

BILL ARMSTRONG (Jun. 24, 1929 – Aug. 7, 2026) The Australia-born producer-engineer, a founding father of Australian recording, died at age 97. In the post-WWII era, he captured local bands on primitive wire-recording equipment and in 1949 established Bill Armstrong Sound, which released local jazz records on independent labels. With engineer Roger Savage he founded Armstrong Studios in 1965, credited with recording 80% of all charting music in Australia during its peak. He took over the Swaggie label in 2015 and also worked on albums released on World Record Club, Columbia, W&G, Fable, Philips and Jazz & Jazz.

JEANIE BRYSON (Mar. 10, 1958 – Jun. 19, 2026) The singer, who melded jazz, pop and Latin styles, died at age 68. The daughter of songwriter Connie Bryson and Dizzy Gillespie (whose paternity was initially kept secret), Bryson was mentored by Kenny Barron, who appeared on her 1993 debut for Telarc Jazz, *I Love Being Here With You*. Bryson's credits include Larry Coryell, Geoff Keezer, Grover Washington Jr., Terence Blanchard, Kenny Burrell and Don Sebesky.

BRIAN CASE (Aug. 17, 1937 – Jul. 17, 2026) The British music critic died at age 89. Case contributed to *New Musical Express* (NME), *Melody Maker*, *The Wire* and *Time Out*. He co-wrote *The Harmony Illustrated Encyclopedia of Jazz* and *The Hip: Hipsters, Jazz and the Beat Generation* as well as *On the Snap*, a collection of profiles and essays. Case wrote liner notes for albums on Ogun, Affinity, Cadillac, Island and Epic.

GIANNI CAZZOLA (May 9, 1938 – Jul. 18, 2026) The Italian drummer fell ill while performing on stage in Busto Arsizio and died shortly after at age 88. By the late '50s, he was part of the Milanese jazz circuit and would become a core member of the Gianno Basso-Oscar Valdambrini Quintet. Cazzola worked with Guido Manusardi, Giorgio Gaslini, Gianluigi Trovesi, Claudio Fasoli, Dado Moroni and Franco D'Andrea as well as Americans Count Basie, Stan Getz, Chet Baker, Gerry Mulligan, Dexter Gordon, Lee Konitz, Phil Woods, Art Farmer, Tony Scott, Sheila Jordan and Nancy King. His albums appear on Splasc(h), Radio SNJ and Azzurra Music (which released his 2026 *Swinging!* album).

GERALDINE DE HAAS (Jan. 16, 1935 – Jul. 28, 2026) Newark, NJ-born de Haas, "The First Lady of Chicago Jazz" and mother to jazz singer-performers Aisha and Darius de Haas, died at age 91. In her late teens she and sister Salome teamed up with their brother Andy Bey to form Andy and the Bey Sisters. De Haas moved to Chicago in 1968 and became a community activist. In 1974, following Duke Ellington's death, she helped organize a tribute in Grant Park that would become the annual Chicago Jazz Festival. She also created the South Shore Jazz Fest (1981-2012).

MARION EVANS (Jun. 1, 1926 – Jul. 22, 2026) The arranger, composer and conductor, who worked on Broadway, as well as in TV and the recording industry, died at age 100. Although he studied piano and violin, he graduated from the University of Alabama in engineering. During WWII, while serving in the US Navy, Evans became enthralled with military bands, subsequently attending Juilliard. He would work with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Urbie Green, Tony Bennett, Doc Severinsen, Diahann Carroll, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme.

NEVEN FRANGEŠ (Jan. 8, 1951 – Aug. 10, 2026) The Croatia-born composer, pianist, organist, pedagogue and producer, died at age 75. He excelled across genres and wrote music for more than a hundred stage plays, in addition to feature and animated films, TV dramas and documentaries. Frangeš was the artistic director of the "Jazz Is Back!" festival in Grožnjan. He credits include Boško Petrović, Sal Nistico and Bob Mover.

