

THE RECORDINGS OF PIKE DAVIS

An Annotated Tentative Personnel - Discography

DAVIS, 'Pike' Clifton, trumpet born: Baltimore, Maryland, 1896; died: Baltimore, Maryland, Sep. 13, 1976
Worked in Baltimore with Eubie Blake in 1915, then joined pianist Joe Rochester. In 1921 and 1922 worked in band led by violinist LeRoy Smith, then joined the Plantation Revue and visited London (1923). Worked for Ford Dabney, and played on various vaudeville tours, again with LeRoy Smith before rejoining the Plantation Revue, visited London with this company in 1926. Worked in the USA with the Plantation Revue, returned to Europe with Noble Sissle in May 1929. Returned to New York, worked with Joe Jordan (summer 1930). From 1931 until 1934 worked in the 'Rhapsody In Black' show, then joined Lew Leslie's 'Blackbirds' and again returned to Europe in August 1934. Continued show work for many years, then returned to Baltimore. During the early 1960s continued to play, working mainly in Rivers Chambers' Orchestra. (John Chilton, Who's Who of Jazz)

STYLISTICS

STYLE

Pike Davis' style is characterised by the emphasis on hard hit quarter notes with little off-beat elements, and a lack of sensitivity and smooth performing of melodies with eighth- and shorter notes. His solos use simplified phrases of the melodic material, these performed in a ragtime derived strong and impressive staccato way. He owns a ragtime-derived style owing a lot to Johnny Dunn. Belonging to a group of theatre and show musicians in Harlem he must have been a perfect sight-reader and reliable band musician.

TONE

Davis displays a sharp and biting, urgent tone, strong, short and peppery.

VIBRATO

His vibrato is fast and of little amplitude, just like that of many early Harlem trumpeters.

TIME

As one of the leading New York theater and show trumpet players Davis has a perfectly exact and driving time.

PHRASING

His phrasing in ad-lib parts is astonishingly simple and clear, yet unimaginative, but effective and striking.

This personnel-discography is based on RUST, JAZZ AND RAGTIME RECORDS 1897 - 1942.

Personnel are taken from this source, but modified in the light of earlier or subsequent research or on the strength of my own listening, discussed with our listening group or other interested collectors.

- Documented, most certain and aurally absolutely obvious identifications are listed thus: **Pike Davis**
- Probable, generally agreed, but not documented identifications are listed in italics, thus: *Pike Davis*
- Not attributable identifications – although the musician in question might be an otherwise well-known person – are listed thus: unknown
- If a possible identification for an otherwise unknown musician is suggested by the author without the possibility to prove the factual evidence, it is listed thus: (*Pike Davis*)

When feeling certain without a musician's documented presence, I have not refrained from altering Rust's statements without using italics. In any case, my statements are open to discussion and I would appreciate any contribution - pro or contra!

As always in my discographies on this website I have written recording sessions with their headings, dates, titles and names of musicians in italics, whenever I am convinced that the eponymous musician of this discography is not part of the accompanying group of this session! Documented names of musicians if known – in recording ledgers or on record labels – are listed in bold letters.

This discography still is - and will certainly be - a work in progress for a long time, if not eternally. Yet, on the way to a definite discography of all jazz recordings before 1942 - which certainly will never be possible - it is intended to fill some gaps that have not been treated before.

DAVIS, CLIFTON 'PIKE'

001 LEROY SMITH AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Leroy Smith – vln, ldr;

Frank Belt, Pike Davis – tpt; TeRoy Williams – tbn;

New York,

c. Jun. 24, 1921

Emerson Harper – alt, clt, oboe; *Harold Henson* – alt, vlo, sbs; *Stan Peters* – ten, clt, bcl;
Harry Brooks – pno; *Sam Speed* – bjo; *Fred Peters* – bbs; unknown – dms
 7639 Saturday Voc 14218 not on LP/CD

As this title has not been reissued in any form, nothing can be said about the music.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - *Rust*2: Frank Nelt (sic), Charlie Gaines, Pike Davis (tpt); Leroy Williams (tbn); Emerson Harper (clt, alt, oboe); Harold Henson (alt, cello, sbs); Stan Peters (ten, bsn); Leroy Smith (vln, ldr); Harry Brooks (pno); Samuel Speed (bjo); Frank Peters (bbs); unknown (dms)*
 - *Rust*3,*4,*6: probably: Frank Belt -Pike Davis -t; TeRoy Williams -tb; Emerson Harper -cl -as -o; Harold Henson -as -vc -sb; Stan Peters -ts -bsn; Leroy Smith -vn -ldr; Harry Brooks -p; Samuel Speed -bj; Frank Peters -bb; unknown -d*

002 LEROY SMITH AND HIS ORCHESTRA New York, c. Jul. 21, 1921
 Leroy Smith – vln, ldr;
Frank Belt, Pike Davis – tpt; *TeRoy Williams* – tbn;
Emerson Harper – alt, clt, oboe; *Harold Henson* – alt, vlo, sbs; *Stan Peters* – ten, clt, bcl;
Harry Brooks – pno; *Sam Speed* – bjo; *Fred Peters* – bbs; unknown – dms
 7754 Love Will Find A Way Voc 14218 not on LP/CD

As this title has not been reissued in any form, nothing can be said about the music.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - *Rust*2: Frank Nelt (sic), Charlie Gaines, Pike Davis (tpt); Leroy Williams (tbn); Emerson Harper (clt, alt, oboe); Harold Henson (alt, cello, sbs); Stan Peters (ten, bsn); Leroy Smith (vln, ldr); Harry Brooks (pno); Samuel Speed (bjo); Frank Peters (bbs); unknown (dms)*
 - *Rust*3,*4,*6: probably: Frank Belt -Pike Davis -t; TeRoy Williams -tb; Emerson Harper -cl -as -o; Harold Henson -as -vc -sb; Stan Peters -ts -bsn; Leroy Smith -vn -ldr; Harry Brooks -p; Samuel Speed -bj; Frank Peters -bb; unknown -d*

003 FORD DABNEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA New York, Oct. 26, 1921
 Wesley Johnson, Pike Davis – tpt; John Reeves – tbn;
 Herschel Brassfield - alt, clt; *Casey Cooper* or *Willie Carroll* – vln;
 Ford Dabney – pno, ldr; unknown – bjo; unknown – bbs; Mose Ross – dms
 25672 Sweet Cookie Vic unissued not on LP/CD
 25673 Dapper Dan Vic unissued not on LP/CD

