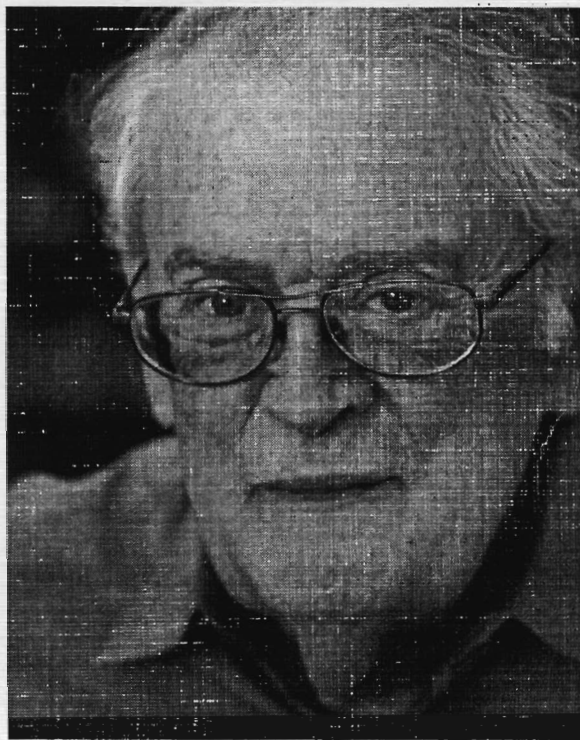


## Celebrating The Life Of Jimmy Wyble



(b.1922-2010)

Vitello's Jazz Club

17 April 2010

# Program

*John Pisano: Welcome message*

*Video Presentation: by Brandon and Paul  
Bernstein*

*Sid Jacobs: Performance / Sharing memories*

*Mike Anthony: Sharing memories*

*Gene Bertoncini: Performance / Sharing  
memories*

*Roger Borys - Sharing memories*

*Mundell Lowe: Performance / Sharing memories*

*Video presentation:  
The Peacocks by Jimmy Wyble*

*Larry Koonse / Bruce Forman:  
Performance/ Sharing memories*

*Phil Upchurch: Sharing memories*

*Scott Hiltzik: Performance*

*David Oakes / Bruce Buckingham:  
Performance / Sharing memories*

*Jessica Weinhold : Sharing memories*

*Video Presentation: Jimmy Wyble  
Performance*

*Anthony Wilson / Darek Oles:  
Performance*

*Tim May: Sharing memories*

*Melissa Collard : Performance*

*Larry Koonse / Bruce Forman:  
Performance/ Sharing memories*

*Phil Upchurch: Sharing memories*

*Scott Hiltzik: Performance*

*David Oakes / Bruce Buckingham:  
Performance / Sharing memories*

*Jessica Weinhold : Sharing memories*

*Video Presentation: Jimmy Wyble  
Performance*

*Anthony Wilson / Darek Oles:  
Performance*

*Tim May: Sharing memories*

*Melissa Collard : Performance*

## Jimmy Wyble Biography

Any biography, or even a biographical sketch such as this, must contain two elements in order to succeed in giving a full picture of its subject. These two elements are *fact* and *truth*. "Fact" could be likened to the construction materials used in building a house – the wood, metal, brick, etc. "Truth" reflects the lives that are lived therein. If we call the facts a house, then we can view the truth as a home and the humanity that is exemplified by those who reside there. The sequence of events and achievements, as they unfolded in Jimmy's life, are the (astoundingly impressive) facts. The truth, then, is the uncommon breadth and depth of his humanity. If you were lucky enough to know Jimmy Wyble personally, you are well aware that his extraordinary artistry and musicianship were indeed equaled by his humanity; which was at once both simple and profound.

Jimmy was born on January 25, 1922 in Port Arthur, Texas. He started playing the guitar at the age of 13; and by the late 1930's, he was performing with country bands around the Houston area. In the early 1940's Jimmy landed a job as a staff musician for a Houston radio station. During that time Jimmy's playing style was evolving, as he was integrating jazz into country music. This did not please Foreman Phillips, the leader of the band in which Jimmy was performing during those years. So in 1944 when he (along with fellow guitarist Cameron Hill) was invited to join Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, his decision was made without a second thought. There was a stint in the Army, and when he was discharged he continued playing in Western Swing bands. In 1953 Jimmy recorded his first album as a leader, "The Jimmy Wyble Quintet". In that same year, he recorded with Barney Kessel's quartet.

Red Norvo invited Jimmy to join his group in 1956. Three years later, he had the guitar chair for Frank Sinatra's Australian tour.

The year 1957 was indeed a happy one for Jimmy. He married Lily, the love of his life. Lily passed away in 2006. Beginning in 1960, Jimmy toured with Benny Goodman. Later on, he was a mainstay in the studios of Los Angeles. He was doing television (The Flip Wilson Show, Kraft Music Hall), movies (The Wild Bunch, Ocean's Eleven, Kings Go Forth), and again made history as a member of the great Tony Rizzi & His Five Guitars. As an educator, Jimmy was both dedicated and dead-on effective. Among his students are Larry Koonse, Howard Alden, and Steve Lukather. His educational contributions were unique, creative, and not inaccessible to those who were not fortunate enough to be his private student. His books, "The Art of Two-Line Improvisation", and "Concepts for the Jazz and Classical Guitar" are landmarks in guitar pedagogy.

On January 16, 2010, Jimmy joined Lily in Heaven. All that was mentioned above were the facts. For a deeper look at the life of our beloved Jimmy Wyble, we will now look at the truth: Jimmy would often describe himself as a "pretty poor guitarist". This was not out of any type of false humility; but in relation to his artistic ideals and ethics, as well as goals he felt he had yet to achieve. Throughout the entirety of his life, Jimmy strived for musical excellence unhindered by the distraction or taint of the ego. He started gigging live again at the age of 85, but stopped when he felt it was eating into his practice time. He always referred to Bob Wills as "Mr. Wills". Jimmy would seek out and contact guitarists whom

he had heard but never met, in order to impart his admiration and encouragement. He would never utter a disparaging comment about anybody. (One guitarist told me that when he was in Jimmy's presence, he himself could not make any negative remarks.) Jimmy was unreservedly generous in his support of other guitarists. He always greeted his friends with a hug, addressing them as "my dear friend". Whether he was with a friend in person, or merely speaking on the phone, Jimmy would never fail to tell his friends that he loved them. As we will never stop loving Jimmy, we will never cease to feel his genuine love for us. He always referred to Lily as "My Lily". Jimmy and Lily were married 49 years when Lily passed on. Anyone who knew Jimmy was very aware that Lily's passing did not signal the end of their marriage. Their bond could not be altered - not even by death. Jimmy Wyble's artistic influence will be heard for as long as people lay fingers to strings. His humanity is felt in every act of love and respect that comes from that part of the soul that, for want of a better word, we might think of as the "source".

By Steve Kinigstein

My dear Friends

The Blessings, Love and  
support in my life,  
come from you!!

I wish for each of you

Peace

Love

Health

I am far and you are  
closer - family!!

We are all One!!

Love, Jimmy