Essential jazz strings discography
by Paula Zeitlin

In Historical Order

* in print and available
** historical importance

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Violin

**Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang, Vol. 1 and 2: JSP Records, CD309
**Joe Venuti: Violin Jazz 1927-34: Yazoo 1062
*Joe in Chicago 1978: Flying Fish (1993)
The Best of Joe Venuti: Chiaroscuro CR 145
*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

Joe Venuti

*Stringin’ the Blues (with Eddie Lang and the Blue Four): Topaz Jazz 1015

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
Jazz for String Players, a bibliography

*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.
Stringsville: 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 Thielmans, 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 Urbaniaik): 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) POWERB 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
*Mat Maneri Trio: Fifty-One Sorrows: Leo Records 278 (1999)
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**

*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

**Viola**

**Will Taylor**

*Simple Gifts* 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)

**See also Svend Asmussen, Leroy Jenkins, Mat Maneri and other violinists who record on viola.**

**Cello**

**Mark Summer**

*See all Turtle Island String Quartet recordings.

**Hank Roberts**

*22 Years From Now (2000) : Level Green 22001
*Cause and Reflect (1998, 2000): Level Green 22004
*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/ArcoJazzDiscography.html
Included in this listing are bass players Jimmy Blanton, Ray Brown, Paul Chambers, John Clayton, Arni Egilsson, Eddie Gomez, Christian McBride, Rufus Reid, Slam Stewart and more.

Jazz String/Mixed Ensembles

Hot Club of France