

OTHER ITALIAN AMERICAN JAZZ GREATS OF NEW ORLEANS

Giuseppe Alessandra (Joe Alexander)
1865 (Italy)-1950 (New Orleans).
Played in parades with Reliance Bands
and in dance bands with Johnny
Provenzano, Dominick and Joe Barocco.

Tony Almerico 1905-1961. Known
nationwide as Dixieland disc jockey and
TV host. His dance band played for the
Streckfus Steamship Line in the '40s.

Frank Assunto 1922-1974. New
Orleans native and leader of world-
famous Dukes of Dixieland.

Freddie Assunto 1929-1966. Played
in brother Frank's Dukes of Dixieland.
Married to the band's singer, Betty
Owens.

"Papa" Jac Assunto 1902-1985.
Father of Frank and Freddie. Played in
Dukes of Dixieland. Well-known music
teacher and school bandmaster.

Dominick Barocco 1893-1970.
Studied trumpet with Frank Christian.
Played with Johnny Provenzano, Nick
LaRocca, Clem Camp, and Larry
Shields. His Susquehanna Band played
on lake steamer of same name.

Joe Barocco 1891-1947. Co-leader of
Susquehanna Band with brother
Dominick. Also with Reliance Brass
Band and Johnny Fischer.

Louis Bisso 1905-? Played piano in
silent movie theaters in early '20s. Head
of N.O. City Planning Board in '50s.

Joseph "Sharkey" Bonano 1904-
1972. Dixieland band leader who toured
Europe, Asia, and South America with
top N.O. musicians. Replaced Bix
Beiderbecke in Wolverines orchestra
and Nick LaRocca in ODJB.

"Candy" Candido 1913-1999. Played
with Louis Prima and Leon Prima in the
'30s. As comedy accompanist to popular
singer Gene Austin, appeared on records
and in the movies. Joined Ted Fiorito
Band. Later became stand-up comic.

Angelo Capraro 1910 (New Orleans)-
1963 (Las Vegas). With Leon Prima,
Louis Prima, Sharkey bands in '30s.
Toured own band under name Jimmy
Capra. With brother at Cotton Club.

Joe Capraro 1903-1987. Played with
Sharkey and N.O. Rhythm Masters. Led
own band on WSMB in '20s, played
The Cotton Club. Recorded extensively
on Southland.

Tony Costa 1910-? Played with Dukes
of Dixieland, Tony Almerico, Phil Zito,
and Sharkey.

Tony Dalmado 1918-? Trumpeter on
Keynote session with Irving Fazola.

Sid Davilla 1915-? Swing musician
and owner of Mardi Gras Lounge on
Bourbon Street.

Al Doria 1899-1977. Top Dixieland
drummer. Worked at Werlein's Music
Store.

Frank Federico 1908-? Played with
Louis Prima, Leon Prima and Tony
Almerico.

Sal Franzella 1915-1968. Saenger
Theater pit band in '30. Toured in '30s
with LaRocca.

Benny Meroff – Played with Isham
Jones, Paul Whiteman. Concert and
studio work in Hollywood.

Nick Gagliardi 1921-? The Last
Straws.

Al Gallodoro - Orpheum Theater house band.

Ernest Giardina 1870-? Early ragtime bandleader. Played with Frank Christian.

Tony Giardina 1897-1956. Pre-WWI with Reliance, Brunies, ODJB, Frank Christian.

Felix Guarino 1898-? Drummer in '20s Crescent City Jazzers and Arcadian Serenaders.

John Lala 1893-1966. Pre-WWI Dixielander. With Happy Schilling, Reliance, Johnny Fischer.

Mike Lala 1908-1976. Dance bandleader for forty years. Played French Quarter at *La Lune* and Famous Door night clubs. Earlier played with Joe Capraro, Oscar Marcour, Jules Bauduc.

Sam LaNasa - Played in Tony Parenti's Symphonic Dance Orchestra, Grunewald Hotel '20s.

Roy Liberto 1928-? Leader of touring novelty Dixieland band.

Arnold Loyacano 1889-1962. Child prodigy, played at Milneburg and French Opera house at age 11. Played with Reliance, Tom Brown (in Chicago), New Orleans Rhythm Kings, Jimmy Durante's Original New Orleans Jazz Band, Sig Meyer's Druids Orchestra, Sharkey, and Leon Prima. On music staff of NBC in early years of radio.

Freddie Loyacano 1905-? Played with Sharkey, Leon Prima, Fazola, Ellis Stratakos.

