



**BOBBY HACKETT:  
PICTURING A LIFE IN JAZZ**

Nick DeCarlis

# Bobby Hackett

## BOBBY HACKETT: PICTURING A LIFE IN JAZZ

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January 31, 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Robert Leo “Bobby” Hackett, perhaps the most lyrical of all 20th century jazz cornetists and trumpeters. There are so many other superlatives which may be applied, but I’ll leave that for other books and better writers. For me, suffice it to say Bobby has always been my musical idol.



*April, 1961: me, taking Dad’s Harmon mute apart. I was absorbing the “Hackett Sound” even then.*

respect for melody, taste of improvisation and quality of tone, would all start with one man’s playing—Bobby Hackett. Meeting, or even approaching the standards he set may be impossible, but every musician should have a goal.

In pre-internet days, Dad and I spent many years and great effort finding and acquiring Bobby’s records, and short of that, tapes made from friends’ long out-of-print disks. The advent of the internet (and associated auction sites) suddenly made it embarrassingly easy to find almost any record of Bobby’s. However, a new collecting category presented itself—less common, yet certainly available (and one with particular appeal to this graphic designer): photographs of, and memorabilia relating to, Bobby Hackett.

Over time this collection became sizable enough to fill a few storage boxes, which also meant that it became increasingly inconvenient to actually look at, enjoy, or share the materials. A book seemed like a natural solution. Recent advances in on-demand, “direct digital” printing have made possible the production of just a few books allowing me to share this collection with friends and relatives.

The collection consists primarily of actual vintage photographs, many of which were studio PR shots made expressly for the purpose of print reproduction. Others were taken for press release or at public performances. Artifacts span a wide range, including instruments once owned and played by Bobby, magazine advertisements, record album covers, and concert posters. Since one could make an entire book consisting solely of Hackett ads and record covers, they have only been included where they incorporated a photographic image in the collection. Of course, in the 21st century “collecting” extends beyond owning the physical vintage item—several photographs in the collection exist solely in digital form, thanks to online resources or the generosity of friends. This book’s collection is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather, what I own, have found, and ultimately, like best.

While some items can only be dated approximately, a surprising number can be identified to the year, month and even the day. Where practical, I’ve presented the collection in more or less chronological order, with occasional concessions to the layout.

Since Hackett was so widely known and admired for his gorgeous tone, I’m frequently asked by other musicians: “what horn did Bobby play?” Based on the photographic evidence, it appears that he played trumpet just as often as cornet. It’s also evident that, while having favorites, he played the instruments of a great many makers. Wherever possible, I’ve identified the horn he is shown with. This variety makes one thing abundantly clear: the tone belongs to the player, and not the instrument.

In the final pages, I’ve taken the liberty of including items from years following Bobby’s too-early passing in 1976; primarily promotional items pertaining to “Tribute Concerts” undertaken in his memory, including two which I had the great honor to produce and in which to perform.

—Nick DeCarlis, Gainesville, Florida



*My father, Pat DeCarlis in 1961, no doubt playing along with a Bobby Hackett record.*





Bobby Hackett with Martin Handcraft "Imperial" cornet, 1937. Photograph from same session was used for magazine advertisement (opposite).

**Bobby Hackett, Cornet Sensation  
Now Heads Own Band—**

**PLAYS A MARTIN**



Prior to his recent opening at the Chez Burlesque, New York City, where he is now featured with his own eight piece combination, Bobby Hackett achieved international recognition for his brilliant playing at the Theatrical Club, in Boston. Musicians flocked from miles around to hear him "swing", and as an exciting, unusually capable musician, he has made an enviable record. Concerning his Martin, Bobby says, "This horn was marvelous the first day I played it but, doggone it, it gets better and better every day."

The new Martin Cornet is really a wonder! Arrange today to try one.

**MARTIN BAND INSTRUMENT CO.**  
DEPARTMENT 503 ELKHART, INDIANA

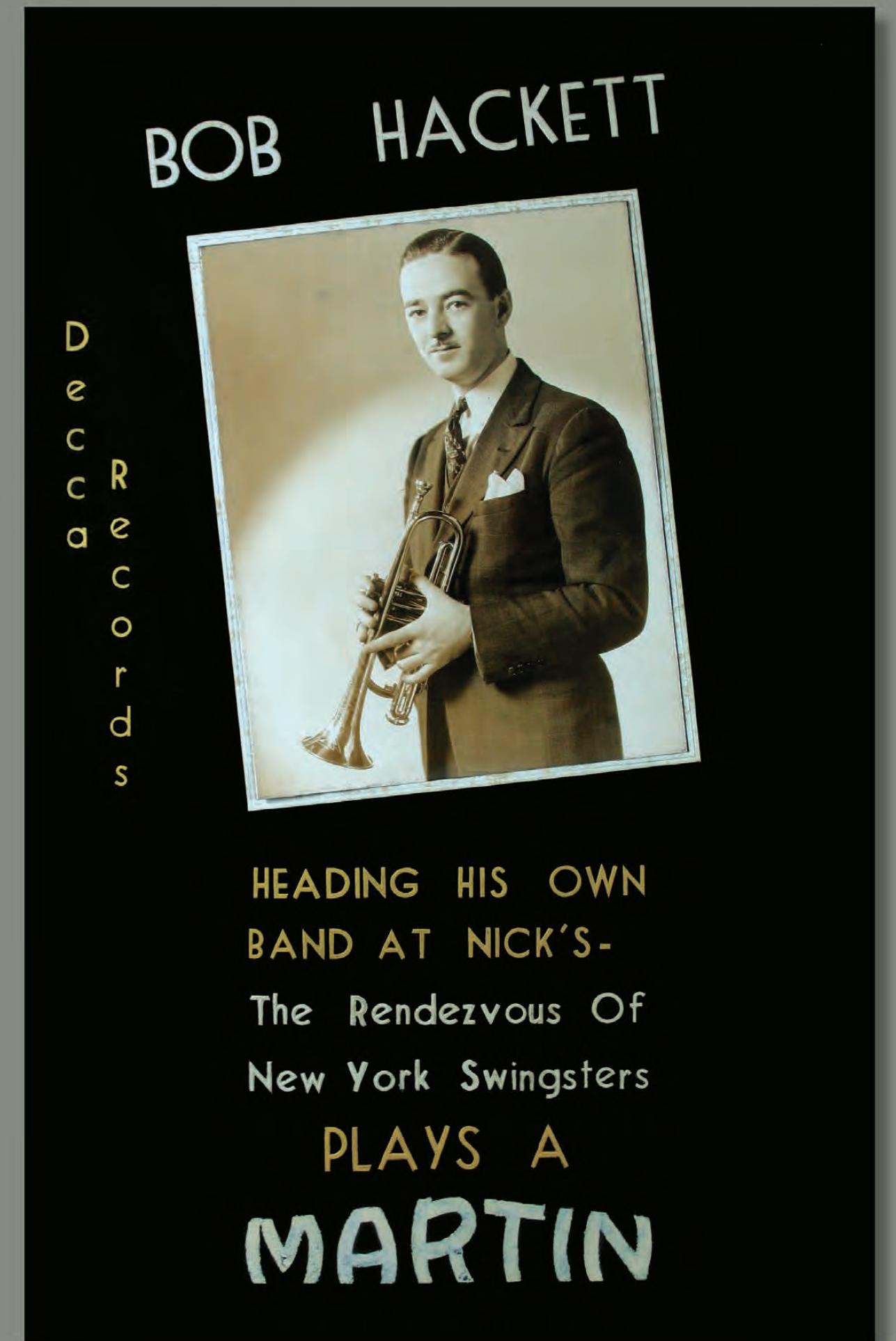
Advertisement: Martin Band Instrument Co., *The Metronome*, May 1937.





