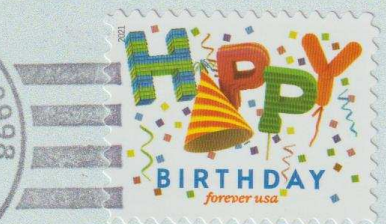
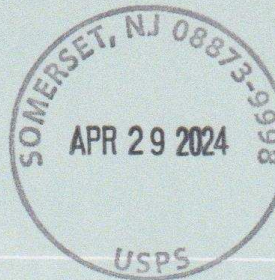


PIANISTS cont.



Birth
 Quasquicentennial
 1899 – 2024



"Duke" Ellington

Edward Kennedy Ellington (April 29, 1899 – May 24, 1974) was raised by two talented, musical parents in a middle-class neighborhood of Washington, D. C. At the age of seven, he began studying piano and earned the nickname "Duke" for his gentlemanly ways. Despite being awarded an art scholarship to the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, Ellington followed his passion for ragtime and began to play professionally at age 17. He created one of the most distinctive ensemble sounds in Western music and played what he called "American Music." Ellington made hundreds of recordings with his bands, appeared in films and on radio, and toured Europe in the 1930s. Ellington's fame rose to the rafters in the 1940s when he composed several masterworks, including "Concerto for Cootie," "Cotton Tail," and "Ko-Ko." Some of his most popular songs included "It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got That Swing," "Sophisticated Lady," "Prelude to a Kiss," "Solitude," and "Satin Doll." Perhaps Ellington's most famous jazz tune was "Take the A Train," the "A" referring to a subway line in New York City. A major figure in the history of jazz music, Duke Ellington's career spanned more than half a century, during which time he composed thousands of songs for the stage, screen, and contemporary songbook. He earned 12 Grammy awards from 1959 to 2000, nine while he was alive. It was Ellington's sense of musical drama that made him stand out. His blend of melodies, rhythms, and subtle sonic movements gave audiences a new experience—complex yet accessible jazz that made the heart swing. Ellington's autobiography, *Music Is My Mistress*, was published in 1973. His last words were, "Music is how I live, why I live, and how I will be remembered."



50TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL

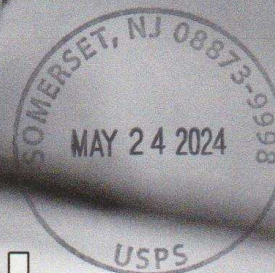
April 29, 1899 - May 24, 1974



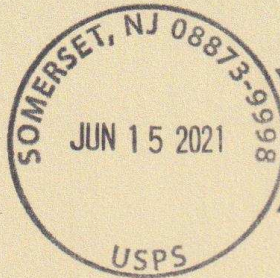
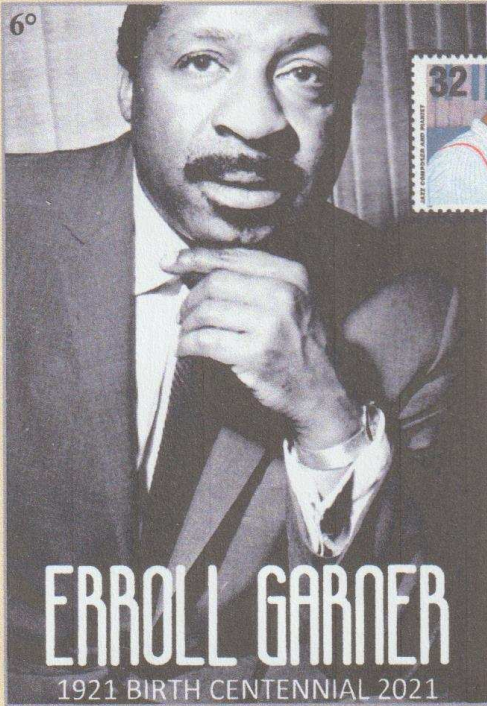
- "Mood Indigo"
- "Take the 'A' Train"
- "Satin Doll"
- "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)"
- "Sophisticated Lady"
- "Caravan"

Duke ELLINGTON

Edward K. "Duke" Ellington is considered one of the greatest composers and orchestra conductors of the 20th century and has been credited with creating the single most durable body of original jazz compositions in the history of music, bringing listening and dancing pleasure to millions. The Ellington band's five-year association with Harlem's The Cotton Club and its national, nightly broadcasts brought the band widespread fame.



6°



Pittsburgh-born jazz pianist and composer Erroll Louis Garner (June 15, 1921 – January 2, 1977) was well known for his swing playing and his ballads. Throughout his career, Garner developed a distinctive and original piano style often compared with Art Tatum, Fats Waller, and Claude Debussy. His prolific career began on Allegheny riverboats and spanned from the clubs of 52nd street to the top concert halls of the world. Garner released music on over 40 labels, received multiple Grammy nominations, and recorded one of the greatest selling jazz albums of all time, *Concert By The Sea*. His published catalog contains nearly 200 compositions including his best-known composition, "Misty", which has become a jazz standard and named #15 on ASCAP's list of the top songs of the 20th century. Garner scored for ballet, film, television, and orchestra. One of the most televised Jazz artists of his era, he appeared on TV shows all over the world and received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Erroll Garner's musical and cultural legacy perhaps is stronger today than at any point since his untimely passing when he lost his battle with lung cancer at the age of 55.

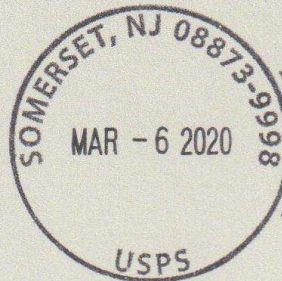


McCoy Tyner

1938 – 2020



6°



Alfred McCoy Tyner (December 11, 1938 – March 6, 2020), musician, composer, and bandleader, was one of the most distinctive and influential jazz pianists of the past 60 years. He became best known for his work with John Coltrane's legendary 1960s quartet and was the last surviving member. Tyner's bluesy, insistent style anchored the group's rhythm section and provided the perfect foil for Coltrane's adventurous flights on tenor and soprano sax. Tyner was a 2002 NEA Jazz Master, and a five-time Grammy winner – most recently in 2004 for his album *Illuminations*. Among his dozens of albums are a handful regarded as classics, like *Reaching Fourth*, *The Real McCoy*, and *Atlantis*. The legacy of Tyner's pianism can be heard far and wide in the music of everyone from contemporary jazz pianists, such as Chick Corea, to salsa legend Eddie Palmieri, to *Late Show* bandleader Jon Batiste.





