

JAZZ Musicians

Jazz is a kind of music in which improvisation is typically an important part. In most jazz performances, players play solos which they make up on the spot, which requires considerable skill. There is tremendous variety in jazz, but most jazz is very rhythmic, has a forward momentum called “swing,” and uses “bent” or “blue” notes. You can often hear “call--and--response” patterns in jazz, in which one instrument, voice, or part of the band answers another. Jazz can express many different emotions, from pain to sheer joy. In jazz, you may hear the sounds of freedom — for the music has been a powerful voice for people suffering unfair treatment because of the color of the skin, or because they lived in a country run by a cruel dictator.

Jazz musicians place a high value on finding their own sound and style, and that means, for example, that trumpeter Miles Davis sounds very different than trumpeter Louis Armstrong. Jazz musicians like to play their songs in their own distinct styles, and so you might listen to a dozen different jazz recordings of the same song, but each will sound different. The musicians’ playing styles make each version different, and so do the improvised solos. Jazz is about making something familiar — a familiar song — into something fresh. And about making something shared — a tune that everyone knows — into something personal. Those are just some of the reasons that jazz is a great art form, and why some people consider it “America’s classical music.”

Jazz developed in the United States in the very early part of the 20th century. New Orleans, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, played a key role in this development. The city’s population was more diverse than anywhere else in the South, and people of African, French, Caribbean, Italian, German, Mexican, and American Indian, as well as English, descent interacted with one another. Black musical traditions mixed with others, and gradually jazz emerged from a blend of ragtime, marches, blues, and other kinds of music. At first, jazz was mostly for dancing. In later years, people would sit and listen to it. After the first recordings of jazz were made in 1917, the music spread widely and developed rapidly. The evolution of jazz was led by a series of brilliant musicians such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, and Miles Davis. Jazz developed a series of different styles including traditional jazz, swing, bebop, cool jazz, and jazz-rock, among others. At the same time, jazz spread from the United States to many parts of the world, and today jazz musicians — and jazz festivals — can be found in dozens of nations. Jazz is one of the United States’ greatest exports to the world.

This exhibit originated with my 6° Cachets cover tributes to the instruments and musicians — piano, saxophone, bass, trumpet, and vocalists — depicted on the Jazz stamp issued by the U. S. Postal Service in 2011. Realizing that several other instruments and musicians related to jazz also could be connected to the Jazz stamp, the exhibit was expanded. An initial challenge was to identify a male and a female for the core group of covers. The exhibit was further expanded to include other musicians attributed to the jazz genre of music.

For a more comprehensive look at Jazz, visit www.thejazzfoundationofwesttennessee.org/history-of-jazz



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) every year honors up to seven jazz musicians with Jazz Master Awards. The National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Fellowships are the self-proclaimed highest honors that the United States bestows upon jazz musicians. The award usually is given late in a performer's career after they have long established themselves.

The National Medal of Arts is an award and title created by the United States Congress in 1984, for the purpose of honoring artists and patrons of the arts. A prestigious American honor, it is the highest honor given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government.



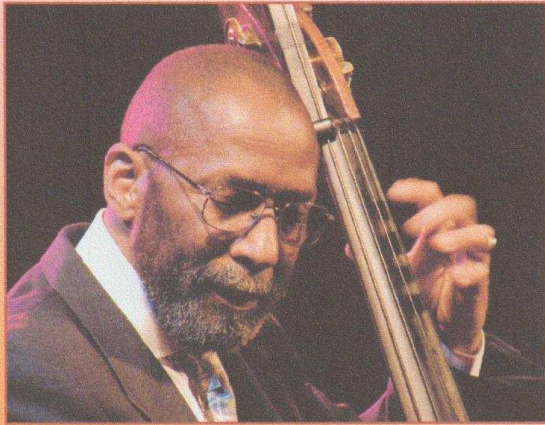
The Grammy Awards, stylized as GRAMMY, and often referred to as the Grammys, are awards presented by the Recording Academy of the United States to recognize outstanding achievements in music. They are regarded by many as the most prestigious and significant awards in the music industry worldwide. The trophy depicts a gilded gramophone. The Grammys are considered one of the four major annual American entertainment awards with the Academy Awards, a.k.a. the Oscars, (for films); the Emmy Awards (for television); and the Tony Awards Awards (for Broadway theater). The first Grammy Awards ceremony was held on May 4, 1959, to honor the musical accomplishments of performers for the year 1958. A person who wins all four awards is known as an EGOT.