Bobby Hackett with  
Martin Handcraft "Imperial"  
cornet, 1938.  
*(from easel card, opposite).*

Nightclub Easel Card, 14.5" x 22.5":  
"Bob Hackett" at Nick's (Greenwich  
Village, NYC), 1938.







Bobby Hackett, playing Rudy Muck cornet, 1939. Photograph was used for magazine advertisement (opposite).

Photo: Apeda Studio.

BOBBY (at The Troc, 52nd St.)  
HACKETT

another artist who plays  
**Rudy Mück**  
Cornet exclusively

"The Rudy Mück Cornet is the only instrument that gives me the genuine cornet tone my style of playing requires," says Bobby.

Bobby Hackett, now appearing with his augmented band at The Troc in New York's famous 52nd Street, is a rare cornetist with a "feel" for what he plays. His hot choruses, especially on old Dixieland tunes, are masterpieces of improvisation, and his tone has a roundness that is distinctively Hackett.

Try a Rudy Mück and know the thrill of discovering the trumpet or cornet destined for you.

NEW CATALOG  
NOW READY!

RUDY MÜCK COMPANY  
127 West 48th Street, New York City

☐ Send me your new free broadside catalog showing Rudy Mück Trumpets and Cornets and giving complete specifications and prices.  
☐ Send name of Rudy Mück dealer nearest me.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

Instrument .....

RUDY MÜCK COMPANY  
127 WEST 48th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Rudy Muck advertisement, *Down Beat*, August 1939.



