is a tradition he has carried on throughout his life.

At the urging of Julian "Cannonball" **Adlerley**, Barry Harris left Detroit in 1960 and moved to New York. In addition to **Adlerley**, Harris found work in the 1960s

and 1970s with fellow Detroiters **Yusef Lateef**, **Charles McPherson**, and **Coleman Hawkins**. In addition to sideman work, Harris led various trios and duos at piano bars and restaurants around New York. He also began to get work as an arranger and composer, showing a particular adeptness for his treatment of strings. A consummate freelancer, he found work in a variety of diverse settings and continues to play, inaugurating the Lincoln Center's Penthouse piano series in 1997.

By the early 1980s, Barry Harris' acumen as a teacher and mentor to developing pianists had become legendary. He was able to expand these interests when he opened the Jazz Cultural Center in 1982 on Eighth Avenue in Manhattan. The Center served as workshop, educational facility, and performance space for Harris and his affiliated artists, but unfortunately only lasted until 1987.

Harris soldiered on, though, continuing to teach and mentor young musicians. He also continues to present and produce annual multimedia concert spectacles at places like Symphony Space and the Manhattan Center in New York.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Chasin' The Bird,
Original Jazz Classics, 1962

Barry Harris Plays Tadd Dameron,
Classics, 1975

For The Moment,
Uptown, 1984

Live at Maybeck Recital Hall,
Vol. 1 & 2, Concord, 1990

Live in New York,
Reservoir, 2002



DRUMMER

Haynes

Born March 13, 1925 in Roxbury, MA

Seemingly ageless, Roy Haynes has played the drums from the bebop days of the 1940s to the present day with the same restless energy. Haynes has remained fresh in his outlook and in his thirst for collaborating with younger artists and those who play in challenging styles, as is shown in his work with such disparate artists as Roland Kirk, Danilo Pérez, and Pat Metheny.

He also has been a favorite sideman for any number of artists because of his crisply distinctive drumming style. Thelonious Monk once described Haynes' drumming as "an eight ball right in the side pocket."

Haynes became interested in music through his father, a church organist. In his earliest professional playing years in the mid-1940s, he worked in Boston with pianist Sabby Lewis, Frankie Newton, and Pete Brown. In 1945, he joined the Luis Russell band, remaining until 1947, whereupon he joined Lester Young's band. In the late 1940s to mid-1950s, he worked with such greats as Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Bud Powell, and Kai Winding. He later played in Monk's band at the Five Spot Cafe before forming his own band in 1958.

Some of his most noted work in the early 1960s came when he subbed for Elvin Jones in the John Coltrane Quartet, both on gigs and on records. His drumming style was a marked change for Coltrane from Elvin Jones' approach—lighter, less aggressive than Jones—and it gave

the quartet a different sound. Among his other affiliations during the late 1950s to early 1960s were with George Shearing, Kenny Burrell, Lennie Tristano, and Stan Getz. In addition, his style of drumming was an ideal accompaniment to singers, accenting the vocals without overpowering them, and he worked with Sarah Vaughan, and Lambert, Hendricks & Ross.

He later joined vibist Gary Burton, who had been a member of Getz's band. After Burton's band, which was one of the precursors of the jazz-rock movement, Haynes formed the Hip Ensemble, featuring such musicians as George Adams, and Hannibal Marvin Peterson. The band had a decidedly contemporary flavor, often employing various guitarists. He also has enjoyed an occasional playing relationship with Chick Corea, dating back to their Stan Getz days. He joined Corea's Trio Music band in 1981.

While periodically leading his own bands, he has also worked with artists such as Billy Taylor, Hank Jones, and Ted Curson, and as an innovative drummer in a variety of settings. His bands have included some of the more exceptional young musicians on the scene, ranging from his Hip Ensemble to his various quartets. He continues to influence the next generation of drummers with his distinctive sound.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

We Three,
Original Jazz Classics, 1958

Out of the Afternoon,
Impulse!, 1962

Te Vou!, Dreyfus, 1995

The Roy Haynes Trio,
Verve, 2000

Fountain of Youth,
Dreyfus Jazz, 2002

Jimmy

Heath

SAXOPHONIST FLUTIST COMPOSER ARRANGER EDUCATOR

Born October 25, 1926 in Philadelphia, PA

The second of the illustrious Heath Brothers to receive an NEA Jazz Master Fellowship (bassist Percy received the award in 2002), Jimmy was the first Heath to choose music as a career path. Starting on alto saxophone (and acquiring the nickname “Little Bird” due to the influence Charlie “Yardbird” Parker had on his style), one of his first professional jobs came in 1945-46 in the Midwest territory band led by Nat Towles, out of Omaha, Nebraska. Returning to Philadelphia, he briefly led his own big band with a saxophone section that included John Coltrane and Benny Golson—also products of the city’s jazz scene. Gigs followed with Howard McGhee in 1948 and with Dizzy Gillespie’s big band from 1949-50.

In the early 1950s, Heath switched to tenor sax and briefly occupied Coltrane’s place in Miles Davis’ band in 1959. In the 1960s, he began his own recordings as a leader, and frequently teamed up with Milt Jackson and Art Farmer. By that time he had honed his talent as a composer and arranger, creating

such widely performed compositions as “Gingerbread Boy” and “C.T.A.” By combining his versatile style of performing and his outstanding writing and arranging abilities, he has set a high standard of accomplishment in the jazz field. He has made more than 100 recordings and composed more than 100 original works.

As an educator, Heath has taught at Jazzmobile, Housatonic Community College, City College of New York, and Queens College, where he retired from full-time teaching in 1998. He holds honorary degrees from Sojourner-Douglass College and the Juilliard School, and has a chair endowed in his name at Queens College. Currently, he is serving on the board of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

Since the mid-1970s, Jimmy has been teaming up with brothers Percy and Albert “Tootie” as the Heath Brothers, a band which has also at times included contributions from Jimmy’s son, the noted percussionist, composer, and rhythm-and-blues producer, Mtume. In addition, he has performed with other jazz greats, such as Slide Hampton and Wynton Marsalis, and indulged in his continuing interest in the dynamics of arranging for big band. He remains active as an educator, saxophonist, and composer.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Really Big!, Riverside/OJC, 1960
On the Trail, Riverside/OJC, 1964
The Gap Sealer, Cobblestone, 1972
Little Man, Big Band, Verve, 1992

Heath Brothers,
Jazz Family, Concord, 1998



Percy

Heath

BASSIST

Born April 30, 1923 in Wilmington, NC

Died April 28, 2005

Percy Heath was the backbone of the popular jazz group Modern Jazz Quartet, and a superb bassist so sought after that he appeared on more than 200 jazz albums. Heath was a member of one of the great families of jazz (along with the Joneses and Marsalises), with brothers Jimmy (on saxophone) and Albert "Tootie" (on drums) also being stellar jazz musicians.

Heath started on the violin in his school orchestra but began to seriously study music at the Granoff School of Music in Philadelphia after his service in the Air Force. In 1947, he joined his brother Jimmy in Howard McGhee's band, ending up in New York where he performed regularly with jazz greats such as Miles Davis, J.J. Johnson, Sonny Rollins, Fats Navarro, and Charlie Parker. Heath joined Dizzy Gillespie's sextet from 1950-52, where he met the other members of the soon-to-be Modern Jazz Quartet (MJQ): John Lewis, Milt Jackson, and Kenny Clarke. Heath stayed with MJQ from its beginning in 1952 for more than 40

years, off and on. Lewis' arrangements brought the bass into greater prominence, prompting Heath to greater heights with his performances. During his time with MJQ, Heath performed on film soundtracks and with symphony orchestras and string quartets, always exhibiting style and poise in every setting.

During the break from the MJQ in 1975-82, Heath worked with Sarah Vaughan and began performing with the Heath Brothers band, which included Jimmy and Tootie. His talents on bass were much in demand as the house bass player for both Prestige and Blue Note record labels, providing a confident, straight-ahead style of playing reminiscent of the great Ray Brown.

Heath received many honors in his career, such as the Maria Fischer Award, France's Cross of Officer of Arts and Letters, and an honorary doctoral degree from Berklee College in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, Heath performed at the White House for Presidents Nixon and Clinton.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Modern Jazz Quartet,
The Artistry of the Modern Jazz Quartet,
Prestige, 1952-55

Jimmy Heath, *Really Big!*,
Original Jazz Classics, 1960

Heath Brothers, *Marchin' On!*, Strata East, 1976

Heath Brothers, *Brotherly Love*,
Antilles, 1991

Modern Jazz Quartet,
Celebration, Atlantic, 1992

Joe

Henderson

SAXOPHONIST

Born April 24, 1937 in Lima, OH
Died June 30, 2001

One of the more distinctive tenor saxophone voices to have emerged during the 1960s, Joe Henderson's rich tone and strong sense of rhythm influenced scores of tenor saxophonists who followed him. In concert, his aggressive playing was often tempered by a melodic touch on ballads.

Growing up in Lima, Ohio, he first played the drums, switching to tenor saxophone at age 13. After high school he studied at Kentucky State College, then Wayne State in Detroit from 1956-60, as well as under the private tutelage of pianist **Barry Harris**. One of his first jazz jobs was alongside saxophonist **Sonny Stitt**, then he led his own band around Detroit in 1960. He entered the Army band that year, remaining until 1962.

After leaving the Army, Henderson eventually moved to New York, where he worked with organist **Jack McDuff**, then co-led a band with **Kenny Dorham** during 1962-63. His first recording as a leader in 1963, *Page One*, was one of the most popular releases for the Blue Note label, and led to one of his richest recording periods both as a leader and sideman. He played with **Horace Silver** in 1964-66, and **Andrew Hill** in 1965, both Blue Note artists. His work on Lee Morgan's album *The Sidewinder*, especially on the hit title track, contains some of his best solos of the period. During the late 1960s, he was part of the cooperative band, the Jazz Communicators, with **Freddie Hubbard** and **Louis Hayes**.

At the end of the decade he spent over a year with the **Herbie Hancock Sextet** (1969-70), and joined the pop band **Blood, Sweat & Tears** for a short time in 1971. Thereafter he worked mainly as a leader and freelance saxophonist. His bands employed a number of outstanding musicians and, following his Blue Note years, he made a series of rewarding discs for the Milestone label. In the 1990s, Henderson experienced a resurgence in popularity with a series of well-received albums on the Verve label. His recordings of the music of **Billy Strayhorn**, **Miles Davis**, and **Antonio Carlos Jobim** in inventive arrangements were inspired, and he showed a skill for big band arrangement with his 1996 release.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Page One, Blue Note, 1963

Four!, Verve, 1968

The State of the Tenor, Vol. 1 & 2,
Blue Note, 1985

Lush Life: The Music of Billy Strayhorn,
Verve, 1991

Big Band, Verve, 1992-96

Photo by Sara Krulwich/The New York Times



Luther

Henderson

ARRANGER MUSICAL DIRECTOR PIANIST

Born March 14, 1919 in Kansas City, MO
Died July 29, 2003

When he was four, Luther Henderson moved to Harlem with his family and became neighbors with Duke Ellington. Ellington would become a major influence on Henderson's life, beginning in the late 1940s and early 1950s when he adapted and orchestrated some of Ellington's larger works, such as "Harlem—A Tone Parallel" and "Three Black Kings," for performance in a concerto grosso format by his orchestra and another symphony orchestra. Henderson's classical training at the Juilliard School and music study at New York University led Ellington to dub Henderson "his classical arm." His talents included composing, arranging, conducting, and performing, and he was hired by Ellington in 1946 to orchestrate his Broadway musical, *Beggar's Holiday*.

Henderson worked on more than 50 Broadway productions in various capacities. For *Ain't Misbehavin'*, he was the original pianist as well as orchestrator, arranger, and musical supervisor. For *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, he was the musical consultant and arranged several selections. He orchestrated such musicals as the Tony Award-winning *Raisin*, *Play On!*, and *Jelly's Last Jam*. As a

dance arranger, Henderson's credits included *Flower Drum Song*, *Do Re Mi*, *Funny Girl*, and *No, No Nanette*. His skill in bringing a jazz sensibility to musical theater was much in demand. For *Jelly's Last Jam*, he rearranged Jelly Roll Morton's jazz compositions and musical fragments into a hit musical; *Ain't Misbehavin'* used the music of jazz great Fats Waller as a base.

Henderson's talents extended to the arena of television, where he held positions as musical director, orchestrator, arranger, and pianist for the Columbia Pictures television special *Ain't Misbehavin'* for which he received an Emmy nomination. Albums to his credit included several with the Canadian Brass Quintet and Eileen Farrell's *I Got a Right to Sing the Blues*, which was re-released in 1992. For Columbia Records, the Luther Henderson Orchestra recorded six albums. In addition, Henderson contributed to various albums recorded by the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the Andre Kostelanetz Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, Mandy Patinkin, Polly Bergen, Anita Ellis, and others. Henderson's composition "Ten Good Years," with lyricist Martin Charnin, was recorded by Nancy Wilson on her *Coconut Grove* album.

Henderson died of cancer after he had been named an NEA Jazz Master, but before he was able to receive the award at the ceremony.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Sarah Vaughan, *No Count Sarah*, Mercury, 1958Eileen Farrell, *I Got a Right to Sing the Blues*, Columbia, 1960Original Cast Recording, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, RCA, 1978American Composers Orchestra, *Four Symphonic Works by Duke Ellington*, Music Masters, 1989Canadian Brass Quintet, *Red Hot Jazz: The Dixieland Album*, Philips, 1993



Photo by Bob Parent

Jon

Hendricks

VOCALIST LYRICIST EDUCATOR

Born September 16, 1921 Newark, OH

Jon Hendricks helped create the singing style known as vocalese, or crafting songs and lyrics out of the note sequence of famous jazz instrumental solos, as a member of the great jazz vocal ensemble Lambert, Hendricks & Ross. A gifted lyricist, he has added words to classics by **Count Basie**, **Horace Silver**, **Miles Davis**, and **Art Blakey**, brilliantly mirroring the instrumental effects.

