

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Jazz Appreciation Network

Subject Adviser – Mike Whitaker

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Newsletter 2/15 May 2015

Good Morning Music Lovers,

Time for another of my 'steadfastly irregular' newsletters. My first message is about a Study Day. The basic details :-

Study day 2015 – Sounds Like Jazz

Scott Stroman and the Guildhall School of Music Jazz Orchestra

Date – July 15th 2015

**Place – The Kennedy Hall, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London
NW1 7AY**

Time – Start 11 am – one hour for lunch – finish by 4pm.

Cost - £20 a head.

Please send me

- A cheque for £20 a head, payable to Third Age Trust (NOT U3A)
- On the back of the cheque, put name and address, and name of U3A.
- A stamped addressed envelope, so that I can send you a receipt that acts as a ticket and a map of the venue.
- Address envelopes to – Mike Whitaker, 26 Parkfield Close, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6QY
- Enquiries – mjo.whitaker666@btinternet.com. Phone 01278 663492 or 07802 769362

Scott Stroman will be giving us more insights into the way jazz is constructed. This time he will address, amongst other things, the role of the section leader and improvisation in both a big band and small group context. The skill of Scott's young musicians is amazing. This day is terrific value at £20 a head. I paid nearly that to listen to a semi-pro band for 2 hours in a small local venue recently. I've still got places left so check your diaries and get your cheque books out. There is a cafeteria

in the basement of Cecil Sharp House which is fine for pre-show coffees but those who came last year will remember that the lunch-time queues (given our numbers) can be a pain. May I suggest that picnics are a good idea, especially if the weather forecast is favourable; Cecil Sharp House has gardens. Camden High Street is not that far away and has a branch of every takeaway known to gastronomy. Cecil Sharp House has Disabled parking – phone the number on the map you get with your receipt to check on availability

Don't shoot the pianist...

I'm talking about communications here. The most difficult part of my job is keeping in touch with those of you who are interested. My jazz interest list (you're on it or you wouldn't be getting this) is a loose collection of names of people who have some interest in jazz. Some are group leaders, some are members of jazz appreciation groups, and some belong to U3As that have no jazz appreciation group. I collect names as people contact me and pass them on, in (roughly) quarterly batches to National Office. National Office maintains the database (for legal data protection purposes) and sends out my Newsletters for me. It is inevitable that sometimes things go wrong. Over the phone, I may have taken down an email address incorrectly, or I may have misread someone's handwriting. To err is human...a mistake is not an intentional discourtesy. The earlier names on the list (compiled by my indefatigable predecessor Bob Jones) tend to have postal addresses; as the years go by, more and more have email contact. Email is, of course, much easier to manage. No paper, no postage. If you get a newsletter by post and want to switch to email, please let me know. If you have friends or fellow-members who'd like to be on the list – get them to get in touch. And, naturally, if you don't want to be on the list at all, just let me know.

Jazz Record Requests – BBC Radio Three – Saturday June 20th

Are you a regular listener to Alyn Shipton's eclectic Saturday afternoon jazz record programme? Usually 5 to 6 pm (opera permitting) on BBC Radio 3. Do try to listen on June 20th. I'm playing a request for all U3A JAG members everywhere.

Gathering for playing members

I floated this in my last newsletter. Yes, there was *some* interest, but nowhere near enough to make the idea viable. I've kept a note of those of you who were interested but at present I can't see the idea going anywhere. However.....

Midlands Big Band

I was contacted by Nick Carter from Balsall Common U3A, Birmingham. Nick is interested in trying to assemble a Midlands Big Band. Nick's email address is nicandliz@gmail.com Get in touch with him if you are interested. It can be done – Ray Wilson (wilsonranda@ntlworld.com) at St Albans has got a U3A band going.

Speakers (No – not those square black things whose output is measured in watts)

I know a number of you like to get the occasional speaker to your meetings. Jacqui Oguzcan of Windsor recommends Chris Walker. Go to www.Chriswalkertalks.co.uk.

I'm always extolling the virtues of www.sandybrownjazz.co.uk and in the latest edition of that excellent online magazine, I spotted these entries:

***Dr Bob Moore** has contacted us saying: 'I am a member of the U3A (University of the Third Age) Jazz appreciation section. I now have given four talks to them on each of the following: Louis Armstrong, US swing bands of the 40's, Modern Jazz Quartet and Stan Kenton. I should say that I am not a professional speaker but I have reasonable knowledge of the subject. Now that I have given the talks, it is most probable that they will gather dust in a cupboard but if anyone local to me in High Wycombe is interested, I would be prepared to repeat the talk for free with possible expenses for petrol if far away.' 'The talks mainly simply require a good audio system plus someone to put on the CD's but the Kenton talk does included some excerpts from YouTube on the internet but these could be edited out. If I use the Internet it would require screen plus associated equipment. The talks take about 90 min and the usual format is general background on the artist or group followed by tracks from CD's.'*

If anyone would like to take up Bob's offer, you can email him at drbobmoore-inbiltec@supanet.com

***Norwich** Similarly, **Roy Headland** who gives occasional talks to Norwich Jazz and Blues Record Club is offering to give talks with music to other groups in the Norwich area. Roy's email address is: royheadland@gmail.com*

Thanks to www.sandybrownjazz.co.uk for those items. Recently, I attended a day at Dillington House (an adult education centre near Ilminster in Somerset) on the early ragtime professors. It was led by pianist Mike Denham. Mike is based in Dorchester and if any group is interested in an illustrated talk on the subject, I suggest they get in touch – www.mikedenham.co.uk.

Some people have asked me about overseas Jazz Festivals. There is a website that lists them – go to www.jazzfests.net.

And finally

Communications again. I had a glitch with my btinternet email address. As a result of sorting it out, I have zapped all my earlier emails – yep! It's Year Zero. I think I've answered all outstanding emails but if I haven't sorry but that's the reason. Do get back to me.

Don't forget Study Day – and tell your friends.