

JACK CHAMBERS (Jul.12, 1938 – Mar. 2, 2026) Born in Grimsby, Ontario, the preeminent linguist and professor at the University of Toronto died at age 87 of pancreatic cancer. Beyond linguistics, Chambers was a prolific jazz historian and critic. He authored *Milestones*, the award-winning biography of Miles Davis, published in two volumes in 1983 and 1985 (and as a single volume in 1998); *Sweet Thunder: Duke Ellington's Music In Nine Themes* in 2019; and last year's *A Tone Parallel to Duke Ellington: The Man in the Music*, expositing that Ellington at the piano—such as in *Piano in the Foreground* (1961) and the 1962 trio session *Money Jungle* with Charles Mingus and Max Roach—expressed Ellington's true inner world and persona. Chambers was a longtime member of the Duke Ellington Society of Toronto.

FLOYE "FLO" DREYER (Aug. 1, 1927 – Mar. 2, 2026) Born in Indianapolis, IN, the trumpeter, valve trombonist and pioneer of women in jazz, died in Miami, FL, at age 98. Dreyer left home at age 14 to begin her jazz career, first joining the Joy Cayler 16-piece all-girl swing band, performing as first trumpet and touring internationally with USO shows. She later played first trumpet with the International Sweethearts of Rhythm. Dreyer led her own band in the '50s, touring internationally, and later founded the Flo Dreyer Quintet in New York. After relocation to Miami, she played with the North Miami Concert Band and Hallandale Symphonic Pops Orchestra until age 88.

WILLIE COLÓN (Apr. 28, 1950 – Feb. 21, 2026) A foundational figure in the development of salsa, the trumpeter, percussionist, composer and bandleader, died at age 75 in Bronxville, NY, following an emergency hospitalization for breathing problems. Born in the South Bronx, Colón signed with Fania Records at age 15 and released his first album at 17, which featured vocalist Héctor Lavoe. Colón's collaboration with Panamanian singer-songwriter Rubén Blades led to their 1978 album *Siembra*, which remains one of the best-selling albums in the salsa genre. Colón also produced for Celia Cruz, Ismael Miranda, Mongo Santamaria, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Chris Washburne, Joe Fiedler and Miguel Zenón. He eventually became an activist, invested in public service. He served as a special assistant to NYC Mayor David Dinkins and as a liaison for Mayor Michael Bloomberg. At age 64 he graduated from the Westchester County Police Academy and served as a Deputy Sheriff and later a Deputy Lieutenant for the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, until 2022. Colón had sideman credits with Jack McDuff, Flip Nuñez and Pete and Sheila Escovedo and his compositions were recorded by Cal Tjader, among others.

DENNEY GOODHEW (1952 – Mar. 4, 2026) Following a two-year battle with pulmonary fibrosis, the reed and wind player and pedagogue died at age 73 in Port Townsend, WA. Born in Walla Walla, he became a central figure in the Seattle jazz scene and by age 21 was performing with avant garde players such as Sam Rivers in New York. Goodhew moved to Seattle in 1974, performing with fusion bands Spinnaker and Marbles, and later joining Jim Knapp's Puget Sound Ensemble. Between 1993-99, he was a Professor of Saxophone and Music Science at the Berlin (Germany) University of the Arts. After struggling with health and psychological issues, he moved to the Olympic Peninsula in 2015, adopting the name "Zephyr" and living in relative seclusion. Goodhew performed on over 50 albums with artists such as Charlie Haden, Gary Peacock, Bill Frisell and grunge band Soundgarden. He was noted for his work on ECM and was also a member of First Avenue, which recorded for the label. Goodhew's many credits include Allen Youngblood, Rich Halley, Anthony Braxton, Jerry Granelli, Wayne Horvitz, Don Lanphere/Bud Shank, Jay Thomas, Sigi Busch, Ralph Towner, Charlie Haden and others.

JAN HUYDTS (Feb. 25, 1937 – Feb. 27, 2026) The Dutch pianist-keyboard player, who died two days short of his 90th birthday, was for many years the house pianist for the Blue Note Jazz Club in Berlin where he accompanied jazz luminaries such as Dexter Gordon, Johnny Griffin and Donald Byrd. His versatility also extended to the Dutch cabaret scene, playing as a bassist for Toon Hermans and later becoming the pianist, arranger and orchestra leader for Wim Sonneveld. As an academic, from 1980-98, he was associated with the Hilversum Conservatory as a teacher and coordinator, and eventually as a department director. He was also instrumental in the 1998 merger that formed the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, where he helped design the jazz curriculum. His discography and recorded performances include sessions with the Schoonderwalt Quartet and his own Jan Huydts Trio. He was a member of Basic Train, Third Eye, Dutch Treat, The Swing Society and Dutch Jazz Orchestra, and released albums on Philips, Elektra, Omega International and Pinehill. Huydts had credits with Greetje Kauffeld, Ann Burton, Chris Hinze, Rob Franken, Pim Jacobs, Pia Beck and others.

KEITH INGHAM (Feb.4, 1942 – Mar.12, 2026) The London-born pianist, arranger and musical director, who was associated with swing and Dixieland revival movements, died at age 84. Ingham was largely self-taught, beginning his piano studies at age ten. While working for the British government in Hong Kong from 1960-62, he performed in local nightclubs, then attended Oxford University on his return to England, studying Classical Chinese and Mandarin. Ingham entered the London jazz scene in 1964, performing with musicians such as Sandy Brown, Bruce Turner and Wally Fawkes. He moved to NYC in 1978, leading to collaborations with Benny Goodman, Peggy Lee and Susannah McCorkle, to whom he was married. He also led several of his own units, such as the New York Nine and the Hot Cosmopolites. He recorded extensively for labels Jump, Stomp Off, Audiophile, Angel, Progressive, Sackville, Challenge, Arbors and A-Records. Among his many credits are Bud Freeman, Maxine Sullivan, Marty Grosz, Harry Allen, Richard Sudhalter/Connie Jones, Marian McPartland, Rebecca Kilgore, Joyce Breach, Tommy Whittle, Stan King and Ron Russell.