As both these titles are unissued and unfortunately no tests seem to have been found, nothing can be said about the music.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - *Carey, McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol.2: not listed*
 - *Rust*2,*3: prob similar to: unknown (tpt); Nappy Lee (tbn); Edgar Campbell (clt); Alonzo Williams (alt); unknown (vln); Ford Dabney (pno, ldr); unknown (bjo); John Haywood (bbs); Dennis Johnson (dms)*
 - *Rust*4,*6: Ford Dabney -p -dir; Pike Davis -Wesley Johnson -t; John Reeves -tb; Herschel Brassfield -cl -as; unknown -ts; Casey Cooper or Willie Carroll -vn; unknown -bj; unknown -bb; Mose Ross -d.*

004 FORD DABNEY'S SYNCOPATED ORCHESTRA New York, Mar. 1922
 Wesley Johnson, Pike Davis – tpt; *John Reeves* or (*John Mayfield*) – tbn;
 Herschel Brassfield - alt, clt; *unknown* – alt; unknown – ten;
Casey Cooper or *Willie Carroll* – vln;
 Ford Dabney – pno, ldr; unknown – bjo; unknown – bbs; Mose Ross – dms
 1017-2 Sweet Man O' Mine Par 20120 not on LP/CD
 1017-3 Sweet Man O' Mine Par 20120 not on LP/CD
 1018-2 Bugle Call Blues Par 20125 not on LP/CD, but held?
 1018-3 Bugle Call Blues Par 20125 not on LP/CD, but held?

Luckily, I own a copy of the 'Bugle Call Blues' recording. The item plays ten blues chorusses, the first seven of them containing the well-known four-bar military bugle calls in variations, followed by 8 bars of band ensembles with very prominent alto sax mainly playing long sustained chordal notes. These seven chorusses are succeeded by three chorusses played without the military calls, the second chorus of them being played in Bb minor, all other ones in Bb major. Pike Davis with his strong, short and peppery tone is the trumpet soloist, who might be relieved in the fifth chorus where the trumpet sounds softer and might thus be Wesley Johnson. Chorusses 6 and 7 certainly are Davis again. The trombonist is buried in the ensemble and can thus not be identified. But at the bottom of the band sound a strong trombonist can be realized. Rust has John Reeves on trombone, but as for Mark Berresford's reference in Storyville 143 (see below) Reeves died on 7 April 1922 and he may or may not be on this session.

There are no improvisational efforts of the participating musicians. Thus, Herschel Brassfields' presence cannot be secured, but is very probable.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - *Carey, McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol.2: personnel unknown*
 - *Rust*2,*3,*4: Pike Davis, Wesley Johnson (tpt); John Reeves (tbn); Herschel Brassfield (clt, alt); unknown (ten); Casey Cooper, Willie Carroll (vln); Ford Dabney (pno, ldr); unknown (bbs); Mose Ross (dms)*
 - *Rust*6: Pike Davis, Wesley Johnson, t; John Reeves, tb; Herschel Brassfield, cl, as; unknown, ts; Casey Cooper or Willie Carroll, vln; Ford Dabney, p, ldr; unknown, bj; unknown, bb; Mose Ross, d*
 - *Storyville 143-179, Mark Berresford: "To start the ball rolling, references to John Reeves with Sweetman from 6 August 1924 onwards, and with Ford Dabney on the May 1922 Paramount session can be deleted – he died 7 April 1922!"*

005 FORD DABNEY'S SYNCOPATED ORCHESTRA

New York,

May 1922

Wesley Johnson, Pike Davis – tpt; *John Mayfield* – tbn;
 Herschel Brassfield - alt, clt; *unknown* – alt; unknown – ten;
Casey Cooper or *Willie Carroll* – vln;
 Ford Dabney – pno, ldr; unknown – bjo; unknown – bbs; Mose Ross – dms
 1043-1 Doo Dah Blues
 1043-2 Doo Dah Blues

Par 20120
 Par 20120

not on LP/CD
 not on LP/CD

Unfortunately, I do not have access on any of these takes, and therefore I am unable to comment. They are not reissued.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - *Carey, McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol.2: not listed*
 - *Rust*2,*3,*4: Pike Davis, Wesley Johnson (tpt); John Reeves (tbn); Herschel Brassfield (clt, alt); unknown (ten); Casey Cooper, Willie Carroll (vln); Ford Dabney (pno, ldr); unknown (bbs); Mose Ross (dms)*
 - *Rust*6: Pike Davis, Wesley Johnson, t; John Reeves, tb; Herschel Brassfield, cl, as; unknown, ts; Casey Cooper or Willie Carroll, vln; Ford Dabney, p, ldr; unknown, bj; unknown, bb; Mose Ross, d*
 - *Storyville 143-179, Mark Berresford: "To start the ball rolling, references to John Reeves with Sweatman from 6 August 1924 onwards, and with Ford Dabney on the May 1922 Paramount session can be deleted – he died 7 April 1922!"*

006 LEROY SMITH AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

c. Sep. 1924

Leroy Smith – vln, ldr;
 Frank Belt, Pike Davis – tpt; Robert Lewis – tbn;
 Emerson Harper – alt, clt, oboe, bcl; *Harold Henson* – alt, clt; Stan Peters – ten, clt;
 Harry Brooks – pno; Sam Speed – bjo; Fred Peters – bbs; Edward Beeler – dms
 2016-B Indian Love Call
 T2017-2 Harlem's Araby
 2017-B Harlem's Araby
 2020 Dixie Dreams
 2021-B June Brought The Roses (waltz)
 Morning (Won't You Ever Come Round?)
 Stop And Listen

Ebs 1027,
 UTD 2016,
 GG 1283,
 Ebs 1027
 Ebs 1017
 B-D 1001,
 B-D 1001,

not on LP/CD, but held
 Jazz Oracle BDW 8038
 Jazz Oracle BDW 8038
 not on LP/CD
 not on LP/CD
 Frog DGF 79
 Frog DGF 79

Leroy Smith's band was Detroit's number one colored band in the early 1920s. Smith's music is more of the "symphonic jazz" kind than music for dancing and entertainment. Mr. Smith is said to have billed himself as the colored Paul Whiteman and was reluctant in granting room for ad-lib improvisation in his band.

Unfortunately, two of the recorded titles of this session have not been reissued up to now.