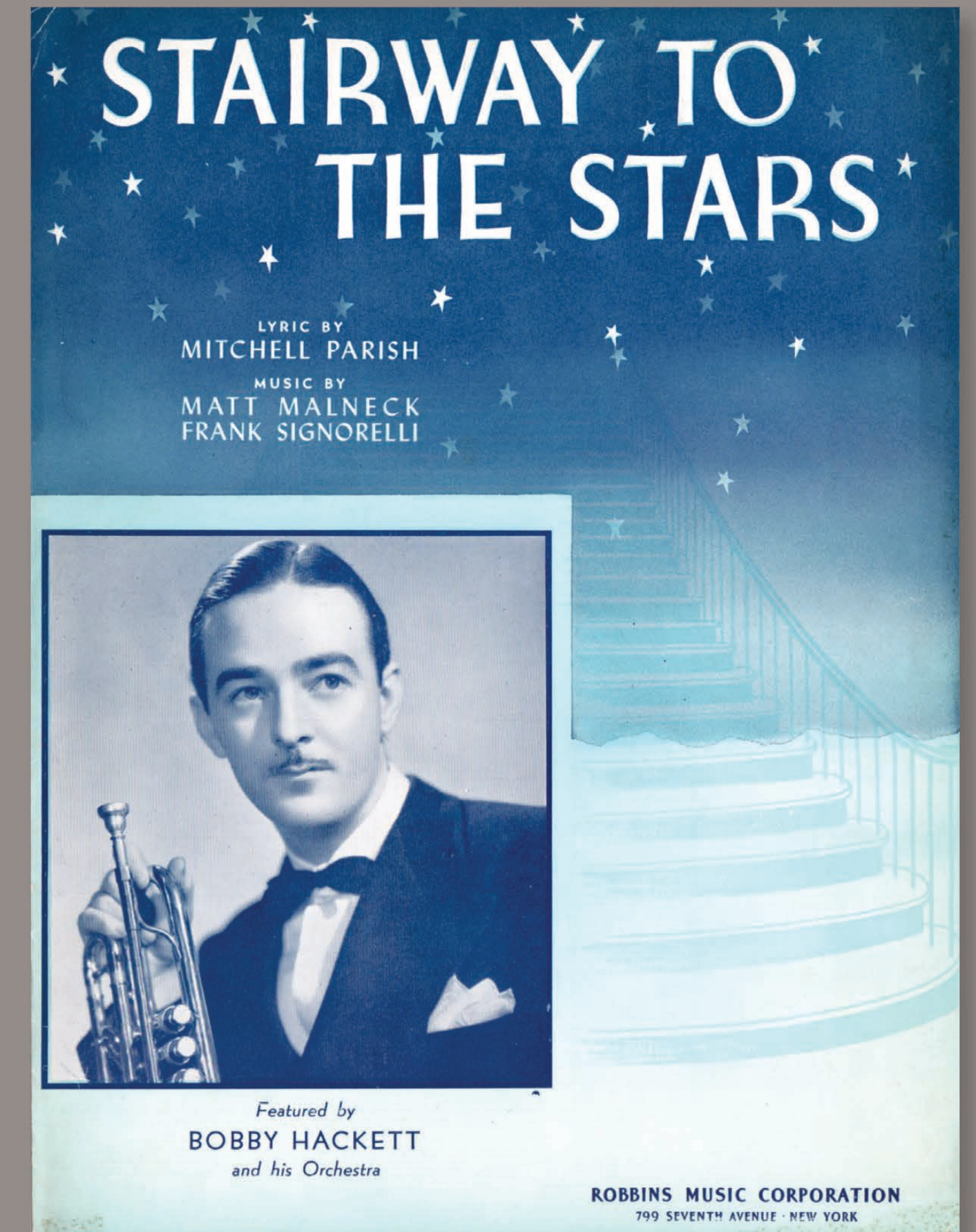


Bobby Hackett, with  
Rudy Muck cornet, 1939.  
Photograph was used on  
sheet music (*opposite*).

Photo: Murray Korman

Sheet music: "Stairway  
to the Stars".

Photo: Murray Korman







Bobby Hackett, with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, playing Rudy Muck cornet, 1941. Rare shot of Bobby playing cornet with the band.



Bobby Hackett with the Glenn Miller Orchestra for promotion of film "Orchestra Wives." With