

**U3A MERTON JAZZ APPRECIATION GROUP, 28 NOVEMBER 2014**  
**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Asked to research & present instrumentalists, many in the Group offered two for the price of one. So we heard offering of jazz piano, saxophone, vibraphone, guitar, double bass, & violin, plus a couple of instrumentalists as vocalists – pianist Jamie Cullum & trumpeter Louis Armstrong. Sadly, none of us presented a woman instrumentalist (although pianist Mary Lou Williams had been on Mary's radar.)

Some names were familiar; more were new to most of us. There were a couple of instances where members had chosen the same instrumentalist, but in each case, the second presenter had something extra to offer. It was not always possible to play chosen tracks, due to technical difficulties, but details are still given below. If you want to find out more, check out the website address given.

Artist	Tracks
<p><i>Louis Armstrong</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_armstrong_louis.htm">www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_armstrong_louis.htm</a></p>	<p>4 August 1901 – 6 July 1971: Afro-American <b>trumpeter &amp; cornet player, singer, &amp; influential figure in jazz music</b>, shifting focus from collective improvisation to solo performance. In segregated America, an early truly popular Black entertainer whose skin colour was secondary to his music, though he rarely publicly politicized his race. Example tracks:  <i>What a Wonderful World</i> (vocal)  <i>Now You Has Jazz</i> (with Bing Crosby)</p>
<p><i>William James "Count" Basie</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.basieband.org/">www.basieband.org/</a></p>	<p>21 August 1904 – 26 April 1984: American <b>jazz pianist, organist, bandleader, &amp; composer</b>. Talented &amp; amiable "Kid from Redbank" (New Jersey) formed his own band in 1935 &amp; always led it seated at piano. Many vocalists &amp; instrumentalists came to prominence under his direction, &amp; composers Neal Hefti &amp; Johnny Mandel were amongst arrangers he employed. Only at end of his career did he begin to display his considerable piano skills. Amongst many honours received was membership of Howard (Black) University's <i>Omega Psi-Phi Fraternity</i>. Example tracks:  <i>One O'Clock Jump</i> (Basie's original song, 1935).  <i>Blame It On My Last Affair</i> (with vocalist Helen Humes)  <i>Smack Dab in the Middle</i>  <i>Blues Skies</i></p>
<p><i>Gary Burton</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.garyburton.com/">www.garyburton.com/</a></p>	<p>Born 23 January 1943. American <b>composer, &amp; innovator</b> who developed a pianistic style of <b>vibraphone</b> 4-mallet (as an alternative to prevailing two-mallet) technique; both sound &amp; technique widely imitated. Played with all the jazz "Greats" &amp; known also for (i) pioneering fusion jazz &amp; popularizing duet format in jazz, &amp; (ii) being major figure in music education due to his 30 years at prestigious Berklee College of Music. Example track: <i>O Grande Amour</i>.</p>
<p><i>John William Coltrane</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.johncoltrane.com/">http://www.johncoltrane.com/</a></p>	<p>23 September 1926 – 17 July 1967: American <b>alto, tenor &amp; soprano saxophonist, flautist, &amp; composer</b>. His music in constant development – R&amp;B, be-bop, hard-bop, modal, &amp; avant garde, with increasingly spiritual dimensions. Played with Miles Davis &amp; Thelonious Monk. Known for "sheets of sound"; best-known own album '<i>Blue Train</i>'. Drug addict who influenced innumerable musicians. 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Alice was pianist, their son Ravi is also saxophonist. Coltrane received many posthumous awards &amp; recognitions, including canonization by the African Orthodox Church as <b>Saint John William Coltrane</b> and a special Pulitzer Prize (2007). Example tracks:  <i>Giant Steps</i> (with McCoy Tyner on piano)  <i>Good Bait</i> (with Red Garland, tenor sax).</p>
<p><i>Jamie Cullum</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.jamiecullum.com/">www.jamiecullum.com/</a></p>	<p>Born 20 August 1979: English <b>vocalist, pianist &amp; songwriter</b>. Jazz-pop "crossover" artist with musical roots firmly based in jazz who can accompany himself on other instruments, including guitar &amp; drums. In 1999, with only £480 to produce it, Cullum released 500 copies of his first album, <i>Jamie Cullum Trio—Heard it All Before</i>. Due to rarity, original copies since sold for as much as £600 on eBay. 2<sup>nd</sup> album <i>Pointless Nostalgic</i> (mix of standards, originals, &amp; new arrangements) also began life as self-funded project, but was taken on by Candid Records. Success of 3<sup>rd</sup> album <i>Twentysomething</i> resulted in 1<sup>st</sup> TV appearance, April 2003, on Michael Parkinson's show &amp; Cullum ended year as UK's all-time biggest selling jazz artist. Example tracks (both vocal):  <i>What a Difference a Day Makes</i>  <i>Twenty Something</i></p>