There is a very strong brass section on these sides – especially when Pike Davis plays the ride-out. I only hear two saxes on these sides – alto and tenor! Thus I assume that Harold Henson is not on this date. In 'Harlem's Araby' Stan Peters plays a 16-bars tenor solo (Strain B) which is immediately followed by a bass-clarinet solo, which would mean that Emerson Harper is the bass-clarinetist. And in Verse 1 of 'Stop And Listen' I believe to hear a c-melody-sax that may be played by either saxophonist.

The fabulous Jazz Oracle CD cited above contains two different takes of 'Harlem's Araby', a take -B which I assume to be recorded second, and then a take T2017-2. Is this meant to be a test recording because of the 'T'? Sadly, this is not commented on in the booklet. But because of the little freedom – or inaccuracies - the first chair trumpet player – obviously Frank Belt – takes, I assume this take to be cut first. But, it may also be seen conversely: first, the take played strictly from scores, and the little freedom in the alternate take. Who knows?

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - *Rust*2: prob similar to: Frank Belt, Charlie Gaines, Pike Davis (tpt); Leroy Williams (tbn); Emerson Harper (clt, alt, oboe); Harold Henson (alt, cello, sbs); Stan Peters (ten, bsn); Leroy Smith (vln, ldr); Harry Brooks (pno); Samuel Speed (bjo); Frank Peters (bbs); unknown (dms)*
 - *Rust*3,*4,*6: Frank Belt -Pike Davis -t; Robert Lewis -tb; Emerson Harper -cl -as -o; Harold Henson -as -vc -sb; Stan Peters -ts -bsn; Leroy Smith -vn -ldr; Harry Brooks -p; Samuel Speed -bj; Frank Peters -bb; Edward Beeler -d*

Tunes structures:

2016-B *Indian Love Call* Key of Eb / Cm / Eb / Cm / Eb Everybody's / Up-To-Date
 (Intro 20 bars ens + PD o-tpt)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' saxes 16 - m-tpts 16)(Bridge 6 bars saxes)(Verse 1 16 bars ens)(Modulation pno 2 bars)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' SP ten 30 – ens 2)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' EH oboe 16 – ens 16)(Verse 2 16 bars oboe 14 – ens 2)

2017 *Harlem's Araby* Key of Eb (Cm) / F (Dm) Eb (Cm) Everybody's / Up-To-Date
 (Intro 16 bars ens)(Strain A1 32 bars AABA' ens 16 – RL m-tbn 8 – FB m-tpt 8)(Strain B 16 bars SP ten + ens)(Strain A2 32 bars AABA' EH bcl 16 – SS bjo 8 – EH bcl 8)(Bridge 2 bars FB m-tpt)(Strain A3 32 bars AABA' PD m-tpt)(Bridge 4 bars EH alt)(Strain A4 32 bars AABA' PD o-tpt 16 – clt+ens 8 – PD o-tpt 6 +ens 2+8)

2020 *Dixie Dreams* Everybody's
 not reissued

2021 *June Brought The Roses* Everybody's
 not reissued

Morning Key of Eb Blue-Disc
 (Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Bridge 6 bars ens)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA PD m-tpt 16 – SP ten 8 – ens 8)(1/2 Chorus 16 bars BA oboe 8 – ens 8)

Stop And Listen Key of Bb / Eb / Bb Blue-Disc
 (Intro 8 bars pno – ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars ABAC ens+HB pno breaks)(Chorus 2 32 bars ABAC ens+ SS bjo breaks 8 – HB pno 4 – SS bjo breaks 4 – ens 8)(Verse 1 18 bars AA' EH cms or alt)(Verse 2 18 bars LS vln + HB pno)(Chorus 3 32 bars ABAC ens+FP bbs breaks 8 – ens 8 – ens+FP bbs 8 – ens 8)(Chorus 4 32 bars ABAC saxes 6 – PD o-tpt 2 + 4 – ens 4 – brass 8 – ens 8)(Tag 4 bars ens)

Discernible differences of takes:

2017-B: Bars 10 – 18 of tune: first trumpet plays strictly from music quarter- and half-notes only

2017-2: Bars 10 – 18 of tune: first trumpet plays his part from music but using grace-notes, eighth-notes and a little off-beat additionally

007 THE WASHINGTONIANS	New York,	Sep. 1925
Clifton Pike Davis – tpt; Charlie Irvis – tbn;		
Otto Hardwick – alt, <i>cms</i> ; Prince Robinson – ten, clt;		
Duke Ellington – pno, arr; Fred Guy – bjo; Henry Bass Edwards – bbs; Sonny Greer – dms		
106250 I'm Gonna Hang Around My Sugar	PA 36333,	Chronological Classics 539
106251 Trombone Blues	PA 36333,	Chronological Classics 539

Hear Pike Davis' fiery and urgent trumpet playing, much in the Johnny Dunn manner. This is one of probably only 12 recording sessions he was part of.

And listen to Hardwick's dominant position in the band. Irvis shows his individual legato style with long phrases, often displaying his strange and old-fashioned 6/8 phrasing.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: unknown personnel.*

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory, Vol. 3: unknown personnel; tpt; tbn; 2 sax; Duke Ellington (p); bj; tu.*

- Rust*2,*3,*4,*6: Pike Davis (tpt); Charlie Irvis (tbn); Otto Hardwick (clt, alt); Prince Robinson (clt, ten); Duke Ellington (pno); Fred Guy (bjo); Bass Edwards (bbs).

Tunes structures:

106250 I'm Gonna Hang Around My Sugar Key of F / Bb / F Pathé Actuelle
 (Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' PD m-tpt 16 – CI m-tbn 16)(Verse 20 bars PD m-tpt+ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' PR ten)
 Interlude 18 bars ens)(1/2 Chorus 3 16 bars DE pno)(Chorus 4 32 bars AA' ens – FG bjo middle-break – PR clt breaks)(Tag 2 bars ens)

196251 Trombone Blues Key of G Pathé Actuelle
 (Intro 6 bars ens)(Vamp 3 bars ens)(Strain A1 24 bars AA' CI m-tbn – PD m-tpt middle-br – OH alt+PR ten end-brs)(Bridge 2 bars PD m-tpt)(Strain A2 24 bars AA' PD m-tpt – saxes middle-br)(Strain B1 12 bars CI m-tbn – saxes middle-br)(Strain B2 12 bars CI m-tbn – saxes middle-br)(Strain A3 24 bars OH alt+ens 12 – PR clt 10 – ens 2)(Strain C 16 bars CI m-tbn)(Strain A4 24 bars AA' ens)(Tag 4 bars ens)