Rudy Muck cornet, 1941. Note that Bobby is wearing the same "band uniform" sport coat as in photo at left.





Brief Case: BOBBY HACKETT,  
GLENN MILLER ORCH. 18" x 14" x 5".  
Gift from Glenn Miller, December, 1941.

Collection Nick DeCarlis



Bobby Hackett, taken at the  
V-Disc All-Stars recording  
session on December 7, 1944.

Photograph by Peter Martin





Bobby Hackett, c. 1944.

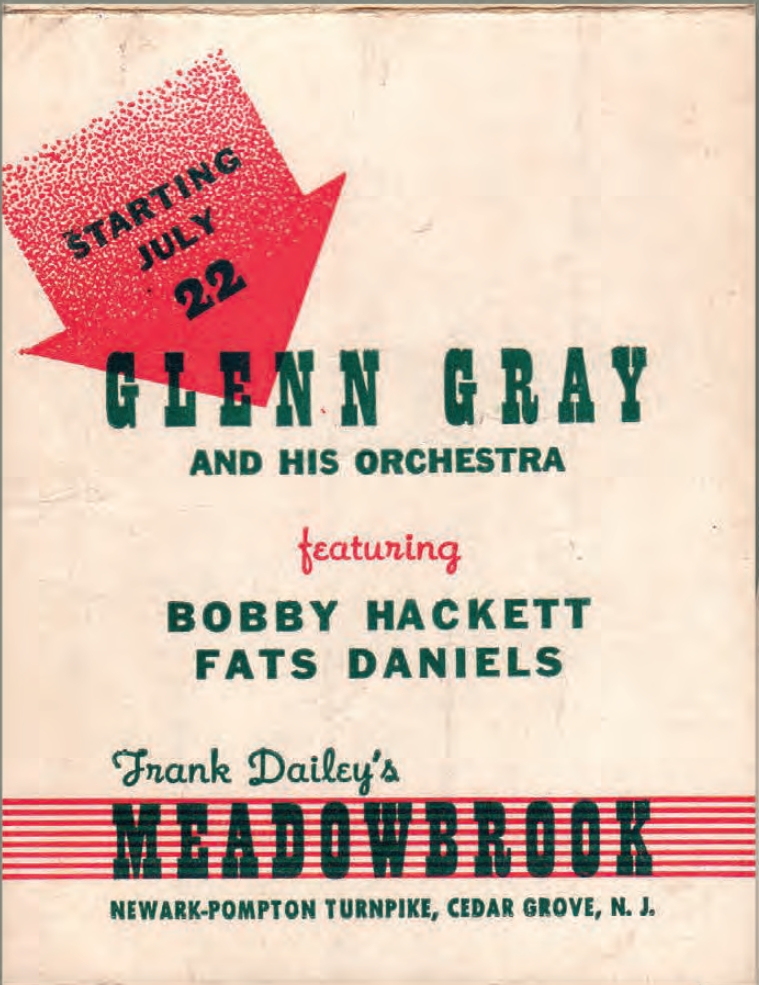
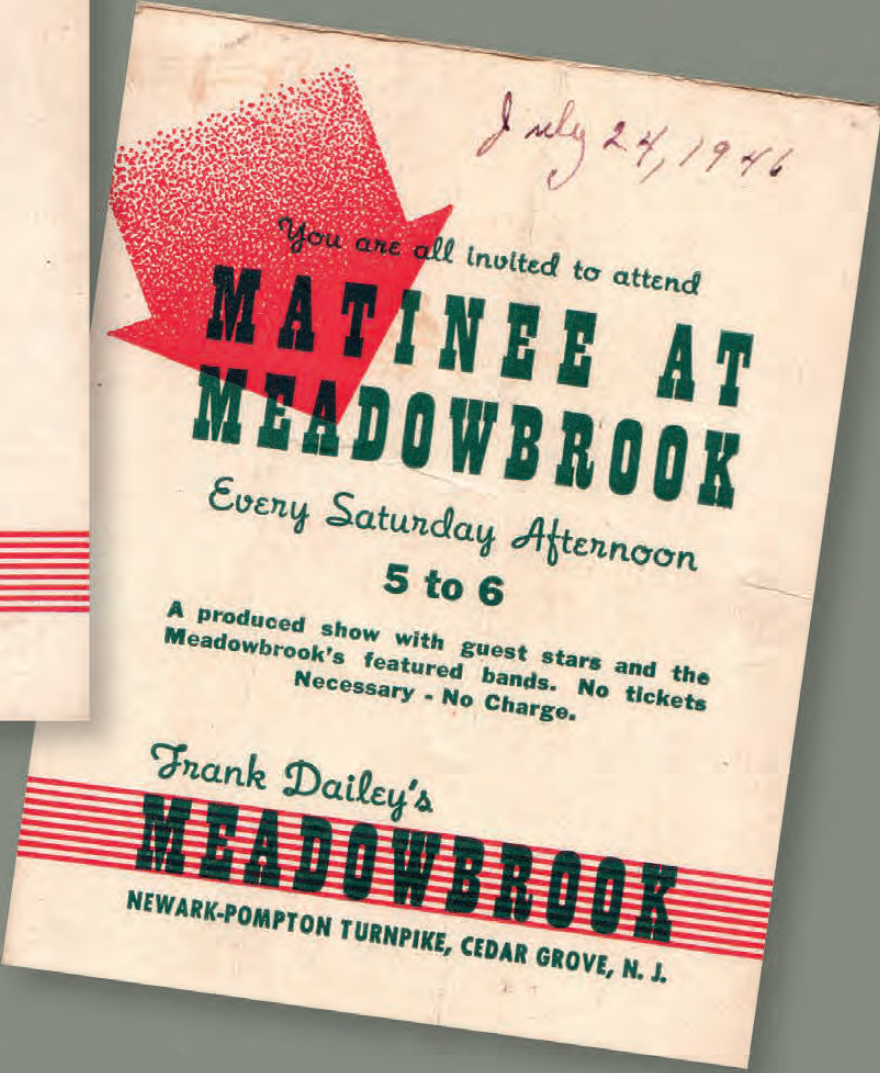


