

## North Carolina Jazz: A Selected Bio-Bibliography & Resource Guide

by Bryan T. Sinclair

In the opening montage of Ken Burns' epic documentary *Jazz*, the narrator tells us that the remarkable men and women who created this American music "came from every part of the country and from every walk of life." What brought them together was that "they could all do something that most of us can only dream of — create art on the spot." Jazz was born in New Orleans and later took shape in the urban melting pots of the Midwest and East Coast, but the contributions of North Carolina to this American "gumbo" are numerous and significant as well.

Perhaps no other state produced so many influential jazz figures in the latter half of the last century. Many of the important young musicians who would go on to invent what we know as "modern jazz" had connections to our state. Max Roach, Thelonious Monk, Percy Heath, and John Coltrane were all born here; Dizzy Gillespie grew up just beyond the border in South Carolina, but attended school and studied music in Laurinburg. Although these jazzmen eventually migrated northward, their deeply-shared regional roots remained with them. They sought each other out and gigged together in Philadelphia and New York, influencing each other, playing together, and creating an exciting new style called bebop (or "bop" for short). Coltrane, who was born in the small town of Hamlet, but grew up in High Point, would take jazz even farther. The modal, freer sounds he explored in the sixties drew inspiration from his religious roots in North Carolina, but also from African and Eastern cultures as well.

Other jazz artists with North Carolina connections include Billy Strayhorn, Duke Ellington's right-hand man, composer, and arranger for many years, who called Hillsborough his second home. He composed a couple of tunes you may have heard of: "Take the 'A' Train" and "Satin Doll." We also lay claim to pianist Dr. Billy Taylor of CBS's *Sunday Morning* and NPR's *Jazz at the Kennedy Center* fame, who has dedicated his life to educating America about its indigenous musical art form. We have our share of jazz divas as well. The avant-garde, expatriate song-stylist Nina Simone hails from Tryon and attended school in Asheville. Classy chanteuse Nnenna Freelon was not born here, but has called the Triangle her home for many years, performing in clubs and cutting some great albums.

More research needs to be done on the contributions of

North Carolinians to jazz and American music. The following resource guide is designed to aid students and other researchers in uncovering our state's jazz heritage and introduce some classic recordings.

### **Bernhardt, Clyde E. B. (Edric Barron)**

Trombonist, vocalist; b. near Gold Hill, NC, 7/11/05 – 5/20/86. Grew up in Richfield, New Hope, New London, Badin, and various locations around the Piedmont. Highlights growing up included running errands for jazz singer Ma Rainey during a stopover in Badin and seeing the jazz singer Bessie Smith perform at the Lafayette and Lincoln Theatres in Winston-Salem. At 14, he began delivering telegrams in Badin, becoming the first black messenger boy for Western Union in the state. In 1921, Clyde joined his mother in Harrisburg, PA. He would later go on to perform with King Oliver, Charlie Parker, and other jazz greats.

Bernhardt, Clyde E. B. *I Remember: Eighty Years of Black Entertainment, Big Bands, and the Blues*. As told to Sheldon Harris. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986.

Bernhardt, Clyde. "Talking About King Oliver: An Oral History Excerpt." *Annual Review of Jazz Studies* 1 (1982): 32-38.

Gaster, Gilbert. "Clyde Bernhardt." *Storyville* 44 (December 1972/January 1973): 54-56, 58-70.

### **Selected CDs**

Bernhardt, Clyde. *The Complete Recordings, Vols. 1 & 2*. Blue Moon 6016/6017, n.d. Originally recorded 1945-53.

Parker, Charlie. *Volume 3: Young Bird – 1945*. Masters of Jazz/FRA 104, 1996. Originally recorded 1945. Bernhardt appears as composer, trombonist, and vocalist.

### **Brooks, Tina (Harold Floyd)**

Tenor saxophonist; b. Fayetteville, NC, 6/7/32 – 8/13/74. Moved with his family to New York City in 1944, but was sent back to Fayetteville for most of his high school education. First took lessons from his older brother, Bubba Brooks, also a saxophonist born in Fayetteville. Went on to play in many Bronx and Harlem clubs. Best known for his recordings for the Blue Note label, 1958-1961.

Ansell, Derek. "The Forgotten Ones." *Jazz Journal Interna-*

tional 45 (February 1992): 26.

