



BLUE NOTES

Nancy Wilson, Grammy Winning Jazz Singer, Dies at 81

By ANDREW DALTON and HILLEL ITALIE, Associated Press



LOS ANGELES — Nancy Wilson, the Grammy-winning "song stylist" and torch singer whose polished pop-jazz vocals made her a platinum artist and top concert performer, has died.

Wilson, who retired from touring in 2011, died after a long illness at her home in Pioneertown, a California desert community near Joshua Tree National Park, her manager and publicist Devra Hall Levy told The Associated Press late Thursday night (December 13, 2018). She was 81.

Influenced by Dinah Washington, Nat "King" Cole and other stars, Wilson covered everything from jazz standards to "Little Green Apples" and in the 1960s alone released eight albums that reached the top 20 on Billboard's pop charts. Sometimes elegant and understated, or quick and conversational and a little naughty, she was best known for such songs as her breakthrough "Guess Who I Saw Today" and the 1964 hit "(You Don't Know) How Glad I Am," which drew upon Broadway, pop and jazz.

She resisted being identified with a single category, especially jazz, and referred to herself as a "song stylist."

"The music that I sing today was the pop music of the 1960s," she told The San Francisco Chronicle in 2010. "I just never considered myself a jazz singer. I do not do runs and — you know. I take a lyric and make it mine. I consider myself an interpreter of the lyric."

Wilson's dozens of albums included a celebrated collaboration with Cannonball Adderley, "Nancy Wilson/Cannonball Adderley," a small group setting which understandably could be called jazz; "Broadway — My Way"; "Lush Life"; and "The Nancy Wilson Show!" a best-selling concert recording. "How Glad I Am" brought her a Grammy in 1965 for best R&B performance, and she later won Grammys for best jazz vocal album in 2005 for the intimate "R.S.V.P (Rare Songs, Very Personal)" and in 2007 for "Turned to Blue," a showcase for the relaxed, confident swing she mastered later in life. The National Endowment for the Arts awarded her a "Jazz Masters Fellowship" in 2004 for lifetime achievement.

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President's Improv

By Carla Page-Hays



Happy New Year! Wishing you all a blessed and beautiful 2019!

By the time you read this, the stress and anxiety that goes along with Christmas will have passed and I hope only the wonderful memories of that wondrous season remain.

We've had four terrific concerts so far this season, and have five more really excellent and fun concerts remaining. We've made a change in our January concert. The Philippe Lemm Trio from New York City had to cancel. We're presenting James Navan and Friends, "An Afternoon of Jazz", instead. James is an incredible pianist and his "friends," many of whom you know, are incredible musicians as well!

Our March concert is the Michael Kramer fundraiser. What that means is that Michael and all of the other musicians, Greg, Ben, et al, work for free. They don't take a dime so that all of the proceeds go directly into the scholarship fund. This year we're doing something really fun! Michael will play your favorite songs for a donation of \$100.00. Your donations will go directly to the scholarship fund as well and, of course, they are 100% tax deductible. And, we'll have some special guest singers to perform your tunes, too. We will need to give Michael a list of your songs, so I'm hopeful that you'll get to us with your requests no later than at the February concert to give Michael and the gang a chance to prepare.

We are looking for a couple of new members for our Board of Directors. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Our meetings generally last about an hour and, if you're so inclined, have a glass of wine with us. We're a very friendly group and we welcome some new and fresh ideas. If you love Jazz and what we're all about - keeping jazz alive, presenting exciting concerts and supporting talented young jazz stars of the future through scholarships - please consider joining us.

Again, we wish you a wonderful, happy and healthy year ahead. And we look forward to seeing you on January 13th and at the remaining concerts in our 2018-2019 season.

Cheers, Carla



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<https://www.wucf.org/listen/jazz-calendar/>

So you think you know Jazz?

Sing, Sing, Sing

DRUMS

Swing (♩ = ca. 200-204) (♩ = 2♩)

Words and Music by LOUIS PRIMA
Arranged by MARK BRYMER

The image shows two staves of drum notation. The top staff is for the first four measures, and the bottom staff is for the next four measures. The notation includes various drum parts: Krupa (K), Toms (T), B.D. (Bass Drum), H.H. (Hi-Hat), and C. (Cymbal). The tempo is marked as Swing (♩ = ca. 200-204) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff starts with a 'mf' (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'time'.

1. Who, in 1939, made a recording of *Body and Soul* which is regarded as one of the foremost ancestors of bebop?

Cab Calloway
Miles Davis
Coleman Hawkins
Thelonius Monk

2. Which singer married Dave Barbour, Benny Goodman's guitarist, in 1941?

Eartha Kitt
Lena Horne
Peggy Lee
Carmen McRae

She sang with Goodman in two 1943 films, *Stage Door Canteen* and *The Powers Girl*.