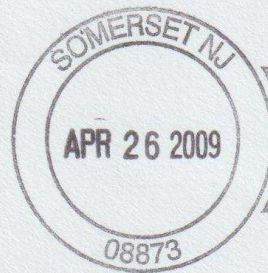
James P. Johnson

Death Anniversary — November 17, 2015

Born on February 1, 1894, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, James Price Johnson pioneered the "stride" style of jazz piano and became famous for his hit "Carolina Shout." He was one of the most important pianists who bridged the ragtime and jazz eras and was a model for Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Art Tatum, and Fats Waller. Johnson composed many hit tunes including the theme song of the Roaring Twenties, "Charleston," and "If I Could Be With You (One Hour Tonight)" and remained the acknowledged king of New York jazz pianists through most of the 1930s. He died in New York City on November 17, 1955.

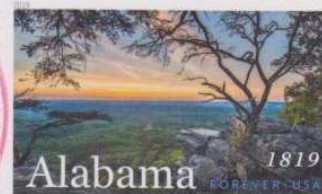
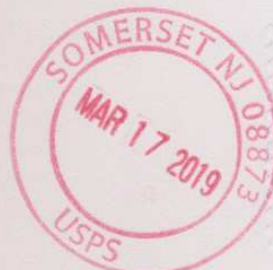


WILLIAM "COUNT" BASIE
 August 21, 1904 — April 26, 1984
 25 years gone



William James Basie, born in Red Bank, New Jersey, was a jazz pianist, organist, composer, and bandleader who led his popular Count Basie Orchestra for almost 50 years. He learned to play piano as a child for 25¢ a lesson. Around 1924, Basie went to Harlem, a hotbed of jazz, where he met and learned from Willie "the Lion" Smith, James P. Johnson, and Fats Waller, who taught Basie how to play organ. In 1928, Basie was in Tulsa and heard Walter Page and his Famous Blue Devils, one of the first big bands, which featured Jimmy Rushing on vocals. A few months later, Basie was invited to join the band, which played mostly in Texas and Oklahoma. It was at this time that he began to be known as "Count" Basie. Eventually, he formed his own nine-piece band, Barons of Rhythm, whose style was a powerful swing, intensified by Basie's frequent playing with the rhythm section alone, giving the band a unique sound and identity. Basie's theme songs were "One O'Clock Jump" and "April in Paris." He died of pancreatic cancer.





Nat "King" Cole

1919 - Birth Centennial - 2019

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, Nathaniel Adams Coles (March 17, 1919 – February 15, 1965), known professionally as Nat "King" Cole, was a jazz pianist and vocalist. He recorded over one hundred songs that became hits on the pop charts. His trio was the model for small jazz ensembles that followed. Cole also acted in films and on television and performed on Broadway. He was the first African-American man to host an American television series. His hit singles include "Straighten Up and Fly Right," "The Christmas Song," "Route 66," "Nature Boy," "Mona Lisa," "Too Young," "Unforgettable," "When I Fall in Love," "Ramblin' Rose," "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer," "L-O-V-E," "Smile," "Autumn leaves," and "Unforgettable" 1991 (with daughter Natalie). At age 45, Cole died from lung cancer.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Known for his charismatic power and bold innovative drive, Eddie Palmieri has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a bandleader of Salsa and Latin Jazz orchestras. With a discography that includes 36 titles, he has been awarded nine Grammy Awards. He received his first Grammy in 1975 for his release *The Sun of Latin Music*, the first time that Latin Music was recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS). He would win again the following year for *Unfinished Masterpiece*, for *Palo Pa' Rumba* in 1984, *Solito* in 1985, and *La Verdad* in 1987. He received a Latin Grammy and a traditional Grammy for *Obra Maestra/ Masterpiece*, his 2000 release with Tito Puente, for *Listen Here!* in 2006, and for *Simpático* in 2007, a collaboration with trumpet master Brian Lynch, for Best Latin Jazz Album.



The world of jazz has seen many pianists but none quite like Thelonious Monk. He was the Pianist Poet. His fingers danced on piano keys like a poet's words on parchment, creating rhythms and melodies that both puzzled and entranced. To experience Monk is to embark on an odyssey of emotions, one that's beautifully unpredictable.

Thelonious MONK
1917—Birth Centennial—2017

Thelonious Sphere Monk (October 10, 1917 – February 17, 1982) was a jazz pianist and composer and an eccentric giant of jazz music. He had a unique improvisational style that featured dissonances and angular melodic twists, which combined a highly percussive attack with abrupt, dramatic use of switched key releases, silences, and hesitations. He made numerous contributions to the standard jazz repertoire, including "Round Midnight," "Blue Monk," "Straight, No Chaser," "Ruby, My Dear," "Well, You Needn't," and "In Walked Bud." Monk also was renowned for his distinctive style in suits, hats, and sunglasses. His classic work is immortalized in the Smithsonian Institute. He is the second most-recorded jazz composer after Duke Ellington and one of five jazz musicians to have been featured on the cover of *Time* magazine. Monk posthumously won the Grammy lifetime achievement award in 1993. He was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize in 2006 "for a body of distinguished and innovative musical composition that has had a significant and enduring impact on the evolution of jazz." Today, the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz offers public school-based jazz education programs for young people around the globe.




Ramsey Lewis

Revered jazz pianist and composer Ramsey Emmanuel Lewis, Jr. (May 27, 1935 – September 12, 2022), who reinvented his genre in a career spanning more than 60 years, was born and spent his life in Chicago where he started playing piano at the age of four. He formed his first jazz band, the Clefs, when he was in high school. Lewis went on to form the Ramsey Lewis Trio, with Eldee Young and Redd Holt, releasing their first album *Ramsey Lewis and His Gentlemen of Jazz* on Chess in 1956. The trio's crossover Grammy-winning hit "The 'In' Crowd" pushed Lewis from the jazz charts to the pop charts in 1965. The hit single was followed by two more chart-toppers "Hang on Sloopy" and "Wade in the Water." Lewis received a 2007 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master Award, placing him in the company of piano legends Ahmad Jamal, Chick Corea, and McCoy Tyner. His latest album, *The Beatles Songbook: The Saturday Salon Series, Volume One* is scheduled to be released November 11. Lewis spent the final year of his life working on his memoir *Gentlemen in Jazz* which will be released in 2023.



Among many genres, Ray Charles recorded jazz, such as *The Great Ray Charles* (1957). He worked with vibraphonist Milt Jackson, releasing *Soul Brothers* in 1958 and *Soul Meeting* in 1961. By 1958, Charles not only was headlining major Black venues such as the Apollo Theater in New York but also larger venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival, where his first live album was recorded in 1958. Charles hired a female singing group, the Cookies, and renamed them the Raelettes. In 1958, Charles and the Raelettes performed for the famed Cavalcade of Jazz concert held at the Shrine Auditorium.



