

The Panama Café Orchestra

The Panama Café Orchestra will bring you, Nostalgia. Wit and Authentic Vintage Jazz and Dance Music from the 1920's & 30's.

They are greatly influenced by the bands of King Oliver, Jelly Roll Morton, Duke Ellington, The Goofus Five, McKinney's Cotton Pickers, the Savoy Orpheans and of course Bix and the Gang. You will hear such tunes as Happy Feet, Rhythm Club Stomp, Someday Sweetheart, Since My Best Gal Turned Me Down, The Charleston, You're Driving Me Crazy and maybe the odd novelty number such as Down On Jollity Farm.

The Chaps of the Ensemble:

David Lowe (leader, trumpet/cornet- occasional vocals) started playing cornet at the age of ten. Has played in various Brass and Concert Bands and was joint founder of the Otis B Driftwood Comedy Show Band which still survives after nearly 40 years. He also played in the New Havana Dance Orchestra and the Spirit of Brooklands Jazz Orchestra.

Richard White (reeds & and vocals) has been a professional freelance jazz musician for many years and still looks so young! He has played and toured with The Rio Trio, Bob Kerr's Whoopee Band and The Bryan Ferry Orchestra. Richard also runs his own band the Richard White's Fivers. He has played at various UK and international jazz festivals. One of his early career highlights was performing with the original Temperance Seven.

Chris Lowe (trombone and vocals) studied jazz music at Anglia Ruskin University and Trinity College. He is now a professional freelance jazz musician playing in various bands including Alex Mendham and His Orchestra, Bonzo Bills and Willie Garnett's Big Band. His TV work has included Downton Abbey, Mr Selfridge and 'Zingzillas'. He has a thing' about Lew Davis memorabilia.

David Griffith (banjo, guitar & occasional novelty vocal) was taught to play the guitar by Steve Benbow at Pott 'The Amazing Sub-Basement Gas Light Syncopators'. He then progressed to the Nat West Jazzband and the New Havana Dance Orchestra.

Chris Houslander (sousaphone) equally at home whether playing jazz or classical wind-band arrangements. He played in the New Havana Dance Orchestra and now plays in various brass and wind ensembles.

Nicholas D Bail (percussion), a Bristolian and leading exponent of early jazz drumming. He began by leading his own band, Albert Ball's Flying Aces, and has gone on to make a career performing and arranging exceptional vintage jazz with the Vitality Jazz Band, Alex Mendham and His Orchestra, Richard White's Fivers and the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. He regularly appears at the world-famous Whitley Bay Classic Jazz Festival. Nick is also a tall-ship sailor, published illustrator and amateur footballer.

We hope you enjoy listening to our music as much as we enjoy playing it.

Contact us at 01483 714121 or www.panamacafe.co.uk