008 PLANTATION ORCHESTRA	London,	Dec. 01, 1926
Ralph "Shrimp" Jones – dir;		
Pike Davis, Johnny Dunn – tpt; Calvin Jones – tbn;		
Rudolph Dunbar, Nelson Kincaid – alt, sop; Alonzo Williams – ten, sop;		
Ralph "Shrimp" Jones, George Smith – vln;		
George Rickson – pno; Maceo Jefferson – bjo; Bill Benford – bbs; Jesse Baltimore – dms		
A-4519-2 Silver Rose	Col E 4185,	Frog DGF 33
A-4520-1 Arabella's Wedding Day	Col E 4238,	Frog DGF 33
A-4521-1 Smiling Joe	Col E 4185,	Frog DGF 33
A-4522-1 For Baby And Me	Col E 4238,	Frog DGF 33

The 'Plantation Orchestra' are the original pit-band of Lew Leslie's show 'Plantation Revue' of 1926 which appeared in London in September 1926 with the title 'The Blackbirds Revue' starring the famous Florence Mills. Consequently, these sides were issued by British Columbia exclusively.

These sides present a lot of professional legitimate instrumental work, but rather little jazz improvisation. Yet, the work of the two trumpet players – Johnny Dunn on open horn, but a little retained, and Pike Davis on loud and aggressive muted horn – show a remarkable performance all through this session. The latter player has the first chair duties on all these sides.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Johnny Dunn, Pike Davis (tp); Calvin Jones (tb); Rudolph Dunbar, Ollie Williams (s); George Smith (v); Al Rickson (p); John Ricks (b); Jess Baltimore (dm)*

- Rust*2,*3: Johnny Dunn, Pike Davis (tpt); Calvin Jones (tbn); Rudolph Dunbar, Nelson Kincaid (clt, alt); Alonzo Williams (ten); Ralph "Shrimp" Jones, George Smith (vln); George Rickson (pno); Maceo Jefferson (bjo); Bill Benford (bbs); Jesse Baltimore (dms)

- Rust*4,*6: Ralph "Shrimp" Jones – vn -dir; Johnny Dunn -Pike Davis -t; Calvin Jones -tb; Rudolph Dunbar -Nelson Kincaid -cl -as (one doubling ss); Alonzo Williams -ts; George Smith -vn; George Rickson -p; Maceo Jefferson -bj; Bill Benford -bb; Jesse Baltimore -d

Tune structures:

A-4519-2 Silver Rose Key of D Columbia
 (Intro 18 bars ens)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Bridge 2 bars ens)(Chorus 2 64 bars AABA (double-length) vln+ens)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA GR pno 16 – AW ten 8 – ens 8)

A-4520-1 Arabella's Wedding Day Key of C Columbia
 (Intro 12 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' ens)(Verse 16 bars JD o-tpt)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' PD m-tpt)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' clts 14 – JD o-tpt 2 – PD m-tpt 16)

A-4521-1 Smiling Joe Key of C Columbia
 (Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' ens 30 – JD o-tpt 2)(Verse 12 bars CJ o-tbn)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' PD m-tpt+RSJ vln 14 – MJ bjo 2 – PD m-tpt+RSJ vln 16)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' JD o-tpt+vlns 14 – ens 2 – JD o-tpt+ens 16)

A-4522-1 For Baby And Me Key of G / C / G Columbia
 (Intro 8 bars ens)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' vlns+ens)(Bridge 2 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' sops+brass breaks)(Bridge 2 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' ens)

009 LEW LESLIE'S BLACKBIRDS ORCHESTRA	New York,	Aug. 14, 1928
Demas Dean, Pike Davis – tpt; Herb Flemming – tbn;		
Carmelo Jari – alt, clt; Albert Socarras – alt, clt, flt; Ramon Usera – ten, clt, vln;		
George Rickson – pno; Benny James – bjo; Henry Bass Edwards – bbs; Jesse Baltimore – dms		
E-28057- Bandana Babies	Br 4030,	Harrison HR-LP R (LP)
E-28058- Magnolia's Wedding Day	Br 4030,	Harrison HR-LP R (LP)

This is beautifully and urgently played show music with hot soloistic. We have an entirely Caribbean reed section here, with Socarras using his flute hitherto unlisted for this session. And listen to the marvellous tuba playing of Bass Edwards, and Jesse Baltimore's using the temple-blocks. And then the nice Eb minor chorus with the oriental touch in 'Magnolia's Wedding Day'.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: unknown personnel*
 - Rust*2: Johnny Dunn, Pike Davis (tpt); Calvin Jones (tbn); Buster Bailey, Nelson Kincaid (clt, alt); Alonzo Williams (ten); Ralph Shrimp Jones, George Smith (vln); George Rickson (pno); Maceo Jefferson (bjo); Bill Benford (bbs); Jesse Baltimore (dms)
 - Rust*3: Pike Davis -Demas Dean -t; Herb Flemming -tb; Carmello Jejo -Albert Socarras -cl -as; Ramon Usera -ts -vn; George Rickson -p; Benny James -bj; Bass Edwards -bb; Jesse Baltimore -d
 - Rust*4,*6: Pike Davis -Demas Dean -t; Herb Flemming -tb; Carmello Jejo or Jari -Albert Socarras -cl -as; Ramon Usera -ts -vn; George Rickson -p; Benny James -bj; Bass Edwards -bb; Jesse Baltimore -d.

Tune structures:

E-28057- *Bandanna Babies* Key of C Brunswick
 (Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars ABAC ens)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars ABAC PD o-tpt – middle brk saxes)(Chorus 3 32 bars ABAC GR pno 14 – CJ clt 16 – ens 2)(Chorus 4 32 bars ABAC ens)

E-28058- *Magnolia's Wedding Day* Key of Eb Brunswick
 (Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA saxes+ vln)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA DD m-tpt 14 – ens 2 – RU ten 8 – ens 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA (Ebm!) clts 16 – ens 8 – clts +flt 8)Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens)

010 **ADELAIDE HALL** Lew Leslie's Blackbirds Orchestra New York, Aug. 14, 1928
 Adelaide Hall – voc;
 Demas Dean, Pike Davis –tpt; Herb Flemming – tbn;
 Carmelo Jari – alt, clt; Albert Socarras – alt, clt, flt; Ramon Usera – ten, clt, vln;
 George Rickson – pno; Benny James – bjo; Henry Bass Edwards – bbs; Jesse Baltimore – dms;
 Lew Leslie – arr (2,3,4)
 E-28059- I Must Have That Man Br 4031, Conifer CDHD 169
 E-28060-A Baby Br 4031, Conifer CDHD 169 ?
 E-28060-B Baby Br 4031, Conifer CDHD 169 ?
 E-28061- Dixie Br unissued not on LP/CD

Note: Conifer CDHD has one but un-designated take of matrix E-28060!