Ray

RAY CHARLES

Ray Charles

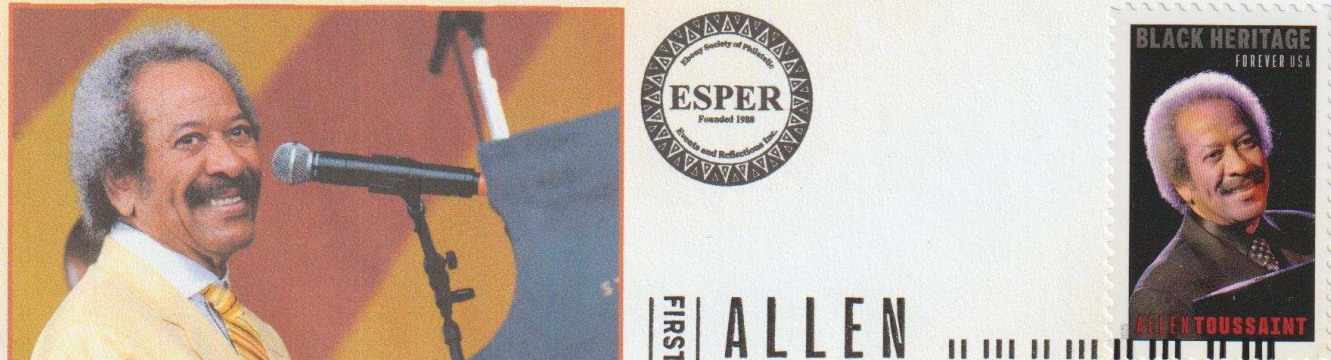
USA FOREVER

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

MUSIC **ray charles** ICONS

LOS ANGELES, CA 90052 • SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

Born Ray Charles Robinson (September 23, 1930 – June 10, 2004), he was known as Ray Charles to avoid being confused with the boxer Sugar Ray Robinson. The extraordinary composer, singer, and pianist, blind since childhood, went beyond category, blending blues, gospel, country, jazz, and soul music in a unique and highly influential pop music style. His songs include "What'd I Say," "A Song for You," "Night Time is the Right Time," and "America the Beautiful." Charles is the recipient of the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the Kennedy Center Honors, and the National Medal of Arts. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and was one of the first inductees into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Ray Charles died at his home in Beverly Hills, California.



BLACK HERITAGE FOREVER USA

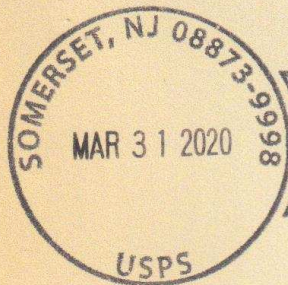
ALLEN TOUSSAINT

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

JANUARY 30, 2025 • NEW ORLEANS, LA 70113

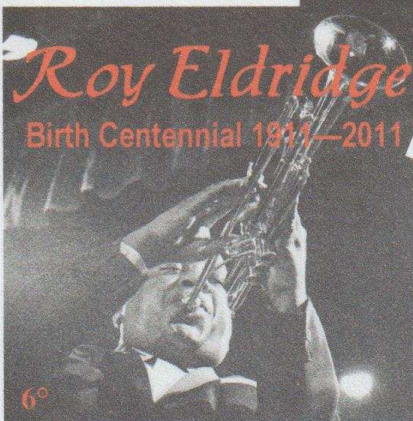
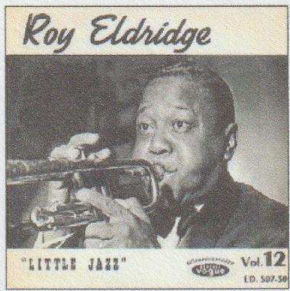
Allen Toussaint (1938 – 2015) was a virtuoso pianist, singer, songwriter, composer, arranger, and producer whose genius gave rise to countless hits across a wide range of genres. One of popular music's great backroom figures, Toussaint has been influential in the music of Al Hirt, Lee Dorsey, Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass, Dr. John, Labelle, Pointer Sisters, Aaron Neville, Elvis Costello, Glen Campbell, Trombone Shorty, Cyndi Lauper, Eric Clapton, Dave Clark Five, Otis Redding, and so many more.

TRUMPETERS cont.



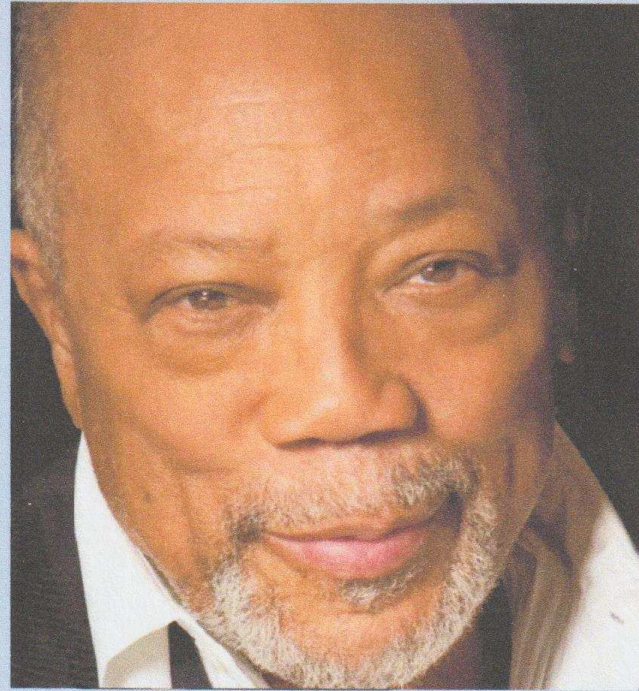
Wallace Roney

Wallace Roney (May 25, 1960 - March 31, 2020), initially dismissed by some as a Miles Davis imitator, emerged as a major musician in his own right, a virtuoso trumpeter whose term as Miles Davis' only true protégé opened onto a prominent four-decade career in jazz. He led a succession of dynamic small groups and released some 20 albums. Roney had perfect pitch as a child and began trumpet lessons at age 5. By 12, he was the youngest member of The Philadelphia Brass, a prominent classical brass quintet. During this time, he came under the tutelage of Clark Terry, the first of his major jazz mentors. By his teens, Roney's family was living in Washington, D. C., where he attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, before earning degrees from Howard University and the Berklee College of Music. It was a public benediction by his idol and mentor, Miles Davis, that catapulted him into a rare stratum of jazz celebrity after Miles heard him in 1983 at his birthday gala performance in Carnegie Hall. Their association peaked when Miles chose Wallace to share the stage at his historic performance in Montreux on July 8, 1991. After Davis died, just months later on September 28, the surviving members of the Miles Davis Quintet – Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter, Wayne Shorter, Tony Williams, and Roney – banded together and toured the world in tribute. Roney won his lone Grammy Award, alongside his bandmates, for a 1994 album called *A Tribute to Miles*. Roney's cause of death was complications from COVID-19.



