

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

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MR. AND MRS. ERIC BRIERLEY: All the musicians in the band had a great surprise when envelopes came in the post with invitations to Eric and Maggi's wedding. Eric wrote a wonderful 12-line poem on the invitation referring to the fact that the marriage would be on the 25th June, which was actually the 25th anniversary of their first date. The day arrived and the weather was unusually kind for the summer of 2012, dry and sunny. They were married at Hayfield Church and Eric joined the band outside the church to play as the guests arrived. Roger played the Bechstein grand piano and Eric played a special piece during the ceremony, "The Lord Is Listening To You, Hallelujah!". They held their reception at the Village Hall, where Maggi had previously worked tremendously hard preparing the wedding breakfast for all the guests herself. Well done, Maggi, it was all terrific! The band played again at the reception and everyone had a lovely time! We hope they won't be offended if we give you the last two lines of Eric's great poem on the invitation:

"But Maggi still worries things could go astray
'cos Eric proposed on the April Fool's Day"

We all wish Maggi and Eric lots of happiness.

TRAFFORD CENTRE, MANCHESTER: Our third booking to play on the bandstand at the Trafford Centre was on Friday, 9th November between 7.00 p.m. and 10.00. Once again we received nice comments from the shoppers and cinema-goers and our leaflets were picked up by a lot of interested people. Small children stop and gaze and then start to dance rather self-consciously! The next booking to play there will be in December.

STAVANGER TRADJAZZ WEEKEND: We are all very pleased to be invited once again to play at the Stavanger Tradjazz Weekend which takes place on 24th to 27th January. This will be the 36th time the band has travelled to Norway and we are all looking forward to it very much. We have such a lot of good friends there and it will be great to see them all again and visit the nice places in Stavanger, which is a really nice town.

MAILING LIST: We are sorry that due to increased charges now we are unable to send our Newsletters by post.. We can e-mail these if you let us know your e-mail address. Please include your full postal address too so that if we are e-mailing about a special event we can direct them to a certain area. If you should change your e-mail address, please let us know!

STAFFORD JAZZ SOCIETY: It was very nice of Nick Balmforth to ask the band to play at Stafford again. It is a long time since we were there, and Nick called the next day to give Mart another booking, which will be in September next year.

PETE STAPLES: We have such happy memories of Pete Staples who died on 3rd November. He was a great friend, a brilliant drummer and former Sales Director in Mart's workwear company, Martin Mills Limited. Mart and Pete had been friends for very many years and Pete was one of the founder members of the band. He had enjoyed the touring and cruising with the band over the years, but his health started to limit his lifestyle and he resigned from the band in 2003. He had played with a number of bands in his earlier years, The Eddie Thompson Trio, The Tony Charlesworth Quartet, The Alan Hare Big Band and The Red River Jazzmen among others. He also played with The Mike Martin Band, also known as The Mike Pembroke Hot Seven, The Alley Orchestra and Big Pete's Lecherous Seven! At one stage he had an offer to join the Humphrey Lyttelton Band, but turned it down as he did not want to play professionally. However, Pete was invited by Humph to play on his LP "21 Years On" which was recorded at the Conway Hall in London. Pete was keen on sports too and played cricket and football as a young man. In fact he was in the Stockport Boys team who were in a final match for the English Schools Trophy against Liverpool Boys. The game was played at Stockport County and resulted in a one-all draw and was then replayed at Liverpool. Unbelievably this game also ended with a one-all draw and it was decided that the two teams should be declared joint winners and each team held the trophy for six months. Two other future jazz musicians were in the Stockport side, Keith Pendlebury (piano) and John Tippet (banjo)! The funeral was attended by many musicians and jazz fans, and the cortege was preceded by Mart, clarinet, Allan and Ged Hone (trumpets), Eric (trombone), Joe Silmon, (Sax), Ian (banjo) and Chris playing Pete's snare drum. Mart gave the Eulogy as Pete had no family, and the tune played at the end was Pete singing with the band "Bury Me On Basin Street", which is on our CD "Jazz Tale of Two Cities" on the American Jazzology Label, available from the band and at George Buck's Jazz Café in New Orleans.

