Essential jazz strings discography

Paula Zeitlin
pzeitlin@wellesley.edu

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Essential jazz strings discography
by Paula Zeitlin

In Historical Order

* in print and available
** historical importance

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Violin

Stuff Smith (Hezekiah Leroy Gordon Smith)
*Stuff Smith, Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson Verve MGV 8214 (1957)
**Complete Stuff Smith Verve Sessions (4-CD set), Mosaic Records MD4-186 Polygram 1999
*Hot Swing Fiddle Classics (with Svend Asmussen, Emilio Caceras): Folklyric (Arhoolie) 9025
*Hot Violins (with Venuti, Grappelli, Caceres and others): ABC Records 836 049-2
*Stuff Smith: Hot Violins (with Asmussen, Poul Olsen): Storyville STCD 4170
*Together! (with Herb Ellis): Koch Jazz KOC 3-7805-2
*Violins No End (with Grappelli, others, 1957): Fantasy/Original Jazz Classics
Live in Paris, 1965: Notre Music, France, FCD120
*Live at the Monmarte, (1965) , Storyville

Joe Venuti
*Stringin’ the Blues (with Eddie Lang and the Blue Four):Topaz Jazz 1015
**Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang, Vol. 1 and 2: JSP Records, CD309
*Joe Venuti: Violin Jazz 1927-34: Yazoo 1062
*Hot Sonatas (with Earl Hines), 1975: Chiaroscuro CR 145
*Joe Venuti/Stephane Grappelli: Venupelli Blues, LeJazz 18.
*see also: recordings of Venuti and Zoot Sims, Tony Romano, Dave McKenna

Ray Nance
*The Duke Ellington Jazz Violin Sessions (w/Grappelli, Asmussen) A hard-to-find album, but well worth looking for. Nance was also a member of Duke Ellington’s band, and can be found on other Ellington recordings.
*Jazz-Club Violin (w/Grappelli, Ponty, Urbaniak, Venuti, Smith, Seifert, and others) Verve 840 039-2

Eddie South
**Eddie South 1923-1937: Classics 707
**Eddie South 1937-1941: Classics 737
*Black Gypsy, 1927-34: Frog 36
**Dark Angel of the Fiddle** (with Billy Taylor): Soundies 4120

**Svend Asmussen**

*Jazz Violin Summit* (with Grappelli, Smith, Ponty): MPS 821303-2 or Legacy Int.

*June Night*: Dr.Jazz FW 3915

*Two of a Kind* (w/Grappelli): Story STCD 4088


**Fiddler Supreme**: Intim Musik 6, Sweden, IMOGE XIM006 (out of print, but available)

*John Lewis and Svend Asmussen: European Encounter*: Atlantic 90533-2

*Svend Asmussen Quartet: Fit as a Fiddle*: Dacapo 9429

*Fiddling Around* (1994): IMOGE XIG039

**Stephane Grappelli**

You can’t go wrong with practically any Grappelli record—and there are hundreds.

*Quintet of the Hot Club of France*: GNP Crescendo or EPM157522

*Live at the Blue Note* (3-CD set, 1999): Telarc

**Djangology** (w/Django Reinhart): RCA Bluebird 9988

*Djangologie #1-16* (w/Django Reinhart): EMI/Pathe CO54-16001 to 16016

**Jazz Violin Summit** (w/ Asmussen, Smith, Ponty) MPS 821303-2 or Legacy International

*85 and Still Swinging*: Stephane Grappelli Live at Carnegie Hall, the 85th Birthday Concert: Angel CDC0777

**Stephane Grappelli 1935-1940: Classics 708, 1941-1943: Classics 779

**Harry Lookofsky**

A remarkable violinist who did not improvise, but played written-out solos as though he did.

*Strings village*: Koch Jazz (to be reissued Fall 2001)

**Johnny Frigo**

*I Got Rhythm* (3-CD set, 1973): Black Lion

*Debut of a Legend*: Chesky JD119

*Johnny Frigo with Bucky and John Pizzarelli, Ron Carter*: Chesky JDI

*Live at the Floating Jazz Festival* (1999): Chiaroscuro 358

*Live From Studio A in New York City* (1989): Chesky 1

**Joe Kennedy Jr.**

*Strings by Candlelight* (1998)

*Falling in Love With Love* (1998)

*Accentuate the Positive* (with Toots Thielemans, 1998): Consolidated Artists Prod. 923

*Where’ve You Been?* (with Billy Taylor): Concord Jazz CJ145

*Listen to the Ahmad Jamal Quintet*: Argo 673 (out of print)

**Claude Williams**

*Swingtime in New York*: Progressive PCD-7093

*Swingin’ the Blues*: Bullseye Blues 9627

*Call for the Fiddler* (1994): STEEP SCCD31051


*Summit 88*: Huiksi Music, POB 495, NYC, NY.

**Jean-Luc Ponty**

Ponty has recorded extensively—these are only a few.

**Jazz Violin Summit** (w/ Grappelli, Asmussen, Smith): MPS 821303-2 or Legacy International 447


*Stephane Grappelli & Jean-Luc Ponty*: Verve, 35320

*King Kong* (w/Frank Zappa): World Pacific 20172, or Blue Note Records 89539

*Live at Chene Park*: Atlantic Jazz 82964

*Live at Donte’s*: Blue Note (1996) 35635

**Aurora** (1990), Rhino 19158
*Cosmic Messenger (1987): Rhino19189
*Best of the Pacific Years (2001): Blue Note 30815
**Sunday Walk (1967) LP, MPS 20645, 1972. (out of print, hard to find)
*More Than Meets the Ear (1969). One Way Records 17605

John Blake

**Quest: Sunnyside SSC1058D
A New Beginning: Gramavision 8808-4 (hard to find, but worth it)
Twinkling of an Eye: Gramavision 8501-1
Rhythm & BLU (w/Didier Lockwood, Michael Urbaniak): LP, Gramavision 8608-1
See also recordings with Steve Turre and others.

