

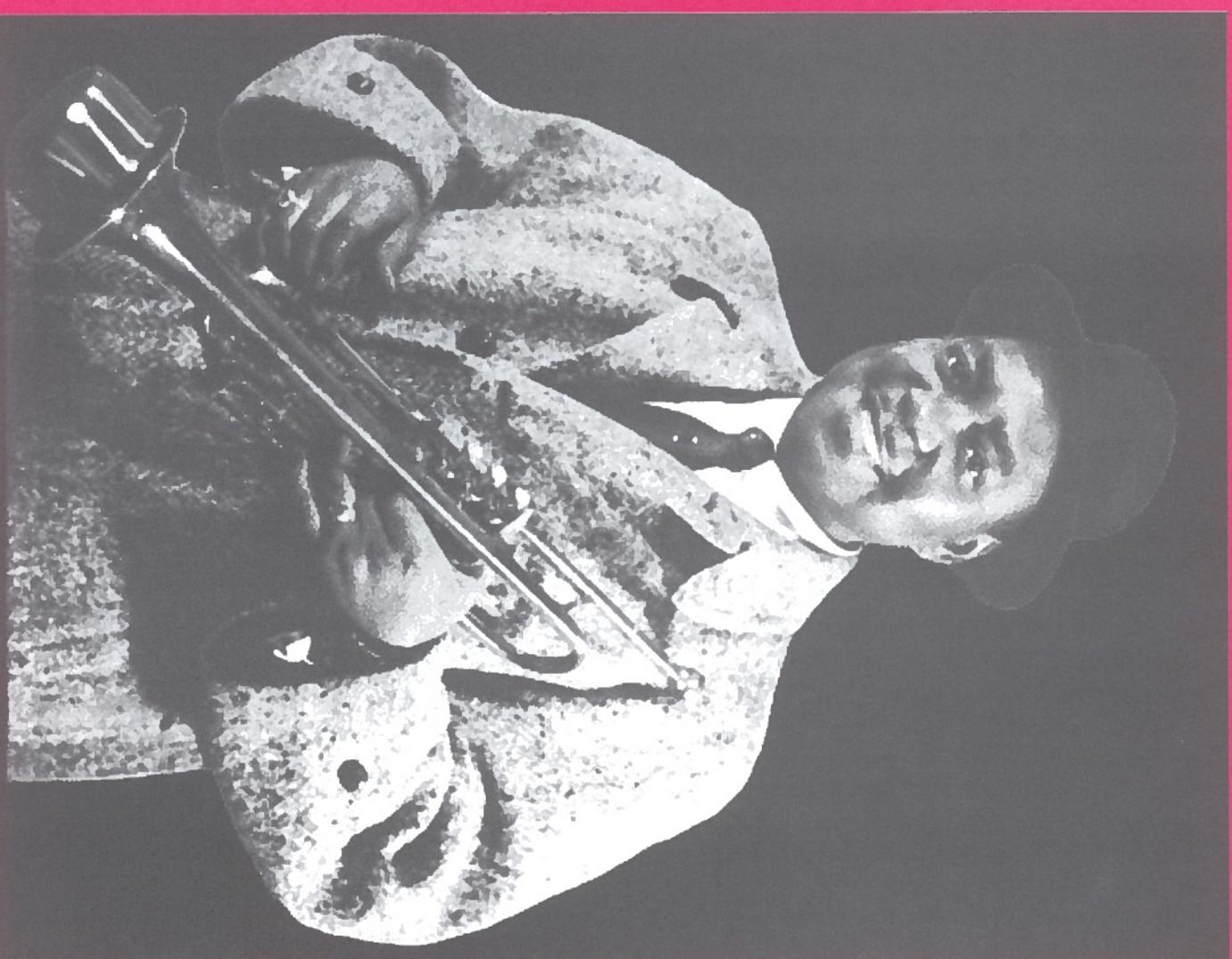
Jonah Jones (1909 - 2000)

Jonah Jones is one of the foremost trumpeters and vocalists in jazz history. He blew his first note in Louisville, Kentucky, and became an accomplished and celebrated musician who recorded 44 albums during his career.

Robert Elliott Jones was born in Louisville, on December 31, 1909, and lived in an orphanage. Bessie T. Allen, the orphanage director, encouraged Jones to explore his talent. He joined the Booker T. Washington Community Center band in 1920, and was given the nickname, Jonah, by the conductor.

Jonah Jones started playing on a Mississippi riverboat in the late 1920s. Influenced by the music of the great trumpeter, Louis Armstrong, Jonah developed a flashy jazz style. By the 1930s, Jonah had established his own signature sound of jazz with a sassy rhythm. Cab Calloway recruited Jonah in 1941, and the band recorded "Jonah Joins The Cab" in 1943, featuring a solo by Jonah. It was his first album. In 1944, he played with Cab Calloway in the pit band for the play, "Porgy and Bess," and the Broadway hit, "My Fair Lady." Jonah's 1955 recordings of "Greechie River Lullaby," "Butterflies In The Rain," "Jonah Wails-First Blast," and "Jonah Wails-Second Wind," sold over a million copies. Jonah began to play mostly muted horn under the Capitol record label with The Jonah Jones Quartet. By 1958, Jonah had recorded 19 albums. "Swingin' On Broadway," "Muted Jazz," and "Jumpin' With Jonah," were considered the top three. He received a Grammy music award for "I Dig Chicks" in 1958.

Jonah was invited to a command performance for Prince Ranier and Princess Grace in Monaco, in 1960. During his tours in the 1970s, he recorded and performed various hits, including "Jazz Tropica," "Confessin'," "Back On The Street," "That Righteous Feeling," "Good Time Medleys," and "A Little Dis A Little Dat." By 1980 Jonah had recorded 25 more albums. "Swingin' Round The World," "Baubles-Bangles & Beads," and "On The Street Where You Live" sold over a million copies around the world. His 1993 album titled, "In Paris," was Jonah's last. In 1999, he was invited to a concert in his honor at The Kentucky Center for The Arts in Louisville. The concert, "Back Home With Jonah," was a glowing tribute to the master jazz musician. Jonah Jones died on April 30, 2000, at the age of 91.



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