NOTE: The people depicted on the covers in this exhibit who have received any of the above recognitions will have a small icon in the corners of the covers.

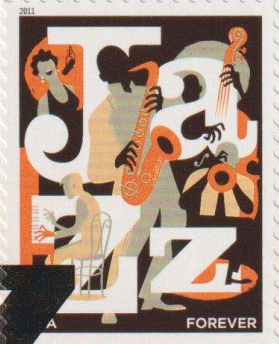
NOTE: My 6° Cachets covers officially started in 2008, so this exhibit does not include stamps or 6° covers from the 1995 Jazz Musicians stamp series or other jazz issues before then. Any omissions were unintentional.

Bassists

NEA
JAZZ
FOCUS



Ron Carter



Ron Carter (b. 1937) is among the most original, prolific, and influential bassists in jazz. With more than 2,000 albums to his credit, he has recorded with many of music's greats: Lena Horne, B. B. King, Wes Montgomery, Herbie Hancock, and James Brown. From 1963 to 1968, he was a member of the classic and acclaimed Miles Davis Quintet. Carter has scored and arranged music for many films, including *'Round Midnight* for which he won a Grammy in 1998. He also has authored a series of books.



Esperanza Spalding



Born in 1984, Esperanza Spalding is a multi-instrumentalist best known as a jazz bassist and singer. On December 10, 2009, she performed at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies in honor of U. S. President Barack Obama, who personally selected Spalding as per the tradition of one laureate-invited-artist to perform. In 2011, she won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist at the 53rd Grammy Awards, beating out teen sensation Justin Bieber and making her the first jazz artist to win the award.



Clarinetists



DOREEN KETCHENS



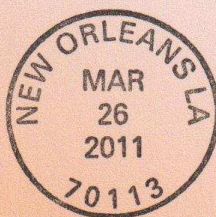
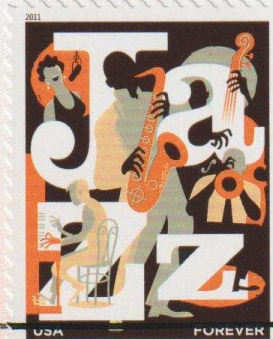
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



She has been called "The Queen of Jazz," "The Female Louis Armstrong," "Queen Clarinet," and "Miss Satchmo." "She" is Doreen Ketchens, a classically trained clarinetist who plays traditional jazz on the streets of New Orleans, the city where she was born and survived Hurricane Katrina. Her band, Doreen's Jazz New Orleans, also has performed for four U. S. Presidents: Clinton, Bush, Sr., Reagan, and Carter, and has been spreading the culture and traditional music of New Orleans all around the world.



Sidney Bechet



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



sidney and louis
giants of jazz

Sidney Bechet (1897-1959), born in New Orleans where he was a child prodigy, was a jazz pioneer—in fact one of the first soloists to record in the jazz mode—a composer, saxophonist, and clarinetist. Along with Clarence Williams, King Oliver, and Louis Armstrong, Bechet is part of the pantheon of New Orleans' greatest jazz musicians. Forceful delivery, well-constructed improvisations, and a distinctive, wide vibrato characterized Bechet's playing. He died in Paris, France, on his 62nd birthday, May 14, 1959.

Drummers

NEA
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
FOCUS



ART BLAKEY



March 26, 2011
New Orleans, LA 70113



Arthur "Art" Blakey (1919-1990), known later as Abdullah Ibn Buhaina, was a Grammy Award-winning jazz drummer and band leader. Along with Kenny Clarke and Max Roach, he was one of the inventors of the modern bebop style of drumming. For more than 30 years his band, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers included many young musicians who went on to become prominent names in jazz. Blakey was inducted into the Jazz and the Grammy Halls of Fame and was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.



