

woodshedding

Sidney Bechet's 'Texas Moaner Blues'

In the early 1920s, the two most inventive horn soloists in jazz were Louis Armstrong on cornet and trumpet, and Sidney Bechet on the little-used soprano saxophone. Bechet was a genius at doing a lot with a little, particularly on that most fundamental of jazz forms, the blues. LES SABINA explains how he does it on a 1924 classic.

TEXAS MOANER BLUES
IMPROVISED SOLO BY SIDNEY BECHET

RECORDED OCT. 1924
OKEH RECORDS

TRANSCRIBED BY LES SABINA

SLOW

SOPRANO SAX KEY
SOUNDS MAJOR (AND LOWER)

END SOLO

ON OCTOBER 17, 1924, Sidney Bechet participated in a most interesting recording session. On this date, pianist Clarence Williams' Blue Five recorded only one number for Okeh Records – a single performance that was to cement Bechet's reputation as 'a musician's musician' among early jazz players and knowledgeable fans.

Bechet knew that he had to play something special during his single 12-measure 'Texas Moaner Blues' chorus. After all, youngster Louis Armstrong had just showed what a formidable force he had become in the chorus preceding this one.

Bechet's solo immediately showcases his full soprano saxophone sound and great technical command of the instrument. Phrases frequently stretch wider than an octave and contain a dazzling amount of rhythmic variety. However, as all of this virtuosity is spun out, Bechet manages to retain the essence of the blues. Bent notes, swoops, and blue notes are all utilized to impart a relaxed and honest commentary of New Orleans-style jazz to all who cared to listen to this new type of music.

Beside Williams and Armstrong, 'Texas Moaner Blues' also featured Charlie Irvis on trombone and Buddy Christian on banjo.

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JazzUK Listings

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by Jazz Services. Also at
www.jazzservices.org.uk



JazzUK offers one of the most comprehensive specialist listings services of any European publication. But while every effort is made to maintain accuracy, always check with the venue before travelling!

Send your gig information to:

JazzUK, 26 The Balcony, Castle Arcade, Cardiff, CF10 1BY.

Fax: (029)2066 5160. E-Mail jazzuk.cardiff@virgin.net

And remember, this is your magazine too! If you spot errors or omissions, please help us (and other fans) by letting us know.

Deadline for receipt of listings for the next issue (January/February 2005) is Monday November 29.

ON THE ROAD IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



THE LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL hosts the 81 year-old American sax legend Sam Rivers on November 13 - the former sideman with Billie Holiday, Miles Davis and Cecil Taylor, is also touring with a trio and a British orchestra. Rivers plays Birmingham (Nov 6), Brighton (7), Leeds (9), Bath (10), Manchester (11), Southampton (12) and London (13).

DAMON BROWN'S trumpet playing and composing have won him acclaim all over Europe. Brown blends British and American influences into a highly personalised approach. Crossovers into dance and pop culture have also influenced his composing, but he's rooted firmly in the Blue Note hard bop tradition, and the quartet on this Jazz Services tour concentrates on standards. Celebrated American guitarist Doug Raney joins Dave Green and Steve Brown on bass and drums, and you can catch them in Leicester (Nov 10), Coventry (11), Boxford (12), South Bank (13), Welwyn Garden City (14), Brentwood (16) Hull (17), Sheffield (18), Wakefield (19), Bristol (21), Cheltenham (23), Newcastle (24), Nottingham (25) and Brighton (26).



JONATHAN GEE, the fine British pianist, tours through November with saxophonist Ed Jones and the two talented Italians (bassist Danilo Gallo and drummer Alessandro Minetto) he met at the Appenine Jazz Festival last year. Gallo has worked with Benny Golson, Minetto with Steve Grossman and Gilad Atzmon, and all the band members will be contributing their own compositions. The tour takes in London's 606 (Nov 18), Brighton (19), Teignmouth (20), the Lord Rookwood (23), Edinburgh (25), Manchester (26/27) and Bristol (28).



EARTH TO ETHER is saxophonist/flautist Theo Travis's latest album for 33 Records, a reflective project mixing jazz ballads, grooves, ambient music and electronics - and even a visit to King Crimson's '21st Century Schizoid Man'. Travis tours the programme with Simon Colam (piano), Andy Hamill (bass) and Mark Parnell (drums) through November and December, and guitarist Pete Callard joins for three December gigs. See listings in all regions for details.



