

Inventaire FSQ-PROG-CRT

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Description

Fonds Francis Quétier, programmes de concert. Inventaire en cours.
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Galleries

Lot 1 Programmes, concerts (mélanges)

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The Yerba Buena Stompers, 1989.



and he became a full time musician.

By the mid 1930's, he was playing and traveling with Earl Lather's Orchestra and he got as far as New Orleans where the band played a ten month residency. While there, he got to meet many of New Orleans' better jazz men in after hours jam sessions and this really is a first in his heart he play some hot jazz when he got back to San Francisco. He had become so enchanted with the big swinging sound of the time, and was determined to develop a hot jazz band where he could play the blues and improvise some hot jazz. He needed some time to think, so he took a job as a clerk aboard a freight steamer, the U.S. Arctique, bound for the Orient. When his ship's work was done, he'd sit out on the back deck, play his trumpet and dream about the new band he would form back in San Francisco. He also began writing original material and one of these tunes, "Mintique Blues", comes from this period.

Upon his arrival back in San Francisco in 1938, he formed a hot jazz big band along the lines of The Big City Orchestra and began a long stint at Sam's Ballroom in Oakland, California. It was here he began to meet other disenchanted swing band musicians anxious to play some hot jazz. Turk Murphy, Bob Hays, Charlie Hays and Bud Kurland among them. They started going to after hours jam sessions at The Big Rock Tavern and sometimes they would go out to the beach and strident in their designed locales to play their music in the sand and the fog and the surf in an effort to develop what is called a "Big Bedroom Band" (the city musicians had to New Orleans from parade playing.

By 1940, he had a band playing at The Ocean Club every Monday night and this led to the formation of what would become La Verba Buena Jazz Band. They collected more talents and they had a phenomenally successful hot show until June 1942, when the war clouds were larger and The Pacific coasted in to join the Navy. There he was asked to form a twenty piece Navy Dance Orchestra and a smaller jazz band where, based out of Hawaii, they traveled throughout the Pacific Islands.

He was discharged from the Navy in June of 1945 and he re-organized the Verba Buena Jazz Band. They played at The Ocean Club until the end of 1946 and in 1947 against their own cooperative rights club in El Centro, California, called "Mendocino Kelly's". They made records, did radio shows and developed a big following. The band had built until 1950 when he retired from music at the age of 38.

He worked as a chef and indicated his first love to the study of geology and the environment. In his later years, he lived in a modest home in Ukiah, California where he often entertained among his friends who study the geographs to talk about jazz. And, if they were lucky and asked for right answers, he invited them to share a glass or two of "Vintage red wine".

He did come out of retirement in 1980 to play with Turk Murphy's jazz band, make a record, and take part in a concert to preserve the building of a teacher power plant in Sonoma State. He played just the same way he always had, big swinging phrases full of blue notes and powerful swing energy. "The 'Shakedown'" around he always looked for. But, in the end he seemed to prefer the quiet life and gave up the music for good. Oh, he would get the horn out every once in a while, and if the strings and wife was hearing, he would come down a chance or two for his string of admirers, but he preferred to know that there is effort as he could use the energy for music on the beach, holding his beloved wife's hand and rolling about under starry night sky.

He left us on November 1, 1989. Not nearly enough time, he was a hero to all of us who loved "La Verba" jazz, a longer than life good time Charlie, who loved life, good times, hot jazz and red wine. He was the stuff of legends.

John Gill, August 1991

Welcome!

We hope you enjoy today's music and encourage you to get out and dance!



Best regards,
Charles and Glenna Campbell
Leon and Brenda Oakley
and the Law Firm of O'Reilly Collins

The Verba Buena Stompers
Leader and Banjo: John Gill
Trumpet: Duke Heister
Trumpet: Leon Oakley
Trombone: Tom Bartlett



The Yerba Buena Stompers

This band was culled from
great musicians of the east,
midwest, and west of the country.
They are guaranteed to get your
attention - and get you dancing!

MUSICIANS

Leader and songs	John Gil
Trumpet	Leon Oakley
Trumpet	Duke Holiger
Truophone	Tom Bartlett
Clarinet	Orange Kallio
Piano	Conal Foxches
Drums	Kevin Dorn
Tuba	Clint Baker

On Sunday, December 4, 2021

The Yerba Buena Jazz Society presents a
Celebration of West Coast Traditional Jazz
The Luc Walker Memorial Concert

Please join

Charles & Glenn Campbell
Leon & Brenda Oakley
and the Law Firm of O'Reilly Collins

at

BIMBO'S 365 Club
1022 Columbus Avenue
(Columbus off Chestnut Street)
San Francisco, California
3PM to 7PM
(Doors open at 2:30)

Ticket price is \$10.00 per person
No limit but

The venue is limited to 100 persons
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED
(first come, first served)
E-mail: Brenda Oakley at bjoakley2@msn.com
or by mail
8 Mount Summa Court
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: (415) 470-9075

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