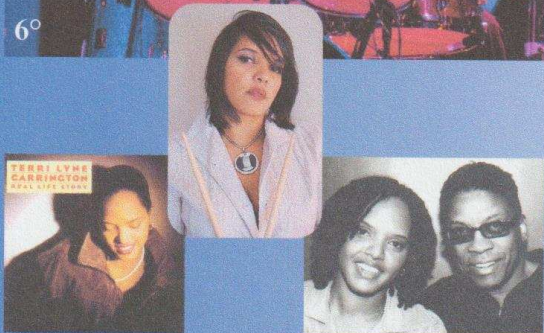
NEA
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FOCUS



Terri Lyne Carrington



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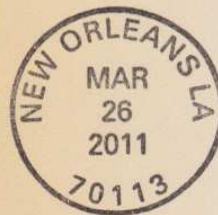
Terri Lyne Carrington (b. 1965) is a jazz drummer, composer, and record producer. A graduate of Boston's Berklee College of Music, she gained recognition on late night TV, first as the house drummer for *The Arsenio Hall Show*, and later as the drummer on *VIBE* hosted by Sinbad. Carrington's 1989 debut CD, *Real Life Story*, was nominated for a Grammy Award. Carrington has toured with several musicians including Herbie Hancock. Since 2007, she has been a professor at Berklee College of Music.



Flutists

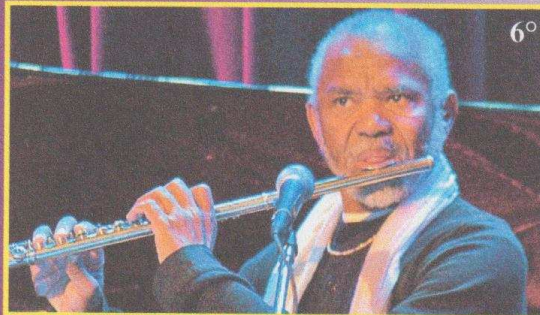


Bobbi Humphrey

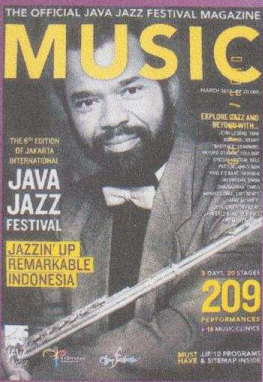


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Named the "First Lady of the Flute" by critics and listeners alike, Barbara Ann "Bobbi" Humphrey (b. 1950) got her first big break performing at New York's Apollo Theater on Amateur Night. Her professional career began in 1971 when she was the first female signed to Blue Note Records. Since then, she has played with music's best from Duke Ellington to Lee Morgan to Stevie Wonder, and *she* has been recognized as the "Best..." by *Billboard*, *Record World*, *Cashbox*, and *Ebony* magazines.



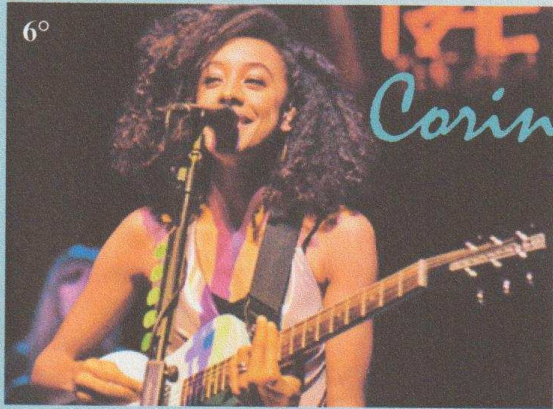
HUBERT LAWS



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Hubert Laws (b. 1939) is an internationally renowned flutist with a 40+ year career in jazz and classical music. At 15, he was a member of the early Jazz Crusaders while in his native Texas. A graduate of the Julliard School of Music, Laws was a member of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera Orchestras. He has performed at sold out venues around the world and recorded with countless other musicians. Laws is a recipient of the 2011 National Endowment of the Arts Jazz Masters Award.