Zbigniew Seifert

**Man of the Light: (1976) Pausa 707 (out of print)
Solo Violin: EMI Electrola C066-45088
Passion: (1978) LP, Capitol Records ST-11923 (out of print)

Jerry Goodman

*Ariel (2000): One Way Records 35148
**On the Future of Aviation: One Way Records 35147
*It's Alive: One Way Records 2026
**Birds of Fire (the Mahavishnu Orchestra)(1973): Legacy 66081
Also see other recordings with Mahavishnu or John McLaughlin.

Didier Lockwood

*Tribute to Stephane Grappelli (2000): Dreyfus 36611
*Storyboard: Koch (1997), Dreyfus 36582
*New World (1998)
Out of the Blue: JMS Records (1996)

Charlie Burnham

Time Never Lies (String Trio of New York): Stash 544

Matt Glaser

*Play Fiddle Play: (1990) Flying Fish 70555

Darol Anger

*See recordings with Turtle Island, David Grisman, Mike Marshall, DAMM Band, Comotion and solo albums.

Leroy Jenkins

*Live!: Black Saint 120122-2
**Swift are the Winds of Life (1975): Knitclassics 3026, (2000)

Billy Bang

*Rainbow Gladiator (1997): Soul Note 1016
*A Tribute to Stuff Smith (1993)
*Billy Bang with Sun Ra: Soul Note 121216
*Big Bang Theory: Justin Time 135 (2000)
*Commandment: No More 5(1997)
*Bang On (1997): Justin Time 105
*The Fire From Within (1985): Soul Note 1086
*Natural Balance (String Trio of New York): Black Saint BSR 0098 CD

Regina Carter

*Something for Grace: Atlantic Jazz 82975-2

Regina Carter: Atlantic 82750
*Blues...? (1977): Black Saint 120 148
Intermobility (String Trio of New York): Arabesque AJ0108 See other recordings
with String Trio of New York, Steve Turre, Danilo Perez, and other artists.

**Michal Urbaniak**

*Polish Jazz V.* 9 (1998): PLN, PNCD0074  
*Constellation* (1995) POWEB PB119  
*Manhattan Man*: Milan 35612-2 (out of print, but available)  

**Mat Maneri**

*Trinity* (2001): ECM Records 543 444  
*Blue Decco* (2000): Thirsty Ear Recordings 57092  
See also recordings with Steve Lentner, Randy Peterson, Joe Maneri, Joe Morris, Natraj

**Mark Feldman**

*John Abercrombie: Open Land*: ECM 1683 (1999)

**Diane Monroe**


**Alfredo de la Fe**

Universal Records 450  
*Alfredo* (2000): LPMUS 107

There are many more current AND important players not listed here--check out jazz violin/strings websites on the internet for most updated information!

Darol Anger, David Balakrishnan, Tracy Silverman, Danny Seidenberg, Irene Sazer, Evan Price: See Turtle Island String Quartet

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**Viola**

**Will Taylor**

*Simple Gifts*  
*Reel Life*: Amazing Records  
Will Taylor and Jazz Menagerie, Live from Austin: Cymekob Records (1996)

**Debbie Spring**

*Ocean Drive*: Heads Up 3009

**Irene Sazer**

See Turtle Island String Quartet recordings, and under her own name.

**Jim Nolet**

*With You* (2000):  
*Syzgny*: Cathexis 6 (1999) (also plays violin)

**Hank Roberts**

*22 Years From Now* (2000): Level Green 22001  
*Cause and Reflect* (1998, 2000): Level Green 22004  
*Little Motor People*: Polydor (1993)  
*Look Out for Hope* (w/Bill Frisell): ECM1350  
*Black Pastels*: JMT 8820016

**David Baker**

*Concerto for Cello and Jazz Band*: 21st Century Bebop Band: Laurel 503
Oscar Pettiford

though known as a bassist, he was an early cello innovator.
*Septet: Original Jazz Classics, (1999)
*Deep Passion (1994): GRP Records 143
*My Little Cello: Fantasy Records (You may find this music on the LP New Oscar Pettiford Sextet, Debut Records )JC-112 (DLP-8)

Erik Friedlander

*Skin (2000): Siam Records 50008
*Topaz (1999) Siam Records 50003
*Chimera: Avant (1995)
*Live Wood (with Marty Ehrlich’s Dark Wood Ensemble): Music and Arts, CD986
See other recordings with Dark Wood Ensemble and Dave Douglas.

Fred Katz

Chico Hamilton Quintet: World Pacific Records WP-1225
Chico Hamilton Quintet with Strings Attached (1959): Warner Bros 1245

Harry Babasin

Harry Babasin and His Jazz Pickers (1957): V.S.O.P.
Up in Dodo’s Room: The Complete Dial Sessions: Jazz Classic Records, 6008

Bowed Bass

Many fine examples of bowed bass are found at this web site:
http://classes.berklee.edu/dhollender/ArcoJa zzDiscography.html
Included in this listing are bass players

Jazz String/Mixed Ensembles

Hot Club of France