

GÉRARD BADINI (Apr. 16, 1931 – Oct. 25, 2025) The Paris-born tenor saxophonist, clarinetist and pianist, died at age 94. In the early '50s, he played clarinet in New Orleans jazz-style ensembles, and from the mid-late '50s he switched to tenor, playing and recording with Jimmy Archey and Claude Bolling (with whom he was closely associated through numerous recordings into the late '70s). In the early '70s, Badini founded his group Swing Machine, and would perform and record with a variety of jazz greats: Paul Gonsalves, Sam Woodyard, Major Holley, Lionel Hampton, Cat Anderson and Helen Humes. He then formed the Super Swing Machine big band, which he led and played piano in through the late '90s. Badini's collaborations and credits also include Alice Babs, Duke Ellington, Clark Terry, Gerald Wiggins and Reggie Workman.

DJAMCHID CHEMIRANI (1942 – Nov. 5, 2025) The Tehran-born percussionist, a master of the tombak, who taught Iranian music at the University of Paris, died in Manosque, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence at age 83. Anchored in classical, he embraced and included jazz in his repertoire. Chemirani had his own or collaborative albums on Harmonia Mundi, New Albion and Emouvance and was a member of Reto Weber's Percussion Orchestra, which in the mid '90s recorded with featured artists Albert Mangelsdorff, Chico Freeman and Franco Ambrosetti.

JACK DEJOHNETTE (Aug. 9, 1942 – Oct. 26, 2025) The GRAMMY-winning, Chicago-born drummer (sometimes pianist) and 2012 NEA Jazz Master, died at age 83 in Kingston, NY. Playing professionally by age 14, his initial credit was as a composer in 1962 for Gene Shaw's *Break Through* (Argo). With a career that spanned over six decades, DeJohnette would go on to record over 35 albums as a leader and was a 25-year member of Keith Jarrett's Standards Trio with Gary Peacock. Among a plethora of collaborations and credits are the Charles Lloyd Quartet, a variety of Miles Davis projects, his own groups including Compost, Directions, New Directions and Special Edition and the cooperative Gateway; he released albums for Milestone, CBS/Sony, Prestige, MCA, Blue Note, Motéma Music, Newvelle, his own Golden Beams and, most notably, ECM (including a number of collaborative projects). DeJohnette also worked with a vast number of fellow jazz luminaries, including Michael Brecker, Ron Carter, Alice Coltrane, Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock, Freddie Hubbard, Joe Henderson, Jackie McLean, Pat Metheny, Sonny Rollins, John Scofield, Wayne Shorter, McCoy Tyner and many others.

GUIDO DI LEONE (Jan. 24, 1964 – Nov. 11, 2025) The Italian guitarist passed away in Nari, Italy at age 61. From *All for Hall* (1990) to his latest, *In Duo: Live At Duke Jazz Club* (2023), he recorded on a variety of labels such as Splasc(h), YVP Music, Philology and Abeat (the latter on which he recorded the two-guitar quartet *Tribute to Jim Hall* in 2019 with Peter Bernstein). His credits also include albums with Claudio Fasoli, Jerry Bergonzi, Renato Chicco, Onofrio Paciulli and others.

KLAUS DOLDINGER (May 12, 1936 – Oct. 16, 2025) The German saxophonist-clarinetist, who prolifically composed for TV and film (1981's *Das Boot* and 1984's *The NeverEnding Story*), died at age 89. He was best known for his band Passport, with dozens of albums on Atlantic and Warner Music Group, featuring Johnny Griffin, Les McCann, Alexis Korner, Volker Kriegel, Phillip Catherine and Buddy Guy. He also had releases on Fontana, Philips, Liberty, Amiga and other labels, with credits that included Düsseldorf Feetwarmers (his 1956 recording debut), Rolf Kühn, George Gruntz, Oliver Nelson, Paul Nero, Michael Gibbs, German Jazz Masters, Attila Zoller, Max Mutzke and others. His *Doldinger in New York* (1984) featured an allstar NYC group, with Tommy Flanagan, Roy Ayers, Charnett Moffett, Victor Lewis and Don Alias.