U.T. GANDHI (Apr. 17, 1960 – Aug. 10, 2026) Born Umberto Trombetta, the Italian drummer-percussionist died at age 66. A self-taught musician, Gandhi came to jazz in the late '70s. He became known for his years with Enrico Rava's Electric Five; his other collaborations included John Surman, Miroslav Vitous, Palle Mikkelborg, Richard Galliano, Gianluigi Trovesi, Louis Sclavis, Dino Saluzzi, Enzo Favata, Stefano Bollani, Achille Succi, Daniele D'Agaro and Mark Helias. He had his own or collaborative albums on Nota, Artesuono ECM and CAM Jazz.

LUIS GASCA (Mar. 3, 1940 – Aug. 2, 2026) The Houston-born trumpet and flugelhorn player, whose career spanned Latin jazz, bebop, R&B and rock, died at age 86. He studied trumpet through his high school band program, developed perfect pitch and won a scholarship to Berklee School of Music. He had albums on Atlantic, Blue Thumb and Fantasy and credits with Mongo Santamaria, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Cal Tjader, Joe Henderson and Count Basie, as well as Janis Joplin, Van Morrison, Bob Weir and Santana.

JIM GILSTRAP (Nov. 10, 1946 – Jul. 18, 2026) The LA-based vocalist and session musician died at age 79. Gilstrap was a member of Wonderlove, Stevie Wonder's backing ensemble (as heard on *Talking Book* and *Innervisions*). His 400+ credits also include Quincy Jones, Weather Report, Stanley Turrentine, Nancy Wilson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Donald Byrd, Roy Ayers, Ramsey Lewis, George Benson, George Duke, Joe Sample, Herbie Hancock and Stanley Clarke.

PATRICK GLEESON (Nov. 9, 1934 – Jul. 20, 2026) The electronic music and synthesizer pioneer died at age 91. Gleeson was instrumental in developing flexible, modular, portable synths, which took them out of the studio and onto the stage. His credits include Herbie Hancock and projects by Hancock bandmates Eddie Henderson, Julian Priestler and Bennie Maupin, plus Lenny White, Joe Henderson and Catalyst.

RAY GOMEZ (Aug. 15, 1952 – Jul. 29, 2026) The guitarist and producer died at age 73. Born in Casablanca, Morocco, he was a child prodigy who gave his first concert in front of 5,000 people at age ten. Gomez relocated to NYC in the mid '70s and soon became noted for innovative technical approaches. Among his credits were albums by Lenny White, Alphonso Johnson, Deodato, Stanley Clarke, Larry Young, John Lee/Gerry Brown, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Joachim Kühn, Sonny Fortune and Herbie Mann.

GUNTER HAMPEL (Aug. 31, 1937 – May 18, 2026) The German multi-instrumentalist (vibraphone, bass clarinet, saxophones, flute, piano) and composer, a "father" of post-WWII European free jazz, died at age 88. A prodigy, he founded jazz bands as a teenager, becoming dedicated to free improvisation in the '60s. Marriage to vocalist Jeanne Lee led to NYC and collaborations with Don Cherry, Cecil Taylor and others; from 1972, he lived alternately in Göttingen and NYC. He founded his own record label, Birth, in 1969, and released his albums on the imprint until 2014. His bands featured a roll call of avant garde jazz giants, from Europeans Alexander von Schlippenbach, Manfred Schoof, Willem Breuker and Enrico Rava to Americans Anthony Braxton, Perry Robinson, Sunny Murray and Marion Brown. Hampel also recorded for SABA/MPS, ESP-Disk', Calig, Wergo, Improvising Artists Inc., Karma, HORO, FMP and Intuition.

OLIVER JONES (Sep. 11, 1934 – Jul. 22, 2026) The Canadian pianist-organist, who was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame (2023), died at age 91. Like his mentor, Oscar Peterson, he grew up in Montreal's Little Burgundy neighborhood (where he studied with Daisy Peterson Sweeney, Peterson's older sister). He

toured in Vermont and Quebec with Bandwagon in the '50s, and from 1964-1980 was music director for the Jamaican calypso singer Kenny Hamilton. Since the '80s, Jones recorded with frequency and toured throughout Canada and internationally. He also taught music at Laurentian and McGill Universities. Jones released albums as a leader on Justin Time, Sackville and CBC.

