

# Just Jazz

John McCallum and Goff Dubber

the  
**TRADITIONAL  
JAZZ**  
magazine

JULY 2015

Issue No. 207 **£3.00**



Sidney Bechet • Switzerland 1953  
*see page 18*



After the dreadful crossing over, this is the only boat that Heather ever wants to sail in again... *see page 36*



New Orleans French Quarter Festival • Shotgun Jazz Band



## ISSUE INCLUDES

Goff Dubber • A Profile

Ambassador To Ambassador  
Satch • Bristol Jazz And Blues  
Festival

CD, DVD And Book Reviews

The Album

Sam Charters  
An Inspirational Life

Jazz At The Maltings

Carshalton Jazz Club

Who's On Where

Who's Who In My Band

Easter Jazz Parade • Street

The Wake

The Harlem Blues And Jazz  
Band • Duke Ellington Society  
Concert • New York

50 Plucking Years! • Part 2

New Orleans French Quarter  
Festival

They Went To Northern Spain

Festivals At A Glance

*Street Blues; Weary Blues; St. Louis Blues; Loveless Love; Royal Garden Blues*

Side by Side

Recorded August, 1958 • HMV CLP1374  
*Stompy Jones; Squeeze Me; Going Up; Big Shoe; Just A Memory*

Plus out-take track from The Count meets The Duke First Time!

Recorded July, 1961 • Columbia CL1517  
*Jumpin' At The Woodside*

CD2

Side by Side

Recorded August, 1958 • HMV CLP1374  
*Let's Fall In love; Ruint; Bend One; You Need To Rock*

Duke Ellington meets Coleman Hawkins  
Recorded August, 1962 • HMV CLP1644  
*Limbo Jazz; Mood Indigo; Ray Charles' Place; Wanderlust; You Dirty Dog; Self-Portrait (Of The Bean); The Jeep Is Jump-in; The Ricitic*

(More out-takes from) The Count meets The Duke First Time!

*Battle Royal; Take The 'A' Train; Wild Man; BDB*

Personnel:

Back to Back

Duke Ellington (piano), Johnny Hodges (alto sax), Harry Edison (trumpet), Les Spann (guitar), Al Hall or Sam Jones (bass), Jo Jones (drums)

Side by Side

Billy Strayhorn (piano), Johnny Hodges (alto sax), Roy Eldridge (trumpet), Ben Webster (tenor sax), Lawrence Brown (trombone), Wendell Marshall (bass), Jo Jones (drums)

Duke Ellington meets Coleman Hawkins  
Duke Ellington (piano), Coleman Hawkins (tenor sax), Harry Carney (bass clarinet, baritone sax), Johnny Hodges (alto sax), Lawrence Brown (trombone), Ray Nance (violin, cornet), Aaron Bell (bass), Sam Woodyard (drums)

Musicians on Count Basie meets Duke Ellington First Time! include Ellington, Basie, Cat Anderson, Ray Nance, Thad

Jones, Lawrence Brown, Henry Coker, Benny Powell, Juan Tizol, Jimmy Hamilton, Johnny Hodges, Russell Procope, Marshall Royal, Paul Gonsalves, Frank Foster, Budd Johnson, Harry Carney, Charlie Fowlkes, Freddie Green, Aaron Bell, Eddie Jones, Sam Woodyard, Sonny Payne

**M**ore excellent Duke Ellington reissues from Avid, enhanced this time by use of their 'phase compensated stereo' system. This sort of treatment has diminished in recent years after decades of different attempts to improve on earlier, sometimes inferior, recordings. Subjectively, I would suggest the improvement is noticeable and worthwhile, my task aided by the fact that (at least with the review copy) Avid provided a supplementary CD giving a series of 'before and after' recordings to compare.

Aside from this technical stuff, there is some great music. Johnny Hodges, for me, is a complete 'one-off'. No other alto player had the sort of edgy tone that Hodges had, but, coupled with a confident, almost strident, flow of phrasing, when soloing, he is a joy to listen to. There never ceases to be something new to discover: listen to a solo a hundred times and you can still pick up facets you hadn't noticed before. These two albums, Back to Back and Side by Side allowed us, perhaps more than previously, to see Hodges in his full glory. Most of his work with the full orchestra had given us just brief glimpses of what's on display here. Similarly, Ellington himself plays more expansively than we were used to, thanks to the small-group environment.

However, it doesn't end there: the set with Coleman Hawkins featured (playing all Ellington compositions) is studded with further gems. The contrast between Hawkins and Hodges is striking. The edgy but syrupy sound of Hodges contrasts starkly with the biting almost brutish attack of Hawkins, and having

said that, Hawkins is far more in control than on some of his later recordings.

The five out-take tracks from the album The Count meets The Duke First Time! turn the compilation on its head: gone is the small-group intimacy and, instead we have not one but **two** Big Bands. I don't detect any competitive element. Instead, it seems that possibly two of the greatest Big Bands of all time are just happy to work together and feed off each other. The writing credits rest mainly with Ellington but the Basie standard, *Jumpin' At The Woodside*, is a cracker.