Known as "Little Jazz," Roy David Eldridge (1/30/1911–2/26/1989) was a fiery, energetic jazz trumpet player who, although short in stature, was a larger-than-life figure. His sophisticated use of harmony, including the use of tritone substitutions often labeled him the bridge between towering trumpet stylists Louis Armstrong-era swing music and Dizzy Gillespie-era bebop. Roy Eldridge played in the bands of Fletch Henderson, Gene Krupa, and Artie Shaw before making records under his own name. He also played in Benny Goodman's and Count Basie's Orchestras, co-led a band with Coleman Hawkins, and performed with many other jazz greats.

Quincy Jones attended Garfield High School in Seattle, Washington, where he developed his skills as a trumpeter and arranger. At the age of 14, Jones joined Charles Taylor's group playing all over the Northwest, backing Billie Holiday and Billy Eckstine. He met Ray Charles, then an unknown 16-year-old musician from Florida going by R. C. Robinson, playing bebop piano and alto sax and singing like Nat Cole. In 1953, at age 20, Jones traveled with jazz bandleader Lionel Hampton for a European tour of the Hampton orchestra. Soon after, he was a trumpeter and musical director for Dizzy Gillespie. In the 1950s, Jones toured Europe with several jazz orchestras. Jones first worked with Frank Sinatra in 1958. The rest, as they say, is history.



QUINCY JONES

Entertainment titan and music mastermind, Quincy Delight Jones, Jr. (March 14, 1933 - November 3, 2024) was a legendary record producer, songwriter, composer, arranger, and film and television producer. Over the course of a seven-decade career, he received many accolades including 28 Grammy Awards, a Primetime Emmy Award, and a Tony Award as well as nominations for seven Academy Awards and four Golden Globe Awards. He worked with several musicians including Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley, Count Basie, Celine Dion, Ella Fitzgerald, Lesley Gore, Miles Davis, Sarah Vaughan, and Ray Charles.



Dizzy Gillespie
1917—Birth Centennial—2017

John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie (October 21, 1917 - January 6, 1993) was a trumpet virtuoso and improviser, adding layers of harmonic complexity previously unheard in jazz. His beret and horn-rimmed spectacles, his scat singing, his bent horn, pouched cheeks, and his light-hearted personality were essential in popularizing bebop, known as the first modern jazz style, in the 1940s. Gillespie compositions like "Groovin' High," "Woody 'n' You," and "Salt Peanuts" sounded radically different, harmonically and rhythmically, from the swing music popular at the time. Dizzy, left a legacy of musical excellence that embraced and fused all musical forms, but particularly those forms with roots deep in Africa such as the music of Cuba, other Latin American countries, and the Caribbean. He was a Kennedy Center Honoree in 1990 and considered an international treasure.



Miles Davis was the Trailblazing Trumpeter. To speak of jazz and not mention Miles Davis would be akin to discussing literature without Shakespeare. Davis wasn't just a musician; he was an avant-garde artist. His fearless forays into bebop, cool jazz, and jazz fusion rendered him an icon. With his trumpet, he didn't just play notes; he whispered secrets, shouted revolutions, and painted dreams.



Miles Davis

La naissance du cool

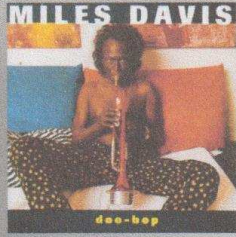
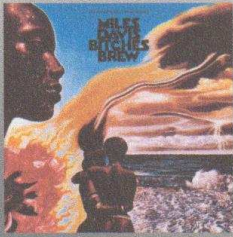
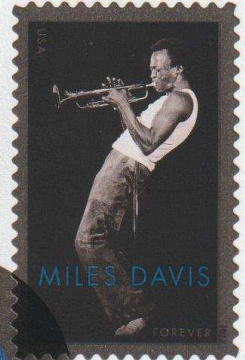
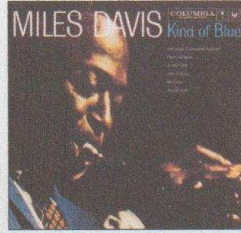
The great American jazz trumpeter Miles Dewey Davis III (1926-1991) is revered in France, where he performed frequently and was made a Chevalier in the Legion of Honor. He also was awarded the Grande Médaille de Vermeil by the city of Paris (the equivalent of making him an honorary citizen).



Miles Davis

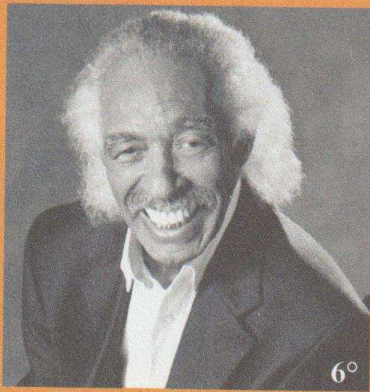
Miles Davis (1926-1991) was born in New York where he learned to play the trumpet better than anyone else in his neighborhood. He came of age in the bebop era, and went on to become a great jazz musician and innovator of sound, style, and dimension in his music. Many progressive styles—cool jazz, hard 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.





JUNE 12, 2012
NEW YORK, NY 10199

Miles Dewey Davis III (1926-1991), born in New York, learned to play the trumpet better than anyone else in his neighborhood. He went on to become a great jazz musician and innovator of sound, style, and dimension. 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.