<p><i>Charles Edward "Charlie" Hadon</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.charliehadenmusic.com/">www.charliehadenmusic.com/</a></p>	<p>6 August 1937 – 11 July 2014: American jazz <b>double bass</b> player, from musical family. Influenced by country music, especially the Delmore brothers (who influenced many others also). As composer, he liked melody, so much of his work is "easy listening". Known for his long association with saxophonist Ornette Coleman, pianist Keith Jarrett, &amp; his Liberation Music Orchestra, a group he co-led with pianist/organist Carla Bley.</p> <p>Example tracks (both with Pat Metheny on electric guitar):  <i>Our Spanish Love Song</i> (composed by Hadon)  <i>The Precious Jewel</i></p>
<p><i>Kenneth Norville, k/a Red Norvo</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.jazz.com/encyclopedia/norvo-red-kenneth">www.jazz.com/encyclopedia/norvo-red-kenneth</a></p>	<p>31 March 1908 – 6 April 1999: helped establish <b>xylophone, marimba &amp; later, vibraphone</b> as viable jazz instruments. Played with many bands, including all-marimba band on vaudeville circuit, Benny Goodman, &amp; Woody Herman. Married to singer Mildred Bailey &amp; couple k/a 'Mr &amp; Mrs Swing'; their No.1 record was <i>Please be Kind</i>. Recorded with many other vocalists "Greats", eg Billie Holiday, Dinah Shore &amp; Frank Sinatra. Appeared in several films playing himself, including the 'Rat Pack's <i>Ocean's Eleven</i> &amp; also <i>Screaming Mimi</i> (1958).</p> <p>Example track:  <i>When Swing Was King</i>(with <i>Benny Goodman</i> on <i>clarinet</i>)</p>
<p><i>Ike Abrams Quebec</i></p> <p><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ike_Quebec">en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ike_Quebec</a></p>	<p>17 August 1918 – 16 January 1963: American <b>tenor saxophonist, &amp; pianist</b> with exceptional sight reading skills, &amp; accomplished dancer, who struggled with drug addiction. Recording career from 1940 with Barons of Rhythm; later recorded or performed with such "Greats" as Roy Eldridge, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Carter, &amp; Coleman Hawkins. 1944 - 1951 worked intermittently with Cab Calloway, also recording with Blue Note records, plus acting as their uncredited impromptu arranger &amp; talent scout. (He helped pianists Thelonious Monk &amp; Bud Powell come to wider attention).</p> <p>Example track:  <i>Deep in a Dream</i> (with <i>Sonny Clark</i> on <i>piano</i> - last time 2 musicians played together. Ironically, they died within days of each other.)</p>
<p><i>Jean ("Django") Reinhardt</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_reinhardt_django.htm">www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_reinhardt_django.htm</a></p>	<p>23 January 1910 – 16 May 1953: Romani Belgian-French <b>guitarist &amp; composer</b>, who made major contributions to development of guitar genre. 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> fingers paralyzed due to burns, so used only index &amp; middle fingers of left hand on solos &amp; created entirely new style of jazz ('hot' jazz guitar). Musician brothers played with him. Co-founded <i>Quintette du Hot Club de France</i> with violinist Stéphane Grappelli, but partnership ended when Reinhardt became unreliable. Explored Be-bop shortly before death in Fontainebleau, but didn't record.</p> <p>Example tracks (both with <i>Stephane Grappelli</i> on <i>violin</i>):  <i>You're Driving Me Crazy</i>  <i>Sweet Georgia Brown</i>.</p>
<p><i>Stan Tracey</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.stantracey.com/">www.stantracey.com/</a></p>	<p>30 December 1926 – 6 December 2013: London-born <b>pianist, prolific jazz composer &amp; band leader</b>, influenced by Duke Ellington &amp; Thelonious Monk. Led house musicians at Ronnie Scott's in 1960s, played with all jazz "Greats" including Ben Webster &amp; Sonny Rollins. Many awards, including CBE, Parliamentary Jazz &amp; honorary doctorates. Tributes (including by his drummer son's band) at 2014 London Jazz Festival.</p> <p>Example tracks (both with <i>Bobby Wellins</i> on <i>tenor sax</i>):  <i>Let's Cool It</i>  <i>Lunar Lanterns</i> [from <i>The Hong Kong Suite</i>, 1997]</p>
<p><i>Benjamin Francis (Ben) Webster</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.benwebster.dk/">www.benwebster.dk/</a></p>	<p>27 March 1909 – 20 September 1973: Afro-American <b>tenor saxophonist</b>, stylistically indebted to alto star Johnny Hodges, &amp; considered one of 3 most important "swing tenors" (others: Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young). K/a "The Brute" due to tough, raspy, &amp; brutal tone on stomps (with his own distinctive growls), though on ballads he played with warmth &amp; sentiment. Played alongside many US &amp; European musicians (including UK's Stan Tracey). 1964 moved to Europe, living in turn in London, Amsterdam (where died), &amp; Denmark. Ashes buried in Copenhagen's Assistens Cemetery &amp; commemorated since by Ben Webster Foundation, which supports Danish jazz.</p> <p>Example tracks:  <i>Tenderly</i>  <i>After You've Gone</i> (with James P. Johnson)  <i>Bye, Bye Blackbird</i> (with Oscar Peterson)  <i>Cottontail</i> (with Duke Ellington)  <i>It Never Entered My Mind</i> (with Coleman Hawkins)</p>