MORE ABOUT PETE: Pete had a great sense of humour and his habit of going outside to have a cigarette caused a couple of good stories. In 1998 the band was playing at their second Californian jazz festival which was held at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose and Pete was outside smoking wearing the band uniform of black shirt, black trousers, and red and gold brocade waistcoat. Assuming that he was part of the valet parking team at the hotel a motorist drove up and asked him to park his car for him! At the Stavanger Jazz Weekend a few months later, Pete and the band had been invited by Auden to join him for dinner at his Storyteller Restaurant. Pete walked through the restaurant wearing the Storyteller tee-shirt, which was given to all the band, when a diner attempted to give him a drinks order! (In Las Vegas, during another band tour, Janet was wearing her Storyteller tee-shirt and a Norwegian came up to talk – in Norwegian!) When the band flew into Chicago O'Hare Airport on a later trip to the States, Pete came unstuck with the American customs department. When asked if he had any foodstuffs with him he said quite truthfully that he had a couple of Morrison's Meat and Potato Pies in his hand-luggage. He was quite upset when these were confiscated, but it caused complete hilarity with the band, particularly when Janet pointed out that Roger could now change the words when he sings "Chicago" from "Bet your bottom dollar you lose the blues in Chicago" to "Bet your bottom dollar you lose your pies in Chicago". This caused a great laugh round the band when Roger sang this!

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL GIGS: These gigs, taking place twice or three times, a year have raised over £9,000 for St. Luke's Hospice. A very nice article about the band's fundraising has been a feature of the St. Luke's recent Newsletter:

"So far Mart has raised over £8,700 for St. Luke's with a target of £10,000 well in sight." The article then refers to Mart's method of arranging the charity concerts whereby each ticket price gives £2 for the charity and all the proceeds from the raffle make up the total donation. It mentions the fact that Brian Lancaster of the Holmes Chapel Support Group told Mart that St. Luke's Hospice needed assistance and Mart jumped at the chance to help. The lovely photo of the band taken this year by David Buszard was also printed and the article was entitled, "A Stomping fund raiser for the Hospice" !

The band plays at Goostrey again on Saturday, 24th November, and there are three bookings for next year, 8th March, 20th July and 9th November.

OUR REGULAR JAZZ CLUB RESIDENCIES:

1st Monday of every month:

High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Rd. SK6 8DR
8.00 7th Jan. 4th Feb. 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, etc.

3rd Thursday of every month:

Poynton British Legion, Georges Rd. SK12 1JY
8.00 20th Dec. 17th Jan. 21st Feb. 21st March, 18th April, 16th May, etc.

For all other gig information, please see the giglist on the Events Section of our website.

If you have any good ideas of a place where we can start a new residency, evenings or afternoons please let us know!

Please remember that our P.O. Box Number is no longer operative. You will see from our Newsletter No. 68 that we have stopped paying for this as the price has gone up by 62%. If you want to contact us by mail, this is Mart's home address:

18 Fletcher Drive, Disley, Stockport. SK12 2ND.

PICKERING JAZZ FESTIVAL: We have always enjoyed playing at this festival in Yorkshire. The format of the Festival has been very good - a different band plays each night of the week from Monday to Saturday, leaving the daytime for people to explore this lovely area. However, it was decided that this year was to be the last, which is very disappointing. We were pleased to see that Dee and John Curtis had arrived in their campervan, great supporters of the band for a number of years! Dee and John were passengers on each of the six Transatlantic cruises with Air-tours (MyTravel) and, later, Thomsons, and often come to see us at High Lane Conservative Club and Poynton Legion.

BUXTON ARTS THEATRE: The band played at this super theatre in May last year and we were there again on October 7th this year. It is a short Sunday lunchtime session and was very well attended.

DEREK NEWTON: We were very sorry to learn of the loss of Derek Newton after a long illness. An excellent bass-player, Derek played with Mart in the Zenith Six when they were in their twenties but he and his wife, Chris, left the area to live in South Wales when he was promoted in his day job. Mart invited Derek and Chris to join the band on one of the cruises when Colin was unable to travel following his quadruple heart bypass. After moving to South Wales, Derek joined the Liberty Street Jazzband where he played his string bass and sousaphone and he was with them until his illness. If you were around in his Zenith Six days you will remember that his nickname was Ulysses.

CILCAIN VILLAGE HALL: We were booked to make a third visit to Cilcain, near Mold, which would be in the newly refurbished Village Hall. However, we were disappointed to have the booking postponed as the work had not been completed and Health & Safety declared that the concert could not go ahead. However, we now have the new date and we will be there on Saturday, 1st December. We also have two bookings to play there next year.

BRIAN'S 80th: Brian Priestley is another of the regular jazz fans who we have known a long time and who came on all but one of the cruises. For his 80th birthday party recently he asked Mart to bring the band to play for all his friends, most of whom we knew from gigs over the years. It was a great party, Brian!

KESWICK JAZZ FESTIVAL: The band has played at this great Jazz Festival several times and we are happy to be invited back again for the next event, which is on the weekend of 9th to 12th May 2013. We are always pleased to be at festivals where we meet up with friends from other parts of the country who we don't see regularly.