

GHOST BANDS

MITCHELL AYRES

Harry Terrill and Marion Herrman, 1979?

BLUE BARRON

Tommy Ryan, early 1944—while Blue Barron was in the service

Kirk Wood, late 1944—while Blue Barron was in the service

COUNT BASIE

Eric Dixon, 1984* (unbilled)

Thad Jones, 1985-1986

Frank Foster, 1986-1995

Grover Mitchell, 1995-2003

Bill Hughes, 2003-9/12/2010

Dennis Mackrel, 9/13/2010-2013

Scotty Barnhart, 9/2013-

* Cab Calloway also fronted the Basie band for at least one appearance, but was never named its leader.





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Directed by Frank Foster



The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra
Scotty Barnhart, Director



TEX BENEKE ORCHESTRA



GHOST BANDS

TEX BENEKE

Jim Snodgrass, 1/2000*-2017

Gary Tole, 2/2018-

* Mr. Snodgrass told us, "I started leading Tex's band in January of 2000. Tex was very ill at the time and couldn't complete some of the bookings." Beneke died in May of that year.

BUNNY BERIGAN

Vido Musso, 1942*

* Musso joined the Berigan band on June 6, 1942, but within weeks, Berigan's name was dropped from the billing.

RANDY BROOKS

Bob Cary, 1993?*-2014?

* On May 18, 1993, Cary was registered for a trademark of "The Randy Brooks Orchestra," but the U.S. mark was cancelled on December 23, 2000. However, as Cary lived in Canada, he still retained the trademark in Canada. In 2014, Mr. Cary wrote to us, "Yes, there still is a Randy Brooks Orchestra and I guess we work as much as any of the others."

LES BROWN

Les Brown, Jr., 2001-

HENRY BUSSE

Will Lockridge, 1957 (for Score recording*)

* On the back of the album "Henry Busse: Shuffle Rhythm in Hi-Fi: Recorded Stereophonically At The World Famous Hollywood Palladium" (Score SLP-4005), it gives the credit as "The Henry Busse Orchestra under the direction of Will Lockridge." Lockridge had joined Busse's band in February 1952. However, when two of the songs from that album, *In a Persian Market* and *Walkin' My Baby Back Home*, were released on 45 rpm (Score 45-2352), the credit was "The Will Lockridge Orchestra: from Tribute to Henry Busse Album."



CAB CALLOWAY

C. Calloway Brooks, 1998*-

* After Cab Calloway's death in 1994, one of his daughters, Chris, fronted what she called "The Hi-De-Ho Orchestra," including a 55-city tour with it in 2001.

GHOST BANDS

BOB CROSBY

Ed Metz, Sr., 1996-2009

XAVIER CUGAT

Shep Coleman, 1986 (Glen Island Casino, New Rochelle, NY)



Ada Cavallo, 1986-2010?

Greg Gomez*, 2011?-

* Mr. Gomez has incorporated the music of Desi Arnaz into his Xavier Cugat Orchestra, as part of a show he calls "Babalu-cy."

THE DORSEY BROTHERS

Clem DeRosa

GHOST BANDS

JIMMY DORSEY



Lee Castle, 1957-1990

Henry Cuesta, 1991 (Columbia Artists tour)

Jim Miller, 1992-1999?

Gary Tole, 2000

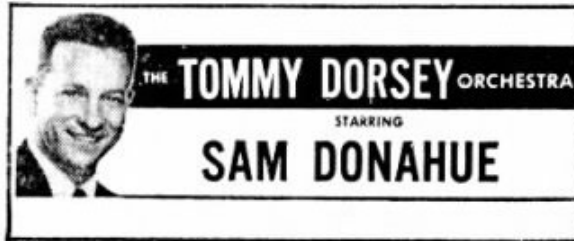


Bill Tole, 2001-5/20/2017

David Pruy, 12/2017-

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GHOST BANDS

TOMMY DORSEY

Warren Covington, 2/1958-9/1961

Sam Donahue, 10/1961*-1965

Urbie Green, 1966-1967 (engagement at The Riverboat, New York City)

