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## **The Complete H.R.S. Sessions (# 187) (CD)**

### **Text from mosaicrecords.com announcing this set:**

*"There are recordings here that I would instantly name as among 50 renditions I'd take to a desert island. First among them would be the astonishing quartet improvisations by soprano saxophonist-clarinetist Sidney Bechet."*

Philip Elwood, San Francisco Examiner

#### **THE HOT RECORD SOCIETY.**

#### **THEIR MISSION WASN'T SAVING A KIND OF JAZZ.**

#### **IT WAS SAVING JAZZ.**

We've written before about our natural affinity for music preservationists - people whose lead we try to follow in keeping the music's evolution clear, and the music itself available.

Sixty-five years ago, the same principles that drive us at Mosaic led a group of dedicated writers, musicians and music collectors to form the Hot Record Society.

#### **Pure Jazz.**

Back then, they saw the threat to jazz as the more popular forms of dance music that were often lumped together with jazz in people's minds. To their ears, jazz was something purer and less polished. And they were determined to keep it alive.

To that end, the group (including John Hammond, Charles Edward Smith, George Frazier, Marshall Stearns and Steve Smith) opened a record shop, published one of the first jazz magazines ("The Rag"), and, most notably, re-issued records that kept rare sides by King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke and Earl Hines available.

After watching Commodore Record Store owner Milt Gabler launch his independent jazz label, Steve Smith caught the bug and created HRS Originals in 1938. He started, fittingly, with Pee Wee Russell leading Max Kaminsky, Dicky Wells, Zutty Singleton, and James P. Johnson. It was the first of over 100 titles that focuses on traditional jazz and small-group swing.

#### **Classic Bechet, and More.**

The next session, the Sidney Bechet-Muggsy Spanier Big Four in 1940, is generally acknowledged as the crown jewel in Bechet's considerable recorded legacy. Later that year, HRS recorded the Jack Teagarden Big Eight sessions with Ben Webster; and the Rex Stewart Big Seven with Lawrence Brown, Barney Bigard and Dave Tough.

After a five-year hiatus, recording resumed in 1945 with a couple of uncharacteristic, but stunning, big band sessions. They also made some great quartet recordings with the Buck Clayton Big Four that featured Tiny Grimes and no drummer, and a group called Jimmy Jones's Big Four with Budd Johnson and Denzil Best.

But the label's main fare was wonderfully-arranged, tightly-executed, small-group septets and octets that swung like mad. The cast of recurring leaders and soloists included trumpeters Clayton, Stewart, Joe Thomas and Sidney DeParis; trombonists Sandy Williams, Trummy Young, J.C. Higginbotham, Dicky Wells and Lawrence Brown; reedmen Johnny Hodges, Otto Hardwick, Russell Procope, Tab Smith, John Hardee and Harry Carney; pianists Jones, Billy Kyle, and Billy Taylor; bassists Billy Taylor and John Simmons; and drummers Best, Cozy Cole, Shelley Manne, Dave Tough, and Buddy Rich.

### **Still Hot. And Now, Complete.**

You could look forever for the original 78s. Re-issues on LP and CD often have been poor in sound quality, and incomplete. But Mosaic gives due to these early preservationists by putting together all 124 performances on 6 CDs. And we've even included 11 unissued alternate takes.

There's also a transcription date with arranger/bandleader Brick Fleagle (HRS's mid-forties musical director) whose rehearsal band of the day drew much acclaim from the press.

The transfers were superbly done by Jack Towers, John R.T. Davies, Malcolm Addey and Ted Kendall, who used the best sources available.

Extremely rare photographs from the actual sessions by Charles Peterson, Dunc Butler and Irvin Glaser and an in-depth essay by Dan Morgenstern make this an invaluable addition to the Mosaic catalog. And to your collection. Twenty-two points, plus triple-word-score, plus fifty points for using all my letters. Game's over. I'm outta here.

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## **Discography**

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### **(A) Pee Wee Russell's Rhythmakers**

Max Kaminsky (tp), Dicky Wells (tb), Pee Wee Russell (cl), Al Gold (ts), James P. Johnson (p), Freddie Green (g), Wellman Braud (b), Zutty Singleton (d,vcl-1).

### **NYC August 31, 1938**

P23391-1 Baby, Won't You Please Come Home? HRS 1000, Atl EP529, ALR126, Riv RLP141

P23391-2 Baby, Won't You Please Come Home? HRS 17

P23392-1 There'll Be Some Changes Made-1 HRS 1001

P23392-2 There'll Be Some Changes Made HRS 1001, Atl EP529, ALR126, Riv RLP141

P23393-1 Zutty's Hootie Blues-2 HRS 1001, Atl ALR126, Riv RLP141

P23394-1 Dinah HRS 1000, Atl ALR126, Riv RLP141

-1 The first take of this song on which the trumpet solos first was used on some pressings of the original red label 78. The second take with piano soloing first then replaced it for later red label pressings and all subsequent issues.