RAY DRUMMOND (Nov. 23, 1946 – Nov. 1, 2025) The Brookline, MA-born bassist, composer, leader and educator, and longtime Teaneck, NJ resident, died at age 78. In the early '70s, he recorded with Michael White (his first two recordings) and Bobby Hutcherson. After moving to NYC in 1977, his career broadened, from recordings with Bobby Watson, Johnny Griffin, Jack Walrath, George Coleman, Ted Curson and Slide Hampton to teaching master classes and workshops globally at institutions such as the Stanford Jazz Workshop, Berklee College of Music and the Sibelius Academy of Music. Drummond recorded over ten albums as leader and had his own or co-led albums on Nilva, Theresa, Criss Cross, DMP, Arabesque Jazz and True Life Jazz. His many credits include Bill Barron, Kenny Barron, Art Farmer, Ricky Ford, Benny Golson, Tom Harrell, John Hicks, Freddie Hubbard, Lee Konitz, Wynton Marsalis, Bill Mays, David Murray and Pharoah Sanders.

VERÓNICA ITUARTE (1956 – Oct. 24, 2025) The Mexico City-born vocalist and pedagogue, who was a faculty member at the Escuela Superior de Música del INBA, died at age 68. Her professional career began in 1983. Among many appearances and recordings, she had four new millennium albums on Ingeniarte.

GUY KOPELOWICZ (Oct. 28, 1939 – Oct. 26, 2025) The Paris-born photographer, who died at age 85, was a photo editor for The Associated Press in Paris for over four decades, and a prolific chronicler of jazz. His images were used for releases by ESP-Disk (Marion Brown's *Why Not* and Albert Ayler's *Spirits Rejoice*); he also wrote for *Jazz Hot* and *Jazz Magazine*.

GERARD LEBIK (Jul. 23, 1980 – Nov. 6, 2025) The Polish saxophonist, composer, improviser and sound artist, died at age 45. His installations often investigated themes such as the perception and propagation of sound waves, temporal distortion and psychoacoustics, utilizing tools including computer synthesis, acoustic generators, reeds, compressed air, medical tools and DIY objects. He collaborated with Artur Majewski, Gabriel Ferrandini, Piotr Damasiewicz, RED Trio, Phil Minton, Burkhard Beins, John Edwards, Paul Lovens, Keith Rowe, Agustí Fernández and others.

SEI MIGUEL (1961 - November 11, 2025) The Paris-born, Portugal-based trumpeter, a prominent figure in Portugal's avant garde, died at age 64. He had stints in Brazil, returned to Paris and finally settled in Portugal in 1980. Miguel began recording in 1988 with the album *Breaker*. He had albums on Ama Romanta, Fábrica de Sons, AnAnAnA, Headlights, Creative Sources, Clean Feed, NoBusiness, Noise Precision Library, Shhpuma and ezz-thetics, as well as collaborations with Rafael Toral, Hernâni Faustino, Bruno Silva and the Lisbon String Trio (with Miguel Mira, Alvaro Rosso and Ernesto Rodrigues).

R. A. RAMAMANI (Mar. 2, 1950 – Oct. 18, 2025) The Indian vocalist and composer, a member of Karnataka College of Percussion, died at age 75. Ramamani pioneered as the first Carnatic vocalist to perform with national and international jazz bands and to present Carnatic music in fusion with Western styles. Her music has been arranged for the WDR Big Band and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Credits include Charlie Mariano, Embryo, Percussion Summit, Okay Temiz, Chris Hinze and others.

JIM SELF (Aug. 20, 1943 – Nov. 2, 2025) The Franklin, PA-born tubist-composer died at age 83. He had an extensive career as a LA studio musician, performing on over 1,500 film and TV soundtracks. An adjunct professor of tuba and chamber music at USC (1976-2024), Self recorded for Discovery, Concord, Metro and his own Basset Hound; his credits include Don Ellis, Billy May, Quincy Jones, Marty Paich, Diane Schuur, Maynard Ferguson, Lalo Schiffrin and Vince Mendoza, among others.