Murray McEachern, 1974-1977

Buddy Morrow, 1977-9/27/2010

Nick Hilscher, 2011

Terry Myers, 2012-

* Initially, manager Tino Barzie called the touring package "The Music Of Tommy Dorsey Lives On." An album was made for RCA Victor in September 1962, including vocalist Billy Raymond and exactly matching the contents of the 1956 reissue "Yes Indeed!: Tommy Dorsey And His Orchestra" (RCA Victor LPM-1229), but it was not released. By 1963, Frank Sinatra, Jr., replaced Raymond with the group, making his professional debut at the Dallas Memorial Theatre in Texas.

LES ELGART

Jimmy Mullen, 7/1995-?

William Geyer, 1995-?

Russ Dorsey, 7/2002-7/2015



GHOST BANDS

DUKE ELLINGTON



Mercer Ellington, 1984-1996

Paul Ellington, 1996-2014?



Charlie Young, 2014?-2017?

Tommy Allen, 2018?-

GHOST BANDS

JAN GARBER

Janis Garber, early to mid 1970s

Dick Wickman, mid 1970s-1985

Ron Harvey, late 1980s-mid 1990s

Howard Schneider, mid 1990s-

DIZZY GILLESPIE

Jon Faddis, 1998-2004 (Musical Director of "Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Star Band")

Slide Hampton, 2004- (as "Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band")

John Lee (as "Dizzy Gillespie All-Stars")

BENNY GOODMAN

Urbie Green, 1957 (road tour)

* Though not advertised as the "Benny Goodman Orchestra," per se, clarinetist Peanuts Hucko and his vocalist wife Louise Tobin made appearances in concert as "A Salute to Benny Goodman" and "Featuring Alumni of the Benny Goodman Orchestras" (including from May 23 to June 6, 1988 at Disneyland in Anaheim, California).

GLEN GRAY

Larry Wagner / Van Alexander / Billy May, 1963-1964? (Capitol recordings*)

* as "More Of Today's Best: Sounds Of The Great Bands Volume 8" (Capitol ST 2014), "Arranged and Conducted by Larry Wagner and Val Alexander," and "The Glen Gray Casa Loma Orchestra: Sounds Of The Great Bands In Latin: Volume 9" (Capitol ST 2131), "Arranged and Conducted by Larry Wagner, Billy May, and Van Alexander."

GHOST BANDS



GHOST BANDS



LIONEL HAMPTON

Cleave Guyton, 2004-? (as “The Lionel Hampton New York Big Band”)

Christian Fabian / Cleave Guyton / Lance Bryant, 3/2015-? (as co-leaders)

Jason Marsalis, 2015- (as “The Lionel Hampton Big Band featuring Jason Marsalis”)

ERSKINE HAWKINS

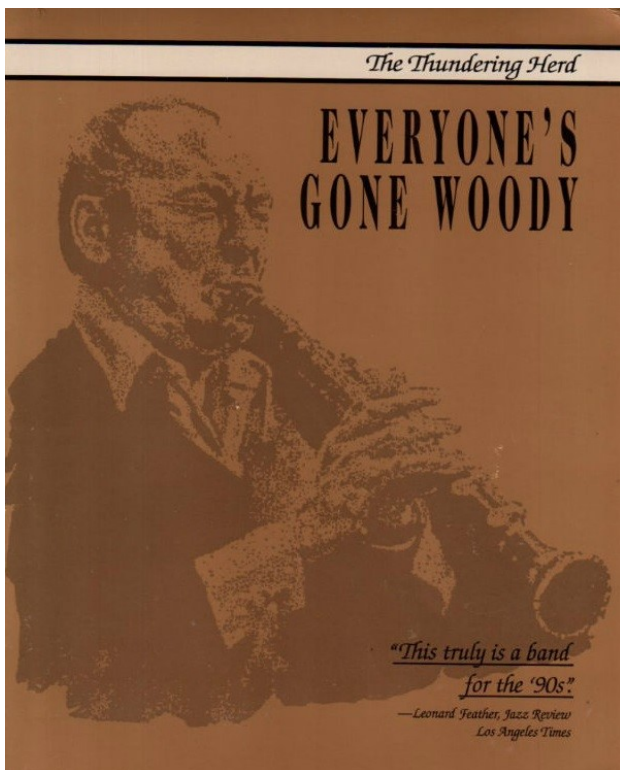
Robert Coleman, 2000 (as “The Erskine Hawkins Heritage Orchestra”)

