

ANDY BEY (Oct. 28, 1939 – Apr. 26, 2025) The Newark, NJ-born singer and pianist died at age 85 at The Actors Fund Home in Englewood, NJ, surrounded by family, including sister, vocalist Geraldine de Haas, as well as nephew and niece Darius and Aisha de Haas, both Broadway and jazz vocalists and entertainers. Openly gay, and HIV-positive, Bey drew legions of admirers in and beyond the jazz world for his coming out and dignity in handling his battle with the virus. His career was long and storied, from being a child prodigy (influenced early on by Billie Holiday, Nat “King” Cole, Billy Eckstine and Sarah Vaughan) to attending Newark Arts High School and performing at the Apollo Theater. In the mid ’50s Bey worked on the TV show *The Star Time Kids*, which also featured Connie Francis and Joe Pesci. Bey’s singing career started with a family group, billed as Andy and The Bey Sisters, with Salome Bey and Geraldine Bey de Haas, recording three albums with his siblings from 1961-65 for the RCA Victor and Prestige labels: *Andy and The Bey Sisters*, *Now! Hear!* and *Round Midnight*. Bey and his sisters also made a 16-month tour of Europe before disbanding in 1967. His vocal prowess included a four-octave range from powerful baritone to falsetto and was attributed with a faultless control over “every single sustain or sotto phrase” (*Jazzwise*). His impressive sideman work in the ’60s and ’70s included Horace Silver (*That Healin’ Feelin’: The United States of Mind/Phase 1* and *Total Response: The United States of Mind/Phase 2*), Gary Bartz’ NTU Troop (*Uhuru, Juju Street Songs* and *Follow the Medicine Man*), Stanley Clarke (*Children of Forever*) and Max Roach (*Members, Don’t Get Weary*). He had his own albums as a leader, including his 1974 Indian-influenced debut, *Experience and Judgement* (Atlantic, 1973) but it was 20 years later with his next album as leader, *Ballads, Blues & Bey* (Evidence, 1995) that’s considered his breakout recording as a major jazz vocalist after years of relative obscurity. His awards and accolades include winning the 2003 Jazz Vocalist of the Year Award from the Jazz Journalists Association. His album *American Song* garnered a 2005 GRAMMY nomination for Best Jazz Vocal Album. Bey’s final two projects were released in 2013 and 2014, the GRAMMY-nominated *The World According to Andy Bey* and *Pages from an Imaginary Life*, which won the Jazz Critics Poll for Best Vocal Album, both featured Bey accompanying himself at the piano. He had albums on Prestige, Atlantic, Jazzette, Evidence, N-Coded Music, Minor Music, Savoy, Nocturne and HighNote. Other credits include Duke Pearson, Archie Shepp, Grachan Moncur III, Pharoah Sanders, David Murray, Karl Denson, Fred Hersch, Dwight Trible and Paul Meyers among others.

RÉMI CHARMASSON (May 3, 1961 – May 2, 2025) The Avignon-born French guitarist-composer, who died at age 63, was largely self-taught until 1985 when he had formal instruction from veteran French saxophonist-clarinetist André Jaume. Charmasson played acoustic and electric guitars as well as folk-influenced metal string instruments. His playing and output was informed by his love of American literature and film, particularly Clint Eastwood and his *Honkytonk Man* (1982). Much of his work was centered in Rochefort, and with cellist Eric Longworth, as well as bassist Bernard Santa-Cruz and vocalist Laure Donnat. Other collaborators included Claude Tchamitchian, Jimmy Giuffrè, Buddy Collette, Charlie Mariano, Thierry Maucci, Charles Tyler, Denis Charles, Anthony Ortega and others. Among his many albums is his Hendrix homage, *The Wind Cries Jimi* (AJMI, 2012).

