

Local Jazz History

Let Us Remember

Lovers of jazz in New England have lost some very good friends recently, including Kenny Hadley Big Band regular Jim Bossey of Onset, who also played in the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis band in New York; Jimmy (Bottoms Up) Tyler, who played with Count Basie and was a key member and later leader of the Sabby Lewis band; and Lou Colombo, cousin of Brockton/Cape Cod trumpeter Lou Colombo, who played violin, clarinet and alto saxophone with Bobby Hackett and many renowned entertainers in Hollywood and Las Vegas.

But not all of those to be dearly missed were professional musicians. Some of the giants who helped build and retain the jazz audience are gone, too. The love and respect from those who perform the music was abundantly evident in the tributes recently paid to jazz club owners Wally Walcott and Ken Williams and radio personalities Norm Nathan and Bill Marlowe. Frank Wilkins, Sonny Watson, Andy Baer, Ron Gill, Rebecca Parris, Donna Byrne, Samenya McCord, Kenny Hadley and Paul Broadnax were just some of the musicians who took part.

Walcott, Williams, Nathan and Marlowe - four independent-minded men who thought for themselves and were known for going out on a limb to promote the music they loved.