Guitarists



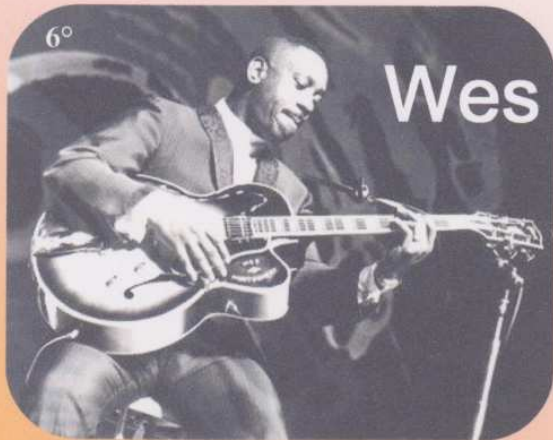
Corinne Bailey Rae



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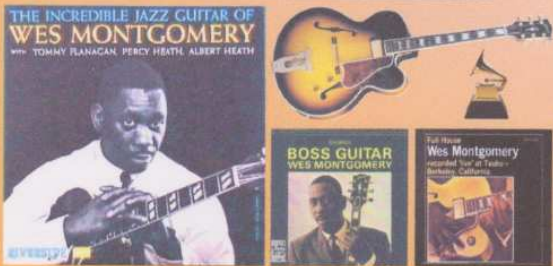
Corinne Bailey Rae (b. 1979) is a British singer-songwriter and guitarist from Leeds. In 2006, she released her debut album for which she won two Music of Black Origin (MOBO) Awards. In 2007, she received three Grammy nominations: for Best New Artist, and her song "Put Your Records On" for Record of the Year and Song of the Year. In 2008, her song "Like a Star" was Grammy-nominated; she won a Best Contemporary Jazz Album Grammy as a featured artist on Herbie Hancock's *River: The Jani Letters*.



Wes Montgomery



March 26, 2011
New Orleans, LA 70113



John Leslie "Wes" Montgomery (1923-1968) was a Grammy Award-winning jazz guitarist considered to be one of the great jazz innovators and improvisors. A self-taught musician, he studied the recordings of his idol, guitarist Charlie Christian. Wes played by ear with an unorthodox technique—using his thumb instead of a guitar pick—and was known for developing the use of octaves in his solos. Many fellow guitarists (including George Benson, Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughan) considered him a great influence.



Pianists

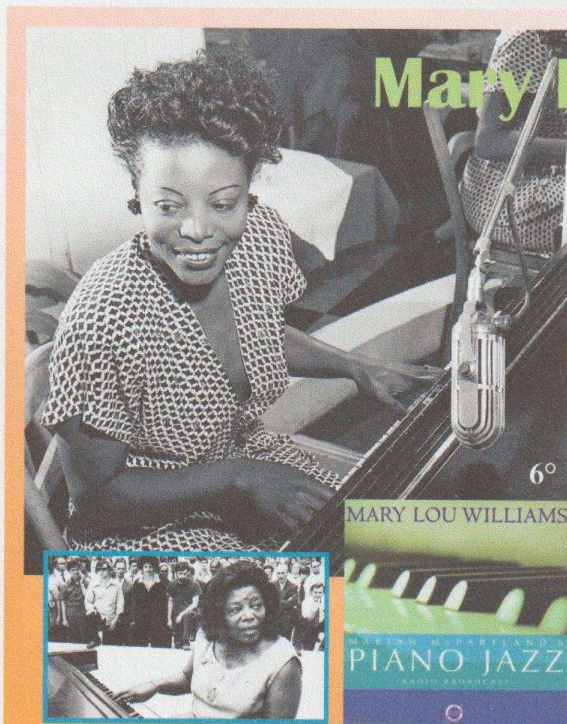


FATS WALLER

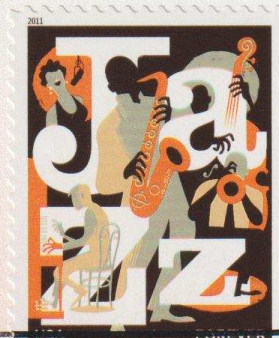


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Thomas Wright "Fats" Waller (1904-1943) was a jazz pianist, organist, composer, singer, and comedic entertainer. Waller was a master of stride piano, having been the prize pupil and later friend and colleague of the greatest of stride pianists, James P. Johnson. Waller also was a prolific songwriter, and many of the more than 400 copyrighted songs he wrote or co-wrote with Andy Razaf still are popular, such as "Honeysuckle Rose," "Ain't Misbehavin'," and "Squeeze Me." *One never knows, do one?*