Table Tent: Glenn Gray and his Orchestra, July 24, 1946.







Bobby Hackett, with Selmer  
"Balanced" trumpet, c. 1946.  
Photograph was used on  
Brunswick album cover (*opposite*).

"Bobby Hackett Trumpet  
Solos": 10" 33 1/3 LP  
record, Brunswick, 1950  
(recorded February 1946).

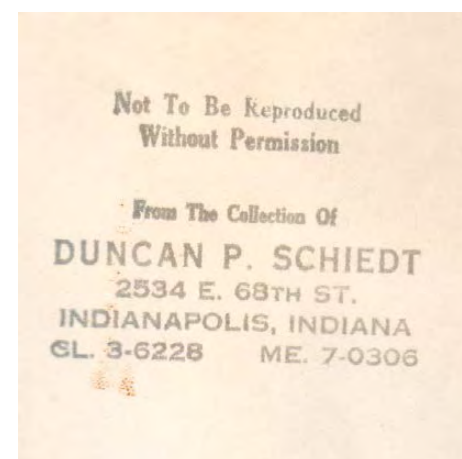






Bobby Hackett at Eddie Condon's nightclub, with F. Besson "MEHA" cornet, c. 1950.

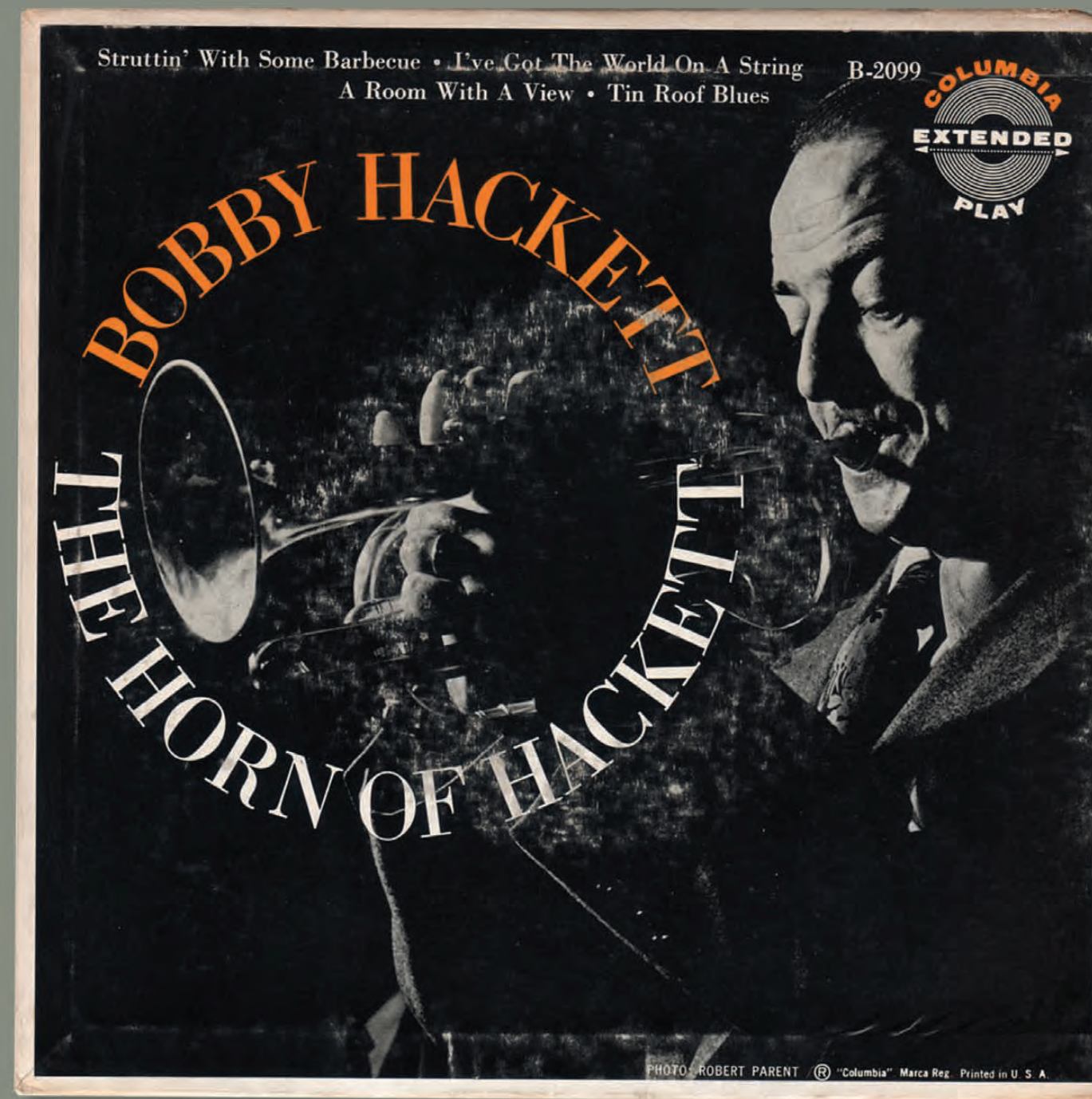
Photograph: Duncan Schiedt



Bobby Hackett's actual F. Besson "MEHA" cornet today, as seen in photograph of Bobby playing (opposite).

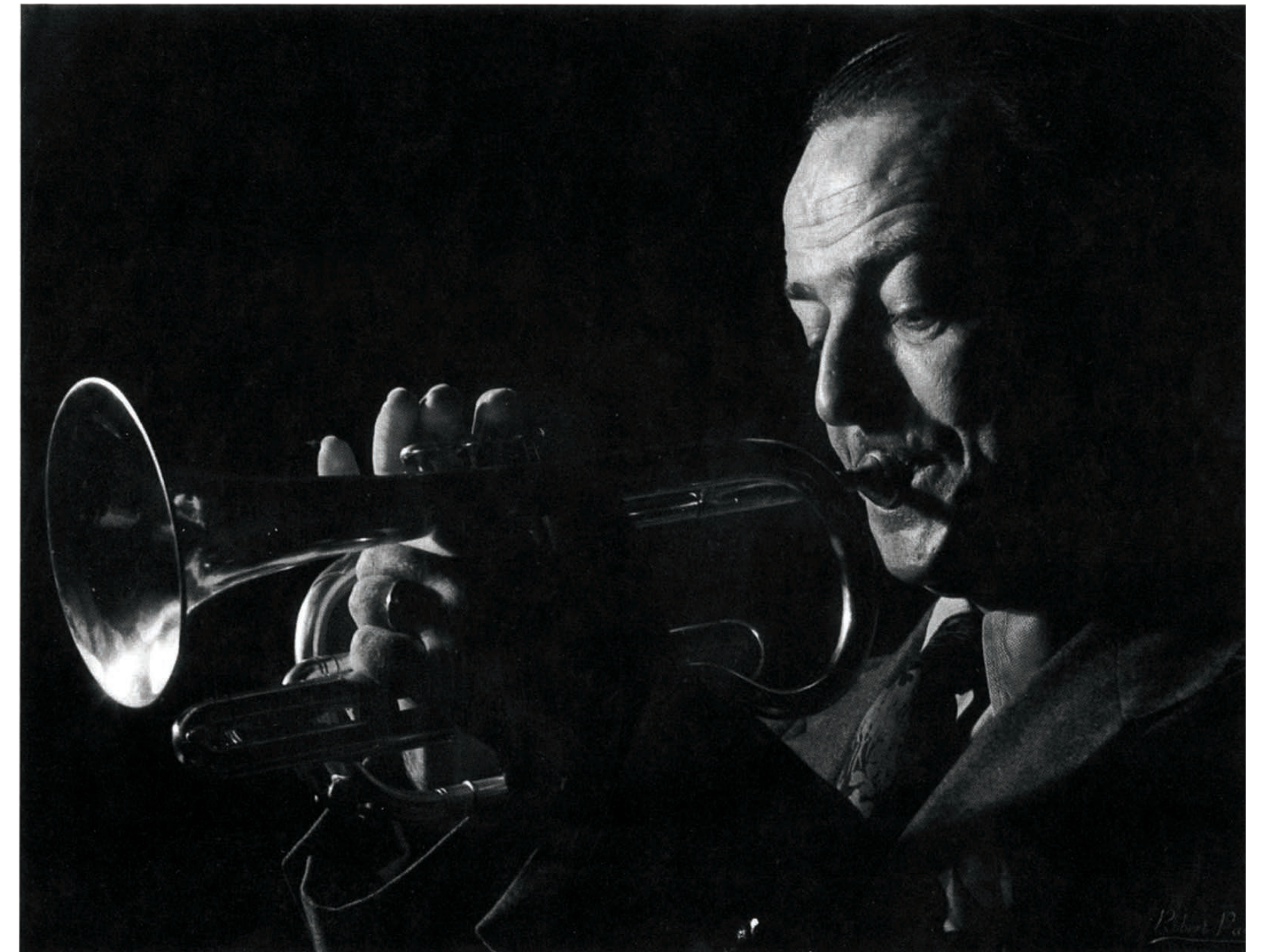
Collection Nick DeCarlis.





Cover of Columbia 45 r.p.m. E.P. record, with Bobby playing F. Besson "MEHA" cornet, 1951. Incorporates photograph shown opposite page.

Photograph: Robert Parent



Bobby Hackett playing F. Besson "MEHA" cornet, 1951.

Photograph: Robert Parent





Bobby Hackett and Louis  
Armstrong at Childs Paramount.  
Besson "Grand Prix" trumpet,  
September 16, 1952.