JOHN SHILLITO (1939 – Nov. 6, 2025) The British trumpeter-cornetist, whose style was early and trad jazz, including classic New Orleans and Gypsy swing, died at age 86. His career began in the '50s, and after moving to London he started his John Shillito's Select Six band, which he led for over 50 years. Throughout the '60s, Shillito toured the UK and Europe, joining John Bastable's Chosen Six sextet in 1971 (his recording debut was the group's *Second Album*, 1972). Credits include Barbara Widmer, Roger Marks, Paul Munnery, Ken Colyer and others.

DANIEL SOUTIF (Aug. 19, 1946 – Oct. 31, 2025) The French author, who wrote for *Libération* and *Jazz Magazine*, died at age 79. Starting in the mid '70s, Soutif wrote liner notes for albums on Open, Owl, Riviera, BMG, EmArcy, Splasc(H) and The Bridge Sessions by such artists as Michel Petrucciani, Aldo Romano, Jeanne Lee/Mal Waldron, Jean-Luc Cappozzo and Daunik Lazro. In 2009, he curated the exhibition "The Jazz Century" at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, focusing on the pan-cultural influence of jazz.

CHRISTOPH SPENDEL (Jul. 19, 1955 – Nov. 7, 2025) Born in Upper Silesia (now Poland), Spindel died at age 70. After taking up residency in Germany, his professional career would encompass acoustic jazz, fusion, electronic music and world music. From the '90s, Spindel served as professor of jazz piano at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. His last album, *Piano Graffiti*, was released in October. He had his own or collaborative albums on Ego (his 1978 leader debut), Musicians Record Co, JG-Records, Konnex, Trion, Rockland, MPS, Bellaphon, Nabel, TCB and Blue Flame.

ILSE STORB (Jun. 18, 1929 – Nov. 8, 2025) The researcher-musicologist, author and musician, who was born and passed away in, Essen, Germany, died at age 96. At the start of her career, Storb was Europe's only female professor of jazz. She published biographies of Dave Brubeck and Louis Armstrong, as well as a jazz textbook for schools, and was co-founder of Duisburg University's Jazzlabor, where she established the Uni Duisburg Big Band. In 1991 she formed her group, Ilse and Her Satchmos.

SCOTT H. THOMPSON (Jul. 29, 1954 – Oct. 24, 2025) With a career in jazz journalism and PR, Thompson died at age 71 in Palm Beach, FL. He co-produced the New Haven Jazz Festival, was a founding member of the Jazz Journalists Association, contributed to *DownBeat*, *JazzTimes*, *Jazziz* and *AllMusicGuide* and wrote liner notes for albums released on Columbia, Epic and RCA Bluebird. His career began in broadcast journalism, working with the Associated Press Radio Network, NBC-AM New York and WPLR-FM New Haven, plus a decades-long association with WPKN-FM in Bridgeport. In 2004, Thompson joined Jazz at Lincoln Center as Assistant Director of Public Relations, after which he founded Scott Thompson Public Relations in 2013.

MIRCEA TIBERIAN (May 4, 1955 – Oct. 18, 2025) The Romania-born pianist-composer and academic died at age 70. Tiberian performed globally, and was a professor at the National University of Music in Bucharest, where he founded the jazz department in 1991 and helped develop Hungary's high school jazz curriculum. He had albums on Electrocord, Blue Label, Prima Club, Intercont Music, Not Two and his credits include Larry Coryell, Tomasz Stanko, Herb Robertson and others.

CHRIS VARGA (1968 – Oct. 23, 2025) Based in Korea for over two decades, the drummer-percussionist-vibraphonist died in his home city of Chicago at age 57. His credits include DePaul University Jazz Ensemble, Eden Atwood, Sang Mi Kim, Chonghak Kim, Ji-Hye Kim, Sunjae Lee and others.