RICHARD RAUX (1945 – Jul. 24, 2026) The French saxophonist-flutist, who spent his formative years in Madagascar, died at age 81. He returned to France in his late teens, settling in Paris, where he focused on modal and free jazz, inspired by the work of Mal Waldron, with whom he recorded on Roy Burrowes' *Live at the Dreher* (Marge, 1993). Raux released a handful of albums as leader; his credits include the early '70s French jazz-rock band Magma, as well as Eddy Louiss, Stephen McCraven and Sunny Murray.

YASUKAZU SATO (Sep. 21, 1951 – Aug. 1, 2026) The Japanese percussionist (aka Yas-Kaz), a pioneer in Japan's free jazz underground, died at age 74. In the '70s he collaborated with alto saxophonist Kaoru Abe, undertaking extreme sonic exploration and rejecting conventional harmony and rhythm. Sato released albums on Gramavision, Canyon and Face International, was a member of Prism and had credits with Ryuichi Sakamoto, Masahiko Satoh, Monday Michiru and Bill Laswell.

TAKESHI SHIBUYA (Nov. 3, 1939 – Jul. 16, 2026) The cross-genre Japanese pianist-arranger and composer died at age 86. He had his own or collaborative albums on Toshiba, Trio, Ninety-One, Verve, Tokuma Japan Communications and Owl Wing (including one of his last recordings, the 2022 tribute, *I Love Carla Bley*). His credits include Akira Sakata, Masabumi Kikuchi, Tristan Honsinger, Otomo Yoshihide and Itaru Oki.

TERRY TROTTER (Oct. 5, 1940 – Aug. 4, 2026) The LA-based pianist, who had a prolific career as a West Coast studio musician, died at age 85. His 1960 recording debut was drummer Lenny McBrowne's *And The 4 Souls* (Pacific Jazz) and the group's Cannonball Adderley-produced follow-up *Eastern Lights* (Riverside). He later released his own albums on Discovery, MAMA Foundation, Varèse Sarabande and Fuzzy Music, which included West Coast mainstays such as Clare Fischer, Peter Erskine, Chuck Berghofer and Joe LaBarbera. Other collaborations ranged from Les Brown, Conte Candoli, Jim Self and Larry Carlton to vocalists Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald and Natalie Cole.

FRANK TUSA (Apr. 1, 1947 – Jul. 26, 2026) The NYC-born bassist died at age 79. Drafted into the military, Tusa was assigned to the 77th Army Band at Fort Sill, OK. Upon his early '70s discharge, he became involved in the NYC avant garde and modal jazz scenes. Tusa was an original member of Dave Liebman's Lookout Farm and Open Sky trio. In 1980, he relocated to San Francisco, gigging and teaching at San Jose State and Stanford Universities. He had albums on Enja and Trio and credits with Paul Bley, Barry Miles, Dom Um Romao, Richie Beirach, Fred Tompkins and Badal Roy.

DR. ALBERT A. "AL" VOLLMER (1928 – Jul. 3, 2026) With a lifelong passion for jazz, the orthodontist by occupation died at age 97. He was born in London to Swedish parents, raised near Stockholm, and moved to the US in 1947, actively engaging in the NYC jazz scene. In 1973, with Clyde Bernhardt, Vollmer co-founded the Harlem Blues & Jazz Band, a working home exclusively for senior citizen jazz musicians, which provided a platform for Doc Cheatham, Al Casey, Benny Waters, Eddie Chamblee, Lawrence Lucie, Eddie Durham, Fred Staton, George Kelly, Roger "Ram" Ramirez and others. Vollmer also championed multimedia documentation to ensure these musicians' legacies lived on.