Photograph: Robert Parent

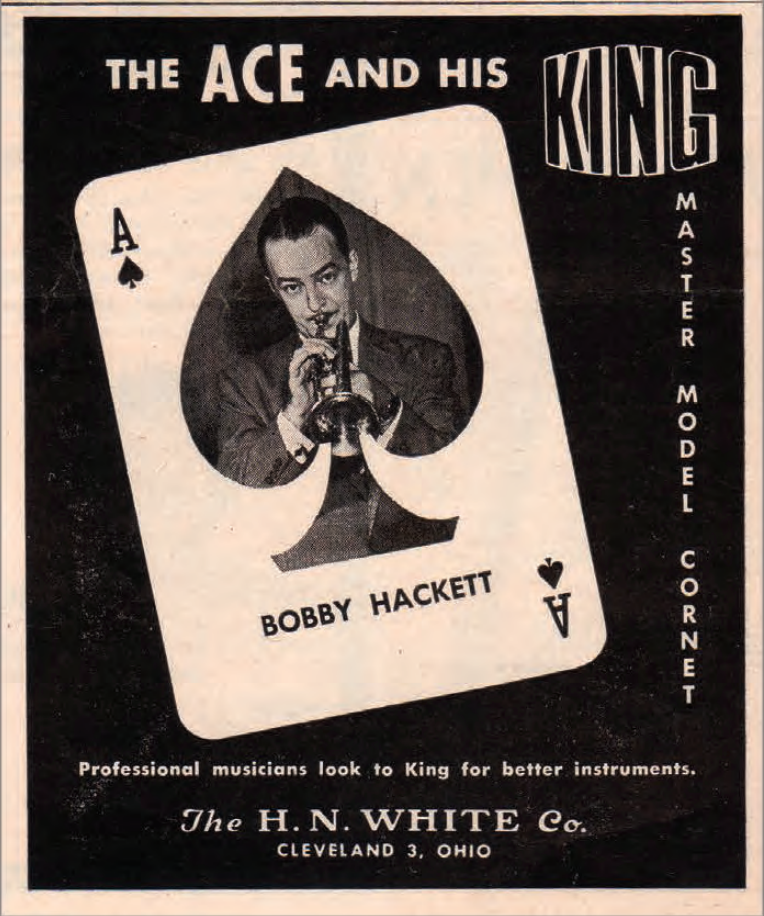


Bobby Hackett and Vic Dickenson at  
Childs Paramount. Besson "Grand  
Prix" trumpet, September, 1952.

Photograph: Robert Parent

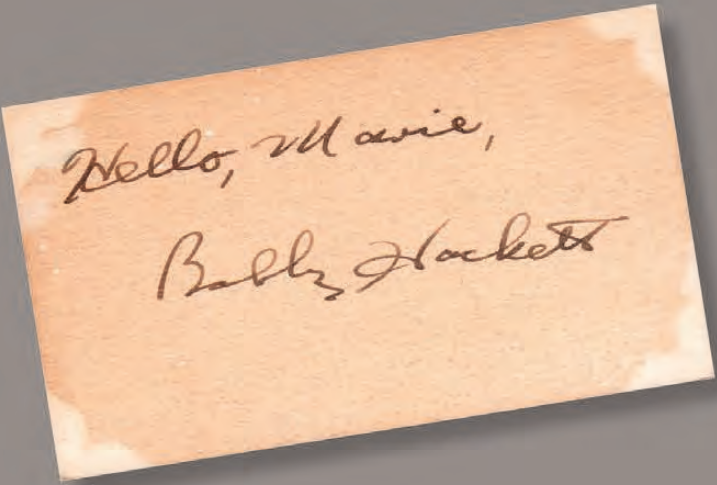


George Brunies, trombone  
(left) and Bobby Hackett,  
c. 1950.



Bobby Hackett, with King  
"Silvertone" cornet, c. 1950.

Photo: William "Popsie" Randolph



Autograph, Bobby Hackett.



Bobby Hackett, c. 1950.

Photo: William "Popsie" Randolph





Bobby Hackett,  
playing F. Besson  
trumpet, c. 1950s.



Martha Wright and Bobby Hackett, ABC  
Television promotional photograph, 1954.





Bobby Hackett, with F. Besson (Paris) trumpet. Slightly different image from same photo shoot was used for magazine advertisement (*opposite*).

Photo: William "Popsie" Randolph

TODAY — AS FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS...

*The best play*  
*Besson!*



BOBBY HACKETT



Hear "Rendezvous" by Besson star, Bobby Hackett—(Capitol 12" LP T719)

For over one hundred years Besson (Paris) and Besson (London) brasses have been acclaimed by the world's foremost artists as the ultimate in quality and performance. Ask your favorite artist or dealer to tell you the Besson story today!

Since  1834

**C. BRUNO & SON, INC.**

460 WEST 34th ST., NEW YORK 1, N. Y. • 1100 BROADWAY, SAN ANTONIO 6, TEXAS  
Canadian Distributors: BOOSEY & HAWKES (Canada) LTD., Toronto, Canada

F. Besson advertisement using slightly different photo (*opposite*), *Down Beat*, May 1956.







Bobby Hackett, with F. Besson (Paris) trumpet. Photograph was used for magazine advertisement (opposite).

Photo: William "Popsie" Randolph


TODAY—AS FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS...

*The  
best  
play  
Besson!*

BOBBY HACKETT

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Canadian Distributors: BOOSEY & HAWKES (Canada) LTD. Toronto, Canada

F. Besson advertisement using same photo (opposite), Down Beat, March 1957





Bobby Hackett, with F. Besson  
(Paris) trumpet, c. 1961.

Photograph: Maynard F. Wolfe

Bobby Hackett, with F. Besson  
(Paris) cornet, c. 1961.

Photograph: Maynard F. Wolfe





PHONE RE. 3-2363

AAA

MR. & MRS. LOUIS LUBAS,  
MANAGERS

**ELSIE'S MOTOR COURT**  
1½ Miles South of Mass. Pike, Exit 4  
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Dear Dave;  
Here's the balance, and  
many thanks for the con-  
fidence.  
The suit is wonderful,  
and regards from all the  
boys. Thanks again,  
Bobby

ELSIE'S MOTOR COURT  
VERDALE ST. ON U. S. S.  
PHONE RE. 3-2363  
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

AAA

SPRINGFIELD  
FEB 19  
5 PM  
1960  
MASS.