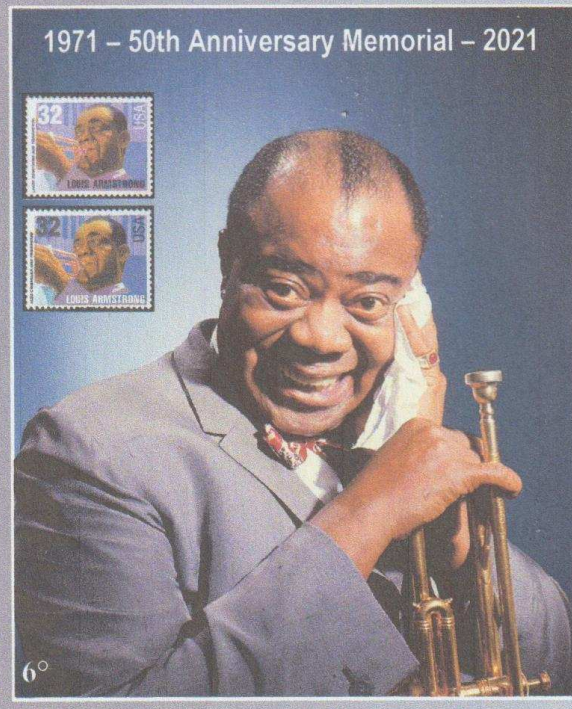
GERALD WILSON
1918 - 2014

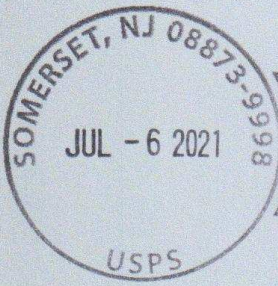



Gerald Wilson, the dynamic jazz big band leader, trumpeter, composer, and arranger whose career spanned more than 75 years, was born September 4, 1918 and died September 8, 2014. He was 96. Wilson began his career in the late 1930s as a trumpeter for Jimmie Lunceford's band before forming his own big band in 1944 featuring female trombonist Melba Liston. He played and worked as a composer-arranger with the likes of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Carter, and Dizzy Gillespie, and he arranged music for Lionel Hampton, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Julie London, Nancy Wilson, Carmen McRae, Little Jimmy Scott, Bobby Darin, and many more. During his tenure as a trumpeter with Lunceford, he arranged the hit tunes "Hi Spook" and "Yard Dog Mazurka." He worked with Billie Holiday on the singer's tour of the South in 1949. Wilson led his own bands in the '50s and '60s, but took frequent hiatuses as he became one of the most in-demand arrangers and orchestrators in jazz and pop music. He wrote more than 60 charts for Charles, scored motion pictures such as Otto Preminger's *Anatomy of a Murder*, and served as the conductor and music director of TV's *The Red Foxx Show*. His marriage to a Mexican-American, Josefina Villasenor Wilson, led him to incorporate Latin music into his jazz compositions. His tune, "Viva Tirado," dedicated to bullfighter Jose Ramon Tirado, became a Top 40 pop hit for the rock group El Chicano in 1970. He also composed his first piece for a symphony orchestra, "Debut: 5/21/72," on a commission from Zubin Mehta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Wilson's music is even in the Country and Western Hall of Fame, and his life's work has been archived by the Library of Congress.

Louis Armstrong was the Jazz Luminary. If jazz had a face, it would wear his infectious smile. As he was fondly called, Satchmo wasn't merely a trumpeter; he was the embodiment of jazz itself. With hits like "What A Wonderful World," he made jazz a global sensation, breaking barriers and uniting souls.

1971 – 50th Anniversary Memorial – 2021




LOUIS ARMSTRONG

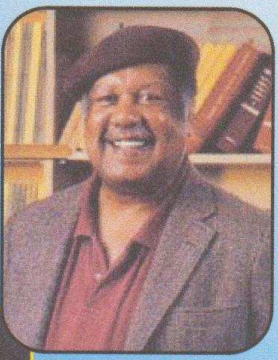
Born in New Orleans, Louis Daniel Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971), nicknamed "Satchmo," "Satch," and "Pops," was an iconic trumpeter and one of the most influential figures in jazz. His career spanned five decades and different eras in the history of jazz. With his instantly recognizable rich, gravelly voice, Armstrong was also an influential singer and skillful improviser, bending the lyrics and melody of a song known as scat singing. He had 19 "Top Ten" records including "Stardust," "What a Wonderful World," and "When The Saints Go Marching In." He won a Grammy Award for his vocal performance of "Hello, Dolly!" in 1964. Armstrong also was a gifted composer who wrote more than fifty songs. He's been inducted into several halls of fame, and in 1995, the U.S. Postal Service issued two Louis Armstrong 32¢ commemorative postage stamps!






Louis Armstrong


Native Sons of Louisiana

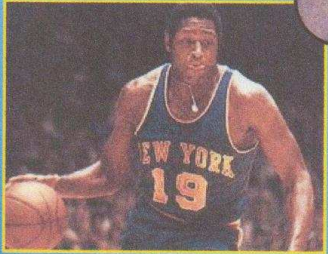


Ernest Gaines

Known for its vibrant music, authentic cuisine, and dynamic mingling of cultures, the "Pelican State" became the 18th state in the Union on April 30, 1812. It also is the birth state to some famous people including jazz trumpeter and singer Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) from New Orleans; Ernest Gaines, author of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Lesson Before Dying* (born in 1933 in Pointe Coupee Parish); and basketball legend with the New York Knicks, Willis Reed (born in 1942 in Hico).







Willis Reed

6°

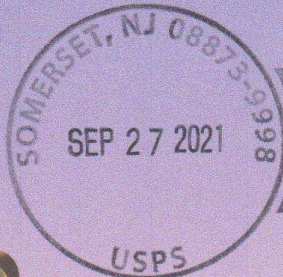
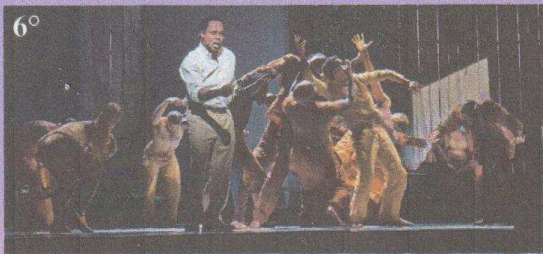


Hugh MASEKELA

1939 — 2018

Hugh Ramapolo Masekela (April 4, 1939 – January 23, 2018) was a legendary South African trumpeter, flugelhornist, cornetist, composer, and singer. He has been described as “the father of South African jazz.” At the end of 1959, Dollar Brand (later known as Abdullah Ibrahim), Kippie Moeketsi, Makhaya Ntshoko, Johnny Gertze, and Hugh Masekela formed the Jazz Epistles, the first African jazz group to record an LP. They performed to record-breaking audiences in Johannesburg and Cape Town through late 1959 to early 1960. Masekela also was known for his jazz compositions and for writing well-known anti-apartheid songs such as “Soweto Blues” and “Bring Him Back Home.” He also had a number 1 U.S. pop hit in 1968 with his version of “Grazing in the Grass.” Masekela was nominated for a Grammy Award three times, including a nomination for Best World Music Album for his 2012 album *Jabulani*, one for Best Musical Cast Show Album for *Sarafina! The Music Of Liberation* (1989), and one for Best Contemporary Pop Performance for the song “Grazing in the Grass.” From 1964 to 1966 he was married to singer and activist Miriam Makeba. Masekela died at the age of 78 after a decade-long fight with cancer.