Rosenthal, David. "The Power of Badness." *Hard Bop: Jazz and Black Music 1955-1965*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

#### Web Sites

*True Blue: The Tina Brooks Tribute & Discography*. <[http://members.tripod.com/~hardbop/brooks\\_discography.html](http://members.tripod.com/~hardbop/brooks_discography.html)>

#### Selected CDs

Brooks, Tina. *Back to the Tracks*. Blue Note 21737, 1998. Originally recorded 1960.

Brooks, Tina. *True Blue*. Blue Note 28975, 1994. Originally recorded 1960. Currently out of print, but by far his best recording.

### Coltrane, John William

Saxophonist, composer, jazz innovator; b. Hamlet, NC, 9/23/26 – 7/17/67. Although Hamlet is renowned for being his birthplace, Coltrane actually grew up in High Point. Major influences included religion and the church; his grandfather, a Methodist (AME Zion) minister; and racism experienced in his early years. He attended segregated elementary, junior high, and high schools in High Point. Later living and gigging in Philadelphia and New York, John was drawn to other musicians with North Carolina connections, including Thelonious Monk, Jimmy Heath, and Dizzy Gillespie. "Consciously or not, the state of his birth always held a grip on Coltrane." He was "always talking about Carolina," according to drummer Billy Kaye (Porter, *John Coltrane*, p. 22).

Cole, Bill. *John Coltrane*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1976.

Fujioka, Yasuhiro, with Lewis Porter and Yoh-ichi Hamada. *John Coltrane: A Discography and Musical Biography*.

Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1995.

Futch, Michael. "Trane from Hamlet." *Fayetteville Observer-Times*, August 11, 1995, E8-9, 16.

Lewis, John. "The Invisible Man." *Oxford American* 12 (June/July 1996): 67-69.

Nisenson, Eric. *Ascension: John Coltrane and His Quest*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993.

Overton, Rod. "High Point Not Forgetting Jazz Great John Coltrane." *News & Record* (Greensboro, NC), June 29, 1996, D1.

Porter, Lewis. *John Coltrane: His Life and Music*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1998.

Selfridge, John. *John Coltrane: A Sound Supreme*. Intro. by Branford Marsalis. New York: Franklin Watts, 1999. Young adult biography.

Steadman, Tom. "Coltrane: The Quiet Boy Who Grew Up in High Point Became a Giant in Jazz." *News & Record* (Greensboro, NC), September 22, 1991, F1.

Thomas, J. C. *Chasin' the Trane: The Music and Mystique of John Coltrane*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1976.

Turner, Richard. "John Coltrane: A Biographical Sketch." *Black Perspective in Music* 3 (Spring 1975): 3-16.

Woideck, Carl. *The John Coltrane Companion: Five Decades of Commentary*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1998.

#### Videos

*The Coltrane Legacy*. Produced and directed by Burrill Crohn. A production of Jazz Images, Inc. New York: Video Artists International, 1985. Videocassette.

*John Coltrane, 1926-1967*. Proposed and written by Gérald Arnaud. Produced by Patrick Sobelman. Directed by Jean-Noël Cristiani. A co-production of La Sept Arte, with the participation of the Centre National de la Cinématographie and the help of Procirep Television

Commission. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1998. Videocassette.

*The World According to John Coltrane*. A co-production of Toby Byron/Multiprises in association with Taurus Film, Munich, and Video Arts, Japan. New York: BMG Video, 1991. Videocassette.

#### Web Sites

*David Wild's WildPlace*. <<http://home.att.net/~dawild/index.htm>> Coltrane resources and links from jazz writer Wild.

*My Favorite Things*. <<http://www.room34.com/coltrane/>> Contains a bibliography and links to additional Web sites.

#### Selected CDs

Coltrane, John. *Ultimate Blue Train*. Blue Note 53428, 1997. Originally recorded 1957. This "enhanced" sound disc

includes a multimedia program featuring video clips, photographs, and more.

Coltrane, John. *Giant Steps*. Atlantic/Rhino 75203, 1998. Originally recorded 1959.

Coltrane, John. *A Love Supreme*. GRP/Impulse 155, 1995. Originally recorded 1964.