-2 This song appears as Horn Of Plenty Blues on the original (red label) pressings of HRS 1001.

Pee Wee, Zutty and James P. Trio

same session: omit all but Russell (cl), Johnson (p), Singleton (d).

P23396-1 I've Found A New Baby HRS 1002, Atl EP529, ALR126,Riv RLP141

P23396-2 Everybody Loves My Baby - - - -

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**(B) The Bechet-Spanier Big Four**

Muggsy Spanier (cor), Sidney Bechet (ss-1, cl-2) ,Carmen Mastren (g), Wellman Braud (b).

**NYC, March 28, 1940**

R2773 Four Or Five Times -1,2 HRS 2001, Atl LP1206 Riv RLP138

R2774 Sweet Lorraine -1 HRS 2000, Atl EP520,

R2775 Lazy River -1,2 HRS 2000, Atl LP1206 Riv RLP138

R2776-1 China Boy -1 HRS 2001, Atl LP1206 Riv RLP138

R2776-2 China Boy (alt) -1 HRS dividend 78

same personnel.

**NYC, April 6, 1940**

R2801-1 If I Could Be With You One Hour Tonight -1 HRS 2002, Atl LP1206 Riv RLP138

R2802-2 That's A Plenty (alt) -1,2 HRS dividend 78

R2802-3 That's A Plenty -1,2 HRS 2002, Atl EP520, LP1206 Riv RLP138

R2803-3 Squeeze Me -1 HRS 2003, Atl LP1206 Riv RLP138

R2804-2 Sweet Sue, Just You -1,2 HRS 2003, Atl LP1206 Riv RLP138

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**(C) Rex Stewart's Big Seven**

Rex Stewart (cor), Lawrence Brown (tb), Barney Bigard (cl), Billy Kyle (p), Brick Fleagle (g), Wellman Braud (b), Dave Tough (d).

**NYC July 23, 1940**

76396-B Cherry HRS 2004, Riv RLP 144

76397-A Solid Rock HRS 2005, Riv RLP 144

76398-A Bugle Call Rag HRS 2005, Riv RLP 144

76399-A Diga Diga Doo HRS-2004, Riv RLP 144

**Note:** Until this set, the unaccompanied trumpet introduction of "Solid Rock" appeared only on the original 78 issue.

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**(D) Jack Teagarden's Big Eight**

Rex Stewart (cor), Jack Teagarden (tb,vcl-1), Barney Bigard (cl), Ben Webster (ts), Billy Kyle (p), Brick Fleagle (g), Billy Taylor (b), Dave Tough (d).

**NYC December 15, 1940**

R3414 St. James Infirmary -1 HRS 2006, Riv RLP141

R3415 The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise HRS 2007, Riv RLP141

R3416 Big Eight Blues HRS 2007, Riv RLP141

R3417 Shine HRS 2006, 1051, Riv RLP141

**Note:** "Shine" was assigned a new master number 1088 on HRS 1051.

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**(E) Brick Fleagle's Orchestra**

Robert Sprentall, Frank DeMartino, Jack Lambert (tp), Harry Walters, Eddie Anderson, Irving Sharp (tb), Artie Baker or Bill Vitale, James Clifford (as, cl), Stewie MacKay, Eddie Lichenstein (ts), Sam Lambie (bari), Conrad Lanoue (p), Ralph Tressel (g), Francis Palmer (b), Vic Engel (d), Brick Fleagle (arr), Annette Warren (vcl-1).

**NYC, May, 1945**

1017 Brick's Boogie HRS BF-1000, 1050

1018 K.C. Caboose HRS BF-1000, 1050

The Fried Piper -

So Blue Love -

When The Mice Are Away -

Helena's Dream -

Shufflin' Shoes -1 -

Night Wind -1 -

Frost On The Moon -1 -

Swamp Mist -1 -

**Note:** Master numbers 1017 and 1018 were probably assigned after the fact for the 78 issue.

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(-) Master numbers 1001 through 1004 either belong to a lost session, were applied to some of the above Fleagle titles or were not used at all.

