

LARRY APPELBAUM (Apr. 12, 1957 - Feb. 21, 2025) The jazz historian, who helped the Library of Congress become a leading center for jazz research, died at age 67 from complications of pneumonia. Appelbaum suffered a stroke in 2017 but teleworked, retiring in 2020. Among his discoveries as a historian and archivist were the 1957 Carnegie Hall tapes of the Thelonious Monk Quartet with John Coltrane. He hosted lectures and events at the Library of Congress and persuaded such greats as Max Roach to donate their papers. Appelbaum wrote for *JazzTimes* and other outlets, and hosted a weekly jazz program on WPFW.

BILL ASHTON (Dec. 6, 1936 - Mar. 8, 2025) The British saxophonist, who was awarded both MBE and OBE honors by the late Queen Elizabeth, died at age 88. Known for educational endeavors and youth advocacy in jazz, in 1965 Ashton founded Britain's National Youth Jazz, and arranged for established players to collaborate with the band.

ROY AYERS (Sep. 10, 1940 - Mar. 4, 2025) The vibraphonist, composer and record producer passed away at age 84. A pioneer of jazz-funk, and what would be labeled "acid jazz," Ayers began in the early '60s as a post bop artist, appearing on albums by Curtis Amy, Vi Redd, Jack Wilson and Leroy Vinnegar. After his leader debut on United Artists (*West Coast Vibes*, 1963), he collaborated, most notably, with Herbie Mann. He would then go on to record for Atlantic, Polydor, Ronnie Scott's Jazz House, Groovetown and Columbia. His sidemen included Gary Bartz, Ron Carter, Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, Alphonse Mouzon, Sonny Sharrock, Charles Tolliver, Miroslav Vitous, Buster Williams, Reggie Workman and others. Ayers' music has been famously and frequently sampled by hip hop artists and rappers; one of his last albums was *Jazz Is Dead 2* with Adrian Younge and A Tribe Called Quest's Ali Shaheed Muhammad.

GENE BARGE (Aug. 9, 1926 - Feb. 2, 2025) The saxophonist died at age 98. Known as "Daddy G," he recorded with Jackie Wilson, Fontella Bass, Brother Jack McDuff and others. He's best known for Gary U.S. Bonds' hit "Quarter to Three" and as album producer for John Klemmer, Etta James and Bobby Bryant.

ERIC BARRET (May 5, 1959 - Feb. 27, 2025) The France-born saxophonist, composer and bandleader died at age 65. Self-taught, his career began in 1978 wherein he played in Parisian clubs with Chet Baker, Pepper Adams and Slide Hampton. In addition to forming a trio with Henri Texier and Aldo Romano in 1985 (which recorded and released an eponymous album in 1988), he played and recorded with many ensembles including the Orchestre National De Jazz that featured countrymen Didier Levallet and Daunik Lazro as well as Americans John Scofield and Aaron Scott.

THOMAS BELLINO (1951 - Feb. 18, 2025) The promoter-producer-composer died at age 73. Bellino was most notably founder of Planet Arts Recordings. Between 2001-18, the label released albums by the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Bob Brookmeyer, Ted Rosenthal, Ahmed Abdullah, Jimmy Heath, Diane Moser and others. Bellino was the Jazz Program Specialist for Chamber Music America and established the Kingston International Jazz Festival.

ADALBERTO CEVASCO (Dec. 14, 1946 - Mar. 3, 2025) The Buenos Aires-born bassist, pianist-keyboardist, composer-arranger, died in Spain at age 78. Cevasco played and/or recorded in an array of settings, from Spanish divas Rocío Jurado and Isabel Pantoja, to Lalo

Schifrin, Astor Piazzolla and Mercedes Sosa. With Gato Barbieri he was part of a band that included Brazilian percussionist Nana Vasconcelos.

FRANK DEMIERO (Jul. 27, 1940 - Feb. 19, 2025) The music educator and bandleader passed away at age 84. A resident of Washington state, he founded the DeMiero Jazz Festival and Frank DeMiero Jazz Camp. He was also co-founder of the Jazz Education Network and Sound Music Publications (now Anchor Music).

BART FERMIE (1955 - Mar. 9, 2025) The Amsterdam-based percussionist, who also sang, and played harmonica and guitar, passed away at age 69. He studied Cuban and Brazilian percussion in New York and Havana and founded the Dutch band, Small Talk. Fermie taught at the Amsterdam Conservatory and Rotterdam Conservatory, composed and produced his own albums, and worked with Bruno Castellucci, Jasper Van't Hof, Jesse Van Ruller, Chris Hinze, Yuri Honing and others.

BUNKY GREEN (Apr. 23, 1935 - Mar. 1, 2025) The saxophonist, composer and educator, often termed a "musician's musician," died at age 89. Known for adventurous improvising, the Milwaukee-born Green achieved prominence as a bop player in the '60s, performing with Charles Mingus, Sonny Stitt and Elvin Jones, before moving into playing with unconventional phrasing and harmonics. He taught at Chicago State University, was director of jazz studies at the University of North Florida and was a past president of the International Association of Jazz Education. Green had albums on Argo, Vee Jay, Cadet and Vanguard in the '60s-70s, and then his own or collaborative dates on Delos, Label Bleu, Traumton, Edition Longplay and Pi Recordings (the latter released a late career highlight in 2010, with the highly-acclaimed *Apex*, co-led by fellow alto saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa).