### Donaldson, Lou (Louis A.)

Tenor saxophonist; b. Badin, NC, 11/1/26– . Lou first learned music from his mother, a piano teacher in Badin. While a student at the A&T College of North Carolina (now NC A&T State University), Donaldson majored in political science and formed his own band playing wedding gigs and floor shows. Music soon replaced political science as a career path. He went on to record with Art Blakey, Clifford Brown, Thelonious Monk, Horace Silver, and others for Blue Note during the 1950s, then led his own sessions for the label. In 1982, he returned to his alma mater in Greensboro to be awarded an honorary doctorate in humanities.

Cordle, Owen. "Lessons From Jazz's Best Teacher: Experience Lends NC Saxophonist His Staying Power." *News & Observer* (Raleigh, NC), September 13, 1991, W7.

Tomkins, Les. "The Lou Donaldson Story" (Interview).

*Crescendo International* 19, no. 11 (1981): 20-22, continued 19, no. 12 (1981): 16-17.

Woolley, Stan. "Lou Donaldson: Putting Swing Into Bebop." *Jazz Journal International* (January 10, 1997): 6-7.

#### Selected CDs

Donaldson, Lou. *Blues Walk*. Blue Note 46525, 1988. Originally recorded 1958.

Smith, Jimmy. *The Sermon* (Rudy Van Gelder Edition). Blue Note 24541, 2000. Originally recorded 1957 and 1958. NC saxmen Donaldson and Tina Brooks are featured on this classic session with organist Smith.

### Farlow, Tal (Talmadge Holt)

Guitarist; b. Greensboro, NC, 6/7/21 – 7/25/98. Farlow's first career was that of a sign painter. He played a little mandolin and guitar when he was young, but it wasn't until his twenties that he decided to devote his life to jazz, after hearing a radio broadcast of Benny Goodman's band with Charlie Christian on guitar. He played in Philadelphia clubs, then moved to New York, but never cared much for city life or public acclaim. Farlow was considered a musicians' musician, now remembered for his technical prowess and great recordings.

Berle, Arnie. "Tal Farlow." *Secrets From the Masters: Conversations With Forty Great Guitar Players*. Ed. by Don Menn. New York: GPI, 1992.

Jeske, L. "Tal Farlow: Have Guitar, Won't Travel." *Down Beat*

49 (January 1982): 24-26, 58.

Korall, Burt. "Tal Farlow: Turning Away From the Fame."

*Down Beat* 46 (February 22, 1979): 21-22, 45-46.

Rowe, Jeri. "Triad Native, Jazz Great Tal Farlow Dies at 77."

*News & Record* (Greensboro, NC), July 29, 1998, B3.

Sallis, James. "Middle Ground." *The Guitar in Jazz: An*

*Anthology*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996.

Watrous, Peter. "Tal Farlow, 77, Jazz Guitarist Rooted in Bop"

(Obituary). *The New York Times*, July 28, 1998, A16.

#### Videos

*Talmage Farlow*. Produced, directed, and edited by Lorenzo

De Stefano. New York: Rhapsody Films, 1986. Videocas-

sette.

#### Web Sites

*Tal Farlow* — *Jazz Guitarist*. <<http://www.nobad.demon.co.uk/talfarlow.html>>

#### Selected CDs

Farlow, Tal. *The Return of Tal Farlow*. OJC 356, 1991. Originally recorded 1969.

Farlow, Tal. *The Swinging Guitar of Tal Farlow*. Polygram/Verve 559515, 1999. Originally recorded 1957.

#### **Freelon, (Chinyere) Nnenna**

Vocalist; b. Cambridge, MA, 7/28/54?-. After college at Simmons in Boston, Freelon settled in North Carolina with her family, where she has lived, taught, and perfected her unique vocal style ever since. The Grammy nominee has chosen to base her career in Durham instead of New York or Los Angeles, following her grandmother's sage advice, "bloom where you are planted." Among Freelon's chief musical influences is NC-native Nina Simone.

Byrd, Kimberly H. "The Durham Diva Uncovers Her Own Voice." *Herald-Sun* (Durham, NC), May 12, 1995, Preview 12.

Vanderford, Joe. "Black Butterfly: An Interview with Nnenna Freelon." *The Independent Weekly* (Durham, NC), April 22, 1992, 12-15.

#### Web Sites

*Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center – Guest Artist: Nnenna Freelon*. <<http://npr.org/programs/btaylor/pastprograms/nfreelon.html>>

*Nnenna Freelon Official Website*. <<http://www.freelon.com/nnenna/index2.html>>

#### Selected CDs

Freelon, Nnenna. *Maiden Voyage*. Concord Jazz 4794, 1998.

