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THOMSON DESTINY CRUISE:

We left Manchester Airport on Sunday, 11th April to fly to the Dominican Republic to board the ship, "Destiny". We had 3 deps with us this cruise as Allan, Roger and Charlie were unable to come with us. We invited Dennis Armstrong, Malcolm Hogarth and Mike Reddin along to play in their places and they did a great job. After all the passengers were on board, the ship sailed to Tortola. Each day we visited a different island, St. Maarten, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia and lastly Barbados before leaving on 17th April for the six day crossing of the Atlantic. The Caribbean band who had been on board all winter left the ship there, but the new band who should have arrived in Barbados were still in Frankfurt because of the volcanic ash-cloud which had closed the European air-space for a considerable time. Mart offered to play more sessions to cover for the missing band, who were able to join the ship in Tenerife. However, while the band had arrived at last, their instruments and luggage were still in Frankfurt. The ship continued to Madeira, Gibraltar and then Cartagena, whereupon we heard the band's property had now arrived at Gibraltar! We visited Ibiza and Barcelona before docking in Majorca and the unfortunate band did not get their belongings until then. However as they were booked to be on "Destiny" for the whole summer season, their performances were only delayed by two weeks. On board were our good friends, Dee and John Curtis. We presented a framed certificate to Dee and John celebrating the fact that they had been on every one of the six cruises we have been on. Other friends we knew from past cruises included Anne & Eddie Fagan, Allan and Barbara, Harold and Olwen. Sorry if your name's not here – we know so many friends by sight without actually knowing their names. The other passengers were very surprised to see a Brolly Parade one night and it was so popular that we were asked to do it again the following week. How often we were told: "I don't like jazz but I like what you do!" Brilliant steel-drummer, Trevor, who played with the Caribbean band "Rhapsody", joined the band on his final evening aboard. "Sweet Georgia Brown" and "The Saints" were the numbers played and the whole band was amazed that Trevor could play in any key on his steel drum.

HAYFIELD WELL DRESSING: Eric was asked if he could bring some musicians along to play at the Hayfield Well Dressing ceremony on 11th July. Mart, Charlie and Colin joined Eric at the Watery Hey Well and played a few tunes there. The theme this year was Music, and the well was decorated with Jazz in mind. Some good photos were taken!

Quite often musicians find that sound engineers are little help with traditional jazz bands. This cruise was no exception and after some very trying times Mart was heard to growl over the microphone: "We have a plank for sound engineers!" One of Mart's jokes at the end of a session when he names all the members of the band is that sometimes he says his own name is Wayne Rooney! The Philipeano bar staff fell apart laughing at this and called Mart "Rooney" for the rest of the trip. Please note—he's now stopped saying that one—it's Fabio Capello this week!

MART'S YOUTUBE JOKE

The short video of Mart playing "Blues For Rafa Nadal" has been viewed regularly on YouTube. We see it has had 1,800 hits so far and there are nearly 500 more on the Sky version!