This is the same session as before, yet under Adelaide Hall's name now. Miss Hall is accompanied by clarinet, flute and violin in the first chorus of 'I Must Have That Man', and by Pike Davis' muted hot trumpet in 'Baby'.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: unknown personnel*
 - Rust*2: Personnel includes Pike Davis (tpt); Calvin Jones (tbn); Nelson Kincaid (clt, alt); Alonzo Williams (ten); George Rickson (pno); Bill Benford (bbs)
 - Rust*3: Pike Davis -Demas Dean -t; Herb Flemming -tb; Carmello Jejo -Albert Socarras -cl -as; Ramon Usera -ts -vn; George Rickson -p; Benny James -bj; Bass Edwards -bb; Jesse Baltimore -d
 - Rust*4: Pike Davis -Demas Dean -t; Herb Flemming -tb; Carmello Jejo (or Carmelo Jari?) -Albert Socarras -cl -as; Ramon Usera -ts -vn; George Rickson -p; Benny James -bj; Bass Edwards -bb; Jesse Baltimore -d
 - Rust*6: Pike Davis, Demas Dean, t; Herb Flemming, tb; Carmello Jejo (or Carmelo Jari?), Albert Socarras, cl, as; Ramon Usera, ts, vn; George Rickson, p; Benny James, bj; Bass Edwards, bb; Jesse Baltimore, d, Lew Leslie, a (2,3,4)

Tune structures:

E-28059- *I Must Have That Man* Key of G Brunswick
 (Intro 2 bars ens)(Verse 16 bars AH voc + ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA AH voc + clt/flt/vln)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA AH voc + DD m-tpt 16 – ens/flt 8 – DD m-tpt 8)

E-28060- *Baby* Key of G Brunswick
 (Intro 8 bars ens)(Verse 16 bars AH voc + ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA AH voc + ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA AH voc + PD m-tpt 28 – ens 4)

011 **NOBLE SISSE AND HIS ORCHESTRA** Hayes, Middlesex, Sep. 10, 1929
 Noble Sissle – ldr, voc;
 Demas Dean, Pike Davis- tpt; James Revey – tbn;
 Rudy Jackson, Buster Bailey – alt, clt; Ramon Usera – ten, clt;
 Juice Wilson, William Roseman – vln;
 Lloyd Pinkney – pno; Warren Harris – bjo; Henry Bass Edwards – bbs; Jesse Baltimore - dms
 Warren Harris – voc (1)
 Bb-17326-2 Kansas City Kitty HMV B-5731, Retrieval RTR 79069
 Bb-17327 On The Lazy Amazon HMV unissued not on LP/CD
 Bb-17328-2 Camp Meeting Day HMV B-5709, CJM 22 (LP)
 Bb-17329-2 Miranda HMV B-5709, Retrieval RTR 79069

This again is Pike Davis in a strong and effective show band – Noble Sissle and his Orchestra, recorded in England and reissued early on on a nice Parlophone LP 'Jazz In Britain – The 20's' (Parlophone PMC 7075).

From Anthony Barnett's "dossier" 'Fallen From the Moon – Juice Wilson, his life on earth', I have come to know that the hitherto unknown top-part singer behind Noble Sissle on 'Kansas City Kitty' is banjo player Warren Harris.

The most interesting sounds on these sides, yet, come from a little known but brilliant jazz violin player from St. Louis, who spent his early years in Chicago and later toured the world, being utmost modest and reticent, and never receiving any appropriate recognition. Bill Coleman termed him "the greatest jazz violinist that ever lived" (A. Barnett, *Fallen from the Moon*).

For me, there still is another high-light on these sides: Henry "Bass" Edwards, the tuba player. He really is tremendous.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*
 - Rust*2: Pike Davis, Demas Dean (tpt); James Revey (tbn); Buster Bailey, Rudy Jackson, Ralph Duquesne (clt, alt); Ramon Usera (ten); Juice Wilson, William Roseman (vln); Lloyd Pinkney (pno); Warren Harris (bjo); Henry Edwards (bbs); John Ricks (sbs); Jesse Baltimore (dms)

- Rust*3,*4,*6: Pike Davis -Demas Dean -t; James Reevy -tb; Buster Bailey -cl -ss -as; Rudy Jackson -cl -as; Ralph Duquesne -cl -as -ts; Ramon Usera -cl -ts; Juice Wilson -William Rosemand -vn; Lloyd Pinkney -p; Warren Harris -bj; Henry Edwards -bb; John Ricks -sb; Jesse Baltimore -d

- A. Burnett, *Fallen From The Moon* – Juice Wilson: Clifton Pike Davis, Demas Dean (tp); James Revey (tb); Rudy Jackson, Buster Bailey, Ramon Usera (reeds); Juice Wilson, William Roseman (vn); Lloyd Pinkney (pn); Warren Harris (bj, vc); Henry Edwards (bb); Jesse Baltimore (dm); Noble Sissle (vc, ar, md, composer)

Tune structures:

Bb-17326-2 Kansas City Kitty Key of Ab / G / Bb HMV

(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA NS+WH voc)(Bridge 6 bars ens modulation)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA saxes 16 – JR o-tbn 8 – saxes 8)(Bridge 2 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA JW vln)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA DD m-tpt 16 - BB alt 8 – PD m-tpt 6 – ens 2)(Chorus 5 32 bars AABA ens)(Tag 2 bars ens)

Bb-17328-2 Camp Meeting Day Key of F HMV

(Intro 12 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Verse 8 bars NS voc)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA NS voc)(Vamp 8 bars ens)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA ens)(Bridge 8 bars ens)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA NS voc + ens)

Bb-17329-2 Miranda Key of F HMV

(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA NS voc + ens)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA BB clt 16 – PD m-tpt 16)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA JW vln 16 – NS voc 16)

012 NOBLE SISSLE AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Hayes, Middlesex,

Oct. 10, 1929

Noble Sissle – ldr, voc;

Demas Dean, Pike Davis- tpt; James Revey – tbn;

Rudy Jackson, Buster Bailey – alt, clt; Ramon Usera – ten, clt;

Juice Wilson, William Roseman – vln;

Lloyd Pinkney – pno; Warren Harris – bjo; Henry Bass Edwards – bbs; Jesse Baltimore - dms

Bb-18031-1 I'm Crooning A Tune About June

HMV B-5731

not on LP/CD, but held

Bb-18032 waltz

HMV B-5723

not on LP/CD

Bb-18033- You Want Lovin' And I Want Love

HMV B-5723,

CJM 22 (LP)

Bb-18034 Yet You Forgot?

