

Benny Strickler & The Yerba Buena Jazz Band

of jazz is a romantic one, and sometimes, in desperate struggle with poverty during his last endeavor, Strickler's untimely death, a very sad and among the more moving stories is that of yet a player, Benny Strickler, an inspired jazzman who died of tuberculosis at the early age of 30. He had become a legend among the few musicians with him, he had died without having made it seemed he would remain a legend, nothing

Three years after his death did GTJ learn from one of Strickler's great admirers, that a single recording of Strickler's playing was in existence. Only a few months of the war he had played briefly with the Yerba Buena Jazz Band in San Francisco's while the YBJB's regular trumpeters, Lu Watters and others, were in the armed forces. One of the band's recordings from August 1942 had been recorded by Hal MacIntosh, a San Francisco radio announcer and well-known collector. The disc was in poor condition after eight years. It was transferred to tape, edited out as much of the extraneous noise as possible, and was able to make it. Thus Strickler's truly wonderful talent

BENNY STRICKLER, *trumpet*; BILL STRICKLER, *trombone*; BOB HELM and ELLIS HOBBS, *trumpet*; BURT BALES, *piano*; RUSS BENTLEY, *double bass*; CLANCY HAYES, *drums*.

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has been preserved, and on the basis of the recording his place in the history of jazz has been

Strickler was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1917. He began taking music lessons when he was 12 and played in the town band until he was 18 when he decided on music as a career. He attended high school in Fayetteville, then in 1935 he moved to Los Angeles where he played in popular and Western dance bands, among them with Ben Pollack, Everett Hoglin and Bob Willard.

He was ill at the time of the Dawn Club recording. He not long after went to a TB sanatorium in Los Angeles where he remained until he died, December 8, 1945.

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