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**(F) Brick Fleagle's Orchestra**

Pee Wee Erwin, Robert Sprentall, Frank DeMartino, Jack Lambert (tp), Norman Conley, Eddie Anderson, Chuck Maxon (tb), Bill Vitale, James Clifford (as), Stewie MacKay, Eddie Lichenstein (ts), John Haluko (bari), Charles Engel (p), Ralph Tressel (g, b-1), Francis Palmer (b), Hal Marquess (d), Brick Fleagle (arr).

**NYC, July 19 or 25, 1945**

1005 Double Doghouse -1 HRS 1006  
1006 Pastiche HRS 1006  
1007 Same Old Sheaves HRS 1005  
1008 A Slight Case Of The Shakes HRS 1005

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**(G) Sandy Williams' Big Eight**

Joe Thomas (tp), Sandy Williams (tb), Johnny Hodges (as), Harry Carney (bari), Jimmy Jones (p), Brick Fleagle (g), Sid Weiss (b), Shelly Manne (d).

**NYC, November 5, 1945**

1009 Mountain Air HRS 1007, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP145  
1010 Sumpin' Jumpin' Round Here HRS 1008, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP145  
1011 After Hours On Dream Street HRS 1008, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP145  
1012 Chili Con Carney HRS 1007, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP145

Allegro 1643 = Ultraphonic 8043 and Halo 50229

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**(H) J.C. Higginbotham's Big Eight**

Sidney DeParis (tp), J.C. Higginbotham (tb), Tab Smith (as), Cecil Scott (ts), Jimmy Jones (p), Brick Fleagle (g), Billy Taylor (b), Dave Tough (d).

**NYC, December 21, 1945**

1014 Dutch Treat HRS 1013, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP145  
1015-1 A Penny For Your Blues HRS 1013, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP145

Allegro 1643 = Ultraphonic 8043 and Halo 50229

**Note:** It is likely that masters 1013 and 1016 were two more tunes recorded at this session. But no information or music has survived.

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(-) Master numbers 1017 and 1018 were assigned to the two tunes from the Brick Fleagle transcription session which were issued on 78. It is likely that 1019 and 1020 were assigned to two others from that session which were planned for 78 and never issued as such.

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**(I) Jimmy Jones' Big Eight**

Joe Thomas (tp), Lawrence Brown (tb), Otto Hardwick (as), Ted Nash (ts), Harry Carney (bari), Jimmy Jones (p), Billy Taylor (b), Shelly Manne (d).

**NYC, January 10, 1946**

1021-2 Old Juice On The Loose HRS 1014, Allegro 1643

1022-2 Departure From Dixie HRS 1015, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP144

1023-1 A Woman's Got A Right To

Change Her Mind HRS 1015, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP144

1024-2 Muddy Miss HRS 1014, Allegro 1643

Allegro 1643 = Ultraphonic 8043 and Halo 50229

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**(J) Joe Thomas' Big Six**

Joe Thomas (tp), Lem Davis (as), Ted Nash (ts), Jimmy Jones (p), Billy Taylor (b), Denzil Best (d), Babe Mathews-1 (vcl)

**NYC, February 15, 1946**

1025-2 No Better For Ya-1 HRS 1017

1026-1 He's Got So Much-1 HRS 1017

1027 Riff Street HRS 1016, Riv RLP145

1028-1 A Touch Of Blue HRS 1016, Riv RLP145

**Note:** HRS 1017 issued as by Babe Mathews with Joe Thomas' Big Six.

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**(K) Harry Carney's Big Eight**

Joe Thomas (tp), Lawrence Brown (tb), Otto Hardwick (as), Ted Nash (ts, vl-1), Harry Carney (bari, b cl-1), Jimmy Jones (p), Billy Taylor (b), Jimmy Crawford (d)

**NYC, March 18, 1946**

1029-3 Minor Mirage HRS 1020, Allegro 1643

1030-2 Jamaica Rumble HRS 1021

1031-1 Shadowy Sands -1 (alt) previously unissued

1031-4 Shadowy Sands -1 HRS 1021

1032-2 Candy Cane HRS 1020, Allegro 1643

Allegro 1643 = Ultraphonic 8043 and Halo 50229

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**(L) Dickie Wells' Big Seven**

George Treadwell (tp), Dicky Wells (tb), Budd Johnson (ts), Cecil Scott (bari), Jimmy Jones (p), Al McKibbin (b), Jimmy Crawford (d), Sarah Vaughan-1 (vcl).

