

# Nashville



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*Nashville's Oldest Newspaper*

LONG MAY OUR LAND BE BRIGHT WITH FREEDOM'S HOLY LIGHT; PROTECT US BY THY MIGHT, GREAT GOD OUR KING

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## Assignment Nashville

# Foot Patters Are At It Again—Jazz Is Coming Back

By EDDIE JONES

**D**URING the last four or five months there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of two-beat foot patting around Nashville, and for that matter all over the country.

Dixieland jazz has staged a not so quiet revolution in the music industry. An increasing number of disc jockey programs are devoted exclusively to Dixieland; jazz record sales are at an all-time high and Newsweek magazine saw fit to devote a six-page special report to the situation last week.

Old timers in the music trade, like Sunny Clapp (who penned the hit "Girl Of My Dreams"), say it is part of a cycle and that the jazz side is nearing the top again. Whatever it is, it's apparently here and here in a big way.

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Dixieland music is one of the few genuine forms of American folk music, and its followers can often tell you more about it than the musicians who play it.

Take for instance Fred Greth, a regular at Monday night jazz concerts now being staged here.

Dixieland music, he tells us, is believed to have originated from the teeming sounds of the New Orleans slave market

... sounds like the wail of a mother being sold away from her son.

These sounds were repeated in song around flickering campfires in the slave quarters and were picked up by traveling bands.

"A true Dixieland band," says Greth, "has no instrument you can't pick up and carry, because Dixieland music makes you want to move your feet and sometimes the musicians have to get up and walk while they're playing."

And Dixieland trombone music is called tailgate music, because when the bands rode through New Orleans on a wagon the trombone player had to sit on the tailgate to have room to move the slide back and forth, he says.

It was a jazz enthusiast named Jimmy Denham who about five months ago persuaded Papa John Gordy to form a hand picked Dixieland group and start regular Monday night concerts.

Frank Duncan, manager of the Celtic Room at Thirteenth and Broad, opened his doors to the group. He frankly admitted at the time that he thought he had a one night show on his hands.

The first night more than 200 people were turned away.

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Staff Photo by Eddie Jones

*The Dixielanders hit a blue note during a Monday night jazz concert at the Celtic Room. From left are Walter Lenk, drums; Dutch Groton, trombone; Papa John Gordy, piano; Bill McIlhiney, trumpet, and Clint Garvin, clarinet. Not pictured are Young Harper, tuba, and Hal Bradley, banjo. Carl Garvin, regular trumpet player for the group, was in New York for a recording session when the picture was made.*

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The club has been filled every Monday night since and the crowds give no indication of slacking off.

The Celtic Room can hold a little better than 200 customers, mainly because devotees of Dixieland don't mind sitting on the floor or the steps as long as they are in hearing range of the band.

And the audience is one vastly different from the group you would expect in a night spot.

The most common sight is to see a middle-aged business man and his wife doing a red-hot Charleston beside a Vanderbilt freshman and his date cutting the latest jitterbug capers.

A young couple claimed a reservation near the bandstand. The white-haired lady with them obviously was the mother of one of them.

The Dixielanders, in addition to Gordy, are a hand-picked group of specialists all of whom have authentic jazz backgrounds.

Clint Garvin plays clarinet for the combo and his brother traveled with Jack Teagarden. Trombone player Dutch Gorton and drummer Walter Lenk are veterans of the Yank Lawson and Dean Kincaid bands; Young Harper, the tuba player, was with Jimmy Joy in Chicago and banjoist Harold Bradley has worked with Ray Anthony and the Mills Brothers.



Enthusiasm generated at the Monday night concerts is exceeded only by similar Saturday afternoon sessions held following the Vanderbilt home football games.

Dixieland is definitely back and it looks like it's here to stay a while. And we'd like to say we're glad to have you back, suh!