Mr. Dave Caplan  
3255 Bathurst St.  
Toronto, Ont.  
Canada

38 ROBERT L. HACKETT Newtown 9 No. 2499  
3421 84th St. NEW YORK  
JACKSON Hts, N.Y. 19 1-2 210  
CHARGE MY ACCOUNT FOR NEW CHECK  
BOOK CONTAINING 20 CHECKS \$ 2.00  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF SIGN THIS FORM AND Deliver to bearer ☐  
PRESENT OR MAIL TO Mail to me ☐ DOLLARS  
THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK  
ROCKEFELLER PLAZA AT 49TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
WORLD-WIDE BANKING

Correspondence with  
tailor Dave Caplan,  
February 1960.

Jack Teagarden, trombone  
(left) and Bobby Hackett, with  
C.G. Conn "Connstellation"  
cornet, c. 1963.







Tony Bennett (*right*) and Bobby Hackett with Getzen “Eterna cornet”, April 1965. Note the unique, unidentified 8-sided mute. Note the cigarette in Bobby’s left hand, confirming that this was a rehearsal.



Bobby Hackett with Getzen “Eterna” cornet, 1965. Probably taken in England while on tour with Tony Bennett, this photo appeared on record sleeve of the UK release of “Coast Concert”.

BOBBY HACKETT "BACKS" TONY BENNETT  
 April 22nd 1965 PAP 116109-1 (Ha-G)

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BOBBY HACKETT "BACKS" TONY BENNETT  
 American singer TONY BENNETT "swinging"  
 with trumpeter BOBBY HACKETT during a  
 rehearsal at the BBC Television Theatre,  
 Shepherds Bush, London to-day (Thursday)  
 for his show on BBC TV to-morrow.  
 Hackett, making his first visit to Europe,  
 will be playing in the group backing  
 the singer at to-morrow's "live" show.  
 Bennett is paying a 2½ weeks' visit to  
 Britain. Ten years ago he topped the  
 hit parade with "Stranger in Paradise".  
 April 22nd 1965 PAP 116109-1 (Ha-G)