TED HEATH

Roland Shaw / Ralph Dollimore / Stan Reynolds, 1969-1975 (recordings only)

Don Lusher, 1976-12/2000

GHOST BANDS



WOODY HERMAN

Frank Tiberi, 1987-

GHOST BANDS

TINY HILL

Paul Dean*, ca.1982?

Dan Stevens 12/2018-

* On July 19, 1982, Dean filed an application for a trademark of "Paul Dean Directing the Original Tiny Hill Orchestra," but he abandoned the request on October 22, 1983.

EDDY HOWARD

Norman Lee, 1971-12/1978

Hil Radtke / Myron Hull, 1979*

Frankie Lester, 1979-?

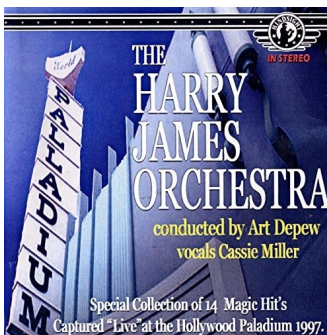
Tommy Wills, 1985-1989 (Midwest performances)

Jerry Accola, 1994-2019 (as "Memories of The Eddy Howard Orchestra")

* After Norman Lee, his wife Pat, and the band's publicist, Bob King, were murdered on December 7, 1978, pianist Hil Radtke and trumpeter Myron Hull fronted the Howard Orchestra briefly, in order to complete some scheduled bookings. Barington Management acquired the rights to the band and music library in 1979, and it was then that Frankie Lester was chosen to lead the band.

HARRY JAMES

Joe Graves, 1984-1988



Art Depew, 1989-1998

Fred Radke, 1998- (beginning with a 1998 Columbia Artists tour?)

GHOST BANDS

DICK JURGENS

Don Ring, 1986?-9/7/2010

Larry Busch, 9/8/2010-?



ROGER THORPE (914) 255-1944
conducting
SAMMY KAYE ORCHESTRA

SAMMY KAYE

Roger Thorpe, 1986-

HAL KEMP

Bob Allen, 1940-1941*

Art Jarrett, 1941-1942?

* The Kemp band closed at the Cocoanut Grove in Los Angeles on December 19, 1940. While driving to San Francisco afterwards, Kemp was involved in a head-on automobile accident and died on December 21st. The band's male vocalist, Allen acted as leader, but they broke up. Jarrett, another vocalist, took over the remnants of the group, and opened his performances with Kemp's theme song, *When Summer Is Gone*, then transitioned into his own theme.

GHOST BANDS



GENE KRUPA

Ben Anthony (authorized)

Jack Platt (authorized)

Rex Allen, Jr, 1990 (Columbia Artists tour)

Barrett Deems (Columbia Artists tour?)

Roy Anderson and Dale DeMarco, 1999-? (as "The Gene Krupa II Orchestra," licensed by Krupa's nephew, Gene Krupa II)

Mike Berkowitz, 2003-2016? (as "The Gene Krupa Orchestra," licensed by the estate of Krupa's adopted son, Eugene Michael Krupa)

KAY KYSER

Harry Babbitt, 1988-? (Columbia Artists tour and other dates)

LESTER LANIN

Spencer Bruno, 2004-

GHOST BANDS



The Syd Lawrence Orchestra

SYD LAWRENCE

Brian Pendleton, 8/12/1989-1996

Chris Dean, 1996-



TED LEWIS

Joseph Rubin, 2012-

GHOST BANDS



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GUY LOMBARDO

Victor Lombardo, late 1977-early 1978

Lebert Lombardo, early 1978

Bill Lombardo, 1978-1980?