HMV unissued

not on LP/CD

Again, the same band as on the above session.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*

- Rust*2: Pike Davis, Demas Dean (tpt); James Revey (tbn); Buster Bailey, Rudy Jackson, Ralph Duquesne (clt, alt); Ramon Usera (ten); Juice Wilson, William Rosemand (vln); Lloyd Pinkney (pno); Warren Harris (bjo); Henry Edwards (bbs); John Ricks (sbs); Jesse Baltimore (dms)

- Rust*3,*4,*6: Pike Davis -Demas Dean -t; James Reevy -tb; Buster Bailey -cl -ss -as; Rudy Jackson -cl -as; Ralph Duquesne -cl -as -ts; Ramon Usera -cl -ts; Juice Wilson -William Rosemand -vn; Lloyd Pinkney -p; Warren Harris -bj; Henry Edwards -bb; John Ricks -sb; Jesse Baltimore -d

Tune structures:

Bb-18031-1 I'm Crooning A Tune About June Key of Bb / Ab / Bb HMV

(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens 16 – vlns 8 – ens 8)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA NS voc+vlns)(Bridge 6 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA RU ten 8 – PD o-tpt 8 – JR o-tbn 8 – RU ten 6 – ens 2)(Bridge 6 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens 4 – ?BB or RJ alt 4 – ens 4 - PD m-tpt 4 – ens 8 + 8)

Bb-18032 waltz HMV

not reissued

Bb-18033- You Want Lovin' And I Want Love Key of C / D C HMV

(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Bridge 7 bars ens)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Bridge 8 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA NS voc + vln)(Bridge 5 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA ens 8- saxes 8 – PD o-tpt 8 – ens 8)(Tag 2 bars ens)

RHAPSODY IN BLACK ORCHESTRA

late 1930

Allie Ross, Leroy Smith – vln, ldr;

Kenneth Roane, Deamas Dean, Pike Davis – tpt;

Emerson Harper, Alberto Socarras, Rafael Dieppe – sax, clt;

John Long – french horn;

Arthur Gibbs – pno; Joe Steele – pno soloist;

Frank Peters, Henry Bass Edwards – bbs, sbs; Hugh Davis – dms, tympani

For the subsequent Cab Calloway sessions I have made extensive use of Björn Englund's important 'Additions and Corrections to Rust, Jazz & Ragtime Records 1897-1942' in *Vintage Jazz Mart Vol. 131!* Heart-felt thanks for most informative and surprising details on Calloway's recording sessions, Björn!

013 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Jul. 09, 1931

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lammar Wright, Pike Davis – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown - alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Earres Prince – pno; Morris White – bjo, gtr; Jimmy Smith – bbs; Leroy Maxey – dms, vib

10726-1 It Looks Like Susie

Ban 32237,

Chronological Classics 526

10726-3 It Looks Like Susie

Stg 291176

not on LP/CD

10727-2 Sweet Georgia Brown

Cq 7817,

Chronological Classics 526

10728-2 Basin Street Blues

Ban 32237,

Chronological Classics 526

Rust*6 has William Thornton Blue here again! The quirky clarinetist in 'My Honey's Lovin' Arms' certainly is Arville Harris in William-Thornton-Blue-style. He had obviously been asked to take over Thornton Blue's enthusiastic style, but he certainly could not reach Blue's mastery and skill.

Reuben Reeves in pure Louis Armstrong style, aurally replacing Dickerson. Very nice! Possibly Pike Davis on second trumpet as on the subsequent session, soloing on 'Sweet Georgia Brown'. Pike Davis on second trumpet is recalled by Calloway himself (B. Englund, VJM c. 131) and might also be on this session.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); William Blue, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Earres Prince (p); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (dm); Cab Calloway (vo).

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol.2: Exact personnel uncertain, but including many members of previous group: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).

- Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir). "Slight personnel changes may have taken place about this time."

- Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb; Leroy Maxey -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr.

- Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr.

- Rust*6: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -William Thornton Blue -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr.

- Joyce Music Pub., J. Popa, *Cab Calloway a.h.O.*: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)

Soloists:

10726-1: RR o-tpt 8; AH clt 8; RR o-tpt 8

10727-2: PD o-tpt 16; HFW o-tbn 16; AB alt 32; AH clt obbl 32

19728-2: ?RR m-tpt 12; WFT ten ; RR o-tpt 2 + 24 + 6 obbl +4

Notable differences of takes:

10726 As no alternate take of this title seems to be reissued, comparison is impossible.

014 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Sep. 23, 1931

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lamar Wright, Pike Davis – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown - alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Earres Prince – pno; Morris White – bjo, gtr; Jimmy Smith – sbs; Leroy Maxey – dms

E-37220-A Bugle Call Rag

Br 6196,

Chronological Classics 526

E-37221-A You Rascal, You

Br 6196,

Chronological Classics 526

Rust*6 has William Thornton Blue here again! The quirky clarinetist again is Arville Harris in William-Thornton-Blue-style. Again, Harris owns a lot of technique, but he cannot come close to Thornton Blue. His attempts may have caused somebody to assume Blue's presence in the Calloway band at this time in late 1931.

Pike Davis on second trumpet is recalled by Calloway himself (B. Englund, VJM c. 131)

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); William Blue, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Earres Prince (p); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (dm); Cab Calloway (vo).

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol.2: Exact personnel uncertain, but including many members of previous group: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).

- Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir). "Slight personnel changes may have taken place about this time."

- Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb; Leroy Maxey -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr.

- Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr.

- Rust*6: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -William Thornton Blue -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr.