Freelon, Nnenna. *Soulcall*. Concord Jazz 4896, 2000.

#### **Gillespie, Dizzy (John Birks)**

Trumpeter, composer, bebop innovator; b. Cheraw, SC, 10/21/17–1/6/93. In his autobiography, *To Be, or Not ... To Bop*, Gillespie describes the influence of North Carolina "territory bands" that came through Cheraw, SC, in the 1930s, including Smiling Billy Stewart and Kelly's Jazz Hounds from Fayetteville, the Capitol City Aces from Raleigh, and the Jimmy Gunn and Bill Davis Orchestras from Charlotte. These African-American-led bands provided his only exposure to jazz growing up. Gillespie attended school at the Laurinburg Institute in NC from 1932–35, where he studied music theory and harmony. Together with Charlie Parker, Gillespie is considered a key player in the development of modern jazz and bebop.

Balliett, Whitney. "Profiles: Dizzy." *The New Yorker*, September 17, 1990, 48-58.

DeVeaux, Scott Knowles. *The Birth of Bebop: A Social and Musical History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.

Gillespie, Dizzy, with Al Fraser. *To Be, or Not ... To Bop:*

*Memoirs*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1979.

Hill, George H. "Dizzy Gillespie." *Bulletin of Bibliography* 42

(September 1985): 125-132.

McRae, Barry. *Dizzy Gillespie: His Life & Times*. New York:

Universe Books, 1988.

Shipton, Alyn. *Groovin' High: The Life of Dizzy Gillespie*. New

York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Wright, Josephine R. "Conversation with John Birks 'Dizzy'

Gillespie, Pioneer of Jazz." *Black Perspective in Music* 4

(Spring 1976): 82-89.

#### Videos

*Dizzy's Dream Band*. Produced by Gary Keys. Directed by

Stanley Dorfman. Distributed by WinStar TV & Video.

New York: Fox Lorber Center Stage, 1999. Videocassette.

#### Web Sites

*The Dizzy Gillespie Webpage*. <<http://www.duke.edu/~fdp/>>

#### Selected CDs

Gillespie, Dizzy. *The Complete RCA Victor Recordings*. RCA 66528, 1995. Originally recorded 1937-49.

Gillespie, Dizzy. *Groovin' High*. Savoy SV-0152, 1993. Originally recorded 1945-46.

#### **Gunn, Jimmie (Jimmy)**

"Territory band" leader during the 1920s and 30s; based in Charlotte. His orchestras, the Jimmie Gunn Orchestra and the Dixie Serenaders, toured extensively in the Carolinas and Georgia. Territory bands, like those led by Gunn, usually never gained any national prominence or toured big cities. They were local black musicians who played ballrooms, minstrel and vaudeville shows, school dances, and other venues accessible to African American musicians. We do know that Gunn's Orchestra recorded six selections for the Bluebird label in 1936 (see CD below). More research clearly needs to be done on Gunn and other African American musicians of this period.

Demeusy, Betrand. "What the Papers (and the Musicians) Said ... Jimmie Gunn's Orchestra." *Storyville* 95 (June/July 1981): 189-190.

Melick, Phil. "More Jazz from Charlotte." *Storyville* 109 (October/November 1983): 14-19.

#### Selected CDs

*Tar Heel Jazz*. IAJRC CD 1002. Originally recorded 1936-37.

Rare territory bands recorded in Charlotte, including six selections by Jimmie Gunn and his Orchestra. Order direct from International Association of Jazz Record Collectors <<http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/3910/reecat.htm>>.

#### **Heath Brothers**

Albert "Tootie" Heath, drummer; b. Philadelphia, PA, 5/31/35– ; Jimmy Heath, saxophonist; b. Philadelphia, PA, 10/25/26– ; Percy Heath, bassist; b. Wilmington, NC, 4/30/23– . These famous musical brothers all have ties to Wilmington. Both of their parents were from there. Their father played clarinet in the Elks Marching Band and their mother and grandmother sang in the church choir. Percy, who would go on to join the influential Modern Jazz Quartet, was born in Wilmington, and brother Jimmy attended Williston Industrial High School, Wilmington's blacks-only school during the 1940s.

Feather, Leonard. "The Heaths." *The Passion for Jazz*. New York: Horizon Press, 1980.

