There is a story that on the first night he heard Bessie Smith sing, the trumpet player Bix Beiderbecke threw a whole week's pay out on the floor to keep her going on and on. This may be part of the legend that clings to Beiderbecke; but if it didn't exactly happen that way, it should have. For any examination of jazz is sure to reveal the enormous debt owed to the Afro-American tradition of song to be heard, in varying degrees of development, on the second side of Jazz, Volume 4, Jazz Singers.

As with instrumental jazz, vocal jazz grew up in the country, then moved into town. In the process, it underwent many changes; the contrast between Ma Rainey and Dizzy Gillespie, both skilled exponents of the styles at their command, is hardly necessary to point out. Side I of Jazz Singers chronicles some of the changes as they took place, with authentic samplings of vocal jazz of the nineteen twenties, thirties, and forties. Not all singers are quoted in full; in some cases it seemed advisable to isolate them from an orchestral pattern in order to present a more concise picture of varied styles. This system of short quotes also made possible inclusion of a far greater number of singers. Where singers and orchestra were closely integrated, and the whole performance was built around the vocalist's interpretation, the complete original was retained.

Record Data

Side I

Louis Armstrong—All of Me

Accompanied by Louis Armstrong Orchestra.
Personnel: Louis Armstrong, Zilmer Randolph, trumpets; Lester Boone, George James, alto sax; Albert Washington, tenor sax; Preston Jackson, trombone; Charlie Alexander, piano; Mike McKendrick, banjo; John Lindsay, bass; Tubby Hall, drums. OK 41552 1931

Baby Cox—the Mooche

Accompanied by Duke Ellington Orchestra.
Personnel: Arthur Whetsel, Bubber Miley, trumpets; Joe Nanton, trombone; Barney Bigard, clarinet; Johnny Hodges, alto sax; Harry Carney, bar. sax; Duke Ellington, piano; Lonnie Johnson, guitar; Fred Guy, banjo; Wellman Braud, bass; Sonny Greer, drums. OK 8623 1928

George Thomas—Baby Won't You Please Come Home?

Accompanied by Mckinney's Cotton Pickers.
Personnel: Langston Curl, John Neffitt, trumpets; Edward Goffee, trombone; Don Redman, George Thomas, Prince Robinson, sax; James P. Johnson, piano; Dave Williams, banjo; Billy Taylor, bass; Cuba Austin, drums. V122511 1930

Jelly Roll Morton—Doctor Jazz

Accompanied by Jelly Roll Morton and His Red Hot Peppers.
Personnel: George Mitchell, cornet; Kid Ory, trombone; Omer Simeon, clarinet; Jelly Roll Morton, piano; John St. Cyr, guitar; John Lindsay, bass; Andrew Hillaume, drums. VI 20415 1926

Cab Calloway—Margie

Accompanied by Cab Calloway Orchestra.
Personnel: Lamar Wright, Doc Cheatham, Edwin Swayzee, trumpets; De Priest Wheeler, Harry Wright, trombones; Arville Harris, Eddie Barefield, Andrew Brown, Walter Thomas, sax; Benny Payne, piano; Morris White, guitar; Al Morgan, bass; Le Roy Maxey, drums. VI 24659 1934

Bing Crosby—Louisiana

Accompanied by Paul Whiteman Orchestra.
Personnel: Bix Beiderbecke, Charlie Margulies, Henry Busse, Bob Mayhew, trumpets; Tommy Dorsey, Willy Hall, Jack Fulton, Bruce Cullen, trombones; Frankie Trumbauer, Izy Friedman, Rube Crozier, Charles Strickfadden, Chester Hazlitt, Nye Mayhew, Hal Maclean, Jack Mayhew, sax; Malneck, Dieterle, Russell, Bowman, Gaylord, violins; Lennie Hayton, piano; Roy Bargy, piano; Mike Pingitore, banjo; Mario Perry, accordian, piano; Mike Trifignante, tuba; Min Leibrock, bar. sax. VI 21436 1928
IVY ANDERSON—IT DON'T MEAN A THING
ACCOMPANIED BY DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA.
PERSONNEL: BOOTIE WILLIAMS, ARTHUR WHETSEL, FREDDIE JENKINS, TRUMPETS; JOE NANTON, LAWRENCE BROWN, TROMBONES; BARNEY BIGARD, CLARINET; JOHNNY HODGES, ALTO SAX; HARRY CARNEY, BAR. SAX; DUKE ELLINGTON, PIANO; FRED GUY, DRUMS. BR 6265 1932

ELLA FITZGERALD—ORGAN GRINDER'S SWING
ACCOMPANIED BY HER SAVOY EIGHT.
PERSONNEL: TAFT JO: kDAH, TRUMPET; SANDY WILLIAMS, TROMBONE; PETE CLARK, CLARINET AND BAR. SAX; TEDDY MCCRAE, TENOR SAX; TOMMY FULKORD, PIANO; JOHN TRUEHEART, GUITAR; BEVERLY PEER, BASS; CHICK WEBB, DRUMS. DE 1062 1936