Teddy Phillips, 1981-1982

Art Mooney, 1982-1987

Dick Wickman, 1988



Al Pierson, 2/12/1989-*

* Trombonist Jack Cobb directed the Royal Canadians for at least one performance, on April 28, 2005 in Canton, IL, when "Al Pierson was on assignment with Public Television in New Orleans."

JOHNNY LONG

Charlie Colbert, 1995 (as "The Johnny Long Commemorative Orchestra")

Colbert was an alto saxophonist.

GHOST BANDS

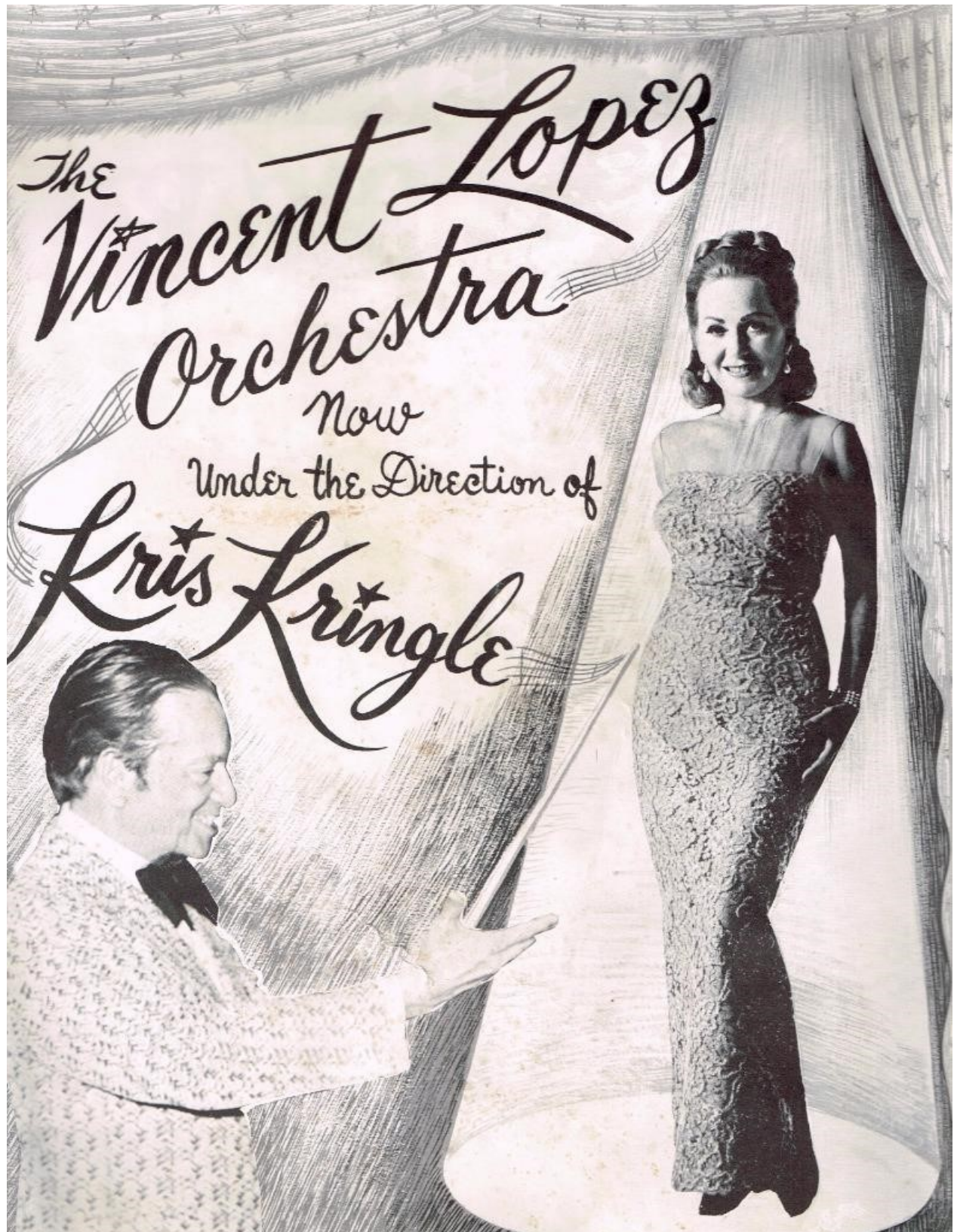


VINCENT LOPEZ

Vincent Lopez, Jr., 1979-2012? (as "The Famous Vincent Lopez Orchestra")

