

Benny Goodman's Small Groups

CHRONOLOGICAL BIOGRAPHY

- 1928:** First Goodman Small Groups recordings ("Clarinetitis" / "That's a Plenty")
- 1935:** Goodman Trio makes first recordings for RCA/Victor.
clarinet: Benny Goodman
piano: Teddy Wilson
drums: Gene Krupa
- 1936:** The Goodman Trio first performs in public.
Lionel Hampton (on vibraphone) joins to form the Quartet.
- 1938:** Gene Krupa leaves the Quartet.
- 1939:** Goodman switches from Victor to Columbia record label.
Sextet forms:
vibes: Lionel Hampton
piano: Fletcher Henderson
guitar: Charlie Christian
bass: Art Bernstein
drums: Nick Fatool
- 1940:** Hampton leaves to form his own big band
Revised Sextet / Septet:
trumpet: Cootie Williams (joins in November)
tenor sax: Georgie Auld
guitar: Charlie Christian
bass: Artie Bernstein
piano: Johnny Guarnieri, Count Basie, or Ken Kersey
drums: Nick Fatool, Dave Tough, Harry Jaeger, or Jo Jones
- 1941:** Christian falls sick and leaves ensemble.
- 1942:** Charlie Christian dies in March.
Cootie Williams leaves the group at the end of October.
- 1945:** Quintet recording (Goodman with a rhythm section)
- 1947:** Disbands big band and begins to work primarily with small groups.
Transition to bop.
- 1950:** Tours Europe with new Sextet.
- 1973:** The original Quartet gives performances at Carnegie Hall and in Chicago and Saratoga

SELECT DISCOGRAPHYTrio:

Clarinetitis/That's a Plenty (1928, Voc. 15705)
After you've gone (1935, Vic. 25115)
Lady Be Good (1936, Vic. 25333)

Quartet:

Moonglow (1936, Vic. 25398)
Exactly Like You (1936, Vic. 25406)
Avalon (1937, Vic. 25644)

Quintet:

Liza (1945, V-disc 627B)

Sextet/Septet:

Seven Come Eleven (1939, Col. 35349)
Breakfast Feud (1941, Col. 36039)
A Smo-o-o-oth One/Airmail Special (1941, Col. 36099)
Just One of Those Things (1945, Col. 36924)
Stealin' Apples (1948, Cap. 10173)

At Sibley Library:Trio and Quartet:

Goodman, Benny. *Benny Goodman: his trio and quartet.* (Minneapolis, MN: Camden, 1979).
*Sibley Call No: LP 29,972
Goodman, Benny. *Benny Goodman: 1937-1938, Jazz Concert No 1.* Vols. 1 & 2 (New York: Columbia, 195-?).
*Sibley Call No: J-1016 & J-1017

Christian-Era Sextet:

Goodman, Benny. *Benny Goodman Sextet.* (New York: Columbia, 195-?).
*Sibley Call No: J-732
Goodman, Benny. *Charlie Christian with the Benny Goodman Sextet and Orchestra.* (New York: Columbia, 1955).
*Sibley Call No: J-748
Goodman, Benny. *Benny Goodman Sextet featuring Charlie Christian, 1939-1941.* (New York: Columbia Jazz Masterpieces, 1989).
*Sibley Call No: CD 11,645
Goodman, Benny. *The genius of the electric guitar: Charlie Christian.* (New York: Columbia/Legacy, 2002).
*Sibley Call No: CD 15,523

Post-Christian Sextet:

Goodman, Benny. *The New Benny Goodman Sextet.* (New York: Columbia, 1954).
*Sibley Call No: J-740

TRANSCRIPTIONS

"Dinah" (composed by Harry Akst in 1925) as recorded by the Benny Goodman Quartet on August 26, 1936 for the RCA Victor label. (LP 29,972)

"Sweet Sue" (composed by Victor Young in 1928) as recorded by the Benny Goodman Quartet on November 18th, 1936 for the RCA Victor label. (LP 29,972)

"Seven Come Eleven" (composed by Benny Goodman and Charlie Christian) as recorded by the Benny Goodman Sextet on November 22nd, 1939 for Columbia Records (CD 15,523)

OTHER RECORDINGS

"Moonglow" (composed by Will Hudson) as played live by the Benny Goodman Quartet sometime between 1937-1938 for Columbia Records (J-1016)

"Running Wild" (composed by James P. Johnson) as recorded by the Benny Goodman Quartet in August 1936 for Columbia Records (LP 29,972)

"Running Wild" (composed by James P. Johnson) as played live by the Benny Goodman Quartet sometime between 1937-1938 for Columbia Records (J-1016)

"Gilly" (composed by Benny Goodman) as recorded by the Benny Goodman Septet on December 19th, 1940 for Columbia Records (CD 15,523)

REFERENCES:

Collier, James Lincoln. *Benny Goodman & the Swing Era*. (New York: Oxford U. Press, 1989).
*Sibley Call No: ML422 .G653 C699 1989

Official Benny Goodman website: <http://www.bennygoodman.com> (accessed Feb. 2, 2007).

Newberger, Eli H. "Swing Piano Style." *Annual Review of Jazz Studies*. vol 1. (New Brunswick: Transaction Books, 1982).

Grove Music Online: <http://www.grovemusic.com> (accessed Feb. 2, 2007).