JACK JEFFERS (Dec. 10, 1928 – Mar. 5, 2026) Born in Montserrat, Jeffers, who was both a bass trombone and tuba player, as well as a conductor and contractor for studio musicians, died of natural causes at age 97. Jeffers was largely self-taught, and played music blending the familiar melodies of songbook standards with avant garde sensibilities. His repertoire frequently included reimagined versions of standards, such as Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo", Charles Mingus' "Goodbye, Pork Pie Hat" and Antônio Carlos Jobim's "Corcovado". Jeffers had long-standing collaborations with avant garde figures such as drummer Warren Smith and pianist Sonelius Smith. He worked with Jazz Composers Orchestra, Carla Bley, Herbie Hancock, Hermeto Pascoal, Ernie Wilkins, Houston Person, Charles Earland, Ella Fitzgerald, Cal Tjader, Clark Terry, Randy Weston, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Dizzy Gillespie, Dom Um Romao, Charles Tolliver, Anthony Braxton, Yusef Lateef, Harold Vick, Charlie Barnet, Lena Horne, Charlie Haden, Al Grey, the American Jazz Orchestra, Muhai Richard Abrams, Jimmy Heath, Chico O'Farrill, George Gee, Louie Bellson and Arturo O'Farrill, among others.

ANDY MARSALA (Jun. 30, 1942 – Mar. 5, 2026) The saxophonist, who was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was one of the last surviving members (and only American) of the famed 1958 Newport International Youth Band at age 14 as a teenage prodigy, died in Palatine, IL, at age 83. Marsala played in Long Island's Farmingdale High School Jazz Band under the direction of Marshall

Brown and at Newport performed a notable alto solo on "(I Don't Stand) A Ghost of a Chance", which earned a standing ovation. His early talent was not only cited in *The New Yorker*, but young Marsala performed alongside the likes of Louis Armstrong and Cannonball Adderley, the latter with whom he traded musical phrases during a live performance. He pursued formal musical education at the Manhattan School of Music and though he was a youthful member of the Marshall Brown band he did not develop a robust life career in music, focusing rather on composing while engaging in other careers in social work, computer programming and massage therapy.

TONY PRICE (Jun. 28, 1941 – Feb.23, 2026) The tuba player, co-founder of the New York Tuba Quartet in the early '70s, whose other members were Toby Hanks, Sam Pilafian and Stephen Johns, died at age 84. The pioneering quartet elevated the tuba as a versatile melodic instrument, expanding its repertoire through commissions and in playing in small ensemble settings as a chamber voice. Price was also a *Sesame Street* musician and had credits with Collins-Shepley Galaxy, Freddie Hubbard, Eddie Palmieri, Deodato, Buddy Rich, Phil Woods, David Matthews, Stanley Turrentine, Barry Miles, Joe Farrell, Michel Legrand, Wynton Marsalis, Manhattan Jazz Orchestra, Nnenna Freelon and others.

KAZUE SAWAI (Jan. 1, 1941 – Feb.15, 2026) The pioneering Kyoto, Japan-born master of the koto, died at age 85 while undergoing medical treatment. Sawai liberated the instrument from its classical role into contemporary and improvised music, having begun its study at age eight under Michio Miyagi. She graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, where she mastered both the traditional 13-string koto and the 17-string bass koto, expanding its repertoire and working with avant-gardists such as John Cage. With her husband (composer and performer Tadao Sawai), in 1979 she co-founded Tokyo's Sawai Koto Institute (Sawai Sokyoku-in), which became a global hub for koto innovation. She notably collaborated with Ayuo Takahashi on the 1987 album *Eye To Eye*, which blended koto with European folk and experimental music. Among her credits are collaborations with Takeshi Inomata, Toshi Ichiyonagi, Derek Bailey, Michel Doneda, Tetsu Saitoh, Fumio Itabashi, Joëlle Léandre, Lê Quan Ninh, Joseph Jarman and others.

BILL SINCLAIR (1934 – Feb. 21, 2026) The Trumbull, CT-born trad jazz pianist and master of the New Orleans style of playing, died at around age 92. He was best known for his long-standing tenure with the Galvanized Jazz Band (GJB), with which he performed for over 40 years before his retirement due to age-related health issues. Sinclair was a fixture in the Connecticut jazz scene in the early '60s and from 1962-63, he performed with Bill Bissonnette's Easy Riders Jazz Band as well as with the Nutmeg Jazz Band. He appeared on approximately 35 recordings, and for 25 consecutive years was invited annually to perform at jazz venues and festivals across Germany, France and Belgium. Sinclair had collaborations with Jimmy Mazy, Art Hovey, Sarah Spencer, George "Kid Sheik" Cola, Albert Burbank and others.

FRED VIGORITO (Apr. 2, 1943 – Mar.10, 2026) The cornet player, who led The Galvanized Jazz Band for over five decades, and who was a member of The Easy Riders Jazz Band, died at age 82. His full-time music career followed his retirement from the Southern New England Telephone Company. He has been featured on over 35 recordings, including a notable 1965 session at Preservation Hall in New Orleans. Vigorito worked with Alcide "Slow Drag" Pavageau, Darryl Adams, Brian Carrick, French Preservation New Orleans Jazz Band, New Orleans Delight and others.