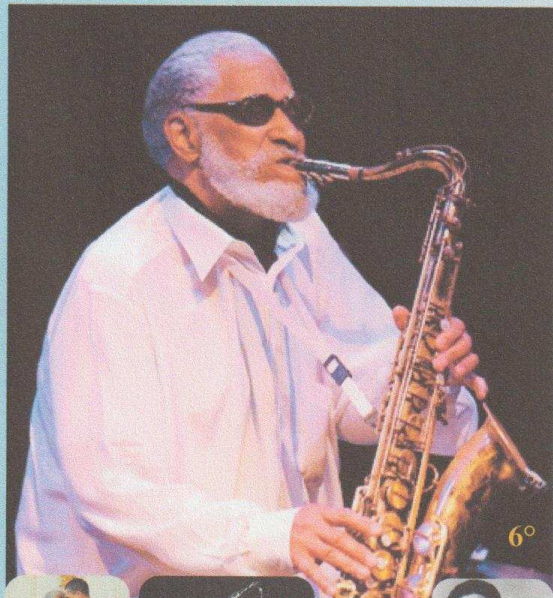
Mary Lou Williams



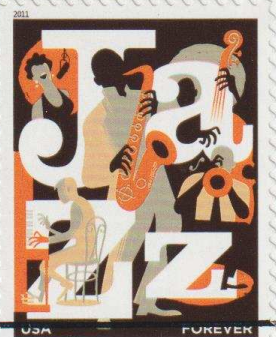
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Mary Lou Williams (1910-1981)—pianist, composer, and arranger—was one of the few musicians who played through all the eras in the history of jazz. She wrote and arranged for such bandleaders as Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman. She was a friend, teacher, and mentor to Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, and Dizzy Gillespie. She formed her own record label and publishing companies, founded the Pittsburgh Jazz Festival, and performed at Carnegie Hall and the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Saxophonists



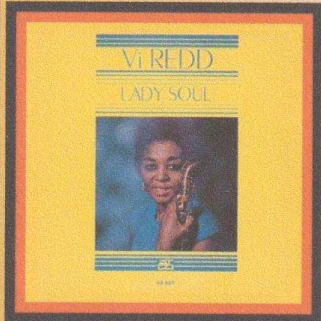
Sonny Rollins



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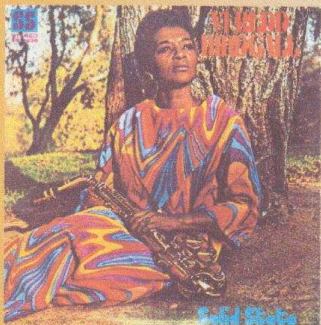
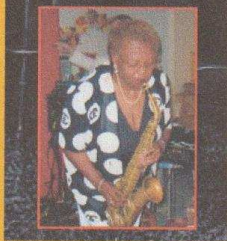
Theodore Walter "Sonny" Rollins (b. 1930) often is recognized as one of the most important and influential jazz musicians. A number of his compositions including "Oleo," "Doxy," and "Airegin" have become jazz standards. Rollins' widely acclaimed *Saxophone Colossus* album includes his best-known composition, "St. Thomas." Rollins has received prestigious music awards from Sweden and Austria, and he received the 2010 National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama in a White House ceremony.



Vi Redd



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Elvira "Vi" Redd (b. 1928) is a jazz alto saxophone player, vocalist, and educator, and the daughter of New Orleans jazz drummer Alton Redd. She has been active since the 1950s and is known primarily for playing in the bebop, hard bop, and post bop styles. After working for the Board of Education from 1957-60, Vi returned to jazz and led a group with her husband, drummer Richie Goldberg. Among her other associations were Max Roach, Earl "Fatha" Hines, Dizzy Gillespie, and Count Basie.