He grew up largely in Toledo, Ohio, one of 17 children. His singing career began at age eight, singing at parties and dinners. Later he sang on a radio show on which he was occasionally accompanied by another Toledoan, the great pianist Art Tatum. Returning home from service in the Army, he studied at the University of Toledo and taught himself to play drums. In 1952, he relocated to New York

and found his initial work as a songwriter,

working for such artists as Louis Jordan and King Pleasure. One of his earliest recordings came on a version of the Woody Herman band feature, "Four Brothers."

His collaboration with vocalist Dave Lambert began in 1957 when he re-recorded "Four Brothers," which led to their association with singer Annie Ross

on a collection of Count Basie songs. *Sing a Song of Basie*, using innovative multitracked arrangement of vocals, became a hit when released in 1958 and gave birth to Lambert, Hendricks & Ross as a full-time act. They subsequently toured with the Basie band and were a top-selling act for nearly four years, until Ross left the band. Lambert and Hendricks continue for a while with new singer Yolande Bavan, eventually breaking up in 1964. Hendricks found work as a soloist, then moved to England in 1968. In the early 1970s he put together another trio, this time with wife Judith and daughter Michelle, an arrangement he has occasionally revisited over the years.

Evolution of the Blues, an extended stage work Hendricks had first performed with Lambert and Ross at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1960, went on a five-year run at the Broadway Theatre in San Francisco in the 1970s. Thereafter he took a variety of university teaching positions in California, and continued to work with Judith, Michelle, and youngest daughter Aria, with occasional male singers such as Bobby McFerrin, Kevin Burke, and Miles Griffith. He has written for and played with the Manhattan Transfer, a jazz vocal group heavily influenced by Hendricks. More recently he was one of three singers in Wynton Marsalis' Pulitzer Prize-winning oratorio, *Blood on the Fields*. He has written lyrics to a number of jazz standards, including "Four," "Hi Fly," "Along Came Betty," "Desifinado," and "No More Blues."

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Lambert, Hendricks & Ross,
Sing a Song of Basie, Verve, 1957

Lambert, Hendricks & Ross,
Everybody's Boppin', Columbia, 1959-61

Love, Muse, 1981-82

Freddie Freeloader,
Denon, 1989-90

Wynton Marsalis, *Blood on the
Fields*, Columbia, 1994

Photo by Tom Pich



Nat

Hentoff

CRITIC JOURNALIST PRODUCER

Born June 10, 1925 in Boston, MA

One of the major voices in jazz literature, Nat Hentoff has written about and championed jazz for more than half a century, produced recording sessions for some of the biggest names in jazz, and written liner notes for scores more. Through his work, he has helped to advance the appreciation and knowledge of jazz. It is fitting that he is the first to receive the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship for Jazz Advocate.

Hentoff began his education at Northeastern University in Boston, his hometown, and went on to pursue graduate studies at Harvard University. As a graduate student, he hosted a local radio show and became immersed in the Boston jazz scene. In 1953, after completing a Fulbright Fellowship at the Sorbonne in Paris, he spent four years as an associate editor at *Down Beat* magazine, where he laid the foundation for a truly remarkable career as a jazz journalist. Hentoff was co-editor of *Jazz Review* from 1958 to 1961, and worked for the Candid label as A&R director from 1960 to 1961, producing recording sessions by jazz icons such as Charles Mingus, Cecil Taylor, and Abbey Lincoln.

His books on music include *Jazz Country* (1965), *Jazz: New Perspectives on the History of Jazz by Twelve of the World's Foremost Jazz Critics and Scholars* (with Albert J. McCarthy, 1974), *Boston Boy: Growing Up with Jazz and Other Rebellious Passions* (1986), *Listen to the Stories: Nat Hentoff on Jazz and Country Music* (1995), and *American Music Is* (2004). His work has appeared in such venerable publications as *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*,

Jazz Times, and *The New Yorker*, where he was a staff writer for more than 25 years. In addition to his status as a renowned jazz historian and critic, Hentoff also is an expert on First Amendment rights, criminal justice, and education and has written a number of books on these topics.

In 1980, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in education as well as a Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association for his coverage of the law and criminal justice. Five years later, he was awarded an honorary degree from Northeastern University. The multidisciplinary body of work that Hentoff has produced represents an articulation of the interconnectedness of the ideals of constitutional rights and jazz music and is without a doubt a major contribution to the dialogue surrounding the uniquely American jazz tradition. Currently, Hentoff writes about music for the *Wall Street Journal* and has a weekly column in *The Village Voice* and in the United Media syndicate, which distributes the column to 250 papers nationwide.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Jazz Country*, Harper Collins, 1965
- The Jazz Life*, Harper Collins 1975
- Jazz Is*, Random House, 1976
- Boston Boy: Growing Up With Jazz and Other Rebellious Passions*, Random House, 1986
- The Nat Hentoff Reader*, DaCapo Press, 2001

1997

Billy Higgins

DRUMMER

Born October 11, 1936 in Los Angeles, CA
Died May 3, 2001

Known among musicians and fans as “Smiling Billy,” Billy Higgins was first introduced to the broader jazz public when he came to the East Coast with the **Ornette Coleman** Quartet in 1959 for their extended engagement at the Five Spot Cafe. Although he does not have many records under his own name, Higgins was often in great demand as a sideman, providing sensitive accompaniment in a variety of settings.

Higgins started on the drums at age 12. By the time he was 19, he was working in rhythm and blues bands, including Amos Milburn and Bo Diddley. Other early affiliations included singers Brook Benton, Jimmy Witherspoon, and Sister Rosetta Tharpe. He also began working with jazz artists, such as **Dexter Gordon**, Don Cherry, James Clay, and Walter Benton. He joined the Red Mitchell band in 1957, but soon left to join Ornette Coleman’s new band, with whom he worked steadily in 1958 and 1959. In the early 1960s, he worked with Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, and **Sonny Rollins**. By then he had become one of the most

in-demand freelance drummers on the scene, particularly on many Blue Note sessions.

His drumming was an important addition to many recordings, such as Andrew Hill’s *Point of Departure*, **Herbie Hancock’s** *Takin’ Off*, and Lee Morgan’s *The Sidewinder*, the last two being especially popular jazz albums. He would intermittently work with

Coleman again in the 1960s and 1970s as well.

Outside of Coleman, a frequent musical collaborator was Cedar Walton, an association that began in 1966 and continued into the 1990s, often in the Walton’s Eastern Rebellion bands. In the 1990s his career was halted by kidney disease, leading to a subsequent kidney transplant. After resuming playing, he remained much in demand for record dates. During 1999–2001, he worked frequently with Charles Lloyd when not leading his own bands, recording some of his most inventive drumming while playing against Lloyd’s saxophone.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Ornette Coleman, *Change of the Century*, Atlantic, 1959

Soweto, Red, 1979

Mr. Billy Higgins, Evidence, 1984

3/4 For Peace, Red, 1993

Charles Lloyd, *Hyperion with Higgins*, ECM, 2001

Photo by Lee Tanner

1993

Photo by Bob Parent



Milt

Hinton

BASSIST EDUCATOR

Born June 23, 1910 in Vicksburg, MS

Died December 19, 2000

Milt Hinton's career spanned the gamut of jazz generations, working from the early swing days of the 1930s with Cab Calloway through the end of the millennium with the new guard of jazz, such as Branford Marsalis and Christian McBride. His ability to make a contribution in any setting allowed for his vast array of work. As a soloist, Hinton, nicknamed "The Judge," was adept at the early bass tradition of slapping the strings. In addition to his love of music, Hinton was a perceptive and widely exhibited photographer. Much of the history of jazz can be found in his photographs, which were published in several magazines and in two extraordinary coffee-table books.

Like many African American families in the early part of the 20th century, his family migrated north from Mississippi to Chicago, where he was raised. His mother was a church musician, playing organ, piano, and directing the choir. She bought him a violin for his thirteenth birthday, which he studied for four years from 1923-27. Later he picked up the bass horn and tuba while studying music at Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago. In 1928, he found his voice when he switched to string bass. One of his earliest professional affiliations was with violinist Eddie South, with whom he played intermittently between 1931-36. Other early affiliations included Zutty Singleton, Erskine Tate, Art Tatum, and Jabbo Smith.

Hinton's early career experience was centered around the Cab Calloway Orchestra, with which he worked from

1936-51. After leaving Calloway, he worked with the big bands of Joe Bushkin, Jackie Gleason, Phil Moore, and **Count Basie**. He played with Louis Armstrong between 1952-55, then became a staff musician for CBS, one of the first African American musicians welcomed into the TV studios. From 1956 on, Hinton was a much in-demand studio musician, adept at different styles of playing, from the pop of Paul Anka to the jazz of **Teddy Wilson**. He also was in-demand in live settings, performing with Jimmy McPartland, Benny Goodman, Ben Webster, Sammy Davis, Jr., Judy Garland, and Harry Belafonte, among others. In the 1960s, he became a staff musician at ABC, working on the *Dick Cavett Show*. In the last decades of his life, Hinton continued to play and record, inspiring new generations of jazz musicians and fans.

He received numerous honorary doctoral degrees and taught jazz at several colleges and universities, including Hunter College, Baruch College, Skidmore College, and Interlochen Music Camp.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Various Artists,
The Modern Art of Jazz, Biograph, 1956

The Judge at his Best,
Chiaroscuro, 1973-95

Back to Bass-ics, Progressive, 1984

Branford Marsalis, *Trio Jeepy*,
Columbia, 1988

Laughing at Life,
Columbia, 1995



Photo by Ray Avery / CTSIMAGES

Shirley Horn

VOCALIST PIANIST

Born May 1, 1934 in Washington, DC
Died October 20, 2005

Shirley Horn began leading her own group in the mid-1950s, and in 1960 recorded her first album, *Embers and Ashes*, which established her reputation as an exceptional and sensitive jazz vocalist. Born in 1934 in Washington, DC, she studied classical piano as a teenager at Howard University's Junior School of Music.

Under the influence of artists such as Oscar Peterson and Ahmad Jamal, she then began a career as a jazz pianist and soon after discovered the great expressive power of her voice. When Miles Davis heard *Embers and Ashes*, he brought her to New York, where she began opening for him at the Village Vanguard. Soon she was performing in major venues throughout the United States and recording with Quincy Jones for the Mercury label.

For some years she spent much of her time in Europe, then took a ten-year hiatus to raise her family in Washington. She continued to appear in and around the DC area, and in the 1980s she returned to the recording studio. The overwhelming critical success of her 1981 appearance at Holland's North Sea Jazz Festival reintroduced her to old fans, won her new followers, and revitalized her career, allowing her to take to the road with her trio and record four more albums.

Her association with the Verve label, which began in 1987, gave a new showcase to her inimitable style and cemented her reputation as a world-class jazz artist. Six of her more than 20 albums have been nominated for Grammy Awards, and she has collaborated with jazz artists including **Hank Jones, Kenny Burrell, Wynton Marsalis, Roy Hargrove, Buck Hill, Branford Marsalis, and Toots Thielemans.**

In 1991, she collaborated with Miles Davis on her critically acclaimed album *You Won't Forget Me*. Her 1992 recording *Here's to Life* was that year's top-selling jazz album and earned a Grammy Award for arranger Johnny Mandel. In 1998, Horn paid tribute to her mentor with the brilliant recording *I Remember Miles*, winning the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Performance.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Embers and Ashes*, Stereo-Craft, 1960
- Violets for Your Furs*, Steeple Chase, 1981
- You Won't Forget Me*, Verve, 1990
- I Remember Miles*, Verve, 1998
- May the Music Never End*, Verve, 2003

Photo by Bob Parent



Milt

Jackson

VIBIST PIANIST BANDLEADER

Born January 1, 1923 in Detroit, MI
Died October 9, 1999

Characterized by a slower vibrato than his predecessors, Milt Jackson's ability to swing and to create vocal-like inflections made his an instantly recognizable sound on the vibes. Another jazz musician whose earliest experience was in the church, he sang gospel duets with his brother and played the guitar. At age 11, he began playing the piano, moving to the xylophone and the vibes in his early teens. After studying music at Michigan State University, his musical career actually began with a touring gospel ensemble in the early 1940s. Upon hearing him in Detroit, **Dizzy Gillespie** arranged for Jackson, known by the nickname "Bags," to come to New York in 1945 to join his band. After leaving Gillespie's pioneering bebop big band in 1948, he went on to play with Howard McGhee, Thelonious Monk, Tadd Dameron, and Charlie Parker, applying the bebop sound to the vibes.

He replaced Terry Gibbs in the Woody Herman band during 1949-50, returning to the Gillespie band from 1950-52. Thereafter he formed his own quartet, featuring **John Lewis**, **Ray Brown**, and **Kenny Clarke**. The Milt Jackson Quartet then became the Modern Jazz Quartet, with **Percy Heath**

replacing Brown, and Connie Kay eventually replacing Clarke. The MJQ would become an enduring jazz institution for more than 40 years, with Jackson's blues-drenched solos being a crucial ingredient in their sound. When the MJQ wasn't touring, Jackson occasionally led bands featuring **Jimmy Heath** and Ray Brown and worked on recording sessions that included Julian "Cannonball" Adderley and Ray Charles.

He left the MJQ in 1974, leading his own groups or playing with all-star aggregations until 1981, when the MJQ reunited for a concert in Japan. Following that concert, the quartet made annual tours from 1982 through the early 1990s. For most of the remainder of his career he worked with his own groups, which often included such musicians as Mickey Roker, Bob Cranshaw, and Mike LeDonne.

The winner of numerous jazz polls, Jackson's vibe-playing dominated the field for much of his career, leading to his induction into the Percussion Hall of Fame and *Down Beat* Hall of Fame, among other honors.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Modern Jazz Quartet, *MJQ*,
Original Jazz Classics, 1954-56

Plenty, Plenty Soul, Atlantic, 1957

Bags Meets Trane, Atlantic, 1959

Milt Jackson + Count Basie + The Big Band,
Vol. 1 & 2, Original Jazz Classics, 1978

Sa Va Bella,
Warner Brothers, 1996

Ahmad

Jamal

PIANIST COMPOSER

Born July 2, 1930 in Pittsburgh, PA

One of the subtlest virtuosos of jazz piano, Ahmad Jamal's uncanny use of space in his playing and leadership of his small ensembles have been hallmarks of his influential career. Among those he has influenced is most notably Miles Davis. Davis made numerous and prominent mentions of Jamal's influence on the trumpeter, particular in his use of space, allowing the music to "breathe," and his choice of compositions. Several tunes that were in Jamal's playlist, such as the standard "Autumn Leaves" and Jamal's own "New Rhumba," began appearing in the playlist of Davis' 1950s bands. Additionally, Jamal's textured rhythms on piano influenced Davis' piano players as well, from Wynton Kelly in the 1950s to Herbie Hancock in the 1960s.