- Joyce Music Pub., J. Popa, *Cab Calloway a.h.O.*: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)

Soloists:

E-37220-A: RR o-tpt 4; WFT ten 16; ?PD m-tpt 20; RR o-tpt 18; AH clt obbl 16

E-37221-A: WFT ten 16; AH clt 16; RR o-tpt 16

015 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 12, 1931

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lamar Wright, Pike Davis – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown - alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Earres Prince – pno; Morris White – bjo, gtr; Jimmy Smith – bbs, sbs; Leroy Maxey – dms		
10865-1	Stardust	Ban 32295, Chronological Classics 526
10865-3	Stardust	Ban 32295 on LP/CD ?
10866-1	You Can't Stop Me From Loving You	Ban 32295, Chronological Classics 526
10866-3	You Can't Stop Me From Loving You	Ban 32295 on LP/CD ?
10867-2	You Dog	Ban 32323, Chronological Classics 526
10867-3	You Dog	Ban 32323 on LP/CD ?
10868-1	Somebody Stole My Gal	Ban 32323, Chronological Classics 526
10868-2	Somebody Stole My Gal	Ban 32323 on LP/CD ?

I assume Pike Davis soloing in 'I Can't Stop Loving You' behind Calloway's vocal and in the middle-eight of the trombone chorus.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); William Blue, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Earres Prince (p); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (dm); Cab Calloway (vo).

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory, Vol.2*: Exact personnel uncertain, but including many members of previous group: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).

- Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).

- Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr

- Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -bcl -ts; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr

- Rust*6: Cab Calloway -v -ldr; Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d

- Joyce Music Pub., J. Popa, Cab Calloway a.h.O.: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Ruben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)

Soloists:

10865-1: LW o-tpt 6, RR o-tpt 4

10866-1: ?PD m-tpt obbl 8, ?PD m-tpt 8, EP pno 4

10867-2: AH clt 12, PD m-tpt 15, WFT ten 2 + 14

10868-1: RR o-tpt 16, AB bcl 22, WFT ten 16, AH clt obbl 24 + 8

Notable differences of takes:

As no alternate takes of the above titles seem to be reissued, comparison is impossible.

016 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 21, 1931

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lamar Wright, (Pike Davis) – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown - alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Earres Prince – pno; Morris White – gtr; Jimmy Smith – bbs, sbs; Leroy Maxey – dms

E-37265-A Ain't Got No Gal In This Town

Br 6214,

Chronological Classics 526

E-37266-A Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea

Br 6209,

Chronological Classics 526

E-37267-A Trickeration

Br 6214,

Chronological Classics 526

E-37268-A Kickin' The Gong Around

Br 6209,

Chronological Classics 526

There is not much jazz soloistic on these sides, which are mainly commercial Calloway, but that is what it was meant to be.

I hear nice guitar by Moris White and four-four tuba by the band's former leader, Jimmy Smith. Re the muted/growled trumpet bits in the first title: I am in doubt as to the performer. I assume them to be by Reuben Reeves because of the fast trills, but I haven't heard him growling before. Pike Davis, who apparently did the muted trumpet work on the former session, plays with fewer notes when soloing. If Davis is not with the Calloway band anymore, who then is the second trumpet player?

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); William Blue, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Earres Prince (p); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (dm); Cab Calloway (vo).

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory, Vol.2*: Exact personnel uncertain, but including many members of previous group: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).

- Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).

- Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr

- Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -bcl -ts; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr

- Rust*6: Cab Calloway -v -ldr; Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d

- Joyce Music Pub., J. Popa, Cab Calloway a.h.O.: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Ruben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)

Soloists:

E-37265-A: WFT ten 4, ?RR m-tpt 4, ?RR m-tpt 2 + 2

E-37266-A: no solos

E-37267-A: AH clt 16, WFT ten 8

E-37268-A: no solos

017 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Nov. 18, 1931

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lamar Wright, *Pike Davis* – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown - alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Bennie Payne – pno; Morris White – bjo, gtr; Jimmy Smith – sbs; Leroy Maxey – dms

10867-7	You Dog	Ban 32323	not on LP/CD
11015-1	Downhearted Blues	Ban 32340,	Chronological Classics 526
11016-1	Without Rhythm	Ban 32378,	Chronological Classics 526
11016-2	Without Rhythm	Per 15572	not on LP/CD ?
11017-3	Corrine Corrina	Ban 32340,	Chronological Classics 526
11018-1	Stack O'Lee Blues	Ban 32378,	Chronological Classics 526
11018-2	Stack O'Lee Blues	Per 15572	not on LP/CD ?

The Chronological Classics CD 526 claims to have 11016-1 and 11018-1, whereas my Jazum 29 LP claims to have 11016-2 and 11018-2. On either records I am unable to detect any differences. Unfortunately, the JSP CD908B issue does not note takes, but sounds identical, too. I thus assume that the Jazum LP notes are incorrect. Either take -2 is remastered from Perfect 15572 as noted on the LP cover. May this have lead to an error?

B. Englund hears a kazoo in 'Stack O'Lee Blues', but there definitely is none, but there is exquisite muted playing by both trombonists and one of the trumpeters.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); William Blue, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Earres Prince (p); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (dm); Cab Calloway (vo).*

- *Carey, McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol.2: Exact personnel uncertain, but including many members of previous group: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).*

- *Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).*

- *Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*

- *Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -bcl -ts; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*

- *Rust*6: Cab Calloway -v -ldr; Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d*

- *Joyce Music Pub., J. Popa, Cab Calloway a.h.O.: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Ruben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)*

Soloists:

11015-1: *PD o-tpt 2, AH clt 2+2, ?RR m-tpt – WFT ten chase 12, WFT ten 1*

11016: *PD m-tpt 30, PD o-tpt 16, AH clt 8, PD o-tpt 8, AH clt obbl 16, BP pno 8, AH clt obbl 6*

11017-3: *RR m-tpt 12, DPW m-tbn 12, WFT ten chase 12, BP pno 12, AH clt obbl 8*

11018: *HFW o-tbn – RR o-tpt chase 12, ?DPW m-tbn 12, ?LW m-tpt 10, RR o-tpt 2 + 12*

Notable differences of takes:

11016: *Although Jazum 29 (LP) claims to play 11016-2, but no difference to Chronological Classic 526 or JSPCD 908B could be detected!*

11018: *Although Jazum 29 (LP) claims to play 11018-2, but no difference to Chronological Classic 526 or JSPCD 908B could be detected!*

018 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

c. Jan. 1932

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lamar Wright, *Pike Davis* – tpt; De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown - alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Earres Prince – pno; Morris White – bjo; Jimmy Smith – bbs; Leroy Maxey – dms;

Mae Questel - voc

copyright date Mar. 11, 1932
Film soundtrack Betty Boop Cartoon
'Minnie The Moocher'

St. James Infirmary
Minnie The Moocher
Tiger Rag

This Betty Boop cartoon of the Paramount Publix Corp. is the first known film with Cab Calloway and his Orchestra. The personnel of the band in the opening sequence is that of c. September/October 1931, in that there still is Earres Prince on piano and probably Pike Davis on trumpet – he plays the beautiful solo in 'St. James Infirmary', and the facial features are his as may be recognised. The second trombone is missing, which would terminate filming into February 1931 before Harry White's joining the band. But possibly, White was not accessible for the film cuts in later 1931.