Trombonists

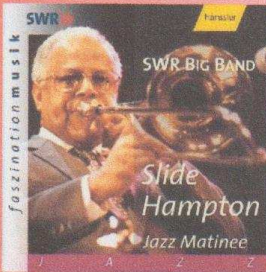
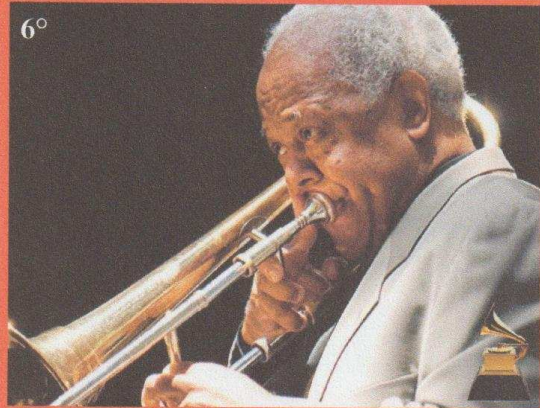


Melba Liston

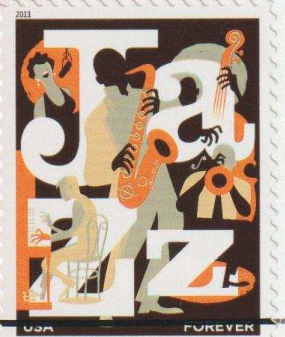


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Melba Doretta Liston (1926-1999) was a jazz musician extraordinaire (trombone, compositions, musical arrangements) who worked with major names of the jazz scene in the bebop mid-1940s: Dexter Gordon, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, and Art Blakey. Her collaborations with pianist/composer Randy Weston, beginning in the early 1960s, are widely acknowledged as jazz classics, and their critically acclaimed albums *Uhuru Afrika* and *Highlife* are considered jazz masterpieces.



Slide Hampton



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Locksley Wellington "Slide" Hampton (b. 1932) is a Grammy-winning master composer/arranger and uniquely gifted jazz trombonist. At the age of 12, he played in his family's Indianapolis jazz band. By 1952, at the age of 20, he was performing at Carnegie Hall with the Lionel Hampton Band. In 1958, he recorded with trombone masters on the classic release *Melba Liston and her 'Bones*. In 2005, the National Endowment of the Arts honored Slide Hampton with its highest honor in jazz, the NEA Jazz Masters Award.



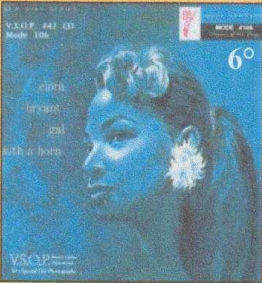
Trumpeters



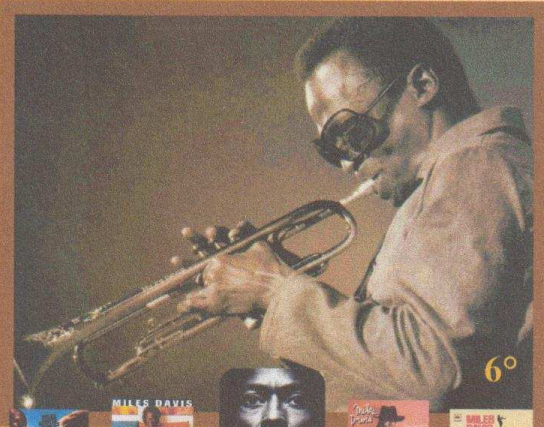
Clora Bryant



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Clora Bryant (b. 1927) took up the trumpet after her brother left his when he went into the Army in 1941. Bryant started out in all-female bands and honed her own unique improvisational skills in jam sessions. She played a critical role in carving a place for women instrumentalists in the male-dominated world of jazz, the lone female trumpeter to collaborate with Charlie Parker. She appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* and later became the first American female jazz musician to play in the Soviet Union.