LONDON

Lack of space prevents a comprehensive listing of London jazz gigs. **Jazz UK's London listings include major venues, highlight concerts and selected events. More complete information concerning local jazz activity can be obtained by consulting the leaflet *Jazz in London* (widely available free of charge from record shops, venues etc), a local what's on publication such as *Time Out*, or the *Jazz Guide* which lists traditional jazz.**

MAJOR HALLS

BARBICAN CENTRE
Barbican LONDON 020 7638 8891
Nov 5/6 Caetano Veloso
12 Dizzy Gillespie Alumni
18 Rachid Taha & Enzo Avitabile

PURCELL ROOMS
South Bank LONDON 020 7960 4242
Nov 17 Graham Collier Celebration

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
South Bank LONDON 020 7960 4242
Nov 12 Gwyneth Herbert
13 Sam Rivers Trio & Rivbea Orchestra UK
14 Lennie Niehaus w BBC Big Band
16 Vocal Sampling
18 Dhafer Youssef
19 Carla Bley's Lost Chords
19 Gilad Atzmon Orient House Ens.
20 David Murray's Creole Project

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
Kensington LONDON 020 7589 8212
Nov 16/17 Michael Buble

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Southbank LONDON 020 7960 4242
Nov 5 Bob Martin Qrt 5.15
11 Joglearesa
12 Jazz Festival 5.15
12 Zoe Rahman Trio (lch)
13 Damon Brown Qrt
14 Branford Marsalis
15 Cecil Taylor/Bill Dixon/Tony Oxley & Anthony Braxton Qnt
17 Nitin Sawhney
17 Zoe Rahman/Alcyona Mick (lch)
19 Jazz Festival 5.15
19 Zoe Rahman Group (lch)
21 Jan Garbarek Qrt
24 Graham Harvey Trio (lch)
25 Antonio Ciacco w Wess Anderson (lch)
26 Doudou Cissoko Trio (lch)
26 Roger Beaujolais Band 5.15
27 Samara (lch)
28 Tango Volcano (lch)
Dec 1 Mike Gorman Trio (lch)
3 Flanagan/Ingham Qrt 5.15
3 Lawless Four (lch)
5 Roberto Sironi Ens. (lch)
6 Piccadilly Dance Orch 2pm
8 John Escreet Trio (lch)
9 Rebecca Hollweg Trio (lch)
10 Bobby Wellins Qrt 5.15
10 John Williams Trio (lch)
11 The Baritone Band (lch)
15 Richard Busiekiewicz Trio (lch)
17 Eriko Ishihara Trio (lch)
17 Gareth Lockrayne Qnt 5.15
18 Lilliana Chachian Qnt (lch)
19 Shanghai Syncopated Orch (lch)
22 Karim Merchant Trio (lch)
23 Ukulele Orch. of G B (lch)
24 Five Go Jiving (lch)
29 John Critchinson Trio (lch)
30 Ray d'Inverno Trio (lch)
31 London Salon Ens. (lch)

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
South Bank LONDON 020 7452 3000/020 7452 3327
Foyer
Nov 22 Gee - Gallo - Minetto & Jones

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden LONDON 020 7304 4000
Nov 9 Malcolm Edmonstone Trio w Jacqui Dankworth (lch)
16 Malcolm Edmonstone Trio w Nick Rodwell (lch)

WIGMORE HALL
Wigmore St LONDON W1 Info 020 7258 8240
Nov 17/18 Brad Mehldau

CENTRAL

100 CLUB
100 Oxford Street LONDON 020 7636 0933
Nov 13 T.J. Johnson J & B Band
22 The Duchess & Her Dukes
25 Colin Kingwell J Bandits
Dec 16 T.J. Johnson Bourbon Kick

PIZZA EXPRESS
Dean St LONDON 020 7439 8722
Nov 5 Gustavo Marques
6/7 Monica Vasconcelos & Gilson
8 Kyle Eastwood Band
9 Mina Agossi
10/11 Jacqui Dankworth
12/13 Jason Lindner
14 Madeleine Peyroux
15 Jamie Cullum
16/17 Bobo Stenson & KO
18/19 Rosa Passos & Tomorrows Warriors
20 Sijie Nergaard & Tomorrows Warriors
21 Sijie Nergaard

PIZZA ON THE PARK
Knightsbridge LONDON 020 7235 5273
Nov 3 Sophie Garner Sextet
8 Juliet Kelly
15 Iris Festeinstein album launch
21 Kevin O'Brien
22 Joe Stilgoe
24 Jason Nolan
28 Back to Basie Big Band
28 Open mic (lch) w Chris Legege
29/30 Andrea Black
Dec 5 Vincent Maiolini
6-11 Rebecca Wheatley
12 Lucy Delafons
13-18 Girl Talk
19 Open mic (lch) w Chris Legege
31 Charleston Chasers

RAY'S JAZZ SHOP
Foyle's 131 Charing Cross Rd LONDON 020 7440 3205
Nov 6 Avishai Cohen (2pm)
12 London Jazz Festival artists 1pm
13 Tony Kofi & Jonathan Gee (2pm)
17 London Jazz Festival artists 1pm
18 Jonathan Gee Trio 1pm
19 London Jazz Festival artists
19 Jarmila Xymena Gorna 6pm
20 Kathleen Willison, Tim Whitehead & Gwilym Simcock 2pm
25 Sarah Washington

