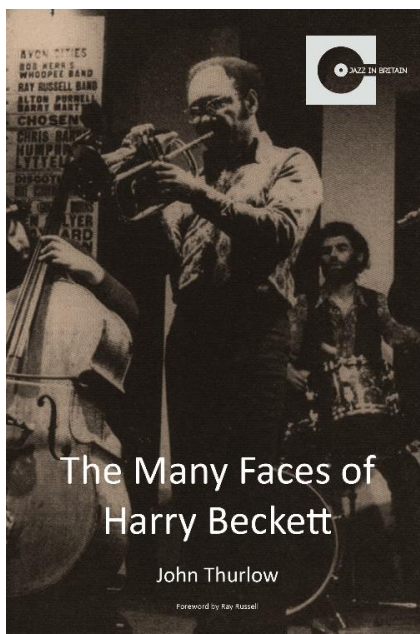




JAZZ IN BRITAIN  
presents:

# The Many Faces of Harry Beckett

by John Thurlow



The first ever biography/compendium of legendary British jazz trumpeter Harry Beckett's life and music

Foreword by Ray Russell

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Abstract

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[www.jazzinbritain.org](http://www.jazzinbritain.org)  
[editor@jazzinbritain.org](mailto:editor@jazzinbritain.org)



## Abstract

*The Many Faces of Harry Beckett* is the first publication dedicated to the life and work of the legendary Barbados-born British progressive jazz trumpeter. It fulfils author John Thurlow's lifelong ambition of creating a book which would pay a fitting tribute to his hero. Harry's career spanned more than fifty years, encompassing thousands of gigs across the globe, and over 220 currently known recordings. His exquisite playing led him to perform with many of the world's most famous acts in a myriad of different genres - from African highlife music in the 1950s with the likes of Ambrose Campbell; through rock in the 1960s with Jack Bruce, Keef Hartley, Colosseum and others; to progressive jazz in the 1970s, most notably with bassist/composer Graham Collier, Harry's dear friend guitarist Ray Russell, and in his own groups. During the 1990s Harry could even be found playing dub and dance music with a founding member of Public Image Limited, bassist Jah Wobble.

This book is in part a biography, and in part a compendium of articles written contemporaneously about Harry and his co-musicians, drawing from an enormous pool of resources. John Thurlow acts as a guide through his incredible collection of paraphernalia, and his extraordinarily in-depth, forensic knowledge of Harry's career, including the most comprehensive Harry Beckett discography ever published, alongside rarely seen photographs from various stages in Harry's long and illustrious life. It represents an absolutely essential addition to any jazz collector's bookshelf.

Matt Parker

Editor

**JAZZ IN BRITAIN**



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## About the author – John Thurlow

John Thurlow has been an obsessive music fan since Christmas 1963 when his family were given a record player and a copy of *With The Beatles*. At the beginning of the 70s he was introduced to Miles Davis and Soft Machine by an older sister. On his first day at Leeds University in 1974, a postgraduate student, who he was to share a kitchen and bathroom with, suggested he got into the same music as him as he would be hearing it through the wall. He proposed John Coltrane, Gato Barbieri, Billy Cobham and John Mayall. The obsessive collecting began.

John has not had a career in music or writing. He has been a BBC engineer, a technical adviser in government, an export trade consultant, an IT technician, a primary school teacher and a community worker, which resulted in his last initiative – setting up and running a bike project as a social enterprise. By way of retirement, he has set up Jazz In Britain as a vehicle to publish his first book, recruit other authors, maintain a sound archive of British progressive jazz recordings and issue rare and unheard sessions from the archive.



He has been lucky enough to travel much of the world during his varied career and managed to visit record shops from Seattle to Tokyo and all points in between. He has a large collection of Coltrane, Miles, Art Pepper, Jan Garbarek, Pat Metheny, Blue Note and ECM albums, but for the last twenty years his main passion has been collecting British jazz, with the last three years being spent researching the music of Harry Beckett, who he first saw at the Nice Jazz Festival in 1979, for his first book. You can listen to John talking about Harry here: <https://bit.ly/2GxmDYf>

#### About the publisher – Jazz In Britain Ltd

From jazz innovations in the 1950s, to the golden age of 1960s and 70s modern jazz, jazz-rock and free improvisation, and all the original music created since; Jazz In Britain intends to ensure that the music is not lost, but heard, and that musicians receive recompense, recognition and appreciation.

Jazz In Britain Ltd  
35 Queens Road, Knaphill, Woking, GU21 2DX  
Company number:12335950

[www.jazzinbritain.org](http://www.jazzinbritain.org)

Contact:

General enquiries: [admin@jazzinbritain.org](mailto:admin@jazzinbritain.org)  
Sales enquiries: [sales@jazzinbritain.org](mailto:sales@jazzinbritain.org)  
Publishing enquiries: [editor@jazzinbritain.org](mailto:editor@jazzinbritain.org)

Coming in 2020

*Spontaneous Event: Live 1967-69 Vol.1* – The Ray Russell Quartet (vinyl & download)

*Devil Take The Hindmost: The Otherworldly Music of Allan Holdsworth* – Ed Chang (book)

*Warleigh Manor* - Holdsworth, Mathewson, Stevens, Warleigh (vinyl & download)

[www.jazzinbritain.org](http://www.jazzinbritain.org)  
[editor@jazzinbritain.org](mailto:editor@jazzinbritain.org)