

An Evening to Remember

Review of the Antique Six gig of 26th April

Just one word describes this evening's entertainment and that word is brilliant! Great music from an even greater band made this gig one of the best I have ever witnessed at the Bude Jazz Club. The Antique Six never fail to entertain but at this gig they pulled out all the stops to make the evening so enjoyable.



They began in stomping form with Bob Haggart's South Rampart Street Parade and the dancers were immediately out in force.

Keeping up the tempo, the band then strode out with a number from the Louis Armstrong Hot Five bandbook, Come Back Sweet Papa before jollying things up with an amusing version of Coney Island Washboard. No washboard was played however, but Graham Smith on drums made up for that on cow horn and woodblock! The vocal on the number was by trumpeter Chris Mercer with all the rest of the band adding their exhortations. Slowing things up considerably, the boys played a real slow version of W.C.

Handy's classic Memphis Blues (originally

called Mr Crump for a Mayoral candidate during an election campaign). The two "Chrisses" then departed the stage to allow Richard Leach to play a wonderful solo on his trombone on Harlem Folk Dance which contained an equally wonderful solo break on guitar by Clinton Sedgley. The band then turned to the Duke Ellington classic The Mooche which he apparently wrote in ten minutes while he was waiting for his mother to complete cooking dinner one day in 1928. Finally for the first set was the Sidney Bechet penned Dans les rues d'Antibes (On the streets of Antibes) which featured a fine solo by Chris Pearce on soprano.

Set two began with Armand Piron's and Pete Bocage's instantly recognisable Bouncin' Around before the brollies were up and bobbing in all their splendid colour to the tune of Over in the Gloryland and it was good to see once more Anne Thomas' shocking pink creation amongst them. Good on yer Anne! It was at this point that trumpeter Chris Mercer came down with a bout of shingles and he rested for a couple of numbers which began with the beautifully played Brahms Lullaby. It was then time for a spiritual in the shape of George Bennard's famous Old Rugged Cross written in 1913. Next up was a composition from the hand of Irving Berlin, the melodic Blue Skies. The final number of the set saw the return of Chris who had somewhat recovered and they played the 1920 composition by Lindsay McPhail, the simply titled San.

An eventful third set began as usual with a fine rendition of Henry Clifford's Memphis Shake that he wrote and recorded with his band the Dixieland Jug Blowers in 1926, then Richard announced the arrival at the gig of members of the Bude Jive Club who had been dancing at a charity event earlier in the evening. The two couples were invited to give a demonstration to the Rock'n'Roll tinged jazz number Joe Avery's Piece and did they ever! They spun and twisted to the New Orleans trombonist's tune and in the process received a standing ovation. They should come and dance more often! A change of pace for the following piece with one of Jelly Roll Morton's last compositions from 1938, Sweet Substitute in which both Richard and Chris Mercer left the stage for Chris Pearce to give us a clarinet solo. Once again Clinton picked up the guitar to play a fine solo break. Next up was one of my favourite numbers, Bennie Moten's jaunty composition from 1924, South and Chris Mercer seemed to have fully recovered from his attack of shingles when he played a lovely solo on trumpet. On to the pen of Lil Hardin

for the following tune and recorded originally by Johnny Dodds' New Orleans Bootblacks, called Flat Foot. Chris Mercer then gave us a vocal on Jelly Roll Morton's celebrated composition Milenburg Joys named after the suburb of New Orleans on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain, Milneburg. A music publisher's error caused the spelling to be different! Finally to end this evening's most enjoyable entertainment, the band signed off with Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen which featured a great drum solo by Graham and the jivers were up and running once more.

What a great evening and what a great band. They seem to get better each time they appear. Roll on to their next appearance at the BJC.

See you around the gigs...

Paul