TEO CIAVARELLA (Dec. 28, 1960 – May 15, 2025) The Italian pianist-composer and conductor, born in Puglia at San Marco in Lamis on the Gargano, died at age 64 in Bologna. A graduate of DAMS in Bologna, with a thesis analyzing jazz piano styles at the turn of the ’50s, Ciavarella also studied philosophy at Università degli Studi di Bari, and undertook other post-graduate education. He held positions with Conservatorio Frescobaldi di Ferrara and Conservatori di Musica G.B. Martini. Aside from jazz, he was pianist and conductor in the classical world, and was known on Italian TV and radio. Ciavarella was a member of the Doctor Dixie

Jazz Band and led a trio that played at festivals such as Umbria Jazz, Urbino Jazz, La Grande Parade Du Jazz de Nice, Festival Jazz de Samois-Fontainebleau, Comacchio Jazz and others. He also worked as an artistic-musical director and promoter, directing the summer festival Jazz in Baraccano, among others. Ciavarella recorded over 50 albums, his own or collaborative, on Java, Black Panastudio Productions and Borgatti Edizioni Musicali, and worked with Giampiero Burza, Eddie Gomez and Greg Yasinitsky, Alan King, Vince Vallicelli and many others.

MARK DEUTSCH (~1961 – May 5, 2025) The bassist, sitar player and inventor of the Bazantar died at age 63. He was classically-trained on double bass and began working professionally at age 12. Eventually, his interests led him to explore non-Western musical forms. He studied North Indian classical music and took up the sitar, which led to his invention of the Bazantar, a six-string double bass fitted with twenty-nine sympathetic strings and four drone strings, an extension of his interests in nonlinear mathematics, sacred systems and cosmology. Deutsch also had extensive experience in orchestral and world music ensembles and solo sitar performance in addition to jazz combos. He had a handful of self-released albums, a collaborative date with JD Parran and work with Dennis Gonzalez, Kenji Williams, Lloyd Miller, Cornelius Boots and others.

LEOPOLDO FLEMING (Sep. 16, 1939 – Apr. 28, 2025) Born Leopoldo Francisco Fleming y Burguillo in Puerto de Tierra, San Juan, Puerto Rico, the percussionist, after several world residencies (including Vienna and Copenhagen), ultimately made his home in Paterson, NJ, where he died at age 85. Also a composer, arranger, lyricist and bandleader, Fleming had an international approach to music and was versed in funk, R&B, Caribbean, Cuban, Brazilian, African, gospel and spirituals as well as jazz. He led the Leopoldo Fleming Afro-Caribbean Jazz Ensemble and was a mainstay with The New York Harlem Singers. Fleming was also a member of the Lou Caputo Not So Big Band and played, recorded and toured with artists such as Miriam Makeba and Nina Simone. His many credits and collaborations included Geri Allen, Bob Dorough, Dianne Reeves, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Patti Austin, Lizz Wright, Angélique Kidjo, Harry Belafonte, Eartha Kitt, Randy Weston, Sonny Stitt, Archie Shepp, Queen Esther Marrow, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Kenny Barron and many more, plus Symphony of the New World, The String Reunion, World Bass Violin Ensemble and Boys’ Choir of Harlem.

SAMUEL “SAMMY” KIDD (May 9, 1931 – Apr. 20, 2025) The bassist died unexpectedly at his home in Wayne, WI, at age 93. Born in Illinois, he played with the Paul Spencer band for many years, headlining at Caroline’s Jazz Club in Milwaukee, WI. In 2005 he won a WAMI Award as one of the best traditional jazz band core musicians, along with others in the Spencer band, and in 2006 won a Bassist of the Year award. Over the years, Kidd played with many well-known musicians such as Duke Ellington, John Young, Sonny Stitt and Lou Rawls. He also performed in the Clint Eastwood film, *Tightrope* (1984).

LUCAS LINDHOLM (Mar. 2, 1943 – May 4, 2025) Born Hans Inge Lindholm-Eschen, the Swedish bassist died at age 82. A prolific international player, he was also a professor of jazz double bass at the Hamburg University of Music and Drama (HfMT) and worked with guest artists that included Joe Pass, Tomasz Stańko, Heinz Sauer, Albert Mangelsdorff, Rolf Kühn, Michael Gibbs and others. He also had credits and collaborations with Herb Geller, Heiner Stadler, Wolfgang Schlüter, Chet Baker, Dexter Gordon, Johnny Griffin, Kenny Dorham, Toots Thielemans, Norma Winstone, Peter Herbolzheimer, Bert Kaempfert and many others.