6°



Terence Blanchard

On September 27, 2021, history was made at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. For the first time in 138 years, the eminent company presented an opera by a Black composer. After 18 months of pandemic-canceled performances, the nation’s premier opera house opened its new season with *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, composed by multiple Grammy-winning musician Terence Blanchard (b. 1962), a celebrated jazz trumpeter and film composer. As a trumpeter, Blanchard has played with jazz legends like Lionel Hampton and Art Blakey. Blanchard has written the music for more than 40 films and has been nominated for two Academy Awards for his film scores – for *BlackKkKlansman* and for *Da 5 Bloods* – and he has won five Grammys for his jazz records. *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* is based on the memoir of the same title by *New York Times* columnist Charles M. Blow and features an all-Black cast and mostly Black creative team. It’s about a Black boy growing up in rural Louisiana, where he rises above poverty, violence, and sexual abuse to become a successful writer. Baritone Will Liverman stars in the role of Charles. Blanchard will bring to the stage what he describes as a universal story spoken in “our language” – the language and sound of Black America – particularly the musical quality of the 20 minutes before services begin at a Black church and the multi-sensory experience – the human percussion of dancing and the stunning visuals created by complicated synchronized group movement – of a Black fraternity step show. While nearly 4,000 people had tickets to watch the performance at Lincoln Center, hundreds were able to catch a free livestream of the event at Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem and in Times Square.



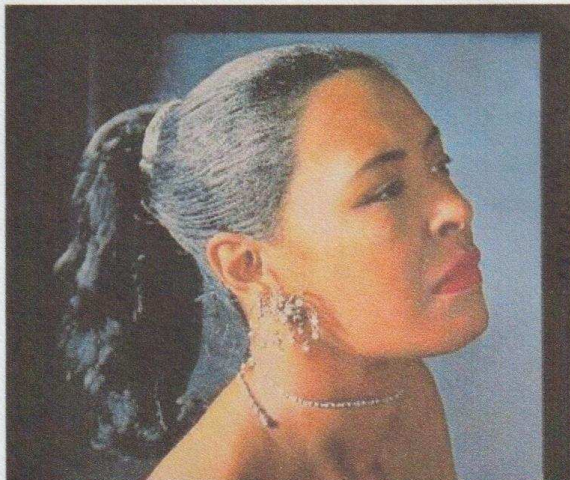
VOCALISTS cont.

- "Lady Sings the Blues"
- "Strange Fruit"
- "God Bless the Child"
- "Good Morning Heartache"
- "Summertime"
- "Carelessly"
- "Trav'lin' Light"
- "My Man"
- "Them There Eyes"
- "Lover Man"
- "The Man I Love"
- "Porgy"

Birth Centennial
1915 - 2015

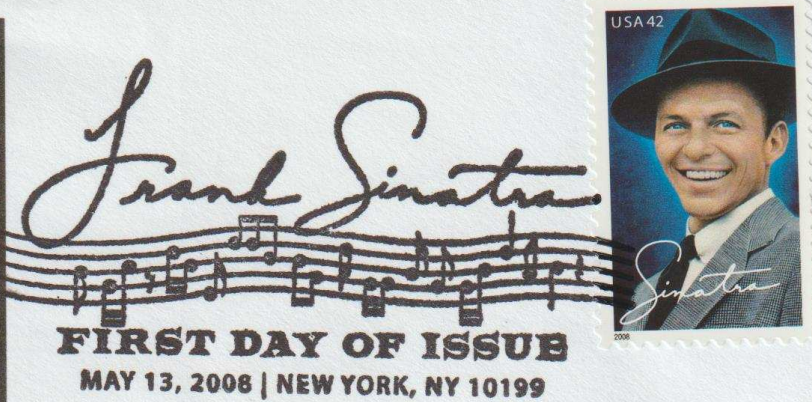


Born Eleanora Fagan April 7, 1915, Holiday took her professional pseudonym from Billie Dove, an actress she admired, and the musician Clarence Holiday, her probable father. She was nicknamed "Lady Day" by her friend and musical partner Lester Young. Despite her lack of technical training, Holiday's unique diction, inimitable phrasing, and acute dramatic intensity made her the outstanding jazz singer of her day. White gardenias, worn in her hair, became her trademark. Billie Holiday, a musical legend still popular today, died an untimely death at the age of 44 on July 17, 1959. Her emotive voice, innovative techniques, and touching songs will forever be remembered and enjoyed. "Singing songs like the 'The Man I Love' or 'Porgy' is no more work than sitting down and eating Chinese roast duck, and I love roast duck," she wrote in her autobiography. "I've lived songs like that."



"Billie Holiday was, and still remains, the greatest single musical influence on me."

—Frank Sinatra



The two legendary singers, Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra, were both born in 1915. Sinatra was a big fan of Holiday, and the two individually recorded many of the same standards including "Night and Day," "One for My Baby," "My Funny Valentine," "Come Rain or Come Shine," "I'm a Fool to Want You," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "I'll Be Seeing You," and "Lover, Come Back to Me." Holiday died in 1959 at the age of 45. Sinatra died in 1998 at the age of 82. Sinatra said many times that he learned to sing with emotion from watching and listening to Billie Holiday.

Ella Fitzgerald was the Queen of Jazz Vocals. Her voice was a mellifluous river that flowed seamlessly through various jazz landscapes. From buoyant swing numbers to soulful ballads, Fitzgerald sang with an unmatched elegance and finesse. With every note, she captured hearts, leaving an indelible mark on the music world.



ELLA FITZGERALD

1917 — Birth Centennial — 2017



BLACK HERITAGE

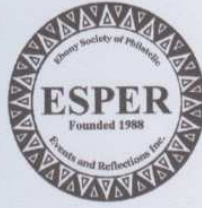


Dubbed "The First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald (April 25, 1917 - June 15, 1996) was the most popular female jazz singer in the United States for more than half a century. In her lifetime, she won 13 Grammy awards and sold over 40 million albums. Her voice was flexible, wide-ranging, accurate, and ageless. She could sing sultry ballads, sweet jazz, and imitate every instrument in an orchestra. She worked with all the jazz greats, from Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Nat King Cole, to Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie, and Benny Goodman. (Or rather, some might say all the jazz greats had the pleasure of working with Ella). She performed at top venues all over the world, and packed them to the hilt. Her audiences were as diverse as her vocal range. They were rich and poor, made up of all races, all religions, and all nationalities. In fact, many of them had just one binding factor in common - they all loved her.

ELLA AT 100: PATTI AUSTIN SINGS
ELLA FITZGERALD
 WITH THE UTAH SYMPHONY



Grammy Award winner Patti Austin has been wowing audiences since her childhood debut at the iconic Apollo Theater. Now, with 17 albums to her credit including her 2002 Grammy-nominated recording *For Ella*, she's thrilled us with her electrifying renditions of the First Lady of Song's legendary hits – "How High the Moon," "Tisket-a-Tasket," "Anything Goes," and many more. A consummate artist of the first order, Patti Austin celebrates an incredible sixth decade in the music industry with the release of *Ella: Now & Then*, a centennial celebration and her second recorded tribute to the legendary Ella Fitzgerald, featuring some of the pioneering vocalist's classic material, and lending Austin's finely-honed craft to treasures from the vast Fitzgerald legacy including songs like "Mack the Knife," "April in Paris," "Sing Me A Swing Song," and "Lullaby Of Birdland." Patti Austin has performed her Ella tributes with the Oregon Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Utah Symphony, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, and at the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem, and abroad in Finland, the Netherlands, Australia, Lebanon, England, Serbia, Austria, and Bulgaria.



