

Newsletter Number 84 - March 2017

IT'S SPRING!

TWO EXCELLENT NEW CDs

PKCD-407 The Sopranos "Live - in Bude"

The first CD for p.e.k. by an amazing band formed in 2015 As the title suggests it was recorded at the Bude Jazz Festival in front of a typical Bude audience at the Falcon Hotel - great venue! Chris Pearce and Andy Leggett join forces on clarinets and saxes together with Dave Deakin on trombone in front of a superb rhythm section to play a session of jazz that is both exciting and moving.

PKCD-408 Dave Moorwood's Big Bear Stompers "Sweet Like This"

Also recorded live at the 2016 Bude Jazz Festival here is the band's fourth CD for p.e.k. There are too few Frisco-style bands around and this is one of the best - a terrific sound! Here they play a selection of tunes, mostly from the 1920s and '30s - some familiar, others less well known. Full details of these new CDs are on page 3 of your Spring/Summer 2017 Catalogue

SPECIAL OFFER

Buy any four CDs and deduct £7 from the total price.

If you or a friend would like a copy of my latest Spring/Summer 2017 Catalogue just ask; I'll be happy to send a copy.

Send for a copy of my "Undeletions List"; it's packed with musical gems from the past 25 years, many of them long-since deleted.

PETER'S CHOICE

My selected musician this time is Sonny Morris; he was truly one of the greats. He was born in November 1928 just a few months after the birth of Ken Colyer, his musical partner for several years. In 1949, aged just 21, they were founder members of the Original Crane River Jazz Band. One can only imagine what it must have been like for them - young self-taught musicians with limited technical ability but with an all-consuming desire to play the wonderful music they had recently discovered. I have an LP on Doug Dobell's 77 label with some of their first recorded tracks. It's poorly recorded but the excitement of the band and their enthusiasm is amazing. It's available now on CD I believe and all fans of New Orleans jazz should have a copy. It's one of my all-time favourites.

Eleanor and I were fortunate and privileged to get to know Sonny quite well. He stayed overnight with us on a couple of occasions and we were delighted to be with Sonny and Miriam to celebrate their Ruby Wedding. Over the years I recorded him several times, the first occasion was in 1988. One highlight for me was in April 1991 when Sonny guested with The Chris Blount Band at our Silver Wedding party. Only two of my recordings ever made it onto CD - the first was a session in the church at West Lulworth in November 1993 when the Delta Jazz Band played a programme of hymns and Spirituals (PKCD-024 "Gloryland"). The other p.e.k. CD by Sonny Morris & The Delta Jazz Band comes from two live sessions, also recorded in November 1993 at West Lulworth. These tracks were not released until 2003 (PKCD-232 "You Can't Escape From Me"). On both CDs Sonny is joined by Terry Giles, Bob Ward, Ben Marshall, John Sirett and Colin Bowden. The last time we saw Sonny was at the 1999 Keswick Jazz Festival. He died early in 2001 and leaves a great legacy of recorded music and, for me, happy memories.

BRIAN CARRICK

Brian Carrick is presently recovering from a serious illness. He became unwell a couple of months ago and was admitted to hospital where they diagnosed Septicaemia. From the little I know, patients often fail to recover from this, but Brian is made of tougher stuff and the infection is under control. I understand from Chas Hudson that Brian is presently in a rehabilitation unit near his home where among other tasks he has to learn to walk again. Brian's determination is second to none and I'm sure we'll see him back in action again before too long. However he has had to cancel all his bookings until August. We all wish him a full and speedy recovery.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sadly nothing will come from the John Maddocks Jazzmen recording at Bude last year. However they are at Bude again this year so - fingers crossed! The list of bands for the 2017 Bude Festival reads like a who's who of many of our finest bands so I'm hopeful of getting some good recordings there. I'll be starting to make plans very soon. In the mean-time I have just recorded The Chase Jazzmen, a West midlands six-piece band who play enjoyable relaxed traditional jazz. In March I am booked to record The Sunset Cafe Stompers - it's over three years since their last recording. In May I will be recording the Yacht Club Four - strange name for a delightful New Orleans-style drummerless band. Then at the end of May I will be spending an enjoyable day with the band featuring Jeff & Anne Barnhart and Spats Langham. Their CD is due for release in August when Jeff & Anne visit England again.

The snowdrops are out, Spring is just around the corner and it's time to dust off the classic cars, do some gardening and look forward to all that 2017 has in store.

Enjoy your jazz,

Peter Kings