MARTHA MIYAKE (May 13, 1933 – May 14, 2025) The pioneering Japanese vocalist, known as the queen of female jazz singers in her native country, died at age 92.

Born in Manchuria (now northeastern China), Miyake had a repertoire of many American songbook standards and was praised for her precise pronunciation, rhythm and pitch. She made her record debut in 1955 and since the ’60s had albums on Crown, London, Polydor, Denon, Trio, MS Master Sonic, Victor, Bellwood, Columbia, Catalyst, Toshiba, King, Express, Offbeat, Philips and Three Blind Mice.

JOHANN FERDINAND “JOHNNY” PARTH (Jan. 11, 1930 – May 9, 2025) The Vienna, Austria-born historian, producer and founder of Document Records, died at age 95. He grew up listening to traditional Viennese folk music, but discovered jazz through friends as a participant in the World War II resistance movement. He studied art and became a portrait painter, all the while collecting a library of jazz and blues records, mostly 78rpm discs. In the mid ’50s he began his producing career by starting the Jazz Perspective label; he also became the owner of the Hot Club de Vienne (now the Jazz Land club) and set about organizing jazz concerts, parties and events, following along with a second label under the club’s name. Parth also co-founded the Roots label, which initially recorded and issued albums of traditional Austrian music, but soon concentrated on reissues of vintage blues recordings. Founding Document Records in 1985 helped continue his interests as a music historian. Parth also played cornet and led the Blue Danube Jazz Band as well as the Alpha and Omega Brass Band Vienna.

GEORGE MARION “DOC” RYAN, JR. (Jun. 5, 1929 – May 8, 2025) A renowned advocate for reproductive rights, the medical specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology, who had a dual career as a cornet player, died at age 95. Born in Bay Springs, MS, and asthmatic as a child, he was given a trumpet by his grandfather to strengthen his lungs. Ryan received medical degrees from Harvard University where he was later a faculty member as well as at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. As an activist and champion for women’s reproductive rights, he was media-savvy and appeared on many national TV broadcasts. In jazz he was particularly active after his retirement, although Ryan played jazz throughout his career to, as he said, find balance. In jazz, he worked with Wild Bill Davison, among others, and was the principal leader and cornetist of the Hot Cotton Jazz Band (1982-95) as well as founder of The Memphis Traditional Jazz Festival. Ryan was honored as a Gentleman of Jazz at the San Diego Jazz Festival (1995) and was inducted into the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame (2018).

CHARLES STROUSE (Jun. 7, 1928 – May 15, 2025) A New Yorker born and bred, the composer died at age 96 after what has become a legendary career on Broadway. His prolific output generated later American songbook standards that have been performed by a plethora of vocal and instrumental artists for over 60 years. With prime writing partner, lyricist Lee Adams (still alive at age 100), the two wrote *Bye Bye, Birdie* (1960), *All American* (1962), *Golden Boy* (1964) and *Applause* (1970), among others. The pair also wrote revues, and Strouse had many Broadway collaborations with other writing partners. Among his most famous songs (of many) are “Tomorrow”, “Easy Street”, “Put on a Happy Face”, “Dance a Little Closer” and “Once Upon a Time”. Strouse also wrote film scores and famously, for TV, “Those Were the Days”, the theme song for *All in the Family*, as well as orchestral works, chamber music, piano concertos and opera. Beyond Tony, Emmy and GRAMMYS, his awards are too numerous to mention. Jazz artists who’ve sung, played and recorded Strouse are a veritable who’s who, numbering into the hundreds, including Jane Monheit, Blossom Dearie, Tony Bennett, Andy Bey, Nina Simone, Nancy Wilson, Carmen McRae, Sarah Vaughan, Annie Ross, Charlie Parker, Stan Kenton, Duke Ellington, Billy Taylor, Louis Armstrong, Quincy Jones, Oscar Peterson, Sonny Stitt, Count Basie, Kenny Burrell, Larry Elgart, Gerry Mulligan, Bill Charlap, Pat Metheny, Harold Mabern, Mike LeDonne, Benny Benack III and others.