RONNIE SCOTT'S
Frith St LONDON 020 7439 0747
Nov 1-6 Avishai Cohen Vamp Band & Jackie Ryan
8-13 Yellowjackets & Ben Castle Qrt
14 Vinicio Cantuarua
15-20 Alan Skidmore & Ubizo & Arnie Somogyi Qrt
21 Brotherhood of Breath Chris McGregor Tribute
22-27 Joe Locke 4 Walls Of Freedom & Pat Crumly Qrt
28 Jamie Scott
29- Dec 4 Jose Neto & Sheena Davis Group
Dec 5 Jamie Scott
6-11 Liane Carroll & Edgar Abraham Septet
13-18 George Melly & Digby Fairweather & Ray Gelato's Giants
19 Sarah Jane Morris
20-23 George Melly & Digby Fairweather & Ray Gelato's Giants
27-31 George Melly & Digby Fairweather & Ray Gelato's Giants

OUT & ABOUT

291 GALLERY
Hackney Rd LONDON 020 7613 5676
Nov 28 Ear Drum 6 percussion solos w Paul Hession, Eddie Prevost a.o

606 CLUB
90 Lots Rd LONDON 020 7352 5953
Jazz 7 nights a week
Nov 18 Gee - Gallo - Minetto & Jones

ARTS DEPOT
Tally Ho Corner North Finchley LONDON N12 020 8449 0048
Nov 14 F-ire Collective Songs & Strings w Ingrid Laubrock, Ife Tolentino, Julia Biel & Synergy
21 Humphrey Lyttelton Band
27 Eva Katzler

BRIXTON RITZY CINEMA
Upstairs Bar Brixton Rd LONDON SW2 020 7733 2229
Nov 13 Manas
14 Kevin Davy
15 Polaris
16 Mahjoon
17 Julia Biel (tbc)
18 Lautrec & Dahu Mumagi
19 KFD Project feat DJs
20 Beat Tree
21 Joy

BLACKHEATH CONCERT HALL
23 Lee Rd Blackheath LONDON 020 8463 0100
Nov 2 Greenwich & Lewisham Youth Jazz Orch
9 Victoria Newton
14 Billy Jenkins Blues Collective
16 Dave Cliff
25 Trinity College Jazz Ens.

BONNINGTON CENTRE
11 Vauxhall Grove LONDON 01952 571323
Nov 8 Steve Harris' Zaum
22 Muta
Dec 6 Hadaly

BULLS HEAD
373 Lonsdale Rd Barnes LONDON 020 8876 5241
Jazz nightly & Sunday lunchtimes - call for programme

CAFE IN THE CRYPT
St Martins In The Field Trafalgar Square LONDON 020 7839 4342
Nov 17 T.J. Johnson Bourbon Kick

HALF MOON MUSIC ROOM
93 Lower Richmond Rd Putney LONDON
Sun lch: Dick Laurie Elastic Band

JAZZ CAFE
Camden Parkway LONDON 020 7344 0044
Suns: Jam Session w Tomorrows Warriors (from noon)
Nov 1 Steve Coleman Five Elements
26 The Bad Plus
Dec 13-16 JTO
17-19 Courtney Pine
20-24 London Comm. Gospel Choir

THE KINGS HEAD
115 - 117 Upper St Islington LONDON 020 7226 0364
Tues: T.J. Johnson
15 Carl Orr Band

LAUDERDALE HOUSE
Highgate Hill LONDON 020 8348 8716
Nov 4 Ed Jones Qrt
18 Roy Powell Trio
25 Anita Wardell & Robin Aspland
Dec 2 Gary Crosby Qrt w Steve Williamson

LE QUEENSBURY & BRASSERIE
42 - 44 Battersea High St LONDON 020 787 2227
Nov 1 Quintarelli-Ferraretto

2 Gypsy Jazz
4 Eliza Emery
5 Pete Shepherd & Co
8 Robin 'Kool' Katz
9 Gypsy Jazz
11 Eliza Emery
12 Jack Burton
13 Billy Thompson
14 Keith Cooper & Peter Shade
15 Stuart Blagden & Ducato Piotrowski
16 Gypsy Jazz
18 Eliza Emery
19 Jack Burton
20 Pigalle 44 masterclass
21/22 Pigalle 44 tbc
23 Gypsy Jazz
25 Eliza Emery
26 Jack Burton
27 Monique
28 Stuart Blagden & Lee Clark
29 Club Tabou
30 Gypsy Jazz
Dec 2 Eliza Emery
11 Gypsy jazz guitar masterclass w Lollo Meier
12 Lollo Meier
13 gypsy violin masterclass w Tcha Limberger
13 Lollo Meier
call for other Dec dates

THE LORD ROOKWOOD
314 Cann Hall Rd Leytonstone LONDON 0208 519 0785
Tuesdays: Clive Fenner w guests
Nov 2 Gee, Gallo, Minetto & Jones
9 Chris Garrick