<p>MORGAN CAR RALLY AT BUXTON: Mart was delighted to be invited to play at the Morgan Car Rally which was held at the Palace Hotel in June. Five of the band were playing in the open air on a fine Sunday afternoon to a large crowd of motor enthusiasts. The number of Morgan cars in attendance was remarkable, and people in Buxton were fascinated seeing so many of these splendid motors driving around during the weekend. Mart has received a very nice letter from the President of the Morgan Car Club saying how much he enjoyed hearing the music.</p>	<p>HUMPHREY LYTTTELTON: The programme on Radio 4 last week featuring the concert celebrating the life of Humph was most enjoyable. Apparently it was a three-hour show but had been reduced to one hour for the broadcast. Stephen Lyttelton was the compere and at times his voice was remarkably like his father's. All the musicians and singers had played with Humph many times over the years and it was particularly good to hear Wally Fawkes playing. When singer, Elkie Brooks came on it was very nice that she dedicated her song to Humph's manager, Susan Da Costa, who was in the audience. When Humph and Susan came to Mart's house for dinner many years ago, Humph drew his autographed cartoon of himself on three sheets of paper giving one each to Simon, Andrew and Claire Rodger. Claire was only 4 at the time and for her Humph changed the cartoon from his usual one of him playing his trumpet to a special drawing of him with Claire. The cartoons had remained in a drawer for many years and before Christmas last year Mart had them framed as a special gift to each of the family. They now have pride of place in their homes!</p>
<p>GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL: Our gigs at Goostrey Village Hall are still very popular and at the last one Mart asked the audience if they would like to have 3 concerts a year instead of 2. There was a resounding "yes", so a third date has been organized for this year and this will be on 3rd December. The 3 bookings for next year have also been arranged. The amount given to St. Luke's Hospice now from concerts and Mart's speaking appointments amounts to £6,554.00</p>	<p>TWO MORE TRIPS TO NORWAY: We look forward to playing at the Skagen Brygge Hotel in Stavanger on Saturday, 23rd October, and we will also be playing at the Stavanger Jazz Festival again on 21st to 23rd January 2011. The total of the band's trips to play in Norway will then be 35! Our relationship with Norway began at the 1986 International Jazz Festival in Dresden when the band met the Royal Garden Jazz Band from Drammen, which is close to Oslo. Mart and Finn Arnesen had a drink together and forged a lifetime friendship.</p>
<p>MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:</p> <p>First Monday each month, High Lane Conservative Club SK6 8DR Third Thurs. each month, Poynton British Legion. SK12 1JY</p> <p>7th Nov. Rochdale Jazz Club 11th Nov. Unwin Rd. Jazz Club, Sutton in Ashfield NG17 4HN 14th Nov. Wilbraham Arms, Alsager 19th Nov. Newton-le-Willows Cricket Club, plus Milltown Sound Chorus 21st Nov. Disley Golf Club 3.00 p.m. 3rd Dec. Goostrey Village Hall Tickets: 01477-537970 17th Dec. Croft Village Memorial Hall Tickets: 01925-828441 9th Jan. Wilbraham Arms 15th Jan. Boston Spa 21-24 Jan. Stavanger Jazz Festival, Norway 27th Jan. Unwin Rd. Jazz Club 3rd Feb. Burton Jazz Club, Martsons 5th Feb. Chinley W.I. Hall 4th Mar. Goostrey Village Hall 12th Mar. Dronfield Civic Hall 7.30 13th Mar. Wilbraham Arms 8.00 18th Mar. Croft Memorial Hall 7th Apr. Unwin Rd. Jazz Club 14th Apr. Burton Jazz Club, Marstons</p>	<p>REPEAT PERFORMANCES: On 7th October we are returning to the Maccabi Sports & Social Club, where we are able to meet friends from the North Manchester area. On 9th October we will be playing another gig at Tarporley British Legion, which will be another good night!</p> <p>JAZZ RECORD REQUESTS: On this Radio 3 programme on Saturdays, (opera permitting!), a record was requested to celebrate Roy Fisher's 80th birthday. Roy played with the band on the 14-day-tour of East Germany in 1989 as our regular pianist, Joe Palin, was unable to be with us. Geoffrey Smith played "Little Rock Getaway" by Joe Sullivan for Roy. The following week JRR played a request for "Hum Drum Blues", sung by our good friend, Marion Montgomery which was recorded in August 1963. Marion sang with the band at more than 10 concerts between 1990 and her sad death in 2002, including the "Sunbird" cruise that year. Our CD, "Makin' Whoopee" with Marion was recorded in 1992 and it is still very popular.</p> <p>WETHERBY METHODIST CHURCH: On 7th May the band played for the fund-raising at this Church in Yorkshire, not far from the Boston Spa jazz club. Apparently a number of events have taken place since and it is hoped that their target will be reached next year. The band has been asked to play at the Church again in Spring 2011 when the proposed renovations will have been completed.</p> <p>Please let us know if you change your home address or your e-mail address as it will save Mart a lot of time !!</p>