His piano studies began at age three, and by age 11, he was making his professional debut with a sound strongly influenced by Art Tatum and Erroll Garner. Following graduation from Pittsburgh's Westinghouse High School, he joined the George Hudson band in 1947. In 1949, he joined swing violinist Joe Kennedy's group Four Strings as pianist.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

At the Pershing/But Not for Me, Chess, 1958

Free Flight, Impulse!, 1971

Rossiter Road, Atlantic, 1986

Big Byrd: The Essence, Part 2, Verve, 1994-95

After Fajr, Birdology/Dreyfus Jazz, 2004

This led to formation of his trio Three Strings in 1950-52, which debuted at Chicago's Blue Note club, and later became the Ahmad Jamal Trio. His 1958 album *At the Pershing* became a surprising smash hit, highlighted by his interpretation of "Poinciana." With the popularity of the album and the advocacy of Davis, Jamal's trio was one of the most popular jazz acts in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

For the most part, Jamal has worked in piano-bass-drums trios, using the intricate relationship of the band to explore his sound, directing the trio through seemingly abrupt time and tempo shifts. His piano virtuosity has also been welcomed by a number of orchestras and his abilities as a composer are considerable. His approach has been described as being chamber-jazz-like, and he has experimented with strings and electric instruments in his compositions.

Photo by Bob Parent



James Louis "J.J."

Johnson

TROMBONIST COMPOSER ARRANGER

Born January 22, 1924 in Indianapolis, IN

Died February 4, 2001

Often referred to as the "Charlie Parker of the trombone" due to his uncanny musical dexterity and fluency, J.J. Johnson dominated his instrument for over 40 years, and was known as a potent composer and arranger. He was a perennial jazz magazine poll winner for his peerless trombone playing.

Between ages nine and eleven, he studied piano with his family's church organist, picking up the trombone at age 14. His first professional experience came with the bands of Clarence Love and Snookum Russell. It was in the Russell band that he met jazz trumpeter Fats Navarro, an early influence on the young trombonist. After leaving Russell, he spent three years with **Benny Carter's** band, then gigged with **Count Basie** in 1945-46. He worked briefly with **Dizzy Gillespie**, and Woody Herman, then toured the Far East with Oscar Pettiford. The difficulty of making a living in the jazz field affected Johnson; from 1952-54 he occupied a day job as a blueprint reader. Then came one of his most significant early bands, a two-trombone group he co-led with Kai Winding—the Jay and Kai Quintet—from 1954-56; after a period of freelancing and bandleading, he re-joined Winding in 1958. The group was instrumental in demonstrating the power and possibilities of the trombone in modern jazz.

In the late 1950s, he began to gain recognition as a com-

poser. Two of his extended works, "El Camino Real," and "Sketch for Trombone and Orchestra," were commissioned by the Monterey Jazz Festival. A commission from Dizzy Gillespie resulted in "Perceptions," a large-scale work for orchestra that was recorded for Verve Records. In addition to his work as a composer, he performed with groups led by **Miles Davis**, **Clark Terry**, and **Sonny Stitt**, then moved to California in 1970. There he immersed himself in lucrative television and film scoring. His scores can be heard on such television programs as *Mayberry RFD*, *That Girl*, *Mod Squad*, *Six Million Dollar Man*, and *Starsky and Hutch*.

In 1987, he returned to his hometown Indianapolis and began playing, touring, and recording again. His awards include an honorary doctoral degree from Indiana University and the Indiana Governor's Arts Award in 1989.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Eminent Jay Jay Johnson, Vol. 1 & 2, Blue Note, 1953-55

Stan Getz & J.J. Johnson at the Opera House, Verve, 1957

The Great Kai and J.J., Impulse!, 1960

Live at the Village Vanguard, EmArcy, 1988

Tangence, Verve, 1994



Elvin Jones

DRUMMER COMPOSER

Born September 9, 1927 in Pontiac, MI
Died May 18, 2004

The propulsive style of drummer Elvin Jones powered the John Coltrane Quartet during his six-year stint with the group and influenced countless percussionists that followed him over the past 40 years. As with fellow 2003 NEA Jazz Master **Jimmy Heath**, and a number of other jazz greats, Elvin Jones was the product of a musical family. His brothers include pianist **Hank Jones** and cornetist Thad Jones. The youngest of 10 siblings, Jones began learning the drums during his middle school years, studying the styles of Chick Webb, **Jo Jones**, Buddy Rich, and the beboppers that followed them, including **Kenny Clarke**, **Max Roach**, and **Art Blakey**.

After serving in the Army from 1946-49, he returned to Detroit, immersing himself in the fertile jazz scene there in the early 1950s, before heading to New York in 1955. After playing with **Harry "Sweets" Edison**, **J.J. Johnson**, and **Sonny Rollins** at his famous Village Vanguard session, he joined the John Coltrane Quartet in 1960. His dynamic drumming pushed Coltrane's improvisations to new heights, and provided innovative accompaniment to the rest of the rhythm section: pianist **McCoy Tyner** and bassists **Jimmy Garrison** and **Reggie Workman**.

In 1965, Jones left the Coltrane group and formed his own band, a trio with **Jimmy Garrison** and reed player **Joe Farrell**, beginning a series of recordings for the Blue Note label. Since that time, Jones' trios and his latter day bands, known as the Jazz Machine, have welcomed numerous adventurous players. These have ranged from **Steve Grossman**, **Sonny Fortune**, and **Roland Prince** to such younger players as **Delfeayo Marsalis**, **Nicholas Payton**,

David Sanchez, and **John Coltrane's son Ravi**.

Jones frequently performed free for schools and other institutions, and at jazz clinics. Aside from music, he made his acting debut as **Job Caine** in the 1970 film *Zachariah*. He toured extensively with his group Jazz Machine and made later recordings with **Cecil Taylor**, **Dewey Redman**, **Dave Holland**, and **Bill Frisell**.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- John Coltrane, *The Complete Africa/Brass Sessions*, Impulse!, 1961
- Poly-Currents*, Blue Note, 1969
- David Murray, *Special Quartet*, Columbia, 1990
- It Don't Mean A Thing*, Enja, 1993
- Bill Frisell, *With Dave Holland and Elvin Jones*, Nonesuch, 2001



Photo by Bob Parent

Hank

Jones

PIANIST

Born July 31, 1918 in Vicksburg, MS

Hank Jones, a member of the famous jazz family that includes brothers cornetist Thad and drummer Elvin, has served as a pianist in a vast array of settings, always lending a distinctive, swinging sensibility to the sessions. Although born in Mississippi, Jones grew up in Pontiac, Michigan, listening to such performers as Earl Hines, Fats Waller, and Art Tatum. A performer by the time he was 13, Jones played with territory bands that toured Michigan and Ohio. In one such band he met saxophonist Lucky Thompson, who got him a job in the Hot Lips Page band in 1944, prompting Jones' move to New York.

Once in New York, Jones became exposed to bebop, embracing the style in his playing and even recording with Charlie Parker. Meanwhile, he took jobs with such bandleaders as John Kirby, Coleman Hawkins, Andy Kirk, Billy Eckstine, and Howard McGhee. He toured with Norman Granz's Jazz at the Philharmonic from 1947-51. As a result, he became Ella Fitzgerald's pianist, touring with her from 1948-53. These experiences served to broaden his musical palette and sophistication.

A consummate freelancer, Jones found work with artists such as Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Milt Jackson, and

Julian "Cannonball" Adderley. The versatility Jones acquired through such affiliations served him well when he joined the staff of CBS as a studio musician, remaining for 17 years. Although his studio work found him working on productions like the *Ed Sullivan Show*, Jones continued his touring and recording experiences in a variety of settings.

His broad range and ability to fit in different settings also landed him in Broadway stage bands, where he served as pianist and conductor for such shows as *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

Jones was the first regular pianist in brother Thad's co-led orchestra with Mel Lewis, beginning in 1966. Throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, Jones continued to be much in demand for record dates and tours. Among his affiliations was the Great Jazz Trio, a cooperative unit with Ron Carter and Tony Williams, who were later supplanted by Buster Williams and Ben Riley. Jones has also experienced his share of piano duos, with the likes of Tommy Flanagan—with whom he became

acquainted when both were developing around the Detroit area—George Shearing, and John Lewis. As a leader and valued sideman, Hank Jones can be found on thousands of recordings.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Jazz Trio of Hank Jones,
Savoy, 1955

Lazy Afternoon,
Concord Jazz, 1989

Upon Reflection, Verve, 1993

Charlie Haden/Hank Jones, *Steal Away,*
Verve, 1994

For My Father, Justin Time, 2004

1985

Jonathan "Jo" Jones

DRUMMER

Born July 10, 1911 in Chicago, IL
Died September 3, 1985

Jo Jones' uncanny way around the drums, ability to truly swing a band without ever overpowering it, and slick, smiling sense of showmanship made him one of the most influential of the early swing band drummers. Jones made an art form of the use of brushes on the drum kit, with accents timely and thoroughly appropriate for whatever band with which he played. Jo Jones is credited with the transfer of the essential pulse of jazz music from the bass drum to the hi-hat cymbal, influencing such modern drummers as **Max Roach**. His technique was to leave the hi-hat cymbals just slightly apart, which produced a sound different from the relative staccato approach of his predecessors. Never one to engage in extended solos, his delight was in driving a band with his incomparable swing.

Jones grew up in Alabama, touring with various shows and carnivals as a tap dancer and instrumentalist while still in his teens. His first major jazz job came when he joined the territory band known as Walter Page's Blue Devils in Oklahoma City in the late 1920s. Jones stayed in the Midwest for quite some time, working with trumpeter Lloyd Hunter and moving to Kansas City in 1933.

In 1934 came the affiliation with which his artistry is forever identified, drumming with the **Count Basie** band, with whom he worked on and off for over 15 years. Jones' drumming was the final ingredient to what became known as the "All-American Rhythm Section." Besides Jones, this included guitarist Freddie Green, bassist Walter Page, and Basie on piano. They provided the irresistible pulse that drove the Count Basie band of the day to be called the swinging-est band in the land. Jones served two years in the Army from 1944-46, then returned to the Basie band, where he remained a full-time member until 1948.

Thereafter, though frequently reuniting with Basie on special occasions, Jones became a freelance drummer. He played on tours with Jazz at the Philharmonic, and recorded with many of the jazz greats, including Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Johnny Hodges, **Teddy Wilson**, Lester Young, Art Tatum, and Benny Goodman. Jones was constantly in demand for a variety of all-star swing sessions and made numerous recordings as a highly valued sideman.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Count Basie, *The Original American*
Decca Recordings, MCA, 1937-39

The Essential Jo Jones,
Vanguard, 1955

Jo Jones Trio, Fresh Sounds, 1959

Jo Jones Sextet, Fresh Sounds, 1960

The Main Man,
Original Jazz Classics, 1976

Photo courtesy of Ray Avery Photo Archives/CTSIIMAGES



Andy Kirk

SAXOPHONIST BANDLEADER

Born May 28, 1898 in Newport, KY
Died December 11, 1992

Andy Kirk, though virtually unknown nowadays outside of jazz circles, led one of the hottest swing bands in the country during the 1930s, rivaling Basie's. His band, the Clouds of Joy, also introduced some of the biggest names in jazz, most notably Mary Lou Williams.

Kirk grew up in Denver, Colorado, where he came under the musical tutelage of Paul Whiteman's father, Wilberforce Whiteman. His first job, as bass saxophonist and tuba player, came with the George Morrison Orchestra in 1918. In 1925 he relocated to Dallas and joined Terence Holder's Dark Clouds of Joy, a band he eventually took over in 1929, changing the name to the Clouds of Joy (sometimes being known as the Twelve Clouds of Joy, depending on the number of musicians in the band).

He moved the band to Kansas City, where they made their first recordings in 1929-30, including Mary Lou Williams' "Froggy Bottom," which has been covered countless times since. Kirk's band was highly popular, becoming—along with the **Count Basie** band, the Benny Moten

Orchestra, and **Jay McShann's** band—one of the purveyors of the Kansas City swing sound. Particularly popular was their recording of "Until the Real Thing Comes Along" in 1936.

Although the leader of the band, Kirk usually was not a soloist, utilizing the talent in his band for the spotlight instead. His genius lay in realizing how best to make use of his band members' skills. Realizing the awesome writing and arranging aptitude of Mary Lou Williams, for example, he made her the chief composer and arranger for the Clouds of Joy from 1929-42. Other notable band members who Kirk highlighted as soloists included Shorty Baker, Don Byas, Kenny Kersey, Howard McGhee, Fats Navarro, and Dick Wilson. The band continued to tour and record until disbanding in 1948.

Kirk led another band in California in the early 1950s, then went into other professions. In the 1970s he led pickup bands on occasion, though he spent the remainder of his life working for his Jehovah's Witness church.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

1929-1931,
Classics, 1929-31

1936-1937,
Classics, 1936-37

1937-1938,
Classics, 1937-38

Kansas City Bounce,
Black and Blue, 1939-40

1940-1942,
Classics, 1940-42



Photo by Bob Parent

John Lewis

PIANIST COMPOSER ARRANGER EDUCATOR

Born May 3, 1920 in La Grange, IL
Died March 29, 2001

John Lewis' artistry flowered during his historic tenure as musical director of the longest continuing small ensemble in the annals of jazz, the Modern Jazz Quartet, with whom he was able to realize his unique vision of fusing blues, bebop, and classical music into an artful, elegant balance.

Raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Lewis' mother was a primary musical influence. After high school, Lewis joined the Army in 1942, where he met drummer **Kenny Clarke** and trumpeter/bandleader **Dizzy Gillespie**.