Jenkins, Willard. "The Heath Brothers: 3 at Last." *JazzTimes* 28 (February 1998): 52-55, 143.

Nahigian, Alan. "'You Can't Buy Experience': The Heath

Brothers." *Down Beat* 65 (January 1998): 30-33.  
Primack, Bret. "The Heath Brothers: Bebop Above and Beyond All Fads" (Interview). *Down Beat* 46 (March 22, 1979): 16-17, 36-39.  
Roberts, Lee. "Wilmington's All Jazzed Up." *Morning Star* (Wilmington, NC), September 25, 1997, 1D, 4D.

#### Selected CDs

Heath Brothers. *As We Were Saying*. Concord Jazz 4777, 1997.  
Heath Brothers. *Jazz Family*. Concord Jazz 4846, 1998.

#### **Kimbrough, Frank Marshall, Jr.**

Pianist, composer; b. Roxboro, NC, 11/2/56– . Frank was born into a musical family, where his early interests in music were nurtured. He began playing piano at the age of 4, and started formal lessons at 7. His first experiences in front of an audience were in the church and playing with local groups around Chapel Hill. In 1980, he left North Carolina to form his own groups in Washington, DC and New York City. His individualistic piano style draws elements from the hard bop school and the avant-garde.

#### Web Sites

Frank Kimbrough Website. <<http://www.mastura.com/frank/>>

#### Selected CDs

Kimbrough, Frank. *Lonely Woman*. Mapleshade 6282, 1995.  
Kimbrough, Frank. *Noumena*. Soul Note 121318, 2000.

#### **Monk, Thelonious Sphere**

Pianist, composer, jazz innovator; b. Rocky Mount, NC, 10/10/17-2/17/82. Monk was born less than two weeks before Gillespie. Delivered by a midwife in a little house on Red Row in the "colored" section of Rocky Mount, Thelonious Sphere Monk would go on to revolutionize jazz playing and composition. His idiosyncratic style drew from a wealth of material, from the Southern gospel of his roots to Harlem stride piano. Not much is known of Monk's NC influences, although critics have commented on his unique treatment of "Carolina Moon" on one of his first recording sessions (see *Complete Blue Note Recordings* below).

De Wilde, Laurent. *Monk*. Trans. by Jonathan Dickinson. New York: Marlowe, 1997.

Fitterling, Thomas. *Thelonious Monk: His Life and Music*. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Hills Books, 1997.

Gourse, Leslie. *Straight, No Chaser: The Life and Genius of Thelonious Monk*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1997.

Van der Blik, Rob, ed. *The Thelonious Monk Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

#### Videos

*Thelonious Monk: American Composer*. Directed by Matthew Seig. Written by Quincy Troupe. Produced by Toby Byron and Richard Saylor. A co-production of Toby Byron/Multiprisms in association with Taurus Film, Munich and VideoArts, Japan. Edited by Steven Olswang. Director of photography, Herbert Forsberg. New York: BMG Video, 1993.

*Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser*. Directed by Charlotte Zwerin. Produced by Charlotte Zwerin, Bruce Ricker; Executive producer, Clint Eastwood. Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 1990. Videocassette.

#### Web Sites

*The Thelonious Monk Website*. <<http://www.achilles.net/~howardm/tsmonk.html>> Quotations by and about Monk, a complete discography and guide to compositions, lots of pictures, album covers, and more.

#### Selected CDs

Monk, Thelonious. *Brilliant Corners*. OJC 026, 1991. Originally recorded 1956.

Monk, Thelonious. *The Complete Blue Note Recordings* (4 discs). Blue Note 30363, 1994. Originally recorded 1947-58. Also featured on this box set are NC jazzmen Lou Donaldson on alto sax, John Coltrane on tenor sax, Percy Heath on bass, and Max Roach on drums.

#### **Roach, Max (Maxwell)**

Drummer, composer, arranger; b. New Land (Dismal Swamp), NC, 1/10/24– . The Roach family left North Carolina for Brooklyn when Max was 4. According to Roach in later interviews, he was influenced by the stories and music of his extended North Carolina family. His mother had been a gospel singer and his aunt had been the church pianist at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Dismal Swamp, NC. It was his aunt who first introduced him to music, "the fundamentals — scales, how to read and play church music, and things like that." In the 1984 documentary *Repercussions*, Roach adds, "if there's anything musical about me, it really started in the church, at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church."