Kris Kingle, ca.early 1980s to early 1990s (as second band, based in Florida)

GHOST BANDS



GHOST BANDS

JIMMIE LUNCEFORD

Eddie Wilcox and Joe Thomas, 1948-1949 (co-leaders, "Jimmie Lunceford's Orchestra under the direction of —")

BILLY MAY

Bob Dawes, late 1953

Sam Donahue, 1954-early 1957

Frankie Lester, late 1958-ca.1969

Pat Longo, 1982-1984

Kim Richmond, late 1980s-early 1990s (West Coast dates)

Rudy Scaffidi, ca.late 1980s-ca.early 1990s (Midwest dates)

HAL McINTYRE

Hal McIntyre, Jr., 1960s-?

Don Pentleton, 2004-



GHOST BANDS



GHOST BANDS

GLENN MILLER

Tex Beneke, 1946-1950

Ray McKinley, 6/6/1956-1/5/1966

Buddy DeFranco, 1/6/1966-1/17/1974

Peanuts Hucko, 1/18/1974-9/16/1974

Buddy Morrow, 9/17/1974-3/30/1975

Jimmy Henderson, 3/31/1975-5/31/1981

Larry O'Brien, 6/1/1981-9/30/1983 and 11/25/1988-12/31/2010

Clem DeRosa, early 1980s ("Mark II" Orchestra)

Dick Gerhart, 10/2/1983-11/24/1988

Wil Salden, 1985- (European territory)

Ray McVay and John Watson,* 1988- (United Kingdom)

Rick Gerber, 2001-2018 (Southern California, Mexico, and Australia territories)



Jan Slottenas, 7/1/2010- (Scandinavian territory: Sweden, Denmark, and Norway)

Gary Tole 1/1/2011-12/2011

Nick Hilscher, 2012-

* Initially, McVay and Watson were co-leaders of The Glenn Miller Orchestra UK, but Watson dropped out and McVay continued alone.

GHOST BANDS

VAUGHN MONROE

Lou Feldman, 1984-ca.2002?*

Bill Davies, 1988 (possibly unauthorized)

Dan Gabel, 9/30/2017-

* According to a 1992 article about Monroe, his widow, Marian, authorized Feldman to lead a "Vaughn Monroe Orchestra," though "The family has declined any financial remuneration from the venture, and made only one stipulation - that Feldman never use a male vocalist. Operating out of Orlando, the band is quite successfully playing many of Vaughn's old arrangements."

RUSS MORGAN

Jack Morgan 1969-12/31/2010

BUDDY RICH

Steve Marcus (as "Buddy's Buddies")



Gregg Potter with Cathy Rich (as "The Buddy Rich Band")

GHOST BANDS



ARTIE SHAW

Georgie Auld, late 1939-early 1940 (as “Georgie Auld and his Artie Shaw Orchestra”)

Dick Johnson*, late 1983-2006

Rich Chiaraluce, 1/2008-10/2009

Matt Koza, 4/2010-

* Artie Shaw himself conducted initial rehearsals of the band, including some “shake-down” dates prior to its official December 1983 debut at Glen Island Casino in New Rochelle, New York. For the first few years of those public appearances, especially at prominent venues, he acted as host and made tune introductions, leaving Johnson to play his clarinet solos. Shaw eventually tired of that role and allowed Johnson full leeway.



GHOST BANDS

CHARLIE SPIVAK

Dubby Spivak, 1986?

Kevin (Ingram) Spivak, 1980s into early 1990s*?

* Club listings in the Greenville, South Carolina Greenville News during 1993 had weekly Thursday night appearances by The Charlie Spivak Orchestra with Kevin Spivak at a local venue.