JIMMY RUSHING—DON'T YOU MISS YOUR BABY?
ACCOMPANIED BY COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA.
PERSONNEL: EDWARD LEWIS, HARRY EDISON, BUCK CLAYTON, TRUMPETS; DAN MINOR, EDDIE DURHAM, BENNY MORTON, TROMBONES; JACK WASHINGTON, EARL WARREN, ALTO SAXES; HERSHAL EVANS, LESTER YOUNG, TENOR SAXES; HERBIE HAYMER, TENOR SAX; COUNT BASIE, PIANO; JOE JONES, DRUMS. DE 1770 1937

HELEN O'CONNELL—KEEP A KNOCKIN'
ACCOMPANIED BY JIMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA.
PERSONNEL: SHORTY CHEROCK, SY BAKER, RALPH MUZZILLO, TRUMPETS; BOBBY BYRNE, SONNY LEE, DON MATTESON, TROMBONES; MILTON YANER, SAM RUBINOWITCH, CHARLES FRAZIER, ALTO SAXES; HERBIE HAYMER, TENOR SAX; JOE LIPPMANN, PIANO AND ARRANGER; JACK RYAN, BASS; BUDDY SCHULTZ, DRUMS. DE 2980 1939

LEO WATSON—JINGLE BELLS
ACCOMPANIED BY VIC DICKENSON QUINTET.
PERSONNEL: VIC DICKENSON, TROMBONE; J. LIPPSCHITZ, PIANO; ARVIN GARRISON, GUITAR; HAROLD WEST, DRUMS; VIVIEN GARRY, BASS. SIG 1004 1946

DIZZY GILLESPIE, KEN HAGOOD, ENSEMBLE—OOPAPA
ACCOMPANIED BY DIZZY GILLESPIE ORCHESTRA.
PERSONNEL: DIZZY GILLESPIE, ELMON WRIGHT, DAVE BURNS, MATTHEW MCKAY, TRUMPETS; WILLIAM SHEPHERD, TED KELLY, TROMBONES; HOWARD JOHNSON, JOHN BROWN, ALTO SAXES; JOE GAYLES, GEORGE NICHOLAS, JAMES MOODY, TENOR SAXES; CECIL PAYNE, BAR. SAX; JOHN LEWIS, PIANO; AL MCKIBBON, BASS; KENNY CLARKE, DRUMS; CHANO POZO, CONGO DRUMS. VI 20-2490 1947

BILLIE HOLIDAY—SUGAR
ACCOMPANIED BY TEDDY WILSON ORCHESTRA.
PERSONNEL: ROY ELDREDGE, TRUMPET; ERNIE POWELL, CLARINET; BENNY CARTER, ALTO SAX; TEDDY WILSON, PIANO; DANNY BARKER, GUITAR; MILTON HINTON, BASS; COZY COLE, DRUMS. CO 36117 1939

FATS WALLER, UNA MAE CARLISLE—I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BUT LOVE
ACCOMPANIED BY FATS WALLER AND HIS RHYTHM.
PERSONNEL: JOHN HAMILTON, TRUMPET; GENE SEDRIC, CLARINET AND ALTO SAX; FATS WALLER, PIANO; JOE SMITH, GUITAR; CEDRIC WALLACE, BASS; SLICK JONES, DRUMS. BB 10575 1939

SIDE 2

BESSIE SMITH—A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND
ACCOMPANIED BY: PORTER GRAINGER, PIANO, AND LINCOLN CONAWAY, GUITAR. CO 14250 1927

DALLAS JUG BAND SINGING—YOU GOTTA HAVE THAT THING
UNKNOWN PERSONNEL: WOODBLOCKS, WASHERBOARD, COWBELL, KAZOO, JUG, WHISTLE, STRING INSTRUMENT. VAR 6025 1930

MA RAINNEY—TRAVELING BLUES
ACCOMPANIED BY HER TUB JUG WASHERBOARD BAND. UNKNOWN PERSONNEL. PARA 14011/12706 1929

CRIPPLE CLARENCE LOFTON—STRUT THAT THING
ACCOMPANIED BY UNKNOWN PIANO AND DRUM. VO 02951 1935

BERTHA CHIPPE HILL—TROUBLE IN MIND
ACCOMPANIED BY LOUIS ARMSTRONG, CORNET, AND RICHARD M. JONES, PIANO. OK 8273 1925

CHAMPION JACk DUPREE—JITTERBUG
ACCOMPANIED BY SONNY TERRY, HARMONICA AND BROWNIE MOGHEE, GUITAR. FOLKWAYS RECORD. RECORDED BY M. ASCH, 1942.

SONNY TERRY—FOX CHASE
HARMONICA, ACCOMPANIED BY "OH" RED WITH WASHERBOARD. CO 37686