Brower, W.A. "Master Roach." *American Visions* 7 (April/May 1992): 42-44.

Fox, Charles. "Sit Down and Listen: The Story of Max Roach." *Repercussions: A Celebration of African American Music*. Ed. Geoffrey Haydon and Dennis Marks. London: Century Publications, 1985. Companion to the video series of the same title.

"Rapping with Mighty Max: Max Roach on Bird, Bop, and Birthplaces (Interview)." *News & Observer* (Raleigh, NC), December 23, 1990, H1.

"Roach, Max." *Current Biography Yearbook 1986*. New York: H.W. Wilson.

#### Videos

*Max Roach*. Written and directed by Gérald Arnaud. Direction, Ex Nihilo. Produced by Patrick Sobelman. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1998. Videocassette.

*Repercussions: A Celebration of African-American Music*. Directed by Geoffrey Haydon and Dennis Marks. Third Eye Productions Ltd. for Channel Four in association with RM Arts. Chicago: Home Visions, 1984. Videocassette. Seven one-hour programs on four videocassettes, including Program 4, "Sit Down and Listen: The Story of Max Roach."

#### Web Sites

*MaxRoach.com*. <<http://www.maxroach.com/>>

#### Selected CDs

Roach, Max. *Deeds, Not Words*. OJC 304, 1988. Originally recorded 1958.

Roach, Max. *We Insist!: Freedom Now Suite*. Candid CCD-79002, 1988. Originally recorded 1960.

#### **Shaw, Woody (Herman II)**

Trumpeter, composer; b. Laurinburg, NC, 12/24/44 – 5/10/89. Woody Shaw was born in the hometown of Dizzy Gillespie's alma mater, the Laurinburg Institute. Shaw's father, Woody, Sr., was also a Laurinburg alumnus and a local musician who performed with the gospel group the Diamond Jubilee Singers. Shaw is best known for his accomplished solos and collaborations with Eric Dolphy, Art Blakey, and Dexter Gordon during the 1960s and 70s. Recently, his talents as composer have gained new attention as well (see *Unity* recording below).  
Berg, Chuck. "Woody Shaw: Trumpet in Bloom." *Down Beat* 45 (August 10, 1978): 22-24, 49-53.

Reitman, Linda R. "Woody Shaw: Linked to a Legacy." *Down Beat* 50 (January 1983): 18-21.

#### Web Sites

*A Critical Discography of Woody Shaw.* <<http://www.wnur.org/jazz/artists/shaw.woody/discog.html>>

#### Selected CDs

Shaw, Woody. *Rosewood.* Sony 65519, 1998. Originally recorded 1977.

Young, Larry. *Unity* (Rudy Van Gelder Edition). Blue Note 97808, 1999. Originally recorded 1965. Shaw appears as both trumpeter and composer.

#### Simone, Nina (Eunice Waymon)

Vocalist, pianist; b. Tryon, NC, 2/21/33-. Prior to 1930, Simone's father had been a successful and respected businessman in the mostly white, mountain resort town of Tryon, where he operated a barbershop, dry cleaners, and trucking company. By the time Nina (christened Eunice Kathleen Waymon) was born, the family had lost everything in the Depression. The Waymons were a musical family; both parents sang and played the piano. Her father also played guitar and harmonica and sang in the church choir. By the age of six, Nina (then Eunice) was the regular pianist at her family's Methodist church. Later she attended Allen High School for Girls in Asheville where she was graduated Valedictorian in June 1950.

McKenna, Kristine. "Nina Simone: An Exiled Avant-Garde Musician Speaks Her Mind." *Oxford American* (Third Annual Double Issue on Southern Music) 27-28 (Summer 1999): 96-97.

Roland, Paul, ed. "Nina Simone." *Jazz Singers: The Great Song Stylists in their Own Words.* New York: Billboard Books, 2000.

Simone, Nina, with Stephen Cleary. *I Put a Spell On You: The Autobiography of Nina Simone.* New York: Da Capo Press, 1993.

#### Web Sites

*Official Nina Simone Website.* <<http://www.ninasimone.com/>>

#### Selected CDs

Simone, Nina. *Anthology: The Coplax Years.* Rhino 72567, 1996. Originally recorded 1959-64.