CLAUDE THORNHILL

Johnny McAfee, 7/2/1965-7/9/1965*

*McAfee, a vocalist, fronted the Thornhill band for an engagement at The Steel Pier, Atlantic City, following Thornhill's heart attack and death on July 1, 1965.

TED WEEMS

Warren Bills*, 1962-1980 and 1985-?

Ted Weems, Jr., 1968?-1987

Tommy Wills, 1980-1984**

* In 1963, Bills made a 45 rpm single, *April in Paris / That Old Gang of Mine* (Regis 8130-7089) that was credited as "Warren Bills and The Ted Weems Orchestra." After a 1967 article in Billboard magazine reported that Weems' widow, Eleanor, had signed an agreement with Bills, giving him "the sole and the exclusive right to the use of the name and style of 'The Ted Weems Orchestra.'" The following year, Bills made an album titled "Warren Bills Presents Music in the Ted Weems Manner" (Universal Records, Inc. 16830S).

** An online biography of saxophonist Tommy Wills states that, "In July 1980, Tommy Willis and Ted Weems, Jr., of the Weems estate in Dallas, Texas, signed an agreement for the exclusive use of the Ted Weems library under the direction of Tommy Wills with the Ted Weems Orchestra until 1984."

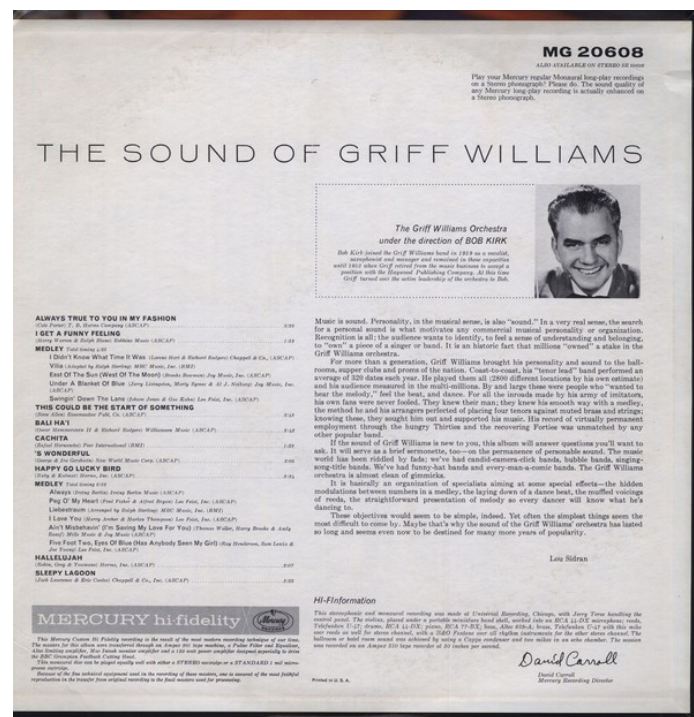
GHOST BANDS

CHICK WEBB

Eddie Barefield, 7/5/1973*

* This was a lone date, July 5, 1973, at the “Newport Jazz Festival” held at Carnegie Hall in New York City. A few days later, New York Times jazz critic John S. Wilson wrote, “The orchestra, a name-studded 17-piece group led by Eddie Barefield, was lost in the echoes of the festival’s monstrous but apparently ineffective sound system during its brief appearance.”

A 2-LP set, “Ella Fitzgerald: Newport Jazz Festival Live At Carnegie Hall: July 5, 1973” (Columbia KG 32557) came out, but according to Fitzgerald biographer Stuart Nicholson, “When the album was released, the name of Panama Francis, the drummer who played in the Webb re-creation, was omitted from the liner notes.”



GRIFF WILLIAMS

Bob Kirk, 1953-1956* and 1957-5/1980

* Griff Williams had in large measure retired from the band business in 1953, in order to work for the trade magazine publisher Haywood. He still played occasional dates with the band, including television, then in 1957 was named Haywood’s Vice-President, essentially ending his music career. He died in 1959 after suffering a heart attack.

source acknowledgements:

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