LENA HORNE

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

JANUARY 30, 2018 • NEW YORK, NY 10199

LENA MARY CALHOUN HORNE (JUNE 30, 1917 – MAY 9, 2010) WAS A JAZZ AND POP MUSIC SINGER, DANCER, ACTRESS, AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST. HER CAREER SPANNED OVER 70 YEARS APPEARING IN FILM, TELEVISION, AND THEATER.



In the 1990s, Lena Horne released three solo albums: 1994's Grammy nominated *We'll Be Together Again* studio album, 1995's *An Evening with Lena Horne* live album, which won Horne a Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album, and 1998's *Being Myself*, Horne's final studio album.

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It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it. Carry it by the comfortable handles of gratitude for what's positive and that it is not worse, rather than the uncomfortable edges of bitterness for the negatives and that it is not better.

—Lena Horne



LENA HORNE

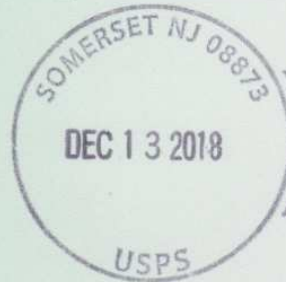
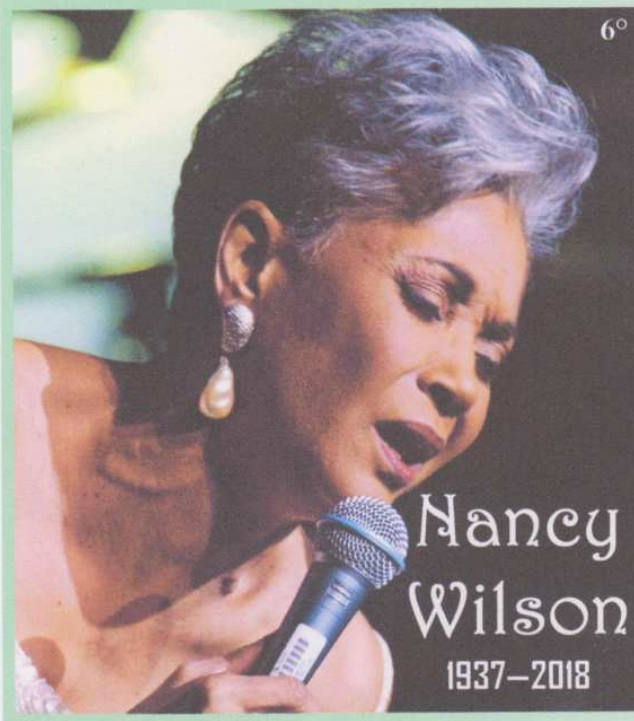
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

JANUARY 30, 2018 • NEW YORK, NY 10199

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne (June 30, 1917 – May 9, 2010) is known as one of the most popular African-American entertainers of the 20th century. She was an amazing woman of great beauty and talent who performed in nightclubs, concert halls, movies, and on radio and television. Lena Horne's pride in her heritage, her refusal to compromise herself, and her innate elegance, grace, and dignity made her a legendary figure.



Nancy Wilson was a three-time Grammy Award winner. In 1964, she won her first Grammy Award for the Best Rhythm and Blues recording for the album *How Glad I Am*. In 2005, she won Best Jazz Vocal Album for *R.S.V.P. (Rare Songs, Very Personal)*, and in 2007, she won Best Jazz Vocal Album for *Turned to Blue*. Wilson was the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships award in 2004, the highest honors that the United States government bestows upon jazz musicians. In 2005, she received the NAACP Image Awards for Best Recording Jazz Artist.



Nancy Sue Wilson was born on February 20, 1937, in Chillicothe, Ohio. She sang avidly from the age of 4 and, as a teenager, became entranced by the female singers she heard on a local jukebox. A hardworking and highly efficient singer, Ms. Wilson released more than 70 albums in a five-decade recording career. She remained proud of her holistic approach to music, preferring to call herself a "song stylist." Her biggest hit came in 1964 when "(You Don't Know) How Glad I Am," a rapturous R&B ballad delivered with panache, reached No. 11 on Billboard's pop chart. Three years later, she became one of the few African-Americans of her day to host a TV program, the Emmy-winning *Nancy Wilson Show* on NBC. She won three Grammy Awards, one for best rhythm and blues recording for the 1964 album *How Glad I Am* and two for best jazz vocal album, in 2005 and 2007. In 2004, she was honored as a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts. For her lifelong work as an advocate of civil rights, in 2005, she was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta. Nancy Wilson died December 13, 2018.



Nancy Wilson
1937-2018

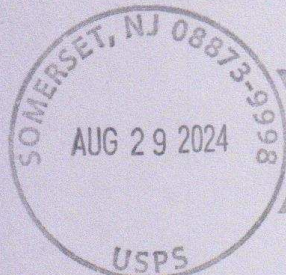
Nancy Sue Wilson (February 20, 1937 – December 13, 2018) was an American singer whose career spanned over five decades, from the mid-1950s until her retirement in the early-2010s. She was notable for her single "(You Don't Know) How Glad I Am" and her version of the standard "Guess Who I Saw Today." Wilson recorded more than 70 albums and won three Grammy Awards for her work. During her performing career, Wilson was labeled a singer of blues, jazz, R&B, pop, and soul, a "consummate actress," and "the complete entertainer." The title she preferred, however, was "song stylist." Wilson received many nicknames including "Sweet Nancy," "The Baby," "Fancy Miss Nancy," and "The Girl With the Honey-Coated Voice."





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Dinah Washington

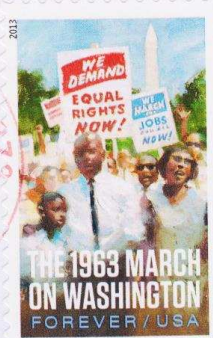


1924 — Birth Centennial — 2024

Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Dinah Washington (born Ruth Lee Jones; August 29, 1924 - December 14, 1963) was a singer and pianist, one of the most popular Black female recording artists of the 1950s. Primarily a jazz vocalist, she performed and recorded in a wide variety of styles including blues, R&B, and traditional pop music, and gave herself the title of "Queen of the Blues." She also was known as "Queen of the Jukeboxes." She was a 1986 inductee of the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993. She sang with the bands of Fats Waller and Lionel Hampton before becoming a solo artist. Her hits included a version of Fats Waller's "Ain't Misbehavin'," "What a Diff'rence a Day Makes," "Baby Get Lost," "Teach Me Tonight," "Unforgettable," and two highly successful duets in 1960 with Brook Benton, "Baby (You've Got What It Takes)" and "A Rockin' Good Way (To Mess Around And Fall In Love)."



