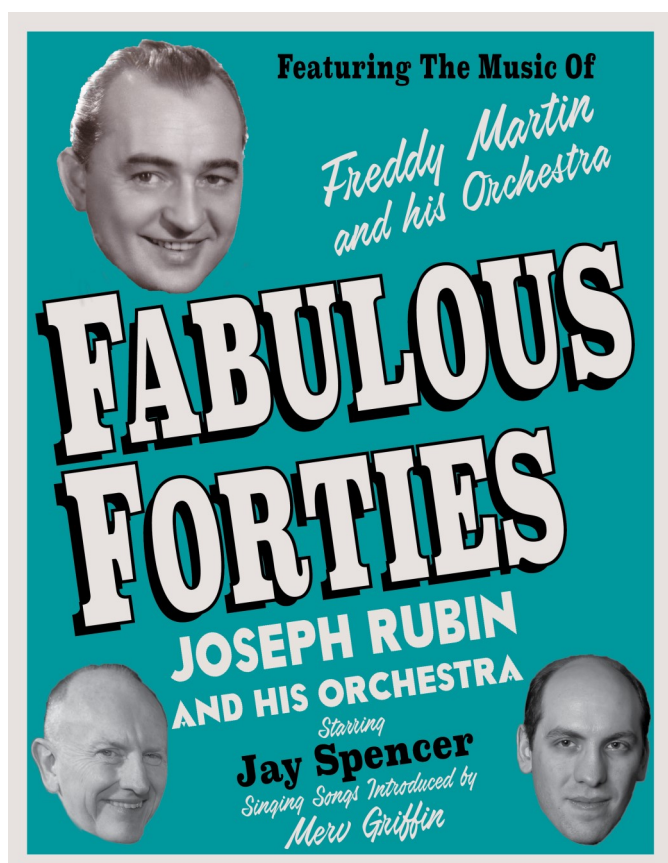


BIG BAND Alliance

JUNE 2020 NEWS

by JAY and CHRISTOPHER POPA



FREDDY MARTIN AND THE FABULOUS FORTIES

Conductor and historian Joseph Rubin was ready to do it again! For the first time since Martin's death in 1983, maestro Rubin was ready to play live the original arrangements of Freddy Martin and his Orchestra, as well as other favorites from "The Fabulous Forties."

That would have meant Martin's hits *Piano Concerto in B Flat*, *Bumble Boogie*, *Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor*, *Warsaw Concerto*, and a very special 26-song *Cavalcade of the Bands* medley.

The program was to take place this month at the Palace Theater in Canton, Ohio (Martin was born in Cleveland in 1906), but, like so many other events, it has been canceled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and rescheduled for 2021.

OTHER LIVE BIG BAND MUSIC

The Coronavirus has also played havoc with the schedules of the name big bands on the road. Until things can start to get back to normal, please keep checking these and other bands' websites for any updates about their performances.

COUNT BASIE: thecountbasieorchestra.com

JIMMY DORSEY: thejimmydorseyrchestra.com

TOMMY DORSEY: buddymorrowproductions.com

DUKE ELLINGTON: dukeellington.com

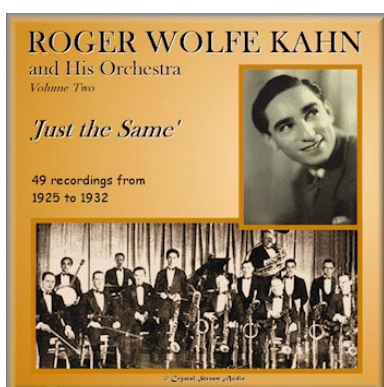
JAN GARBER: jangarber.com

HARRY JAMES: harryjamesband.com

GLENN MILLER: glennmillerorchestra.com

ARTIE SHAW: artieshaworchestra.com

COMPACT DISC REVIEWS



ROGER WOLFE KAHN AND HIS ORCHESTRA “Just the Same’: 49 recordings from 1925 to 1932” Crystal Stream IDCD 427~428

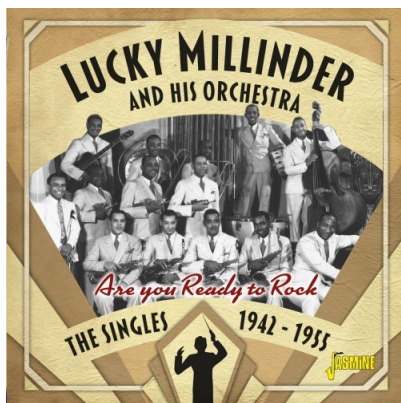
Normally, Roger Wolfe Kahn’s band, which started in the 1920s, is a little beyond the scope of our website. But we wanted to bring this new 2-CD release to your attention, for it includes recordings with some well-known names among Kahn’s sidemen. The music begins with Kahn’s first session for Victor on March 10, 1925—Kahn played saxophone on the date.

Starting with the second session, October 2, 1925, and going into 1929 (so that’s almost all of disc 1 and most of disc 2), Kahn’s band included Joe Venuti on violin. Among the songs from this period on the new CDs are *Look Who’s Here*, *Lucky Boy*, *I Can’t Believe That You’re in Love with Me*, and *You’re the Only One for Me*.

Jimmy Dorsey joined Kahn’s band on clarinet and alto saxophone in 1929, and is heard here on the selections *Pretty Little Thing* and *Heigh-Ho, Everybody, Heigh-Ho*.