In 1946, Lewis and Clarke joined the rhythm section of Gillespie's pioneer big band, which included vibraphonist **Milt Jackson** and bassist **Ray Brown**. The Gillespie band provided a convenient canvas for Lewis to write compositions and craft arrangements, utilizing the talents of some of the finest young musicians in jazz. Lewis' first extended composition for Gillespie was his 1947 "Toccata for Trumpet," which premiered at Carnegie Hall. Other early contributions to the Gillespie book included Lewis' arrangements of the tunes "Two Bass Hit" and "Emanon."

Coinciding with his work with the Gillespie band, Lewis continued his music studies at the Manhattan School of Music, eventually earning his master's degree in 1953. Lewis also worked with other jazz greats in between tours with Gillespie's band, including serving as pianist and arranger for the **Miles Davis** recording, *Birth of the Cool*, in 1950.

In 1951, the Gillespie band rhythm section of 1946—Lewis, Clarke, Jackson, and Brown—reunited in the recording studio as the Milt Jackson Quartet, later becoming the Modern Jazz Quartet. By the time those recordings were

issued, **Percy Heath** had replaced Brown. In 1954, the Modern Jazz Quartet began touring and **Connie Kay** replaced Clarke on drums the following year. Lewis would use his time in the more than 40 years with MJQ to hone his composing and arranging skills, experimenting with form and sound, while collaborating with guests ranging in diversity from **Sonny Rollins** to the Beaux Arts String Quartet to singer **Diahann Carroll** to full orchestras. Perhaps his most widely interpreted composition is "Django," which he wrote in honor of the legendary Gypsy guitarist **Django Reinhardt**.

Throughout his career, John Lewis had written for a vast number of musical configurations in a dizzying array of styles, from solo piano to symphonies, ballets to film and television scores. Lewis was part of the first wave of what composer **Gunther Schuller** dubbed the Third Stream—an effort at forging a third stream through the fusing of the two primary streams: jazz and European classical music.

As an educator, he served as director of faculty at the Lenox School of Jazz, where he first championed **Ornette Coleman**; on the trustee board of the Manhattan School of Music; and in faculty positions at Harvard University and City College of New York.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Modern Jazz Quartet, *Django*, Original Jazz Classics, 1953-55
- Grand Encounter*, Blue Note, 1956
- The Wonderful World of Jazz*, Atlantic, 1960
- Kansas City Breaks*, DRG, 1982
- Private Concert*, EmArcy, 1990



Abbey

Lincoln

VOCALIST COMPOSER

Born August 6, 1930 in Chicago, IL

Strongly influenced by jazz icons Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong, both of whom she met early in her career, Abbey Lincoln's distinctive vocal style, thought-provoking writing, and spirited personality have secured her a place among the jazz luminaries.

Born in Chicago and raised in rural Michigan, Lincoln began performing while still in high school. In 1951, she moved to the West Coast, working under various names (Gaby Lee, Anna Marie, Gaby Wooldridge) before settling on Abbey Lincoln. She recorded her first album with jazz great **Benny Carter** in 1956 and appeared in the 1957 film, *The Girl Can't Help It*. Lincoln then recorded a series of albums for the Riverside label with drummer

Max Roach, who had introduced her to the label's owner.

Lincoln's collaborations with Roach (to whom she was married from 1962-70) lasted more than a decade, and included

the seminal recording, *Freedom Now Suite* in 1960. This was the beginning of a more social and political activist approach to her music. Over the years, she has worked with some of the biggest names in jazz, including **Sonny Rollins**, **Eric Dolphy**, **Coleman Hawkins**, **Miles Davis**, **Jackie McLean**, **Clark Terry**, and **Stan Getz**.

In addition to her music, Lincoln also pursued acting, appearing in the films *Nothing But A Man* and *For Love of Ivy* and on television series, such as *Mission: Impossible* and the *Flip Wilson Show*. She also taught drama at the California State University. She did not record any albums as a leader from 1962-72, but made a grand return to jazz with her 1973 recording, *People In Me*, her first album of all original material.

Lincoln returned to her influences in 1987, recording two albums in tribute to Billie Holiday, and then a series of recordings for Verve throughout the 1990s that showcased her writing prowess. Her emotionally honest, mature style is still revered, and Lincoln continues to perform and tour with a new trio.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Max Roach, *We Insist! Freedom Now Suite*, Candid, 1960

Straight Ahead, Candid, 1961

Abbey Sings Billie, Vol. 1 & 2, Enja, 1987

The World Is Falling Down, Verve, 1990

It's Me, Verve, 2003



Melba Liston

TROMBONIST ARRANGER COMPOSER EDUCATOR

Born January 13, 1926 Kansas City, MO
Died April 23, 1999

Although a formidable trombone player, Melba Liston was primarily known for her arrangements, especially working with **Randy Weston**, and compositions. Growing up mostly in Los Angeles, some of her first work came during the 1940s with two West Coast masters: bandleader **Gerald Wilson** and tenor saxophonist **Dexter Gordon**. In Gordon's small combos, she began to blossom as a trombone soloist, and Gordon wrote a song as a tribute to her, "Mischievous Lady." Despite her obvious talent as a soloist, Liston became an in-demand big band section player, which likely fueled her later work as an arranger. During the 1940s, Liston also worked with the **Count Basie** band and with **Billie Holiday**.

Following a brief hiatus from music, she joined **Dizzy Gillespie's** bebop big band in 1950, and again for two of Gillespie's State Department tours in 1956 and 1957, which included her arrangements of "Annie's Dance" and "Stella by Starlight" in performances. She started her own all-woman quintet in 1958, working in New York and Bermuda, before joining Quincy Jones' band in 1959 to play the musical *Free and Easy*. She stayed in Jones' touring band as one of two woman members until 1961.

In the 1950s, Liston began a partnership that she would return to on and off for more than 40 years. From the seminal 1959 recording *Little Niles* through 1998's *Khepera*, Liston was the arranger on many of Randy Weston's albums. Her arrangements, with a powerful base of brass and percussion and expressive solo performances, helped shape and embellish Weston's compositions.

Other affiliations during the 1960s included co-leading a band with trumpeter **Clark Terry**, and writing for the Duke Ellington orchestra, singers **Tony Bennett** and **Eddie Fisher**, and the Buffalo Symphony Orchestra.

During the 1970s, she worked with youth orchestras in Los Angeles, continuing to write for Basie, Ellington, and singer **Abbey Lincoln**. Liston also became a staff arranger for the Motown label. Later that decade she took up residence in

Jamaica, where she taught at the University of the West Indies and was director of Popular Music Studies at the Jamaica Institute of Music.

Slowed by a stroke in 1985, which effectively ended her playing career, she was able to resume work as a composer and arranger in the 1990s through the aid of computer technology. Liston's career helped pave the way for women in jazz in roles other than as vocalists.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Dizzy Gillespie, *Dizzy In South America, Vol. 1 & 2*, CAP, 1956

Quincy Jones, *Q Live in Paris*, Warner Brothers, 1960

Randy Weston, *Tanjah*, Verve, 1973

Randy Weston/Melba Liston, *Volcano Blues*, Verve, 1993

Randy Weston, *Khepera*, Verve, 1998

Photo by Bob Parent



Jackie

McLean

SAXOPHONIST COMPOSER EDUCATOR

Born May 17, 1931 in New York, NY

Known in the jazz community as “Jackie Mac,” Jackie McLean has been a stalwart, enduring force in jazz since the early 1950s, and a distinguished educator since 1968. Long the possessor of one of the most recognizable alto saxophone sounds and styles, he has explored the cutting edge of jazz creativity.

McLean grew up in a musical family, his father being a guitarist for bandleader Tiny Bradshaw and stepfather owning a record store. By age 15, he chose the alto saxophone as his instrument. Jackie’s earliest studies came through the tutelage of Foots Thomas, Cecil Scott, Joe Napoleon, and Andy Brown in his native New York. Another of his informal teachers was piano master Bud Powell. McLean’s most significant early band affiliation came during the years 1948-49, when he joined a Harlem neighborhood band led by tenor saxophonist **Sonny Rollins** and including pianist Kenny Drew. McLean’s stints with the **Miles Davis** band, between 1949-53, yielded his first recording sessions as a sideman and marked the beginning of what became known as hard bop, an advanced progression on bebop.

During McLean’s busiest period as a sideman in the 1950s, he worked with pianist George Wallington, drummer **Art Blakey**’s Jazz Messengers, and bassist Charles Mingus. McLean’s first recording as a leader came in 1955, when he cut a quintet date for the Ad Lib label. His intense playing has fit in well with both hard bop and the avant-garde, two schools of jazz in which McLean has experimented.

Throughout the 1960s, McLean continued to work with his own bands and occasional all-star aggregations, but also

became more interested in social issues. In 1959-60 he acted in the off-Broadway play *The Connection*, a cautionary tale dealing with jazz and the perils of drug abuse, which evolved into a 1961 film.

In 1967 he took his music into prisons, working as a music instructor and counselor. Then in 1968, he moved to Hartford, Connecticut to take a teaching position at Hart College of Music of the University of Hartford. It was in Hartford that McLean and his wife Dollie founded the Artists Collective, a widely hailed combination community center/fine arts school, primarily aimed at troubled youth. The Artists Collective opened a beautiful new building in 1999 following years of residence in a former schoolhouse in one of Hartford’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods.

At the University of Hartford, McLean established the school’s African American Music Department and subsequent Jazz Studies degree program, which was renamed The Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz on November 17, 2000. The program has instructed a number of exceptional young jazz musicians, including saxophonist Antoine Roney, drummer Eric MacPherson, trombonist Steve Davis, and pianist Alan Palmer.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

4, 5 and 6,
Original Jazz Classics, 1956

New Soil, Blue Note, 1959

Let Freedom Ring, Blue Note, 1962

The Jackie Mac Attack Live,
Verve, 1991

Nature Boy,
Blue Note, 2000



Photo by Bob Parent

Marian

McPartland

PIANIST BROADCASTER

Born March 20, 1918 in Slough, England

Best known as the host of the weekly national radio program *Piano Jazz*, Marian McPartland has helped to popularize jazz with her intricate knowledge and prowess on the piano. She has made the program one of the most popular in the history of public radio.

Born to a musical mother who played classical piano, she studied at the famed Guildhall School of Music in London. Her first professional activity was as part of a touring vaudeville act featuring four pianists. During World War II, she entertained the troops and while playing in Belgium met her late husband, cornetist Jimmy McPartland, whom she married in 1945. They relocated to the U.S. in 1946, whereupon she performed in his band in Chicago. She formed her first active trio in 1950 for an engagement at the Embers in New York. Two years later, she began what would be an eight-year residency at the Hickory House in New York with her trio.

In 1963, she worked with the Benny Goodman Sextet, and in 1965 she began her radio career, at WBAI in

New York. In 1970 she started her own record company, Halcyon Records, one of the first jazz women to do so. In 1979 she began her weekly program *Piano Jazz*, the longest running syndicated National Public Radio program. An intimate program involving just her and a guest—usually a pianist—the program has won numerous awards, including the Peabody Award. Many of the programs have been subsequently released on compact disc.

As part of the segments, McPartland would interview the guest, drawing out colorful anecdotes and stories about their careers. The shows also included performances of McPartland and the guest together. Taken as a whole, the series presents a formidable history of jazz.

Her playing career has also included piano tours with such greats as Earl Hines, **Teddy Wilson**, Ellis Larkins, and **Benny Carter**. She has performed with symphony orchestras and at many of the major jazz festivals, and has received numerous awards, including a *Down Beat* Lifetime Achievement award in 1997.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Jazz at the Hickory House,
Jasmine, 1954

Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz
with Guest **Bill Evans**, Jazz Alliance, 1978

Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz
with Guest **Jay McShann**, Jazz Alliance, 1979

Plays the Benny Carter Songbook,
Concord, 1990

Just Friends, Concord, 1998



Carmen

McRae

VOCALIST PIANIST

Born April 8, 1920 in New York, NY
Died November 10, 1994

Tender and warm with a ballad, Carmen McRae was one of the great singers of jazz, finding the depth of feeling in the lyrics of the songs she interpreted. An accomplished pianist who in her early career accompanied herself, she occasionally returned to the piano later in her career.

McRae learned piano through private lessons and was discovered by Irene Wilson Kitchings, a musician and former wife of pianist **Teddy Wilson**. McRae sang with the **Benny Carter**, **Count Basie**, and Mercer Ellington big bands during the 1940s and made her recorded debut as Carmen Clarke while the wife of drummer **Kenny Clarke**. During the bebop revolution at Minton's Playhouse, McRae was an intermission pianist, which is likely where she first heard Thelonious Monk's music, which influenced her piano playing and musical sense. In the early 1950s, she worked with the Mat Mathews Quintet. She signed her first significant recording contract with Decca in 1954.

Working as a soloist, she gained wide recognition and was often seen in the pantheon of jazz singers that included **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Sarah Vaughan**, to whom she idolized and later paid homage on a recording. Her greatest idol was Billie Holiday, whom she feted on record and in performances on many occasions. Although she admired these singers, she never resorted to sheer mimicry and developed her own original style.

She recorded notably alongside Louis Armstrong on **Dave Brubeck's** extended work *The Real Ambassadors*, a social commentary written with his wife Iola. She made several film and television appearances, and performed as an actress in the landmark television series *Roots*. In the late 1980s, she returned to her first love, recording a full album of Monk's music with lyrics by **Jon Hendricks**, **Abbey Lincoln**, Mike Ferro, Sally Swisher, and Bernie Hanighen. The album became one of her signature recordings.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Here to Stay, MCA/GRP, 1955-59

*Carmen McRae Sings
Great American Songwriters*,
MCA/GRP, 1955-59

*Sings Lover Man
& Other Billie Holiday Classics*,
Columbia, 1961

Carmen Sings Monk, Novus, 1988

Sarah—Dedicated to You,
Novus, 1990

Jay

McShann

PIANIST VOCALIST BANDLEADER

Born January 12, 1916 in Muskogee, OK

For better or worse, Jay McShann is tied to the legend of Charlie Parker. Parker's first real professional work was with McShann's Kansas City band, and McShann is credited with helping Parker to hone his talents. Arguably more important, McShann—along with Andy Kirk's *Clouds of Joy*, the Bennie Moten Orchestra and the great Count Basie bands—shaped and developed the Kansas City swing sound that was so popular in the 1930s and 1940s.

