



Editor : Andrew Simons

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Harry Gold a Hit at Annual NJFA Talk

1997's NJFA celebrity talk in October was given by British jazz's favourite elder, the nonagenarian saxophonist Harry Gold. Although the multi-reed player has been playing professionally since 1923, Harry is perhaps best known for his band, the Pieces of Eight, which he organised in 1944. With Digby Fairweather as host, he commented on his many years as a touring and broadcasting musician and his preference in recent years for the bass sax.



Drum Roll Of Honour

Just a few of the jazz musicians who have played in order to benefit the NJFA. These top players can't be wrong ...

Trumpet-cornet player Digby Fairweather; saxophonist Alan Barnes; clarinettist Dave Shepherd; trombonists Campbell Burnap, Alastair Allen, Malcolm Earle Smith; pianist Stan Greig; guitarists Nevil Skrimshire, Alwyn Allsop; bassists Pete Skivington, Bob Bryan; drummer Stan Bourke



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Archival News

The recent flood of enquiries have been highlighted by researchers from the BBC and Uden Associates, who obtained material for two features: the former on the swing-era bandleader Ken 'Snakehips' Johnson, for the *Black Britain* series and the latter for Channel 4's six part Jazz Heroes series which is expected to be shown in the spring on Sunday evenings and highlights John Coltrane, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Wes Montgomery and Gerry Mulligan. Other enquirers have included: Michael Dynan, of *The Stage*; Peter Vacher, critic for both *Jazz Journal International* and *Jazzwise*; Ken Vail, author of landmark jazz biography reference books, *Lady Day's Diary* and *Bird's Diary*; ASV Group Marketing Manager Ray Crick and the ever-popular Jazz FM presenter Campbell Burnap.

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Donations

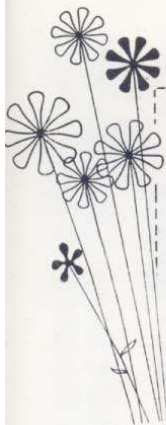
John Chilton donated his research files which were used to prepare his excellent reference work, *Who's Who of British Jazz*; Ian Andrew donated a run of *Archtop*, a magazine devoted to the jazz guitar;

Derek Coller donated a healthy run of *Blues Research* magazine; Digby Fairweather donated a collection of correspondence, photos and memorabilia of American cornetist Wild Bill Davison (1906-1989); Count Basie discographer Chris Sheridan kindly provided the 1996 issues of *Down Beat* which were not held by the Archive.



Tiny Winters' widow Lilian called in with Digby to donate a splendid **1933 caricature of Tiny by Sallon** and we also collected some excellent books from James Brenan the solicitor acting on behalf of the late Kenneth Wright.