There are about 10 recordings here of Kahn’s band from 1932 which included Artie Shaw on clarinet and alto sax. Songs such as *Lazy Day*, *My Silent Love*, *Tell Me Why you Smile*, *Mona Lisa*, *You’ve Got Me in the Palm of Your Hand*, and *I Can’t Believe It’s True*.

Crystal Stream has done a pretty good job with the sound. And where else could these recordings be found as easily?



LUCKY MILLINDER AND HIS ORCHESTRA
“Are You Ready to Rock: The Singles 1942—1955”
Jasmine JASCD 3152

Lots of people headed to the dance floors because of this music, since Millinder had a loud and enthusiastic band that played swing and rhythm and blues, and made for a good evening of entertainment.

A sampling of the 26 titles on this CD include *Shout*, *Sister, Shout*; *Who Threw the Whiskey in the Well*; *Shorty’s Got to Go*; *Let It Roll*; and *Ram-Bunk-Shush*.

Jasmine has produced a nice package—the only thing is, this music has been on CD several times including “The Very Best of Lucky Millinder” (Collectables COL-CD-2898), “Lucky Millinder: Ram-Bunk-Shush” (Charly CD 288), and “Lucky Millinder: Let It Roll Again: 1949-1955” (Rev-O-La CD BAND 7), not to mention the chronological Classics volumes.



LES BROWN AND HIS BAND OF RENOWN
“Meanwhile Back On the Bus”
Sounds of YesterYear DSOY 2186

Of course, Les Brown’s music also called countless people to the dance floor, and the smooth and swinging examples on this CD, such as *A Fine Romance*, *The Continental*, and *Come Rain Or Come Shine*, help to show why.

They come from three different broadcasts which emanated at the Hollywood Palladium. The first, from August 17, 1951, was heard over the CBS network. The second is a “One Night Stand” transcription, ONS 2032, done on May 17, 1949. And the third is another ONS disc, no.4539, from 1956.

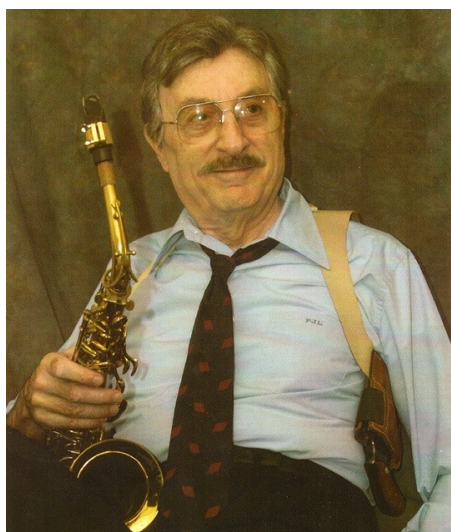
We wish Sounds of YesterYear would have used a different picture, because this exact same one was just used on a Les Brown CD which they released in March of this year. It’s a nice photo but why repeat it?

NECROLOGY

VIOLA “VI” MONTE, d.3/25/2020. Secretary to Harry James 1943-1983, wife of James band manager Pee Wee Monte. Her favorite Harry James record was *Melancholy Rhapsody*.



BOB OJEDA, 78, d.3/26/2020, pulmonary problems as a result of multiple surgeries. Trumpeter best-known as a member of The Count Basie Orchestra from 1985 to 2001.



PAT LONGO, 90, d.3/27/2020, complications from the coronavirus. Saxophonist with Harry James 1975-1978, leader of The Billy May Orchestra 1980s including 1983 “Billy May for President” album and a 14-day East Coast tour with Frank Sinatra, Jr., 1985.



BUCKY PIZZARELLI, 94, d.4/1/2020, coronavirus disease. (His wife of 66 years died one week later.) Guitarist with Vaughn Monroe ‘43 / ‘46; Benny Goodman ‘67 / ‘69 / ‘70 / ‘71 / ‘72 / ‘73 / ‘74 / ‘75 / ‘77 / ‘79 / ‘80; The Vaughn Monroe Orchestra directed by Dan Gabel 2017.



BETTY BENNETT, 98, d.4/7/2020. Vocalist with Claude Thornhill 1946, Alvino Rey 1947?, Charlie Ventura 1949, Benny Goodman 1959. First married to bassist Iggy Shevak, later became wife of guitarist Mundell Lowe. Wrote an autobiography, Ladies Who Sing with the Band (Scarecrow Press, 2000).



LEE KONITZ, 92 d.4/15/2020, pneumonia brought on by the coronavirus. Began his professional career with Teddy Powell in 1945, but the band broke shortly afterwards. Also worked with Jerry Wald off and on 1945-47, Claude Thornhill 1947-48, and, most famously, Stan Kenton 1952-54.



MICHAEL COGSWELL, 66, d.4/20/2020, complications from bladder cancer. Jazz archivist and historian who was associated with The Louis Armstrong House Museum in New York City for 27 years.

ONGOING RESEARCH

We recently created a select Necrology elsewhere on our website: from the homepage, choose the “More” tab, then the “Ready Reference” section, and scroll down to “Necrology.”

Also under “Ready Reference,” we compiled “Who Is Still Alive?: An Exploratory List.”

We invite your assistance. Contact us via email@bigbandalliance.com