Known in jazz circles as "Hootie," McShann is for the most part a self-taught artist, though he did attend Tuskegee Institute. He developed a piano style that drew heavily on blues and boogie woogie. McShann's earliest professional job came with tenor saxophonist Don Byas in 1931. Following his days at Tuskegee, McShann played in bands in Oklahoma and Arkansas prior to joining a trio with bassist Oliver Todd and drummer Elmer Hopkins in late 1936 in Kansas City.

In subsequent months, he worked with alto saxophonist Buster Smith and trumpeter Dee Stewart before

forming a sextet in 1937. In late 1939, McShann put together his first big band. His recording career commenced in 1941 with the Decca label, records that often featured blues singer Walter Brown. McShann's first New York appearance, at the Savoy Ballroom, came in February 1942. His band during the height of his popularity included such notables as Parker, bassist Gene Ramey, drummer Gus Johnson, and saxophonists Paul Quinichette and Jimmy Forrest, all of whom McShann used brilliantly as soloists. Following service in the Army, McShann reformed his band, which played New York spots and traveled west to California. Towards the end of the 1940s, McShann's small band fronted blues singer Jimmy Witherspoon.

In the early 1950s, McShann moved his home base back to Kansas City, where he continues to reside. In the 1970s and 1980s, McShann experienced a bit of a renaissance, with increased recording and performing opportunities, often with Kansas City violinist Claude "Fiddler" Williams, and he continues to perform throughout the Midwest.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Blues from Kansas City,
MCA, 1941-43

1944-46, Classics, 1944-46

Vine Street Boogie, Black Lion, 1974

A Tribute to Charlie Parker,
Music Masters, 1989

Hootie!,
Chiaroscuro, 1997



James

Moody

SAXOPHONIST FLUTIST VOCALIST EDUCATOR

Born March 26, 1925 in Savannah, GA

One of the surviving champions of Dizzy Gillespie's music, James Moody is an accomplished musician on the tenor and alto saxophones, as well as the flute, despite being born partially deaf. In addition to his instrumental prowess, Moody is an engaging entertainer, captivating audiences with his personal charm and wit.

Although born in Savannah, he was raised in Newark, New Jersey. His interest in jazz was sparked by a trumpet-playing father who gigged in the Tiny Bradshaw band, and he took up the alto sax, a gift from his uncle, at the age of 16. His first musical training came in the Air Force, and after leaving the service in 1946 he joined the Dizzy Gillespie big band, staying until 1948. Gillespie became his musical mentor. In 1949, he moved to Paris for three years, often playing with visiting American musicians, including the Tadd Dameron-Miles Davis band.

In Sweden he recorded his famous improvisation on "I'm in the Mood For Love" in 1949, playing on an alto saxophone instead of his usual tenor. His solo was later set to lyrics by Eddie Jefferson and recorded by King Pleasure, known as "Moody's Mood for Love," becoming a surprise hit in 1952. Throughout the rest of his career, Moody would be more known for the vocal version of the song based on his solo than for the instrumental version

itself, and obliged requests for the song by singing his famous solo.

Through the 1950s and 1960s, he led his own bands, and worked alongside other saxophonists, notably Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt, with whom he co-led a three-tenor sax band.

In 1963 he returned to the Dizzy Gillespie small group, where he largely remained until 1971. In 1975,

he moved to Las Vegas and worked numerous hotel and casino shows with singers and comics, picking up the clarinet along the way. In 1979, he left Las Vegas and moved back to New York to lead his own quintet.

Then in 1989 he moved to San Diego, working as a consummate soloist and member of all-star touring units. In the 1990s, he teamed up again with his lifelong friend Dizzy Gillespie to tour Europe and the United States as a member of the United Nations Orchestra. He continues

to tour worldwide and experiment with his music, sometimes including synthesizers and strings on his recordings. He is sought-after on college and university campuses for master classes, workshops, and lectures, and has received honorary doctoral degrees from the Florida Memorial College and the Berklee College of Music. In 1997, he played an acting role in the Clint Eastwood film *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

James Moody and His Swedish Crowns, Dragon, 1949

Last Train from Overbrook, GRP/Chess, 1954-55

Moody's Party, Telarc, 1995

Moody Plays Mancini, Warner Brothers, 1997

Homage, Savoy Jazz, 2003



Photo by Bob Parent

Anita O'Day

VOCALIST

Born October 18, 1919 in Chicago, IL

Anita O'Day's unique sound and swinging rhythmic sense put her in the upper echelon of jazz singers, as skillful with ballads as with scatting and liberal interpretations of standard songs. Her career spans the late swing and bebop eras, inspiring many singers who followed her, such as June Christy, Chris Connor, and Helen Merrill. She began her performing career as a ballroom dance contest winner in the 1930s, which is when she adopted the stage name O'Day. At 19, she began singing professionally in clubs around Chicago.

In 1941 she joined Gene Krupa's big band, recording a memorable duet with Roy Eldridge on "Let Me Off Uptown," one of the first interracial vocal duets on record. She also may have been the first feminist big band singer, refusing to appear in the standard gown and gloves, instead opting for band jacket and short skirt. She stayed with the Krupa organiza-

tion until 1943. In 1944 she joined Stan Kenton's band. She then re-joined Krupa in 1945, remaining there until 1946, when she began a solo career. In the mid-1950s she made a few notable albums for the Verve label, demonstrating the power of her vocals.

In 1958 her appearance at the Newport Jazz Festival, replete with characteristic big hat, caused a sensation.

She provided one of the highlights of the subsequent film of the festival, *Jazz on a Summer's Day*. From that point on she worked mainly on the club circuit with her own groups.

Always a hit in Japan, she made her first tour there in 1964, returning on several occasions. Frustrated with record label indifference to her artistry, she developed her own record labels. In the 1980s and 1990s, she continued to work the club and jazz festival circuits, including a concert at Carnegie Hall in 1985 to celebrate her 50 years in jazz and notable performances at the Vine Street Bar & Grill in Los Angeles in 1992.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

The Complete Recordings, 1949-50,
Baldwin Street Music, 1949-50

Swings Cole Porter with Billy May,
Verve, 1952-59

Anita Sings the Winners,
Verve, 1956-62

Anita Sings the Most, Verve, 1957

Rules of the Road, Pablo, 1993



Max

Roach

DRUMMER COMPOSER BANDLEADER

Born January 10, 1924 in New Land, NC

Max Roach is one of the two leading drummers of the bebop era (along with **Kenny Clarke**) and has remained one of the leading musicians, composers, and bandleaders in jazz ever since the 1940s. His often biting political commentary and strong intellect, not to mention his rhythmic innovations, have kept him at the vanguard of jazz for more than 50 years.

Roach grew up in a household where gospel music was quite prominent. His mother was a gospel singer and he began drumming in a gospel ensemble at age 10. Roach's formal study of music took him to the Manhattan School of Music. In 1942, he became house drummer at Monroe's Uptown House, enabling him to play and interact with some of the giants of the bebop era, such as Charlie Parker, **Dizzy Gillespie**, Thelonious Monk, and Bud Powell. Roach would later record with Parker, Gillespie, Powell, and bassist Charles Mingus at the historic Massey Hall concert in 1953.

Throughout the 1940s, Roach continued to branch out in his playing, drumming with **Benny Carter**, Stan Getz, Allen Eager, and **Miles Davis**. In 1952, he and Mingus collaborated to create their own record label, Debut Records. In 1954, Roach began a short-lived but crucial band with incendiary trumpeter Clifford Brown. This historic band, which ended abruptly with Brown's tragic death in 1956, also included saxophonists Harold Land and **Sonny Rollins**.

In the late 1950s, Roach began adding political commentary to his recordings, starting with *Deeds Not Words*, but coming into sharper focus with *We Insist! Freedom Now Suite*

in 1960, on which he collaborated with singer-lyricist Oscar Brown, Jr. From then on he has been an eloquent spokesman in the area of racial and political justice.

Roach continued to experiment with his sound, eschewing the use of the piano or other chord-playing instruments in his bands for the most part from the late 1960s on. His thirst for experimentation has led to collaborations with seemingly disparate artists, including duets with saxophonist Anthony Braxton and pianist **Cecil Taylor**, as well as partnerships with pianist Abdullah Ibrahim and saxophonist Archie Shepp.

As a drum soloist he has few peers in terms of innovations, stemming from his deeply personal sound and approach. His proclivities in the area of multiethnic percussion have flowered with his intermittent percussion ensemble M'Boom, founded in 1970. A broad-based percussionist who was a pioneer in establishing a fixed pulse on the ride cymbal instead of the bass drum, Roach has also collaborated with voice, string, and brass ensembles, lectured on college campuses extensively, and composed music for dance, theater, film, and television.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Clifford Brown and Max Roach,
At Basin Steet, EmArcy, 1956

We Insist! Freedom Now Suite,
Candid, 1960

M'Boom, Columbia, 1979

To The Max, Rhino, 1990-91

Explorations to the Mth Degree,
Slam, 1994



Photo by Bob Parent

Theodore Walter "Sonny" Rollins

SAXOPHONIST COMPOSER

Born September 7, 1930 in New York, NY

With more than 50 years in jazz, Sonny Rollins' towering achievements on the tenor saxophone are many, and he continues to be one of the most exciting and fiery players in concert. Inspired by the example of his brother's pursuit of music, Rollins began piano lessons at age nine. At 14 he picked up the alto saxophone, and switched to the tenor two years later. Soon he was playing dances in a band of youngsters in his New York community, which included **Jackie McLean**, **Kenny Drew**, and **Art Taylor**. Rollins' first recording was made alongside the bop singer **Babs Gonzales** in 1949. Later that year he played at sessions with **J. J. Johnson** and **Bud Powell**, recording his song "Audubon" with Johnson.

In the 1950s, Rollins began by serving as a sideman on sessions with **Miles Davis**, **Thelonious Monk**, **Art Farmer**, and the **Modern Jazz Quartet**. In late 1955, while living in Chicago, he began one of his most fruitful band affiliations when he stood in for **Harold Land** in the superb **Clifford Brown-Max Roach Quintet** at the Bee Hive club. He remained a regular member until Brown's tragic June 1956 death from an auto accident.

Rollins continued to record, mainly for Prestige, where his output was some of the finest music recorded in the mid-1950s on any label. Among his recorded highlights during this period were *Tenor Madness*, which included an encounter with **John Coltrane**; *Saxophone Colossus*, a sparkling album that introduced his most noted composition, "St. Thomas," which honored his parents' Virgin Islands roots; and *Way Out West*, which took seemingly

mundane songs like "I'm an Old Cowhand" and spun them out with extraordinary improvisations.

By 1959, Rollins had grown impatient with the vagaries of the jazz scene and took a hiatus. He would often practice his horn deep into the night on the upper reaches of the Williamsburg Bridge, which crosses the East River from Manhattan to Brooklyn. In 1961 he returned to the scene, refreshed and playing better than ever. He made a series of recordings for the RCA label with musicians such as **Jim Hall**, **Don Cherry**, **Billy Higgins**, and **Herbie Hancock**, and also began his long-term employment of bassist **Bob Cranshaw**.

In London in 1966, he composed and recorded a soundtrack album for the film *Alfie* for the Impulse! label, which brought him some popularity beyond jazz audiences. By 1968 Rollins again required a break from the scene, returning in 1971. He has been playing and growing ever since, continuing his long affiliation with the Fantasy family of labels (including Prestige and Milestone) and working almost exclusively on concert stages. Sonny Rollins' recordings have continued to reflect his interest in Caribbean rhythms, particularly the calypso.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Saxophone Colossus*, Original Jazz Classics, 1956
- A Night at the Village Vanguard*, Blue Note, 1957
- The Complete RCA Victor Recordings*, RCA Victor, 1962-64
- Silver City*, Milestone, 1972-95
- Without A Song: The 9/11 Concert*, Milestone, 2001



George

Russell

COMPOSER ARRANGER THEORETICIAN PIANIST DRUMMER

Born June 23, 1923 in Cincinnati, OH

George Russell is first and foremost a composer rather than an instrumentalist, and is one of the most important jazz theorists of the latter half of the 20th century. He first expressed himself musically on the drums in the drum and bugle corps. After high school, Russell attended Wilberforce University, where he found gigs playing drums at local clubs. Russell's study of composing and arranging increased while he was bedridden with a case of tuberculosis at 19. It was during this time that he began formulating his unprecedented musical theorems.

While his first arrangements were for the A.B. Townsend Orchestra, a Cincinnati dance band, Russell's initial major band affiliation was as a drummer with **Benny Carter**. Later he found work arranging with the Earl Hines band. His first major score was "Cubano Be, Cubano Bop," an Afro-Cuban piece written for the **Dizzy Gillespie** big band. Russell followed that with charts for Lee Konitz ("Ezz-thetic" and "Odjenar") and **Buddy DeFranco** ("A Bird in Igor's Yard"). He continued his advanced composition study with Stefan Wolpe. His theory, *The Lydian Chromatic Concept of Tonal Organization*, was eventually published in book form in the mid-1950s. Russell's concept involves a composition system based on using the Lydian scale, rather than the major scale, as the basis for analysis and composition.

Music theoreticians hailed this as a breakthrough, being perhaps the first major contribution by a jazz musician to

the field of musical theory. Russell's continued refinement and study of this concept eventually led him to academia when he taught at the Lenox School of Jazz during 1958-59. In the meantime, his theories on modes influenced **Miles Davis** and **Bill Evans** (who studied with Russell), leading to the creation of Davis' masterpiece, *Kind of Blue*. In the early 1960s, Russell led several small groups,

which included musicians such as **Eric Dolphy** and **David Baker**, and made some significant recordings before moving to Scandinavia. There he continued to refine his theories and work with Scandinavian musicians, among them **Jan Garbarek** and **Terje Rypdal**, before returning to the U.S. in 1969. That year he took a teaching position at New England Conservatory of Music at the invitation of then president **Gunther Schuller**. In the late 1970s, Russell formed big bands to play his music, creating his **Living Time Orchestra** in 1978. The Orchestra makes frequent tours of Europe, including residencies at the Perugia Jazz Festival.