Miles Davis



March 26, 2011
New Orleans, LA 70113



Miles Davis (1926-1991) was born in New York where he learned to play the trumpet better than anyone else in his neighborhood. He came of age in the bebop era, and went on to become a great jazz musician and innovator of sound, style, and dimension in his music. Many progressive styles—cool jazz, hard bop, modal jazz, jazz rock, jazz funk—were sparked or ratified by his example. Davis won several Grammy Awards for his talent and is in the Jazz Hall of Fame. His album *Kind of Blue* is a historic masterpiece.



Vibraphonists



Lionel Hampton



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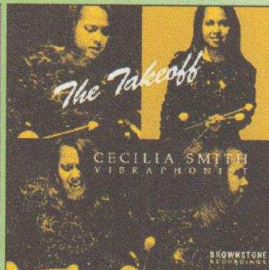
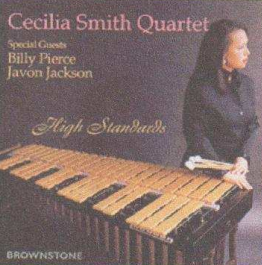
Lionel Leo Hampton (1908-2002) was a jazz vibraphonist and one of the most extraordinary musicians of the 20th century whose artistic achievements symbolize the impact that jazz music has had on our culture. In the 1980s, Hampton began working with the University of Idaho to teach and preserve the heritage of jazz. Today, the university houses The Lionel Hampton School of Music, the only music school named for a jazz musician, and its international jazz collections and hosts an annual jazz festival.



Cecelia Smith

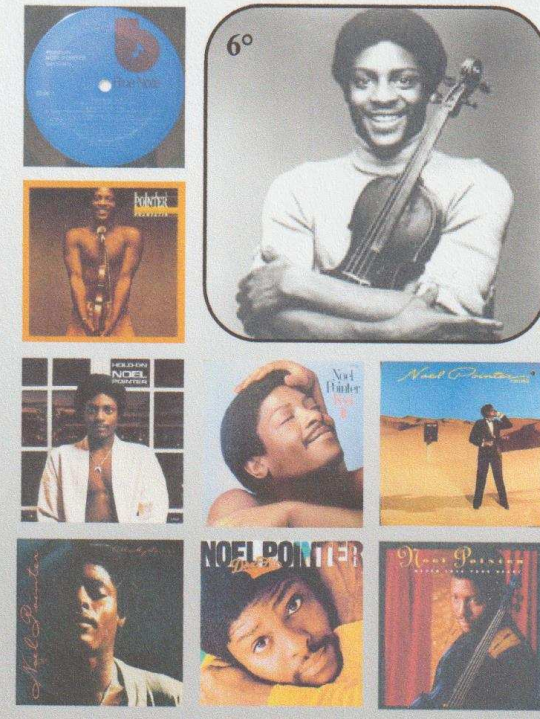



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According to the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, she is "... arguably the best vibraphonist, that you probably never heard of." Cecelia Smith currently is one of the leading vibraphonists of the Four-Mallet Technique in the United States and is the first woman to release material on vibraphone on a national and international level. She has performed in concert halls, nightclubs, and festivals throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and frequently has been highlighted as a performer on radio and TV.


Violinists





Noel Pointer





USA FOREVER

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Noel Pointer (1954-1994) studied classical violin before he signed with Blue Note as a jazz musician in the early 1970s. By the time he was 19, his musical experiences included work with The Apollo Theatre Orchestra, The Dance Theatre of Harlem Orchestra, and the Radio City Music Hall Symphony. He also worked the pit orchestras of several Broadway shows including *Dream Girls* and *Guys and Dolls* and was one of the youngest music advisory panelists to have served on the National Endowment of the Arts.





Regina Carter





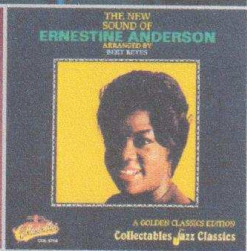
USA FOREVER

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Regina Carter (b. 1966) began as a classical violinist but felt hemmed in by the classical repertoire. In high school, she played with a pop-funk group and studied jazz with Marcus Belgrave. Carter received a degree in music from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, and studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston before forging her jazz career in 1987. In 2006, she was a MacArthur Fellow, a recipient of what is commonly known as the "genius grant." The rest, as they say, is history.