Joe "Hook" Loyacano 1893-1967. Recorded saxophone Halfway House orchestra. With Tonny Almerico in '50s. Brother of Arnold and John.

Joe Loyacano 1906-1969. Played Halfway House Orchestra. Brother of Steve and Freddie.

John Layacano 1879-1960. Dixieland rhythm man with Reliance, Dan Hughes, Sal Margiotta.

Steve Loyacano 1903-? Played with Pinky Gerbrecht, Johnny Bayersdorffer, New Orleans Rhythm Kings. Led Saenger Theater band and owned Chez Patee Club in 1935.

Sherwood Mangiapane 1912-. Great bassist, singer, and whistler, recording with Johnny Wiggs, Raymond Burke, Dr. Edmond Souchon.

Joseph "Wingy" Mannone 1900-1987. Lost right arm at age nine. Played kazoo in Storyville at age twelve. Well-known Gulf Coast trumpeter. Recorded with Arcadian Serenaders. Appeared in several films and wrote successful autobiography, *Trumpet on the Wing*. (Doubleday).

Sal Margiotta 1896-1970. Triangle Band.

Leonce Mello 1888-1941. Trombonist with Reliance, Fischer Brass Band, Barocco brothers.

Manuel Mello 1886-1961. Played parade bands from 1903 (The Big Five and Reliance), and Jack Laine's ragtime bands from 1908.

Sanford Mello 1901-? In Alfred Laine's band in '20s. Brother of Leonce and Manuel.

James Palao 1880-1925. Imperial Orchestra, Original Creole Orchestra. Vaudeville, Chicago.

Angelo Palmisano - New Orleans Owls, Halfway House Orchestra.

Tony Papalia 1905-1974. Theater work, Tony Parenti's orchestra, and orchestra leader.

Russ Papalia 1903-1972. Early years with Tony Parenti, Johnny Detroit, Irving Fazola, Johnny Bayersdorffer. Dance orchestra leader.

Tony Parenti 1900 (New Orleans)-1972 (New York). Musical prodigy from age twelve. At fourteen, was invited north with ODJB. Worked New Orleans with Jack Line, on steamer Majestic, in Triangle and Alamo Theaters, Pup Café, Liberty Theater, Lavidia Ballroom. His Liberty Syncopators recorded on Columbia. Played Broadway in 1960s as world-renowned jazz star.

Santo Pecora 1902-1984. Maestro of Dixieland Tailgate style. Recorded with Rhythm King in 1925. Played with Buddy Rogers, Ben Pollack, Will Osborne, Sharkey, Wingy Manone. Played the Famous Door on Bourbon Street.

Pete Peccopia ?-1950. Popular 1905-30, playing with Jack Laine dance bands, Reliance Brass, and Susquehanna.

Frank Pinero 1906-1967. Played Dixieland piano with Happy Schilling, Louis Prima, Leon Prima-Sharkey All-Stars.

Leon Prima 1907-1985. Bandleader and nightclub operator. Co-leader of swing band with Sharkey in '30s. Brother of Louis Prima.

Louis Prima 1911-1978. Led "kid's band" with Irving Fazola in 1923. Worked Saenger Theater pit band in 1928. Popular swing bandleader in '30'. Made several films and records.

John Provenzano 1878-1962. Played early Dixieland piano with Tony Giardina, Johnny Lala, Brunies, "tango belt" cabarets 1905-25.

Leon Roppolo 1902-1943. Jazz immortal, though short career ended in a sanitarium. Played with Bee Palmer, Brunies, Halfway House Orchestra, New Orleans Rhythm Kings. Musician/composer.

Tony Sbarbaro 1907-1969. With Brunies and Ernest Giardina. Played drums/ kazoo with ODJB. Considered one of the greatest Dixieland drummers.

Nunzio Scaglione 1890-1935. Papa Laine veteran. Recorded with Bayersdorffer for Okeh.

Tony Schiro 1899-1980. Studied with John Marrero, Johnny St. Cyr. Triangle Band, Sharkey.

Luke Schiro 1903-? Clarinetist, played at NOJC. Taught Irving Fazola.

Jacob Schiambra 1910-? Well-known attorney. Played with Johnny Wiggs in late '50s.

Joseph "Pee Wee" Spitlera 1938-? In "kid bands" of 50s. Now clarinetist with Al Hirt.

Larry Veca 1889-1911. Great Dixieland cornetist with Papa Laine's Ragtime and Reliance Brass bands.

Phil Zito 1914-? Active bandleader of '40s and '50s. Recorded with own band, the International Dixieland Express. Created Nick LaRocca Original Dixieland Jazz Band Foundation.