In addition to teaching and lecturing at other conservatories and universities, Russell has been the recipient of numerous awards, honors, and grants, including an NEA Composition fellowship, a MacArthur award, two Guggenheim fellowships, and election to the Royal Swedish Academy. Russell published the revised and expanded edition of his *Lydian Chromatic Concept* in 2001.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Jazz Workshop, RCA Victor, 1956

New York, NY, Impulse!, 1958

Ezz-Thetics, Original Jazz Classics, 1961

The African Game, Blue Note, 1983

The 80th Birthday Concert,
Concept, 2003



Photo courtesy of Roy Avery Photo Archives/CTSI/IMAGES

Artie Shaw

CLARINETIST BANDLEADER COMPOSER ARRANGER

Born May 23, 1910 in New York, NY
Died December 30, 2004

Immensely popular and startlingly innovative, Artie Shaw rose to prominence in the 1930s as a swing band leader, master clarinetist, and boundary-crossing artist, who infused jazz with the influences of modern European composers.

Born in 1910, he left his native New Haven, Connecticut, at age 15 to tour as a jazz musician. Though based in Cleveland, where he wrote his first arrangements for bandleader Austin Wylie, he later made important road trips with Irving Aaronson's band. The band took him to Chicago, where he played in jam sessions and first heard recordings by Stravinsky and Debussy. Next, in 1929, the Aaronson band brought him to New York, where he played in Harlem jam sessions and came under the influence of Willie "The Lion" Smith. He decided to stay on and at age 21 became one of New York's most successful reed players for radio and recording sessions.

He made his breakthrough in his first appearance as a bandleader at a 1936 swing concert at Broadway's Imperial Theater. To fill a spot between headliners, he performed his chamber composition "Interlude in B Flat," scored for string quartet, three rhythm instruments, and clarinet, which cre-

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Self Portrait*, Bluebird/RCA, 1936-54
- Begin the Beguine*, Bluebird/RCA, 1938-41
- The Complete Gramercy Five Sessions*, Bluebird/RCA, 1940-45
- Artie Shaw at the Hollywood Palladium*, HEP, 1941
- The Last Recordings: Rare and Unreleased*, Music Masters, 1954

ated a sensation. He then added two trumpets, trombone, saxophone, and a singer, signed a recording contract, and led his first orchestra into New York's Lexington Hotel. During 1938, with a more conventional swing band line-up (which briefly included Billie Holiday as vocalist), he recorded Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine," which propelled him to the forefront of big band leaders.

After the United States entered World War II, Artie Shaw enlisted in the Navy and was soon leading a service band throughout the Pacific war zone.

Upon returning stateside, he organized a new band in 1944, with which he toured and made recordings that included the classic "Little Jazz," featuring Roy Eldridge on trumpet. Over the next 10 years, Artie Shaw worked in Hollywood, toured extensively (including appearances at Carnegie Hall and a performance of Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto* with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic), and continued to record, both with his big bands and with a small group named Gramercy Five.

Although he retired from music in 1954, Artie Shaw continued to enjoy popularity through his recordings and also through a big band fronted by Dick Johnson bearing Artie Shaw's name. The library of the University of Arizona holds his collection of scores.

Photo by Michael Wilderman



Wayne

Shorter

SAXOPHONIST COMPOSER

Born August 25, 1933 in Newark, NJ

Equally renowned for his compositions as for his saxophone playing, Wayne Shorter has contributed many songs to the jazz canon while participating in some of the major changes in jazz music over the last 40 years, and has received six Grammy Awards for his recordings.

Shorter's musical pursuits started on the clarinet, at age 16, evolving to the tenor saxophone soon thereafter. Shorter majored in music education at New York University from 1956-58, working for a short while with **Horace Silver** in 1956. After serving in the Army, he joined Maynard Ferguson's band for a couple of months in 1959, followed by one of his most fruitful jobs: playing with **Art Blakey's** Jazz Messengers. He remained in the Messengers until 1964, establishing himself as both composer and saxophonist, and began making his own records, first for Vee Jay, then for the Blue Note label. His three releases for Blue Note in 1964, *Night Dreamer*, *Juju*, and *Speak No Evil*, are considered the quintessential Blue Note sound: sophisticated structures and rhythms, strong melodies, exceptional playing.

He left Blakey in 1964 to assume another productive affiliation with the **Miles Davis** Quintet, where he remained until 1970. While with Davis, he further solidified his position as one of the most intriguing composers of his time, contributing tunes such as "Nefertiti," "Fall," "ESP," "Paraphernalia," and "Sanctuary." He also developed his sound, a mixture of technique and emotion, able to find the appropriate mood in his playing to fit the song. During the

latter stages of his Davis tenure, he took up the soprano saxophone, which thereafter often became his principle horn.

In 1971 he and pianist Joe Zawinul, who also had been part of Davis' recording sessions in the late-1960s to early-1970s, formed one of the pioneering jazz fusion bands, Weather Report. The band stayed together for 15 years through several different permutations, engaging electronics and numerous ethnic influences and furthering Shorter's reputation as a composer. The band scored a major hit, "Birdland," in 1977 on their bestselling record, *Heavy Weather*.

After the breakup of Weather Report he made occasional recordings and tours, continuing to mine the influences he felt from other musical cultures and continuing to write intriguing music. He is a major influence

on the generations of musicians who have entered the scene since the 1970s. In 2001, he began touring and releasing recordings with a new quartet comprising Danilo Pérez on piano, John Patitucci on bass, and Brian Blade on drums. Shorter, who originally studied as a visual artist, continues to pursue the visual arts as well as music.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Speak No Evil*, Blue Note, 1964
- Miles Davis, *Miles Smiles*, Columbia, 1966
- Weather Report, *Live in Tokyo*, Columbia, 1972
- Herbie Hancock/Wayne Shorter, *1+1*, Verve, 1997
- Alegria*, Verve, 2003

Horace Silver

PIANIST COMPOSER

Born September 2, 1928 in Norwalk, CT

Horace Silver was the heart of the hard bop era, helping to form the influential Jazz Messengers and composing many blues and gospel-flavored songs that have become part of the jazz canon, including "Lonely Woman," "Song For My Father," "Señor Blues," "The Preacher," "Nica's Dream," and "Peace." His piano playing is heavily rhythmic, driving his musical colleagues to greater heights in their solos.

Silver was exposed to music at an early age, hearing Cape Verde Islands folk music from his father. Silver later used the island rhythms and flavor to great effect on his 1960s albums *Song For My Father* and *Cape Verdean Blues*. He took up the saxophone and piano in high school, and was influenced early on by the blues of Memphis Slim, various boogie woogie piano players, and the bebop pianists Bud Powell and Thelonious Monk. After a 1950 stint backing guest soloist Stan Getz on a gig in Hartford, Connecticut, Silver was enlisted by Getz to join him on tour for the next year. Getz recorded three of Silver's earliest compositions, "Split Kick," "Potter's Luck," and "Penny."

In 1951, he moved to New York and quickly found work

with Coleman Hawkins, Bill Harris, Oscar Pettiford, Lester Young, and **Art Blakey**. In 1952, as a result of a Lou Donaldson record session, he began what became a 28-year relationship with the Blue Note label. Between 1953-55 he played in a band called the Jazz Messengers, co-led by Blakey. The band was at the forefront of the hard bop movement that followed bebop. By 1956, Silver formed his own band and Blakey maintained the Jazz Messengers name as his own. Both Silver's band and the Jazz Messengers turned out to be proving grounds for a number of exceptional, aspiring musicians. Among those who passed through his band were **Art Farmer**, **Donald Byrd**, **Joe Henderson**, Blue Mitchell, Charles Tolliver, Stanley Turrentine, Woody Shaw, and Randy and Michael Brecker. Silver's terse, funky playing has influenced pianists as disparate as **Herbie Hancock** and **Cecil Taylor**. For several years in the 1980s, he recorded on his own Silverto label, writing lyrics to his compositions with a decidedly metaphysical bent. In the 1990s, he returned to the hard bop sound he helped create.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Horace Silver and the Jazz Messengers, Blue Note, 1954

Blowin' the Blues Away, Blue Note, 1959

Song For My Father, Blue Note, 1964

Cape Verdean Blues, Blue Note, 1965

The Hardbop Grandpop, GRP, 1996

Photo by Lee Tanner



Jimmy Smith

ORGANIST

Born December 8, 1928 in Norristown, PA
Died February 8, 2005

Jimmy Smith personified the jazz organ revolution. He raised the organ—specifically the legendary Hammond B3, over which he reigned during the 1950s and 1960s—from a novelty instrument in jazz to primary status.

Having first learned piano from his parents in his native Norristown, Pennsylvania, he was playing stride piano by 14 and performing with his father by the early 1940s. He joined the Navy at age 15 and after discharge attended the Hamilton School of Music (1948) and Ornstein's School of Music (1949-50), where he studied bass and piano. He then switched to the Hammond organ, woodshedding in a warehouse for a year.

Inspired by the great horn players of the day—Don Byas, Arnett Cobb, Coleman Hawkins—as well as by pianists Art Tatum, Erroll Garner, and Bud Powell, he cut the tremolo off and began playing horn lines with his right hand. He also created a new organ registration to simulate Garner's sound, establishing the standard for jazz organists who would follow.

Jimmy Smith's burgeoning reputation soon took him to New York, where he debuted at Café Bohemia. His fame grew with his influential Blue

Note recordings (1956-63), including brilliant collaborations with **Kenny Burrell**, Lou Donaldson, **Jackie McLean**, Wes Montgomery, Lee Morgan, Ike Quebec, and Stanley Turrentine. His appearances at Birdland and the 1957 Newport Jazz Festival solidified his international prominence as the first jazz organ star.

He toured extensively through the 1960s and 1970s and continued to release hit albums, this time on Verve (1963-72), including several big band recordings with such stellar arrangers as Oliver Nelson and Lalo Schiffrin. His reputation in the 1990s was enhanced by the sampling of his Verve work by rap group the Beastie Boys on the song "Root Down."

He recorded for the Blue Note and Milestone labels in the late 1980s through the 1990s, and in 2001 released his first new recording after a five-year layoff: *Dot Com Blues*, which featured guest appearances by Dr. John, Taj Mahal, Etta James, Keb' Mo', and B.B. King.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

A New Sound, A New Star: Jimmy Smith at the Organ, Vols. 1-2, Blue Note, 1956

The Sermon!, Blue Note, 1958

Root Down, Verve, 1972

Fourmost, Milestone, 1990

Dot Com Blues, Verve, 2000

Sun Ra

KEYBOARDIST COMPOSER ARRANGER BANDLEADER

Born May 22, 1914 in Birmingham, AL
Died May 30, 1993

Sun Ra was one of the most unusual musicians in the history of jazz, moving from Fletcher Henderson swing to free jazz with ease, sometimes in the same song. Portraying himself as a product of outer space, he "traveled the spaceways" with a colorful troupe of musicians, using a multitude of percussion and unusual instrumentation, from tree drum to celeste.

Sun Ra, who enjoyed cloaking his origins and development in mystery, is known to have studied piano early on with Lula Randolph in Washington, DC. His first noted professional job was during 1946-47 as pianist with the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra at the Club DeLisa on the South Side of Chicago. In addition to playing piano in the band he also served as one of the staff arrangers. Finding his calling as an

arranger, he put together a band to play his compositions. In the 1950s, he began issuing recordings of his unusual music on his Saturn label, becoming one of the first jazz musicians to record and sell his own albums.

Sun Ra's band became a central part of the early avant-garde jazz movement in Chicago, being one of the first jazz bands to employ electronic

instruments (as early as 1956), including electric piano, clavichord, celeste, and synthesizers. In 1960, he moved his band to New York, where he established a communal home for his musicians, known as The Sun Palace. In March 1966, the band began one of its most significant residencies, playing every Monday night at Slug's nightclub on New York's Lower East Side.

By the 1970s, the Sun Ra Arkestra and its various permutations began touring Europe extensively. His band had by then expanded to include singers, dancers, martial arts practitioners, film, and colorful, homemade costumes, becoming a true multimedia attraction. Their performances would often stretch on for hours, including hypnotic, chanting processions through the audience. Sun Ra's global following had become significant, though his recordings had become sporadic. His arrangements of his songs, however, were among the best in jazz. He made excellent use of his soloists, especially the great tenor saxophonist John Gilmore, alto saxophonist Marshall Allen, and baritone saxophonist Pat Patrick, all of whom were with the Arkestra on and off for decades.

An outsider who linked the African American experience with ancient Egyptian mythology and outer space, Sun Ra was years ahead of all other avant-garde musicians in his experimentation with sound and instruments, a pioneer in group improvisations and the use of electric instruments in jazz. Since Sun Ra's death, the Arkestra has continued to perform under the direction of Allen.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- The Singles*, Evidence, 1954-82
- Jazz in Silhouette*, Evidence, 1958
- The Heliocentric Worlds of Sun Ra, Vol. 1 & 2*, ESP, 1965
- Space is the Place*, Evidence, 1972
- Purple Night*, A&M, 1989

Photo by Bob Parent



Billy

Taylor

PIANIST COMPOSER EDUCATOR BROADCASTER

Born July 24, 1921 in Greenville, NC

Although well respected for his tasteful, non-intrusive accompaniment as a sideman, Billy Taylor is known for his championing of jazz music, especially through his various broadcasting and educational ventures.

After growing up in Washington, DC and studying music at Virginia State College, where he earned a degree in Music in 1942, Taylor moved to New York. He spent the 1940s frequently playing the clubs on New York's famed 52nd Street, performing with greats such as Charlie Parker, **Dizzy Gillespie**, Ben Webster, Stuff Smith, Machito, Slam Stewart, and Don Redman. His adroit abilities enabled him to freely cross over from swing to the then-burgeoning modern jazz called bebop.

In the 1950s, he served as the ideal sideman, finding work with **Roy Eldridge**, Oscar Pettiford, and Lee Konitz while employed as house pianist at Birdland in 1951. Beginning in 1952 he became a bandleader, primarily heading trios with bass and drums.