**NYC, March 21, 1946**

1033-1 We're Through-1 HRS 1019, Aladdin 3019  
1034-2 Bed Rock HRS 1019, Aladdin 3019, Riv RLP145  
1035 Opera In Blue HRS 1018, Riv RLP143  
1036-1 Drag Nasty - The Walk HRS 1018, Riv RLP143

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**(M)** Sandy Williams' Big Eight

Pee Wee Erwin (tp), Sandy Williams (tb), Tab Smith (as), Cecil Scott (ts, bari) Jimmy Jones (p, celeste), Brick Fleagle(g), Sid Weiss (b), Denzil Best (d).

**NYC, June 3, 1946**

1037-4 Tea for Me HRS 1022, Riv RLP143  
1038-4 Frost On The Moon HRS 1023  
1039-1 Sam-Pan HRS 1023  
1039-2 Sam-Pan (alt) previously unissued  
1040-1 Sandy's Blues (alt) previously unissued  
1040-2 Sandy's Blues HRS 1022, Riv RLP143  
1041-2 Gee Baby, Ain't I Good To You HRS 1029, Riv RLP145

**Note:** HRS 1022 incorrectly gives the master take of 1037 as -3. HRS 1023 incorrectly gives the master take of 1038 as -3 and 1039 as -3..

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**(N)** Buck Clayton's Big Four

Buck Clayton (tp), Scoville Brown (cl), Tiny Grimes (g), Sid Weiss (b).

**NYC, June 26, 1946**

1042-4 Dawn Dance HRS 1024, Riv RLP142  
1043-3 Wells-a-poppin' HRS 1025, Riv RLP142  
1044-2 On The Sunny Side Of The Street HRS 1026, 1051  
1045-2 It's Dizzy HRS 1024, Riv RLP142  
1046-1 Basie's Morning Bluesicale (alt) previously unissued  
1046-2 Basie's Morning Bluesicale HRS 1025, Riv RLP142

**Note:** HRS 1024 incorrectly give the take for Dawn Dance as -1. An unidentified person plays one-finger celeste on Basie's Morning Bluesicale.

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**(O)** Buck Clayton's Big Eight

Buck Clayton (tp), Trummy Young, Dicky Wells (tb), George Johnson (as), Billy Taylor (p, celeste), Brick Fleagle (g), Al McKibbon (b), Jimmy Crawford (d).

**NYC, July 24, 1946**

1047-4 Saratoga Special (alt) previously unissued  
1047-6 Saratoga Special HRS 1027, Allegro 1643  
1048-3 Sentimental Summer HRS 1027, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP142  
1049-3 Harlem Cradle Song (alt) previously unissued  
1049-5 Harlem Cradle Song HRS 1028, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP142  
1050-2 My Good Man Sam HRS 1028, Allegro 1643, Riv RLP142  
1051-3 I Want a Little Girl HRS 1029, Riv RLP142

Allegro 1643 = Ultraphonic 8043 and Halo 50229

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**(P)** Trummy Young's Big Seven

Buck Clayton (tp), Trummy Young (tb), Buster Bailey (cl), George Johnson (as), Jimmy Jones (p), John Levy (b), Cozy Cole (d).

**NYC, September 3, 1946**

1052-3 Fruitie Cutie (alt) previously unissued  
1052-4 Fruitie Cutie HRS 1030, Riv RLP142  
1053-2 Blues Triste HRS 1030, Riv RLP142  
1053-3 Blues Triste (alt) previously unissued  
1054-3 Johnson Rock HRS 1031, Riv RLP142  
1055-2 Lucky Draw HRS 1031, Riv RLP142

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**(Q)** Billy Kyle's Big Eight

Dick Vance (tp), Trummy Young (tb,vcl-1), Buster Bailey (cl), Lem Davis (as), John Hardee (ts), Billy Kyle (p), John Simmons (b), Buddy Rich (d).

**NYC, September 11, 1946**

1056-3 H.R.S. Bounce HRS 1032, Riv RLP143  
1057-1 Ooh Baby, You Knock Me Out-1 HRS 1033  
1058-2 Date For Eight (alt) previously unissued  
1058-3 Date For Eight HRS 1033  
1059-3 Contemporary Blues HRS 1032, Riv RLP143

**Note:** Although September 20 is commonly given as the recording date in discographies, the original acetates confirm that it is September 11.

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**(R)** Russell Procope's Big Six

Harold "Shorty" Baker (tp), Russell Procope (as), John Hardee (ts), Billy Kyle (p), John Simmons (b), Denzil Best (d).

**NYC, late '46**



1060 Bottle It HRS 1035, Riv RLP143  
1061 Denzil's Best HRS 1034, Riv RLP143  
1062 Right Foot, Then Left Foot HRS 1034, Riv RLP143  
1063 Four Wheel Drive HRS 1035, Riv RLP143

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**(S) Brick Fleagle's Rhythmakers**

Rex Stewart (cor), Billy Taylor (p), Brick Fleagle (g), Chocolate Williams (b, vcl-1), Jimmy Crawford (d).

