

## FOREIGN JAZZ MUSICIANS IN LATVIA UP TO 1940

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#### Summary

Foreign jazz musicians' contacts with Latvia between 1920 and 1940 are a very important aspect in the development of Latvian jazz. There are many articles in the press about several foreign musicians in Latvia, which can be linked to jazz. Most often these are found among advertisements for high-class restaurants, such as *Alhambra* etc., which mention exotic names (mainly dancers' names) with descriptions like 'the famous American dance couple' etc.

In this paper the author has gathered and compiled the available information about these musicians, described in subchapters.

The first subchapter is dedicated to the jazz band *Happy's Broadway* from Paris, which performed in Jūrmala at the Edinburgh pavilion in the summer of 1927 – this is the first black jazz ensemble to perform in Latvia. The next subchapter is dedicated to orchestras organised by the banjo musician and entrepreneur George Carhart, who gave concerts in Latvia from 1928 to 1934. The story continues with the band of black musicians *Joe Smith's Trio* performing in the autumn of 1934; concerts by the German and European jazz pioneer Eric Borhard's jazz band in the Solomonskis circus in February of 1930; concerts by the Polish jazz singers' band *5 Jurandi* in November of 1936, at the same venue; the women's vocal ensemble *6 Comedian Ladies* which performed at the Dzintari concert hall in June 1939; the famous trumpeter and orchestra leader Eddie Rosner's visit to Latvia in 1938. In the course of the research, the author succeeded to find out the precise composition of several collectives, as well as the personalities of the musicians and other information (most notably about *6 Comedian Ladies*).

At the end of the paper the author concludes that such intense contacts with a large number of foreign musicians inspired Latvian musicians, promoted good knowledge about jazz development in the world and European countries, and almost certainly influenced the development of jazz music in Latvia.

#### Literatūra un citi avoti

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