Taylor started in radio with a program in the 1960s on WLJB in New York. From 1969-72 he was house bandleader for the David Frost television show, and in the 1970s also served as host-director of the NPR syndicated *Jazz Alive* radio series. Since 1981, Taylor has profiled some of the biggest names in jazz as an interviewer and reporter for CBS television's *Sunday Morning* program.

As a jazz educator, Taylor's experience has been vast, starting with authoring a series of beginning piano primers. He was a founder of New York's successful Jazzmobile community performance and school-without-walls, beginning in 1965. He earned his doctorate in Music at the University of Massachusetts in 1975, with a dissertation on *The History and Development of Jazz Piano: A New Perspective for Educators*. Taylor has subsequently taught at Yale, Manhattan School of Music, Howard University, University of California, Fredonia State University, and C.W. Post College. His experience at the University of Massachusetts led to a lead faculty position at the university's annual summer intensive, *Jazz in July*.

As a composer he has written a number of commissioned works, his most well known composition being "I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to be Free." In the 1990s, Billy Taylor became artistic director of the Jazz at the Kennedy Center program in his adopted hometown, Washington, DC, from which emanated his syndicated NPR radio series, *Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center*. He has also served on the NEA's National Council on the Arts. Taylor worked with the National Endowment for the Arts as chairman of the advisory group for a research project that studied the financial condition and needs of jazz artists in four cities: New York, Detroit, New Orleans, and San Francisco.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Cross-Section,*
Original Jazz Classics, 1953-54
- My Fair Lady Loves Jazz,* Impulse!, 1965
- White Nights and Jazz in Leningrad,*
Taylor-Made Music, 1988
- It's a Matter of Pride,* GRP, 1993
- Live at the IAJE, New York,*
Soundpost, 2001



Photo by Michael Wildeman

Cecil Taylor

PIANIST COMPOSER

Born March 15, 1929 in New York, NY

Cecil Taylor is one of the most uncompromisingly gifted pianists in jazz history, utilizing a nearly overwhelming orchestral facility on the piano. While his work has elicited controversy almost from the start, Taylor's artistic vision has never swayed.

At his mother's urging he began piano studies at age five. He later studied percussion, which undoubtedly influenced his highly percussive keyboard style. At age 23 he studied at the New England Conservatory, concentrating on piano and music theory. He immersed himself in 20th century classical composers, including Stravinsky, and found sustenance for his jazz proclivities in the work of Lennie Tristano and **Dave Brubeck**. Later Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, and **Horace Silver** began to influence his playing. By 1956 he was working as a professional, taking a prolonged engagement at New York's Five Spot Cafe, recording his first album, *Jazz Advance*, and making his Newport Jazz Festival debut.

Playing in the manner he did—an aggressive style of almost assaulting the piano, sometimes breaking keys and strings—presented challenges in terms of finding steady work. Taylor struggled to find gigs for most of the 1950s and 1960s, despite being recognized by *Down Beat* magazine

in its "New Star" poll category. He eventually found work overseas, touring Scandinavian countries during the winter of 1962-63 with his trio, including Jimmy Lyons on alto saxophone, and Sunny Murray on drums. His approach had evolved to incorporate clusters and a dense rhythmic sensibility, coupled with sheer physicality that often found him addressing the keyboard with open palms, elbows and forearms. His solo piano recordings are some of the most challenging and rewarding to listen to in all of jazz.

Controversy has continued to follow him throughout his career. Fortunately, his work as a pianist and composer gained much-needed momentum in the 1970s and beyond, as touring and recording opportunities increased, largely overseas, though finding regular work for his uncompromising style of music still remains a struggle. Throughout his career, he has worked with many important, like-minded musicians, including Archie Shepp, Albert Ayler, Steve Lacy, Sam Rivers, **Max Roach**, the Art Ensemble of Chicago, and a host of European and Scandinavian musicians. His influence on the avant-garde, especially of the 1960s and 1970s, in terms of performance and composition is enormous.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Jazz Advance, Blue Note, 1956

3 Phasis, New World, 1978

For Olim, Soul Note, 1986

Alms/Tiegarten, FMP, 1988

The Willisau Concert, Intakt, 2000



Clark

Terry

Born December 14, 1920 in St. Louis, MO

TRUMPETER FLUGELHORNIST VOCALIST EDUCATOR

Clark Terry is the consummate freelance musician, able to add a distinctive element to whatever band or jam session of which he is a part. His exuberant, swinging horn playing was an important contribution to two of the greatest big bands in jazz, **Count Basie's** and **Duke Ellington's**. In addition, his use of the flugelhorn as an alternative to trumpet influenced **Art Farmer** and **Miles Davis**, among others.

In high school, Terry took up the valve trombone, later playing the bugle with the Tom Powell Drum and Bugle Corps. Upon his discharge in 1945, he found work with **Lionel Hampton's** band. He rounded out the 1940s playing with bands led by Charlie Barnet, Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Charlie Ventura, and George Hudson. From 1948-51, Terry was a member of Basie's big band and octet.

Terry's reputation grew with Ellington's band, with whom he worked from 1951-59, often featured as a soloist on trumpet and flugelhorn. He also led his own recording dates during this time. After working with Quincy Jones in 1959-60, he found steady work as a freelance studio artist, eventually becoming a staff musician at NBC. As a member of the *Tonight Show* orchestra—one

of the first African American musicians employed in a television house band—he came to prominence through his popular "Mumbles" persona, his unique way of mumbling a scat vocal solo. He worked and recorded with artists such as **J.J. Johnson**, Oscar Peterson, and **Ella Fitzgerald**, then co-led a quintet with **Bob Brookmeyer**.

Thereafter he led his own small and large bands, including his Big Bad Band, beginning in 1972. He also became part of Norman Granz's traveling all-stars, Jazz at the Philharmonic.

As a jazz educator he was one of the earliest active practitioners to take time off from the road to enter the classroom, conducting numerous clinics and jazz camps. This work culminated in his own music school at Teikyo Westmar University in Le Mars, Iowa. A distinctive stylist on his horns, he is also a consummate entertainer,

often alternating trumpet and flugelhorn in a solo duel with himself in concerts. He continues to play in both the U.S. and Europe, recording and performing in a wide variety of settings, such as the *One-on-One* recording of duets with 14 different pianists.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Duke with a Difference,
Original Jazz Classics, 1957

In Orbit, Original Jazz Classics, 1958

Mellow Moods, Prestige, 1961-62

The Clark Terry Spacemen, Chiaroscuro, 1976

One-on-One, Chesky Jazz, 2000



McCoy

Tyner

PIANIST COMPOSER

Born December 11, 1938 in Philadelphia, PA

McCoy Tyner's powerful, propulsive style of piano playing was an integral part of the John Coltrane Quartet in the early 1960s and influenced countless musicians that followed him. His rich chord clusters continue to be copied by many young jazz pianists.

Growing up in Philadelphia, Tyner's neighbors were jazz musicians Richie and Bud Powell, who were very influential to his piano playing. Studying music at the West Philadelphia Music School and later at the Granoff School of Music, Tyner began playing gigs in his teens, and first met Coltrane while performing at a local club called the Red Rooster at age 17. His first important professional gig was with the **Benny Golson – Art Farmer** band Jazztet in 1959, with whom he made his recording debut.

Soon he began working with Coltrane, a relationship that produced some of the most influential music in jazz. From 1960-65, Tyner played a major role in the success of the Coltrane quartet (which included **Elvin Jones** on drums and **Jimmy Garrison** on bass), using rich-textured harmonies as rhythmic devices against Coltrane's "sheets of sound" saxophone playing.

After leaving the quartet, Tyner demonstrated his tremendous melodic and rhythmic flair for composition on such albums as *The Real McCoy*, which featured "Passion Dance," "Contemplation," and "Blues on the Corner," and *Sahara*, which featured "Ebony Queen" and the title track.

Tyner has continued to experiment with his sound, pushing rhythms and tonalities to the limit, his fluttering right hand creating a cascade of notes. In particular, he has explored the trio form, recording with a series of different bassists and drummers, such as **Ron Carter**, Art Davis, Stanley Clarke, Elvin Jones, Tony Williams, and Al Foster. In the 1980s, he recorded with a singer for the first time, Phylis Hyman.

In the 1990s, he led a big band in new arrangements of previously recorded songs, used Latin American rhythms and forms, and revealed the romantic side of his playing with a surprising album of Burt Bacharach songs. While experimenting with his sound,

Tyner has eschewed the use of electric pianos, preferring the warm sound of an acoustic piano, and earned four Grammy Awards for his recordings. A dynamic performer in live settings, Tyner has continued to tour steadily with his excellent, longtime trio: Avery Sharpe on bass and Aaron Scott on drums.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

John Coltrane, *My Favorite Things*, Atlantic, 1960

The Real McCoy, Blue Note, 1967

Sahara, Original Jazz Classics, 1972

Remembering John, Enja, 1991

Land of Giants, Telarc, 2002

Photo by Bob Parent



Sarah

Vaughan

VOCALIST PIANIST

Born March 27, 1924 in Newark, NJ

Died April 3, 1990

The power, range, and flexibility of her voice made Sarah Vaughan, known as “Sassy” or “The Divine One,” one of the great singers in jazz. With her rich, controlled tone and vibrato, she could create astounding performances on jazz standards, often adding bop-oriented phrasing. Along with Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald, Vaughan helped popularize the art of jazz singing, influencing generations of vocalists following her.

Vaughan began singing at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in her native Newark, and started extensive piano lessons at age seven. Winner of the amateur contest at the Apollo Theatre, Vaughan was hired by Earl Hines for his big band as a second pianist and singer on the recommendation of Billy Eckstine in 1943. She joined Eckstine’s band in 1944-45, and made the first recording under her own name in December 1944.

After leaving Eckstine, Sarah worked briefly in the John Kirby band, and thereafter was primarily a vocal soloist. Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie often sang her praises, assisting her in gaining recognition, particularly in musicians’ circles. They worked with her on a May 25, 1945 session as well, which was highlighted by her vocal version of Gillespie’s “A Night in Tunisia,” called “Interlude” on the album. Her first husband, trumpeter-

bandleader George Treadwell, helped re-make her “look” and she began to work and record more regularly, starting in 1949 with Columbia Records. In the 1960s, Vaughan made records with bandleaders such as Count Basie, Benny Carter, Frank Foster, and Quincy Jones on the Mercury and Roulette labels among others. It was during this time that her level of international recognition began to grow as she toured widely, generally accompanied by a trio, and on occasion doing orchestra dates.

These large ensemble dates ranged from the Boston Pops to the Cleveland Orchestra as her voice became recognized as one of the most beautiful and versatile in all of jazz, blessed with a range that literally went from baritone to soprano. In the 1970s and 1980s, her voice darkened, providing a deeper and all the more alluring tone.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

1944-46, Classics, 1944-46

In Hi-Fi, Columbia/Legacy, 1949-53

The Complete Sarah Vaughan on Mercury, Vol. 1, Mercury, 1954-56

Sarah Vaughan with Clifford Brown, Verve, 1955

The Duke Ellington Songbook, Vol. 1, Pablo, 1979



Photo by Lee Tanner

George
Wein

PRODUCER PIANIST

Born October 3, 1925 in Boston, MA

Jazz impresario George Wein is renowned for his work in organizing and booking music festivals, and in particular for creating the Newport Jazz Festival, an event that in the words of the late jazz critic Leonard Feather started the “festival era.”

A professional pianist from his early teens, George Wein went on to lead his own band in and around his native Boston, frequently accompanying visiting jazz musicians.

In 1950, he opened his own club in Boston, formed the Storyville record label, and launched his career as a jazz entrepreneur. In 1954, he was invited to organize the first

Newport Jazz Festival. He subsequently played an important role in establishing numerous other international festivals, including the annual Grande Parade du Jazz in Nice, located in the south of France. In 1969, George Wein established Festival Productions, Inc., which has offices in six cities and produces hundreds of musical events internationally, each year.

Still active in producing his festivals at age 80, George Wein serves on the executive board of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and is an Honorary Trustee of Carnegie Hall. In addition to carrying on this work, he is an author, whose autobiography *Myself Among Others* was recognized by the Jazz Journalists Association as 2004’s best book about jazz, and continues to perform as a pianist with his group, the Newport All-Stars.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Wein, Women & Song*, Atlantic, 1955
- George Wein & the Newport All-Stars*, Impulse!, 1962
- George Wein’s Newport All-Stars*, Atlantic, 1969
- European Tour*, Concord Jazz, 1987
- Swing That Music*, Columbia, 1993



Photo by Lee Tanner

Randy

Weston

PIANIST COMPOSER

Born April 6, 1926 in Brooklyn, NY

Randy Weston has spent most of his career combining the rich music of the African continent with the African American tradition of jazz, mixing rhythms and melodies into a hybrid musical stew.

Weston received his earliest training from private teachers in a household that nurtured his budding musicianship. Growing up in Brooklyn, Weston was influenced by such peers as saxophonist Cecil Payne and trumpeter Ray Copeland as well as the steady influx of great jazz musicians who frequented Brooklyn clubs and jam sessions on a regular basis. Such musicians as Thelonious Monk and Duke Ellington would have a lasting influence on Weston's music, both in terms of his piano playing and composition.

After a 1945 stint in the Army, Weston began playing piano with such rhythm and blues bands as Bull Moose Jackson and Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson. At the Music Inn educational retreat in Lenox, Massachusetts in 1954, he took work as a cook during the summer, while playing the piano at night. The head of Riverside Records heard him and signed Weston to do a record of Cole Porter standards.

Weston's recording sessions frequently included contributions from his Brooklyn neighborhood buddies Copeland, Payne, and bassist Ahmed Abdul-Malik. It was at this early juncture that he also began his long and fruitful musical partnership with trombonist-arranger **Melba Liston** (a listing of some of the albums on which they collaborated can be

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Uhuru Africa/Highlife,
Roulette, 1960-63

Blues to Africa, Arista/Freedom, 1974

Portraits of Monk, Verve, 1989

The Spirit of Our Ancestors,
Verve, 1991

Spirit! The Power of Music,
Sunnyside, 2000

found in the Liston Selected Discography), a relationship that would continue until her death in 1999, forming some of Weston's best recordings.