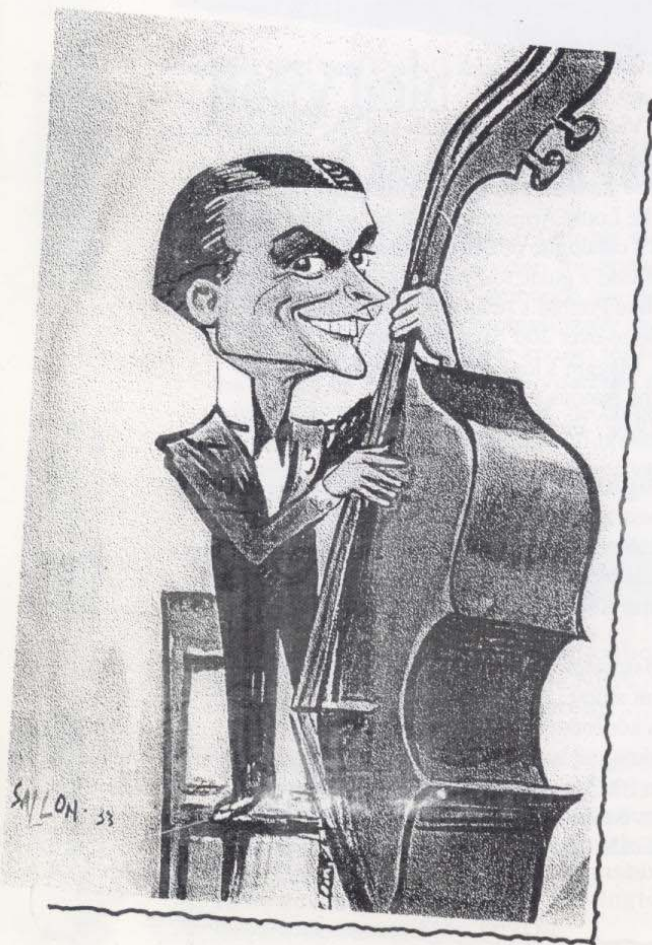




Open Day Delights

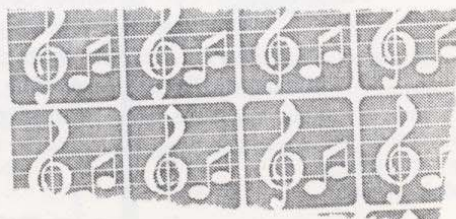


This year's NJFA Open Day will swing into summer on Saturday June 6th, as Digby Fairweather and Friends perform live and the British Library National Sound Archive's Andrew Simons gives a recital of rare recordings in the archive. A former librarian with Essex County Council himself, Dig and his cornet have livened up thousands of jazz gigs, ranging from small groups to the big bands. Andrew's recital, "Documenting the Jazz Fringe" will feature rare, never-published British jazz, and will illustrate the British Library's efforts to Hoover-up and preserve the Nation's aural jazz heritage. It is also intended to have a sale of vintage jazz books and magazines. Open Day's delights are free. The fun runs from 1.30 to 4.30 pm.



Charles Fox Collection - Manuscripts in Process

The Fox Collection is being arranged for public research use and thanks go to Brian Robinson, a volunteer helper, for his ongoing work. This voluminous collection includes correspondence, writings and collected publications and will serve researchers well. Mr. Fox was a jazz writer of long standing, who presented many programmes of diversified jazz and free improvisation on BBC Radio.



Acquisitions ...

The multi-volume *Jazz Discography* by Tom Lord continues to arrive at the Archive, volumes 16, 17 and 18 have just been received ensuring that the NJFA remains up to date on this important reference work that is generally too costly for most collectors to obtain.

Le Jazz Librarie Hot

Several eagerly awaited books have arrived on the shelves:

Back Beats and Rim Shots - The Johnny Blowers Story by noted double-bassist Warren Vache, Sr.

Black Beauty, White Heat - Frank Driggs' & Harris Lewine's voluminous photographic encyclopaedia of jazz.

A Century of Jazz, From Blues to Bop, Swing to Hip-Hop - Roy Carr's chronicle style account with many rare photos

Drummin' Men: Heartbeat of Jazz - The Swing Years - Burt Korall's survey of Stateside jazz's most notable percussionists.

The Greatest Slide Man Ever Born - Sid Bailey's discography of Kid Ory.

The Great Harry Reser - a biography by W. W. Triggs.

Jazz Album Covers: The Rare and the Beautiful - Manek Daver's rare 1994 Japanese-issued tome of vintage American jazz LP covers.

Jazz: A Photographic Documentary - Veteran music historian and *The Guardian* critic Richard Williams' excellent compilation of jazz images.

Louis Armstrong: An Extravagant Life - Laurence Bergreen's biography, the first to make broad use of material from the Louis Armstrong Archive in New York.

Simply Not Cricket - Philippe Renaud's catalogue of British recorded jazz, 1964-1994.

Sinatra - The Song Is You - Will Friedwald's guide to Frank Sinatra's recordings.

Singing Jazz - Bruce Crowther's & Mike Pinfold's review of the singers and their styles including an A-Z reference guide to over 200 jazz vocalists.

Stan Getz - A Life in Jazz - Donald L. Maggin's long-awaited biography of the turbulent tenor saxophonist with the famous serene style.

Swing City: Newark Nightlife, 1925-1950 - Barbara J. Kukla's history of jazz in the shadow of the Big Apple.

Swinging Big Bands - Into the 90s - Big band leader Al Raymond's reference work of contemporary American jazz orchestras, including arrangers and soloists.

Swing Legacy - Regular *Crescendo* & *Jazz Review* columnist Chip Deffaa's informative collection of jazz critical biography.

Talking Swing - BBC Radio 2 presenter Sheila Tracey's much-awaited interviews with leading British players

This Thing Called Swing - Christian Batchelor's historical comparison of swing music and swing dance, the first-ever joint study.

Wrappin' It Up - D. Russell Connor's addendum to his and other previous Benny

Goodman discographies, detailing the latest discoveries. Adding to our palate of magazines are *Jazzwise* (established in 1997 to document contemporary jazz), *Nostalgia* (UK) and *Avant* (free improvisation and jazz crossover). We are also obtaining three extra American periodicals - *Joslin's Jazz Journal*, *Past Times* and the New Orleans based *Jazz Beat*.