Here we find the Calloway band in a fine film sequence with great visual brilliance, Leroy Maxey doing drum-stick acrobatics without touching his drums. Thanks to preceding recording of the sound-track, we can yet hear the full band sound. And listen to the final parts of the short 'Tiger Rag' sequence with the use of the arrangement of 'Vine Street Drag' (the final bars only), which still dates from the 'Missourians' days.

Soloists:

Saint James Inf.: *PD m-tpt growl 8, WFT ten obbl 16*

Minnie The Moocher: *?m-tpt growl 4, ?m-tpt obbl 8 + 2*

Tiger Rag: *no solos*

019 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Chicago,

Feb. 29, 1932

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lammar Wright, (*Pike Davis*) – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown – alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Bennie Payne – pno; Morris White – bjo, gtr; Jimmy Smith – sbs; Leroy Maxey – dms;

Bennie Payne – voc (2)

JC-8479-A The Scat Song

Br 6272,

Chronological Classics 526

JC-8480-A Cabin In The Cotton

Br 6272,

Chronological Classics 526

There is a nice muted trumpet solo after Cab's vocal that could well be by Pike Davis playing the melody of 'Cabin In The Cotton'.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); William Blue, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Earres Prince (p); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (dm); Cab Calloway (vo).*

- *Carey, McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol.2: Exact personnel uncertain, but including many members of previous group: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).*

- *Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).*

- *Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lammar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*

- *Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lammar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -bcl -ts; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*

- *Rust*6: Cab Calloway -v -ldr; Edwin Swayzee -Lammar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d*

- *Joyce Music Pub., J. Popa, Cab Calloway a.h.O.: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Ruben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)*

Soloists:

JC-8479-A: RR o-tpt 4+4 + 4, BP pno 4, WFT ten chase 2+2, HFW o-tbn 8

JC-8480-A: LW m-tpt 4, AB bcl 16, ?PD m-tpt 16

020 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Chicago,

Feb. 29, 1932

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lammar Wright, unknown or (*Pike Davis?*) – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown – alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Bennie Payne – pno; Morris White – bjo, gtr; Jimmy Smith – bbs, sbs; Leroy Maxey – dms

JC-8526-A

Strictly Cullud Affair

Br 6292,

Neatwork RP 2065

JC-8526-B

Strictly Cullud Affair

Br 6292,

Chronological Classics 526

JC-8527-A

Aw You Dog

Br 6292,

Chronological Classics 526

What a nice swinging rhythm section they have with Jimmy Smith on slap-bass and Leroy Maxey with his snare-drum and traps.

Notes:

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- *Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).*

- *Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lammar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*

- *Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lammar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -bcl -ts; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*

- *Rust*6: Cab Calloway -v -ldr; Edwin Swayzee -Lammar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d*

- *Joyce Music Pub., J. Popa, Cab Calloway a.h.O.: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Ruben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)*

Soloists:

JC-8526: RR o-tpt 16 + 8, HFW o-tbn 8,

JC-8527-A: AH clt 8, AH clt 12, RR o-tpt 16, WFT ten 16

Notable differences of takes:

JC-8526-A: R.Reeves' trumpet glissando immediately after Calloway's vocal reaches up to high d (the Neatwork CD plays the tune in D major – Eb major as on Chronological Classics CD certainly is the correct pitch!)

JC-8526-B: R.Reeves' trumpet glissando immediately after Calloway's vocal reaches up to high bb

021 CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Apr. 20, 1932

Cab Calloway – voc, ldr;

Reuben Reeves, Lammar Wright, unknown or (*Pike Davis?*) – tpt;

Harry Father White, De Priest Wheeler – tbn;

Andrew Brown – alt, clt, bcl; Arville Harris – alt, clt; Walter Foots Thomas – ten, clt;

Bennie Payne – pno; Morris White – gtr; Jimmy Smith – sbs; Leroy Maxey – dms
 B-11725-A Minnie The Moocher's Wedding Day

Br 6321, Chronological Classics 526

After Cab Calloway's success with 'Minnie The Moocher' – his brain-child and immense source of income - the Mills organization were eager to find suitable successors to this hit title. White composers/texters Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler were successful in thinking out this attractive tune which was copied and used by other bands later on.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); William Blue, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Earres Prince (p); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (dm); Cab Calloway (vo).*
 - *Carey, McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol.2: Exact personnel uncertain, but including many members of previous group: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).*
 - *Rust*2: R.Q. Dickerson, Lamar Wright, Reuben Reeves (tpt); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tbn); William Blue (clt, alt); Andrew Brown (alt); Walter Thomas (ten); Earres Prince (pno); Charlie Stamps (bjo); Jimmy Smith (bbs); Leroy Maxey (dms); Cab Calloway (vcl, dir).*
 - *Rust*3: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -as; Walter Thomas -ts -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*
 - *Rust*4: Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright -Reuben Reeves -t; DePriest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -as -cl; Andrew Brown -bcl -ts; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; LeRoy Maxie -d; Cab Calloway -v -ldr*
 - *Rust*6: Cab Calloway -v -ldr; Edwin Swayzee -Lamar Wright - Reuben Reeves -t; De Priest Wheeler -Harry White -tb; Arville Harris -cl -as; Andrew Brown -ts -bcl; Walter Thomas -as -ts -bar -f; Bennie Payne -p -v; Morris White -bj; Jimmy Smith -bb -sb; Leroy Maxey -d*
 - *Joyce Music Pub., J. Pops, Cab Calloway a.h.O.: Edwin Swayzee, Lamar Wright, Ruben Reeves (tp); De Priest Wheeler, Harry White (tb); Arville Harris (cl/as); Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas (s); Bennie Payne (p); Charley Stamps (banjo); Jimmy Smith (b); LeRoy Maxey (d); Cab Calloway (vo/ldr)*

Soloists:

B-11725-A: ?PD m-tpt growl obbl 16 + 8, ?PD m-tpt growl obbl 6 + 6

K.- B. Rau
 06-09-2021