Weston's interest in the African continent was sparked at an early age, and he lectured and performed in Africa in the early 1960s. He toured 14 African countries with his ensemble in 1967 on a State Department tour, eventually settling in Rabat, Morocco. He later moved to Tangier, opening the African

Rhythms Club in 1969. It was in Morocco that Weston first forged unique collaborations with Berber and Gnawan musicians, infusing his jazz with African music and rhythms.

Since returning to the U.S. in 1972, he has lived in Brooklyn, traveling extensively overseas with bands that generally include trombonist Benny Powell and longtime musical director, saxophonist Talib Kibwe (aka T.K. Blue). In recent years, a number of Weston's U.S. concert appearances have been true events, including 1998 and 1999 Brooklyn and Kennedy Center collaborations with the Master Musicians of Gnawa, and a triumphant 1998 recreation of his masterwork suite "Uhuru Africa" in Brooklyn. Many of Weston's compositions, such as "Hi Fly" and "Berkshire Blues," have become jazz standards.



Photo by Bob Parent

Joe

Williams

VOCALIST

Born December 12, 1918 in Cordele, GA
Died March 29, 1999

Joe Williams' versatile baritone voice made him one of the signature male vocalists in jazz annals, responsible for some of the **Count Basie** band's main hits in the 1950s.

Though born in Georgia, Williams was raised in that great haven of the blues, Chicago, Illinois. His first professional job came with clarinetist Jimmie Noone in 1937. In the 1940s, in addition to singing in Chicago area groups, he worked with the big bands of Coleman Hawkins, **Lionel Hampton**, and **Andy Kirk**. Later he sang with two of Cafe Society's renowned pianists, Albert Ammons and Pete Johnson. From 1950-53, he worked mostly with the Red Saunders band. What came after would be a job he would cherish and return to frequently throughout his career: fronting the Count Basie band. Often referred to jokingly as "Count Basie's #1 son," he stepped right into the band upon the departure of Jimmy Rushing. Williams was the perfect replacement in that he did not just duplicate

Rushing's vocal style, but offered a new range of opportunities for Basie to use. Williams' sound was smoother, strong on ballads and blues, while Rushing was a more aggressive singer, best on the up-tempo numbers.

Williams' hits with the Basie band included "Alright, Okay, You Win," "The Comeback," and what would become one of his most requested tunes, "Every Day." Starting in the 1960s, he was a vocal soloist, fronting trios led by such pianists as Norman Simmons and Junior Mance. Simmons would later become his longest tenured musical director-pianist. He also toured with fellow Basie alumnus **Harry "Sweets" Edison**. He continued to expand his range, becoming a superior crooner and exhibiting a real depth of feeling on ballads.

Among his many awards and citations were a number of jazz poll commendations and honors. Late in life, he had a recurring role on the *Cosby Show* television program as the star's father-in-law.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Every Day—The Best of the Verve Years, Verve, 1955-90

Count Basie, *Count Basie Swings/ Joe Williams Sings*, Verve, 1955-56

Count Basie, *Count on the Coast, Vol. 1 & 2*, Phontastic, 1958

Me and the Blues, RCA, 1963

Here's to Life, Telarc, 1993

Photo by Ray Avery/CTSIIMAGES



Gerald

Wilson

TRUMPETER COMPOSER ARRANGER BANDLEADER

Born September 4, 1918 in Shelby, MS

Gerald Wilson's use of multiple harmonies is a hallmark of his big bands, earning him a reputation as a leading composer and arranger. His band was one of the greats in jazz, leaning heavily on the blues but integrating other styles. His arrangements influenced many musicians that came after him, including multi-instrumentalist Eric Dolphy, who dedicated the song "G.W." to Wilson on his 1960 release *Outward Bound*.

Wilson started out on the piano, learning from his mother, then taking formal lessons and classes in high school in Memphis, Tennessee. The family moved to Detroit in 1934, enabling him to study in the noted music program at Cass Tech High School. As a professional trumpeter, his first jobs were with the Plantation Club Orchestra. He took Sy Oliver's place in the Jimmie Lunceford band in 1939, remaining in the seat until 1942, when he moved to Los Angeles.

In California, he gained work in the bands of **Benny Carter**, Les Hite, and Phil Moore. When the Navy sent him to its Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Chicago, he found work in Willie Smith's

band. He put together his own band in late 1944, which included **Melba Liston**, and replaced the Duke Ellington band at the Apollo Theatre when they hit New York. Wilson's work as a composer-arranger enabled him to work for the **Count Basie** and **Dizzy Gillespie** bands. Wilson then accompanied Billie Holiday on her tour of the South in 1949.

In the early 1960s, he again led his own big bands. His series of Pacific Jazz recordings established his unique harmonic voice, and Mexican culture—especially the bullfight tradition—influenced his work. His appearance at the 1963 Monterey Jazz Festival increased his popularity.

He has contributed his skill as an arranger and composer to artists ranging from Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, and **Ella Fitzgerald** to the Los Angeles Philharmonic to his guitarist-son Anthony. Additionally he has been a radio broadcaster at KBCA and a frequent jazz educator. Among his more noted commissions was one for the 40th anniversary of the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1998.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- 1945-46, *Classics*, 1945-46
- Love You Madly*, Discovery, 1982
- State Street Sweet*, Mama, 1995
- Theme For Monterey*, Mama, 1998
- New York, New Sound*, Mack Avenue, 2003



Photo by Lee Fanner

Nancy Wilson

VOCALIST BROADCASTER

Born February 20, 1937 in Chillicothe, OH

Nancy Wilson first found her voice singing in church choirs, but found her love of jazz in her father's record collection. It included albums by Little Jimmy Scott, Nat "King" Cole, Billy Eckstine, Dinah Washington, and Ruth Brown; this generation of vocalists had a profound influence on Wilson's singing style. She began performing on the Columbus, Ohio club circuit while still in high school, and in 1956 she became a member of Rusty Bryant's Carolyn Club Band.

She also sat in with various performers, such as Julian "Cannonball" Adderley, who suggested that she come to New York. When Wilson took his advice, her distinctive voice enchanted a representative from Capitol Records and she was signed in 1959. In the years that followed, Wilson recorded 37 original albums for the label. Her first hit, "Guess Who I Saw Today," came in 1961. One year later, a collaborative album with Adderley solidified her standing in the jazz community and provided the foundation for her growing fame and career. During her years with Capitol, she was second in sales only to the

Beatles, surpassing Frank Sinatra, the Beach Boys, and even Nat King Cole.

Wilson also has worked in television, where in 1968 she won an Emmy Award for her NBC series, *The Nancy Wilson Show*. She has performed on *The Andy Williams Show* and *The Carol Burnett Show* and has appeared in series such as *Hawaii Five-O*, *The Cosby Show*, *Moesha*, and *The Parkers*.

Although she often has crossed over to pop and rhythm-and-blues recordings, she still is best known for her jazz performances.

In the 1980s, she returned to jazz with a series of performances with such jazz greats as **Art Farmer**, **Benny Golson**, and **Hank Jones**. And to start the new century, Wilson teamed with pianist Ramsey Lewis for a pair of highly regarded recordings.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including honorary degrees from Berklee School of Music and Central State University in Ohio. Wilson can be heard on National Public Radio as the host of *Jazz Profiles*, a weekly documentary series.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Nancy Wilson and Cannonball Adderley, Capitol, 1962

Yesterday's Love Songs—Today's Blues, Capitol, 1963

But Beautiful, Blue Note, 1969

Ramsey Lewis & Nancy Wilson, *Meant To Be*, Narada, 2002

R.S.V.P. (Rare Songs, Very Personal), MCG Jazz, 2004

Photo by Bob Parent



Teddy

Wilson

PIANIST ARRANGER EDUCATOR

Born November 24, 1912 in Austin, TX
Died July 31, 1986

Teddy Wilson was one of the swing era's finest pianists, a follower of Earl Hines' distinctive "trumpet-style" piano playing. Wilson forged his own unique approach from Hines' influence, as well as from the styles of Art Tatum and Fats Waller. He was a truly orchestral pianist who engaged the complete range of his instrument, and he did it all in a slightly restrained, wholly dignified manner at the keyboard.

Raised in Tuskegee, Alabama, Wilson studied piano at nearby Talladega College for a short time. Among his first professional experiences were Chicago stints in the bands of Jimmie Noone and Louis Armstrong. In 1933, he moved to New York to join **Benny Carter's** band known as the Chocolate Dandies, and made records with the Willie Bryant band during 1934-35. In 1936, he became a member of Benny Goodman's regular trio, which included drummer Gene Krupa, and remained until 1939, participating on a number of Goodman's small group recordings. Wilson was the first African American musician to work with Goodman, one of the first to integrate a jazz band. Wilson later appeared as himself in the cinematic treatment of *The Benny Goodman Story*.

During his time with Goodman, Wilson made some of his first recordings as a leader. These records featured such greats as Lester Young, Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, and **Ella Fitzgerald**. Wilson's arrangements with Holiday in particular constitutes some of the singer's finest work, mostly due to Wilson's ability to find the right sound to complement Holiday's voice and singing style.

Following his Goodman days, he led his own big band for a short time, but most of his work came with his own small groups, particularly a sextet that played regularly at the famous Cafe Society in New York. In 1946, he was a staff musician at CBS Radio, and also conducted his own music school. During the early 1950s, he taught at the Juilliard School, one of the first jazz musicians to do so. Wilson's relationship with Goodman was his most noted, and was an ongoing factor in his work. He was part of Goodman's storied Soviet tour in 1962, and continued to work occasional festival gigs with the enigmatic clarinetist.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

1934-35, *Classics*, 1934-35

Benny Goodman, *The Complete Small Group Recordings*, RCA, 1935-39

Masters of Jazz, Vol. 11, Storyville, 1968-80

With Billie in Mind, Chiaroscuro, 1972

Runnin' Wild, Black Lion, 1973



1982–2006

1982

ROY ELDRIDGE*
DIZZY GILLESPIE*
SUN RA*

1983

COUNT BASIE*
KENNY CLARKE*
SONNY ROLLINS

1984

ORNETTE COLEMAN
MILES DAVIS*
MAX ROACH

1985

GIL EVANS*
ELLA FITZGERALD*
JO JONES*

1986

BENNY CARTER*
DEXTER GORDON*
TEDDY WILSON*

1987

CLEO BROWN*
MELBA LISTON*
JAY MCSHANN

1988

ART BLAKEY*
LIONEL HAMPTON*
BILLY TAYLOR

1989

BARRY HARRIS
HANK JONES
SARAH VAUGHAN*

1990

GEORGE RUSSELL
CECIL TAYLOR
GERALD WILSON

1991

DANNY BARKER*
BUCK CLAYTON*
ANDY KIRK*
CLARK TERRY

1992

BETTY CARTER*
DOROTHY DONEGAN*
SWEETS EDISON*

1993

JON HENDRICKS
MILT HINTON*
JOE WILLIAMS*

1994

LOUIE BELLSON
AHMAD JAMAL
CARMEN MCRAE*

1995

RAY BROWN*
ROY HAYNES
HORACE SILVER

1996

TOMMY FLANAGAN*
BENNY GOLSON
J.J. JOHNSON*

1997

BILLY HIGGINS*
MILT JACKSON*
ANITA O'DAY

1998

RON CARTER
JAMES MOODY
WAYNE SHORTER

1999

DAVE BRUBECK
ART FARMER*
JOE HENDERSON*

2000

DAVID BAKER
DONALD BYRD
MARIAN MCPARTLAND

2001

JOHN LEWIS*
JACKIE MCLEAN
RANDY WESTON

2002

FRANK FOSTER
PERCY HEATH*
MCCOY TYNER

2003

JIMMY HEATH
ELVIN JONES*
ABBEY LINCOLN

2004

JIM HALL
CHICO HAMILTON
HERBIE HANCOCK
LUTHER HENDERSON*
NAT HENTOFF
NANCY WILSON

2005

KENNY BURRELL
PAQUITO D'RIVERA
SLIDE HAMPTON
SHIRLEY HORN*
JIMMY SMITH*
ARTIE SHAW*
GEORGE WEIN

2006

RAY BARRETTO
TONY BENNETT
BOB BROOKMEYER
CHICK COREA
BUDDY DEFranCO
FREDDIE HUBBARD
JOHN LEVY

* DECEASED

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This publication is published by:
National Endowment for the Arts
Office of Communications
Felicia Knight, Director
Don Ball, Publications Manager

3rd Edition: 2006

Designed by:
Fletcher Design, Washington DC

Cover Photo of NEA Jazz Masters
Dizzy Gillespie and Ornette Coleman
at the Jazz Gallery in New York City,
December 5, 1960 by Bob Parent

Special Thanks:

Ray Avery (and Cynthia Sesso of CTSIMAGES), Vance Jacobs, Dale Parent (on behalf of Bob Parent), Tom Pich, Lee Tanner, and Michael Wilderman for the use of their photographs, A.B. Spellman for his introduction, and Wayne Brown, Jan Stunkard, Gail Syphax, Stuart Klawans, Willard Jenkins, and the International Association for Jazz Education for their contributions to the text.

The following reference texts were used in researching biographical information of the NEA Jazz Masters:

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Photo by Tom Pich

A Great Day for Jazz

Some of the greatest jazz musicians the world has ever known—all NEA Jazz Masters—were brought together by the National Endowment for the Arts for a historic reunion luncheon in New York City on January 23, 2004.

NEA Jazz Masters, left to right from back row: George Russell, Dave Brubeck; second row: David Baker, Percy Heath, Billy Taylor; third row: Nat Hentoff, Jim Hall, James Moody; fourth row: Jackie McLean, Chico Hamilton, Gerald Wilson, Jimmy Heath; fifth row: Ron Carter, Anita O'Day; sixth row: Randy Weston, Horace Silver; standing next to or in front of balustrade: Benny Golson, Hank Jones, Frank Foster (seated), Cecil Taylor, Roy Haynes, Clark Terry (seated) Louie Bellson, NEA Chairman Dana Gioia.

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