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50th Anniversary Memorial

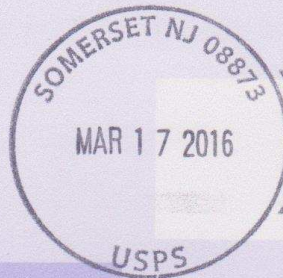
Dinah Washington, born Ruth Lee Jones (August 29, 1924 - December 14, 1963), was an American singer and pianist, who has been cited as "the most popular Black female recording artist of the '50s." Primarily a jazz vocalist, she performed and recorded in a wide variety of styles including blues, R&B, and traditional pop music. Her chart-toppers included "Am I Asking Too Much," "Teach Me Tonight," "What a Diff'rence a Day Makes," "September in the Rain," and a duet with Brook Benton, "Baby (You've Got What It Takes)." In 1959, she won a Grammy for Best Rhythm & Blues Performance, and in 1993, she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Also in 1993, the U. S. Post Service commemorated Dinah Washington with a 29¢ postage stamp as part of the Rock & Roll/Rhythm & Blues sheet. She died at the age of 39 from a lethal combination of barbiturates.





6°

Sarah VAUGHAN



Sarah Lois Vaughan (1924-1990) was a jazz and pop singer whose talent for improvisation and skillful phrasing created a style all her own. Born in Newark, New Jersey, Vaughan was a Grammy Award winner as well as a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award. Nicknamed "Sassy" and "The Divine One," her voice ranged over several octaves from soprano through a female baritone and had exceptional body, volume, a variety of vocal textures, and superb and highly personal vocal control. Vaughan's *New York Times* obituary described her as a "singer who brought an operatic splendor to her performances of popular standards and jazz." Her signature songs included "Tenderly," "Whatever Lola Wants," and "Misty." Singers directly influenced by Vaughan have included Phoebe Snow, Anita Baker, Sade, and Rickie Lee Jones.



"Whatever Lola Wants"
"Make Yourself Comfortable"
"Broken-Hearted Melody"

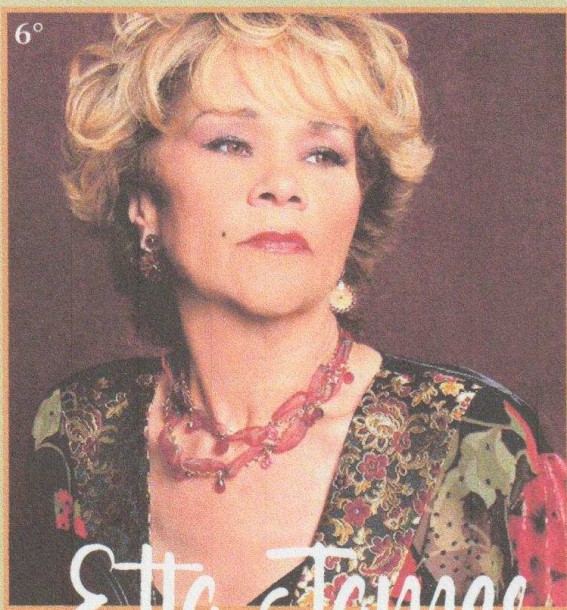
Sarah Vaughan



As one of the most compelling vocalists in American history, Sarah Vaughan was renowned for her artistic eloquence. Her dynamic vocal range, iconic vibrato, and innovative phrasing helped to transform jazz and popular music.

Birth Centennial
March 27, 1924 - April 3, 1990





Etta James

2012 – 10th Anniversary Memorial – 2022



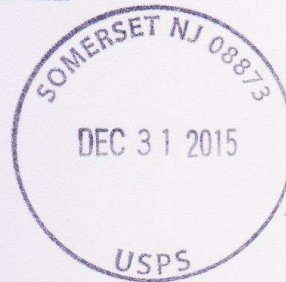
Jamesetta Hawkins (January 25, 1938 – January 20, 2012), known professionally as Etta James, was a singer with a powerful, deep, earthy voice who performed in various genres, including blues, R&B, soul, rock and roll, jazz, and gospel. Starting her career in 1954, she gained fame with hits such as “The Wallflower,” “At Last,” “Tell Mama,” “Something’s Got a Hold on Me,” and “I’d Rather Go Blind.” Once considered one of the most overlooked blues and R&B musicians in the music history of the United States, James won six Grammy Awards and 17 Blues Music Awards. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Grammy Hall of Fame, the Blues Hall of Fame, and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame. The Rhythm and Blues Foundation included James in their first Pioneer Awards, and she received an NAACP Image Award, which is given for “outstanding achievements and performances of people of color in the arts.” *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked James number 22 on its list of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time; she also was ranked number 62 on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. *Billboard* magazine’s 2015 list of the 35 Greatest R&B Artists Of All Time included James. And she has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 7080 Hollywood Blvd.



Take a Look is a 1993 album by singer Natalie Cole, released on June 9, 1993, by Elektra Records. Cole won the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for *Take a Look* at the 36th Grammy Awards.



Natalie COLE



Natalie Maria Cole (February 6, 1950 – December 31, 2015) was a singer, songwriter, and performer. Cole had music in her genes. Her father was legendary crooner Nat King Cole; her mother, Maria Cole, sang with the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Natalie rose to musical success in the mid-1970s as an R&B artist with the hits “This Will Be,” “Inseparable,” and “Our Love.” She won the Best New Artist Grammy in 1975, the first of nine she would win throughout her career. In early 1979, the singer was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. After a period of failing sales and performances due to a heavy drug addiction, Cole re-emerged as a pop artist with the 1987 album, *Everlasting*, and her cover of Bruce Springsteen’s “Pink Cadillac.” In the 1990s, she re-recorded standards by her late father, resulting in her biggest success, *Unforgettable...with Love*, which sold over seven million copies and featured a technology-assisted duet for the song “Unforgettable” with her father’s original recording. In 2000, Cole released an autobiography, *Angel on My Shoulder*, which described her battle with drugs during much of her life. Years after reclaiming her life from drug addiction, Cole was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2008. She got a successful kidney transplant in May 2009. It was reported that Cole died of congestive heart failure and complications from “ongoing health issues.” During her career, Natalie Cole released 21 albums including Christmas albums and an album in Spanish. She was married and divorced three times and is survived by a son.