**NYC, May 5, 1947**

1064-1 They'll Do It Every Time-1 HRS 1036  
1065-4 On You, It Looks Good-1 HRS 1036  
1066-2 Wig Wham Blues (aka Green Light)-1 HRS 1037  
1067-2 Blue Stew (aka Jive Junction) HRS 1037

**Note:** HRS 1036 is issued as by Chocolate Williams with Brick Fleagle's Rhythmakers.

HRS 1037 lists the composer for 1066 and 1067 as Johnson, but the company's publishing files confirm that they are written by Rex Stewart.

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**(T) Billy Taylor Quartet**

Billy Taylor (p,vo-1), John Collins (g), John Levy (b), Denzil Best (d)

**NYC, c. June, 1947**

1068-2 Well Taylor-ed HRS 1039  
1069-1 I Don't Ask Questions, I Just Have Fun-1 (alt) previously unissued  
1069-2 I Don't Ask Questions, I Just Have Fun-1 HRS 1038  
1070-3 So You Think You're Cute-1 HRS 1039  
1071-2 Twinkle Toes HRS 1038

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**(U) Rex Stewart's Big Four**

Rex Stewart (cor), Billy Kyle (p), John Levy (b), Cozy Cole (d).

**NYC, c. July 1947**

1072-2 Flim Flam HRS 1041, Riv RLP144  
1073-2 Blues Kicked The Bucket HRS 1040, Riv RLP144  
1074-1 Madeleine HRS 1040, Riv RLP144  
1074-3 Madeleine (alt) previously unissued  
  
1075-2 Loopin' Lobo HRS 1041, Riv RLP144

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**(V)** Jimmy Jones' Big Four

Budd Johnson (ts), Jimmy Jones (p), Al Hall (b), Denzil Best (d)

**NYC, c.August 1947**

1076-2 Sunny Side Up HRS 1043, Riv RLP145

1077-4 Strollin' Easy HRS 1042, Riv RLP143

1078-5 Keeping Up With Jones HRS 1043, Riv RLP145

1079-1 Weeta HRS 1042, Riv RLP143

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**(W)** Billy Taylor 's Big Four

Bernie Leighton (p), Tony Mottola (g), Billy Taylor (b), Morey Feld (d)/

**NYC, September 19, 1947**

1080-2 Late On Saturday HRS 1044

1081-3 Flight Of The Bebop HRS 1045

1082-1 My Mind's Made Up On You HRS 1044

1083-4 Taylor Made HRS 1045

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**(X)** Billy Taylor Quartet

Billy Taylor (p), Herman Mitchell (g), John Levy (b), Denzil Best (d)

**NYC, September 26, 1947**

1084-2 Restricted HRS 1048

1085-3 Striding Down The Champs Elysees HRS 1049

1086-2 Mitch's Pitch HRS 1049

1087-2 Mr. B "Bops" HRS 1048

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(-) Master number 1088 assigned to a reissue of "Shine" by Jack Teagarden

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**ALBUM INDEX**

Atlantic 10" 116 title unknown - possibly not issued

Atlantic 10" 126 Pee Wee Russell

Atlantic 1206 Sidney Bechet & Muggsy Spanier-Duets

Allegro 1643 Jazz All-Stars

Ultraphonic 8043 reissue of above

Halo 50229 reissue of above

Riv RLP 138/139 Sidney Bechet - In Memorium

Riv RLP 141 Jack Teagarden's Big Eight/Pee Wee Russell's Rhythmakers

OJC 1708 reissue of above

OJCCD 1708-2 CD reissue of above

Riv RLP 142 The Classic Swing of Buck Clayton

OJC 1709 reissue of above

OJCCD 1709-2 CD reissue of above

Riv RLP 143 Giants Of Small Band Swing - Volume 1

OJC 1723 reissue of above

OJCCD 1723-2 CD reissue of above

Riv RLP 144 Rex Stewart And The Ellingtonians

OJC 1710 reissue of above

OJCCD 1710-2 CD reissue of above

Riv RLP 145 Giants Of Small Band Swing - Volume 2

OJC 1724 reissue of above

OJCCD 1724-2 CD reissue of above

Original sessions produced by Steve Smith

Produced for release by Michael Cuscuna

Executive producer: Charlie Lourie

Disc transfers: Malcolm Addey, Jack Towers, Ted Kendall, John R.T. Davies and Bill Cook

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6 CDs - \$96.00

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