RAY KELLEY (Feb. 26, 1938 - Mar. 4, 2025) The crossover cellist and record producer died at age 87. He began with the Utah Symphony, Dallas Symphony and the L.A. Philharmonic, before becoming a Hollywood session musician. In 1988, Kelley founded his own record label, Resort Music, Inc., producing music for resorts and for performance on satellite, cable, Internet and radio broadcasting. He had credits with Frank Zappa, Alice Coltrane, Supersax, Herb Alpert/Hugh Masekela, Lalo Schifrin, Al Di Meola, Earl Klugh, Jaco Pastorius, Diane Schuur, Les McCann, Doc Severinsen, The Manhattan Transfer, Shirley Horn and others.

RICK KIEFER (May 24, 1939 - Mar. 2, 2025) The Cleveland-born trumpeter, who spent most of his career in Germany, died at age 85. In the early '60s he was a member of the Maynard Ferguson Big Band, before joining Max Greger in Cologne, followed by stints with Kurt Edelhagen and Peter Herbolzheimer. Kiefer would become a permanent member of the WDR Big Band. In 1975, he released his sole album as leader, *Lush Life*, a large ensemble featuring Herb Geller, Palle Mikkelborg, Jiggs Whigham and others. His credits include Ronnie Ross, Kenny Clarke-Francy Boland Big Band, Lalo Schifrin, Gianluigi Trovesi and others.

TONY KINSEY (Oct. 11, 1927 - Feb. 10, 2025) The drummer, a leading figure in post-war British jazz, died at age 97. With John Dankworth and Ronnie Scott, Kinsey advocated for bop and jazz modernism and achieved prominence as a bandleader, then as a session player and soundtrack composer. Kinsey composed for short films and cartoons, created more than 100 commercial jingles and wrote library music

into this century. Later, after studying advanced compositional techniques with arranger Bill Russo, he wrote many long-form pieces. He had recently joined the Way Out West collective of younger jazz musicians. Kinsey also worked with Tommy Whittle, Ronnie Ball, Jimmy Deuchar and others and recorded for Esquire, Decca, Parlophone, Ember and Spotlite.

JIM LAMPI (? - March 10, 2025) The renowned Chapman Stick player passed away at an estimated age of 70. After graduating from San Diego University he became a professional musician in 1976, playing the guitar and saxophone in bars and clubs in Aspen and San Diego. He found his way to the Chapman Stick, a relatively new instrument, shortly after. He had albums on Zok, Iguana, Gila and Kissing Fish Music and was a member of The New World Orchestra. His latest collaboration was with Zeus B Held and aboriginal musicians.

PETER "BANJO" MEYER (Mar. 28, 1944 - Feb. 6, 2025) The German guitarist-banjoist, vocalist and music producer died at age 80. Founder of the New Orleans Hot Owls with trombonist Gerd Goldenbow in 1963, he later founded Jazz Lips and played in various Hamburg jazz and R&B bands such as the Steamboat Stompers. Meyer appeared solo in the U.S. at banjo festivals and was a Formula 5 driver for a time.

PEDRO PAULO (Jul. 9, 1939 - Mar. 6, 2025) The Brazilian trumpeter died at age 86. He began on trumpet at age nine and as a teenager played Cuban music and joined Rádio Nacional. Paulo studied medicine, then returned fully to music by 1985, joining the Rio Jazz Orchestra. His many credits include Milton Nascimento, Herbie Mann, Cannonball Adderley, Flora Purim, Dom Um Romão and many others.

NANNIE PORRES (Apr. 30, 1939 - Feb. 17, 2025) The foremost Swedish jazz vocalist died at age 85. Porres began her career at age 13, winning a talent contest and soon began performing at Nalen in Stockholm. She sang in the jazz group Jazz Club 57 and had albums on Odeon, EMI, Dragon and Four Leaf Clover plus credits with Bernt Rosengren and the Contemporary Bebop Quintet.

PAUL SHEARSMITH (1946 - Mar. 12, 2025) An instrument maker, trumpeter and brass specialist, Shearsmith passed away at age 78. While studying at the Leeds School of Architecture, he discovered the music of Miles Davis, Charles Mingus and others. In the early '70s he began playing experimental music, and with a modified Indonesian tube instrument joined a group of sound playground builders and became part of the musicians' collective Echo City, with whom he released five albums (1992-2000). He recorded two albums with Japanese blues singer Fuji, playing a tuned gas pipe, baliphone and pocket trumpet, and exhibited his object Amazon 131 at the 100 Years Gallery in 2012. Shearsmith had collaborative albums on Fragile Noise and Emanem, and was a member of the Spontaneous Music Orchestra.

DAOUD-DAVID WILLIAMS (Jul. 23, 1943 - Feb. 15, 2025) The percussionist and activist died at age 82. He founded the Community Awareness Series, which provided cultural experiences and educational programs to Jersey City, NJ's underserved communities and beyond. He co-founded the multi-horn The Spirit of Life Ensemble, which was grounded in the loft scene of the '70s and included members Archie Shepp, Randy Weston, Pharoah Sanders, Eddie Henderson, Kenny Barron and Joe Ford. The ensemble had albums on Rise Up Productions and Cristal since the mid '80s. Williams' credits include Ted Curson, Ray Blue, Chip Shelton and others.