3. Who was voted best vocalist in the 2006 BBC Jazz Awards?

Julia Biel
Jacqui Dankworth
Ian Shaw
Clare Teal

4. The 1962 album *Night Train* is one of the most commercially successful recordings by which pianist?

Count Basie
Hoagy Carmichael
Oscar Peterson
George Shearing

5. Which British jazz musician played himself in the 1961 film *All Night Long*, starring Patrick McGoohan?

John Dankworth
Tubby Hayes
Humphrey Lyttleton
George Melly

6. Which British jazz musician formed his first band, the Crane River Jazz Band in 1949?

Kenny Ball
Chris Barber
Ken Colyer
Monty Sunshine

7. Which pianist was born in Pittsburgh in 1903 and gave up the cornet because playing it hurt his ears?

Duke Ellington
Earl Hines
Hank Jones
Art Tatum

8. The violinist Stephane Grapelli was born in 1908 in which city?

Marseilles
Milan
Paris
Rome

9. Which drummer joined Benny Goodman's band in 1934 before leaving to form his own band in 1938?

Gene Krupa
Shelly Manne
Buddy Rich
Chick Webb

10. Max Geldray made regular appearances on BBC's *The Goon Show*, playing which instrument?

Banjo
Harmonica
Piano
Trumpet

The Goodman years included his classic performance of *Sing Sing Sing*.

ANSWERS:

1 Coleman Hawkins 2 Peggy Lee 3 Clare Teal 4 Oscar Peterson 5 Tubby Hayes 6 Ken Colyer 7 Earl Hines 8 Paris 9 Gene Krupa 10 Harmonica

BIRTH OF THE COOL

December 2, 2018



SCOTT SILBERT and **BIRTH OF THE COOL** concert photos courtesy of Mary Uithoven and Jon Grushka.

In the prologue of Fiddler on the Roof, Tevye admits that he doesn't know how traditions get started, "But It's a tradition!" Whether you start 2019 eating greens or black-eyed peas and pork, drinking hot spiced wine, making resolutions, hearing church bells chime, or wearing new underwear (seriously!), may the New Year come in like a lamb.

(cont'd from cover page)

Wilson also had a busy career on television, film and radio, her credits including "Hawaii Five-O," "Police Story," the Robert Townshend spoof "Meteor Man" and years hosting NPR's "Jazz Profiles" series. Active in the civil rights movement, including the Selma march of 1965, she received an NAACP Image Award in 1998.

Wilson was married twice — to drummer Kenny Dennis, whom she divorced in 1970; and to Wiley Burton, who died in 2008. She had three children.

Born in Chillicothe, Ohio, the eldest of six children of an iron foundry worker and a maid, Wilson sang in church as a girl and by age 4 had decided on her profession. She was in high school when she won a talent contest sponsored by a local TV station and was given her own program. After briefly attending Central State College, she toured Ohio with the Rusty Bryant's Carolyn Club Big Band and met such jazz artists as Adderley, who encouraged her to move to New York.

She soon had a regular gig at The Blue Morocco, and got in touch with Adderley's manager, John Levy.

"He set up a session to record a demo," Wilson later observed during an interview for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. "Ray Bryant and I went in and recorded 'Guess Who I Saw Today,' 'Sometimes I'm Happy,' and two other songs. We sent them to Capitol and within five days the phone rang. Within six weeks I had all the things I wanted."

Her first album, *Like in Love*, came out in 1959, and she had her greatest commercial success over the following decade despite contending at times with the latest sounds. Gamely, she covered Beatles songs ("And I Love Her" became "And I Love Him"), Stevie Wonder's "Uptight (Everything's Alright)" and "Son of a Preacher Man," on which she strained to mimic Aretha Franklin's fiery gospel style. She was so outside the contemporary music scene an interviewer once stumped her by asking about Cream, the million-selling rock trio featuring Eric Clapton.

"It took me years to know what that question was about. Remember, I was constantly working or I was traveling to perform. The '60s for me were about work," she told *JazzWax* in 2010.

In the 1970s and after, she continued to record regularly and perform worldwide, at home in

nightclubs, concert halls and open-air settings, singing at jazz festivals from Newport to Tokyo. She officially stopped touring with a show at Ohio University in September 2011, but had been thinking of stepping back for years. When she turned 70, in 2007, she was guest of honor at a Carnegie Hall gala. The show ended with Wilson performing such favorites as "Never, Never Will I Marry," "I Can't Make You Love Me" and the Gershwin classic "How Long Has This Been Going On?"

"After 55 years of doing what I do professionally, I have a right to ask how long? I'm trying to retire, people," she said with a laugh before leaving the stage to a standing ovation.

In accordance with Wilson's wishes, there was no funeral service, a family statement said. A celebration of her life will be held most likely in February 2019, the month of her birth.

She is survived by her son, Kacy Dennis; daughters Samantha Burton and Sheryl Burton; sisters Karen Davis and Brenda Vann and five grandchildren.

SCOTT SILBERT

November 11, 2018





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