As I have said before, these Avid reissues really do represent great value: about two and a half hours of jazz by wonderful musicians in their prime. For any lovers of this music it is a 'no-brainer'. In this case, the technical improvements are also worthwhile. ■

**Barry Clare**

**Sidney Bechet**

**Sidney Bechet in Switzerland**

**United Music Foundation:**

**7640160390103** (4x CD)

Total playing time: CD1 • 76m 02s

CD2 • 58m 20s

CD3 • 71m 07s

CD4 • 53m 37s

CD1

*Introduction; Sweet Georgia Brown; Summertime; Muskrat Ramble; Tin Roof Blues; High Society; Sidney Bechet's Birthday; Weary Blues; Blues In The Air; Ain't Gonna Give Nobody None Of My Jelly Roll; Southern Sunset; Careless Love; Wild Cat Blues; Interview; Oh, Didn't He Ramble*

CD2

*Introduction and Interview; Honeysuckle Rose; Saint Louis Blues; Theme; Introduction; Royal Garden Blues; Summertime; Oh! Lady Be Good; When The Sun Sets Down South; Muskrat Ramble; September Song; Blues In The Air; Saint Louis Blues; Conclusion; Theme*



CD3

*Introduction; Royal Garden Blues; On The Sunny Side Of The Street; Saint Louis Blues; American Rhythm; When The Saints Come Marching Home; Saint Louis Blues; Casey Jones; Blues In G; Basin Street Blues; Royal Garden Blues; Love For Sale; Society Blues; Interview; La Mere, Par Un Autre Moyen, Vent Reussir La Ou Le Pere A Echoue; La Danse Du Noir, La Fiancee Embellit Le Grenier; Interview; Rushes*

CD4

*American Rhythm; Royal Garden Blues; Down By The Old Mill Stream; Saint Louis Blues; Pennies From Heaven; Les Oignons; Introduction; Muskrat Ramble; Summer-time; Honeysuckle Rose; La Complainte Des Infideles; Royal Garden Blues; Basin Street Blues*

Sidney Bechet (soprano sax, clarinet), with various personnel including Rene Franc (clarinet), Eddie Bernard (piano), Henri Chaix (piano), Claude Luter (clarinet), Kansas Fields (drums), Andre Reweliotty (clarinet), Wally Fawkes (clarinet), 'Moustache' Galepides (drums)

**T**his CD set needs to be seen to be believed. It certainly must have been a labour of love for the producer. Four CDs and a 216-page book in a box set presenting the times Sidney Bechet spent in Switzerland during 1949 until 1958. The recordings which cover the four CDs are taken from concerts and interviews presented by Radio Lausanne (RTS) – which means the sound quality is excellent. Sidney is accompanied by musicians that he had played with in France and on one concert he joined by our very own Wally Fawkes.

Those readers who enjoy this period in Sidney's recorded output will like this set, but be warned there are certain tunes which are repeated quite frequently. It was always good policy to stick to tried and tested tunes when working with 'strangers', but surely these guys knew a few more tunes rather than *Royal Garden Blues*, *Saint*

*Louis Blues* and *Muskrat Ramble*, but hey, that's just a minor quibble about this first class production.

The book that comes with this is again an excellent production; written in French and English, it contains the story of Sidney's visits to Switzerland containing great quality photographs on every page. Both Bob Wilbur and Sidney's son Daniel have contributed a foreword to the book.

However, there is one stumbling block – it is quite expensive, but remember this is something quite special and a one-off. It is available from David Hadzis, Project Manager, United Music Foundation, 20 Chemin Rieu, 1208 Geneva, Switzerland, Telephone: +41 79 314 76 72 or email: [dh@unitedmusic.ch](mailto:dh@unitedmusic.ch) or for the time being, as they do not have a distributor in the UK, the best is that customers go to: <http://shop.unitedmusic.ch>

Retail price in Swiss Francs is 179.00 (b.t.)

For further information about the United Music Foundation go to their website: [www.unitedmusic.ch](http://www.unitedmusic.ch)

Highly recommended! ■

**Pete Lay**

## DVD REVIEW

### *Digby Fairweather with the Cass Caswell Trio*

#### Live & Kicking

#### A1R Productions

Total playing time: 59m 00s

*I Can't Give You Anything But Love; Hindustan; Gutbucket Blues/Blues For Harry James; The Preacher; I Want A Little Girl; Yesterdays; In A Mellotone; Shiny Stockings; There Is No Greater Love*

Digby Fairweather (trumpet-cornet, corneopean, vocal), John Martin (piano, keyboards), Cass Caswell (bass), Eddie John (drums)

Recorded at Chipping Sodbury Baptist

Church and the Brunswick Club, Bristol, 5 October, 2014

**D**igby Fairweather has been a prominent feature of the British jazz scene for as long as I can remember; always one of the elite, a star soloist with a special personality. No doubt Cass Caswell, the Bristol-based bandleader and bassist thinks so too, bringing him down to the West Country to feature as the guest with his trio.

The compilation here captures the best of two live sessions, both held on the same day, each with a nice 'clubby' atmosphere, an enthusiastic and attentive audience. On the production side there are enough cameras in use to get plenty of close-ups and angles to generate visual interest, and the sound is good too.

The Cass Caswell trio are a very accomplished aggregate of musicians who provide perfect accompaniment to Digby; indeed they sound as though they have always played together, such is the cohesion of the unit. Pianist John Martin is always sympathetic with his comping and contributes some tasteful solos; he is matched by Cass Caswell's enthusiastic, energetic and accurate bass lines and drummer Eddie John keeps the whole things rolling along nicely with a minimum of fuss.

As for the ebullient Digby, I have heard him play many times, indeed appeared with him on occasion and would say that he is right at the top of his game here. He is utterly uncompromising in pursuit of the execution of his ideas. Think it – play it; even his most ambitious and inherently risky high register escapades are delivered with the finesse of a master. He makes it look easy.

Fans of high class Mainstream trumpet will find this very much to their liking indeed. ■

**Roger Marks**

## Coles Eye View...

*This very popular feature by Robert Coles will be continued in the August Edition*