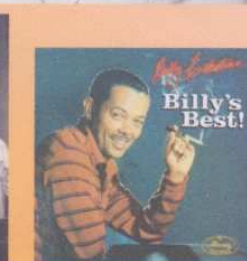


Vocalists



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Ernestine Anderson (b. 1928), who earned her title of "jazz legend," has recorded more than 30 albums, performed at major jazz festivals around the world (including the first Monterey Jazz Festival in 1958), and has received four Grammy nominations. Her sultry, sensuous voice is intimate in small club settings and soars with passionate intensity in the festival arena. Anderson was one of 75 women chosen for the photo book, *I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*.



Billy Eckstine



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William Clarence "Billy" Eckstine (1914-1993), a singer known for his smooth bass and distinctive vibrato, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, home to other jazz musicians: Earl "Fatha" Hines, Erroll Garner, Mary Lou Williams, and Maxine Sullivan. The Billy Eckstine Orchestra was the first bop big band and was a fountainhead for young musicians who would reshape jazz during the 1940s, including Dizzy Gillespie, Dexter Gordon, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Charlie Parker, Fats Navarro, and Sarah Vaughn.

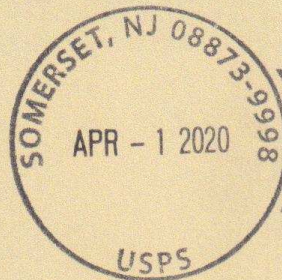
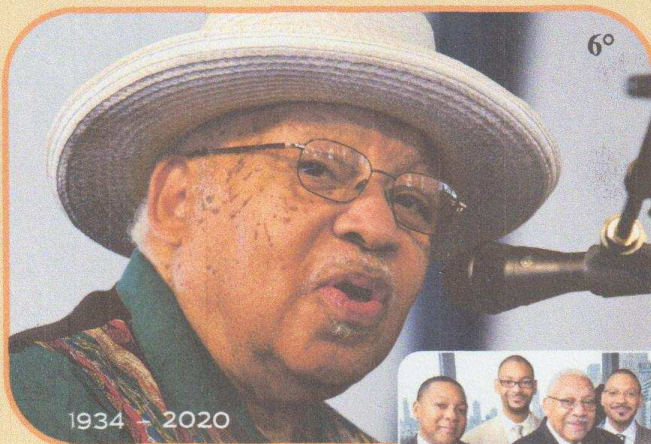
It's a Family Affair



The Marsalis Family



The Marsalis Family of jazz musicians: father Ellis Marsalis, Jr. (b. 1934, piano), and brothers Delfeayo (b. 1965, trombone), Branford (b. 1960, saxophone), Wynton (b. 1961, trumpet), and Jason (b. 1977, drums) collectively are known for their virtuosity, compositional skills, and their roles as influential music educators and producers. Wynton, a Grammy and Pulitzer Prize winner, is the Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center. The Marsalis Family are the group recipients of the 2011 National Endowment of the Arts Jazz Masters Award.



Ellis Marsalis

Legendary jazz pianist and teacher Ellis Louis Marsalis, Jr. (November 14, 1934 - April 1, 2020) was the patriarch of New Orleans' great musical family. Four of Marsalis' six sons are musicians: Wynton, a nine-time Grammy-winning trumpeter and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City; Jason, a drummer; Delfeayo, a trombonist; and Branford, a saxophonist and musical director of the "Tonight Show With Jay Leno" in the 1990s. Marsalis' fame was international, and his musical teaching went far beyond family. He nurtured countless musicians over the years at New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, Xavier University, and the University of New Orleans. His students include trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard; singer/pianist Harry Connick, Jr.; saxophonists Donald Harrison and Victor Goines; and bassist Reginald Veal. In 2008, Marsalis was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. He died from pneumonia brought on by COVID-19.