Simone, Nina. *Nina Simone at the Village Gate.* Roulette B2-95058, 1991. Originally recorded 1961.

#### Strayhorn, Billy (William; "Swee'-Pea")

Composer, arranger, pianist, lyricist; b. Dayton, OH, 11/29/15-5/31/67. This longtime collaborator with Duke Ellington was shaped by his extended visits to Hillsborough, NC. As a child, Strayhorn lived part of the year with his grandparents in their comfortable home on the corner of Hillsborough Avenue and West Margaret Lane. According to one family member, "he got a lot of attention down there and had the run of the place." (see Hajdu, *Lush Life*, p.10-11). His grandmother Lizzie, who served as pianist for her church, encouraged his love of music and the piano. Strayhorn would go on to be one of the most important composers and collaborators in jazz history, writing jazz standards such as "Take the 'A'

For additional resources on building a jazz recording collection in your library, see: Sinclair, Bryan. "Building a Better Jazz Recording Collection on Compact Disc: A Guide to Current Discography." *Collection Building* 19, no. 2 (2000): 70-75.

For children and young adults interested in jazz, you may wish to consult: Sinclair, Bryan. "Jazz Books Capture an American Art Form." *Book Links* 9 (January 2000): 41-45.

Train," "Satin Doll," and "Lush Life."

Bellamy, Cliff. "Writer Finds Strayhorn's Heart in Hillsborough." *The Herald-Sun* (Durham, NC), March 5, 1999, 22.

Giddins, Gary, et al. "The Billy Strayhorn Suite" (Jazz Supplement). *The Village Voice*, June 23, 1993, 1-15 (insert).

Hajdu, David. *Lush Life: A Biography of Billy Strayhorn.* New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996.

Hasse, John Edward. *Beyond Category: The Life & Genius of Duke Ellington.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993.

Tucker, Mark, ed. *The Duke Ellington Reader.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

#### Web Sites

*Billy Strayhorn: Take the 'A' Train.* <<http://www.billystrayhorn.com/>>

#### Selected CDs

Ellington, Duke. *The Blanton-Webster Band* (3 Discs). RCA 5659, 1990. Originally recorded 1940-42. Strayhorn appears as both composer and arranger on this landmark recording.

Strayhorn, Billy. *Lush Life.* Sony 52760, 1992. Originally recorded 1964, 1965.

#### Taylor, Billy (William Edward, Jr.)

Pianist, jazz educator; b. Greenville, NC, 7/24/21-. Born into a musical family, Taylor began piano lessons at an early age. It was one of his uncles, who was something of a local celebrity, who first introduced Billy to jazz and the recordings of Fats Waller and Art Tatum. Today, the pianist is best known for his contributions to music education. He earned a doctorate in music education from the University of Massachusetts in 1975. Among his honors and awards are 19 honorary degrees, numerous Grammy Awards, two Peabody Awards, and an Emmy. Dr. Taylor is currently host of National Public Radio's *Jazz at the Kennedy Center*, arts correspondent for CBS News' *Sunday Morning*, and the author of several books. He is also Robert L. Jones Distinguished Professor of Music at East Carolina University, 2001-2002.

Boston, Bruce O. "Billy Taylor: Tapping into Our Musical Heritage." *Teaching Music* 3 (June 1996): 42-44.

Clarke, Catherine King. "Conversation With William 'Billy' Taylor, The JazzMobile Man." *Black Perspective in Music* 10 (Fall 1982): 179-88

Cordle, Owen. "From His Fingertips." *News & Observer* (Raleigh), November 14, 1999, G1.

Shepard, T. Brooks. "Billy Taylor's Jazz: Music for the Millennium." *American Visions* 14 (April/May 1999): 40-42.

#### Web Sites

*Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center.* <<http://npr.org/programs/btaylor/>>

*What Is Jazz?* <<http://town.hall.org/Archives/radio/Kennedy/Taylor/>> Series of lectures by Dr. Taylor at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

#### Selected CDs

Taylor, Billy. *Billy Taylor Trio.* Prestige 24154, 1995. Originally recorded 1952-53.

Taylor, Billy. *Music Keeps Us Young.* Arkadia 71601, 1997.

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Electronic Resources & Government Documents Coordinator at D. Hiden Ramsey Library, UNC-Asheville, Asheville, NC <[sinclair@bulldog.unca.edu](mailto:sinclair@bulldog.unca.edu)>