PRESS ASSOCIATION PHOTOS



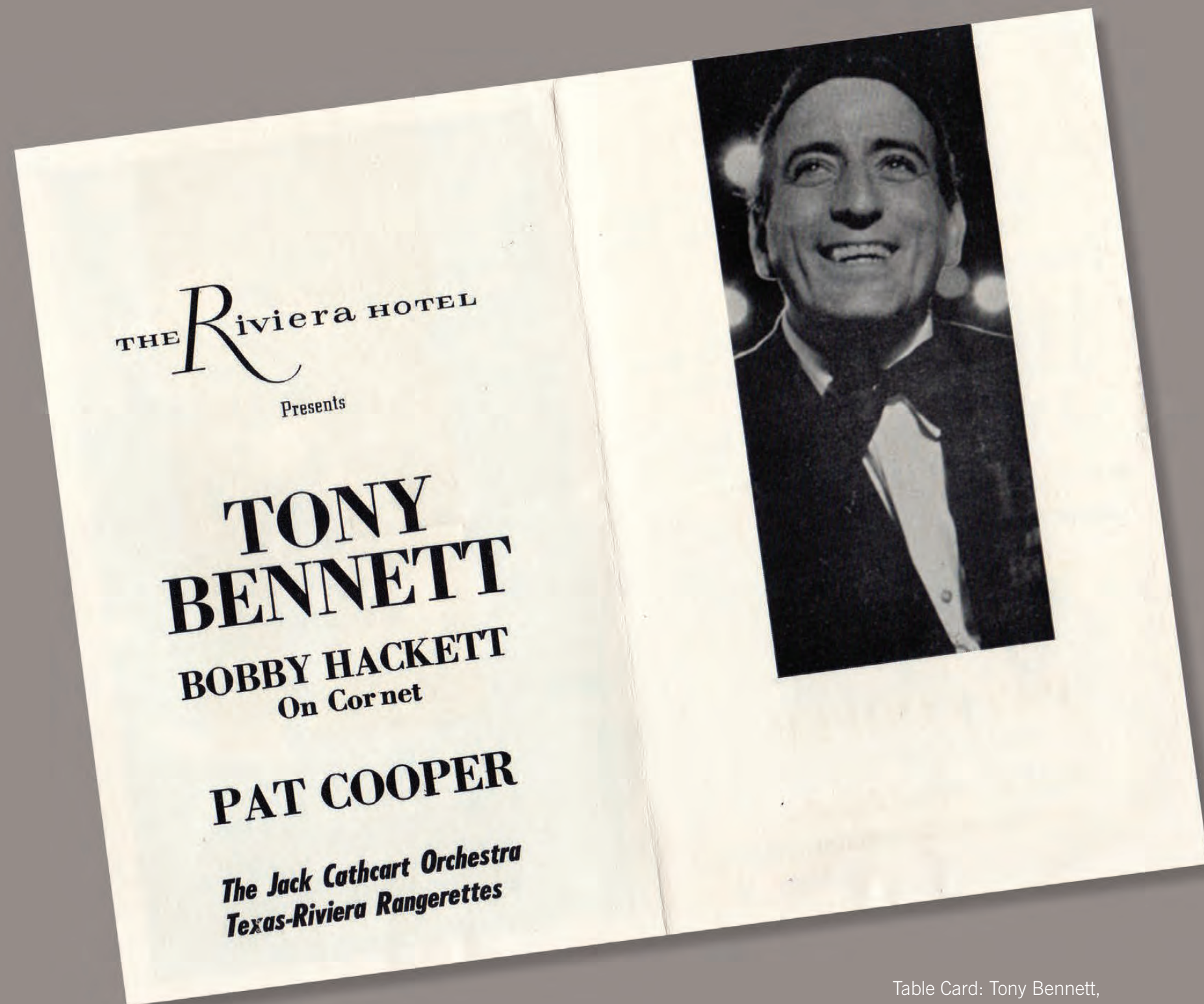
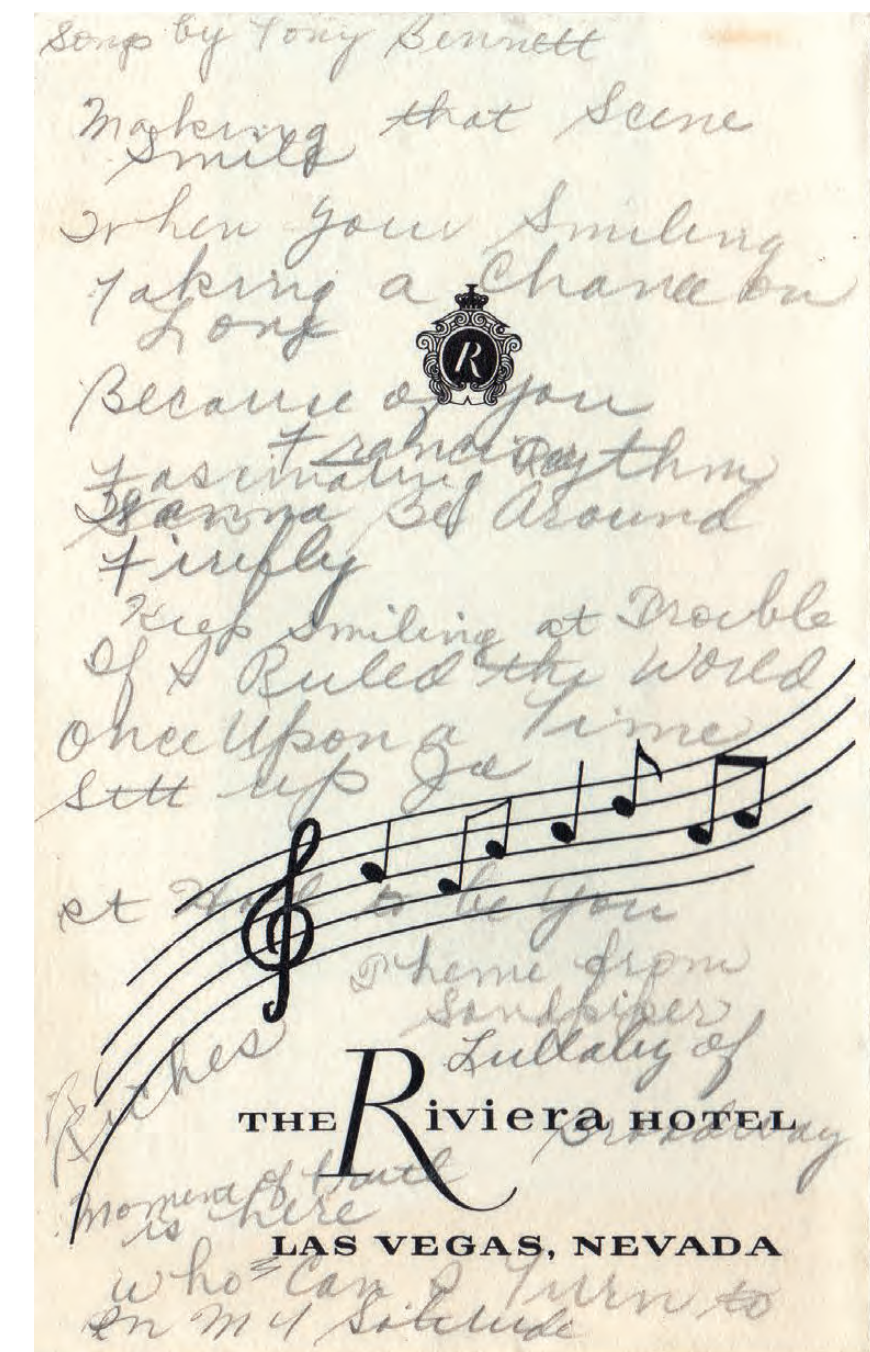


Table Card: Tony Bennett,  
Riviera Hotel, 1965.



(Front Cover)



(Back Cover)



GIBSON — DALLAPÉ — SELMER — SCANDALLI — EPIPHONE

INSTRUMENT  
REPAIRS

**Twin City Music House**  
387 Main St.  
PAWTUCKET, R. I.  
PA. 6-8943

EXPERT  
AMPLIFIER  
REPAIRS

491 PLAINFIELD ST.

EL. 1-8713

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

*Instructions on: Accordion, Guitar, String Bass, Pedal Guitar  
Sax, Clarinet, Trumpet and Drums*

Customer's  
Order No.

Date

19

Name

Address

SOLD BY

☒ CASH

☐ C. O. D.

☐ CHARGE

☐ ON ACCT.

☐ MDSE. RETD.

☐ PAID OUT

QUAN.

DESCRIPTION

PRICE

AMOUNT

1

Martin special  
baritone ukulele

90.-

2

sets strings  
oil

3.-

1.00

94.00

tax

3.60

97.60

TOTAL

All claims and returned goods **MUST** be accompanied by this bill.

503-6

4312

REC'D BY  
MOORE BUSINESS FORMS, INC. NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

Sales Receipt: Twin City Music House, May 27, 1965.



Custom C.F. Martin Model 51 Baritone Ukulele, owned by Bobby Hackett and played by Bobby on Tony Bennett's 1965 recording of "Sweet Lorraine" (Songs for the Jet Set, Columbia Records).

Collection Nick DeCarlis.







Bobby Hackett, with Getzen “Eterna” long model prototype cornet, c. 1970.

Photograph: Jack Bradley

Business card, c. 1965.



Bobby Hackett, with Getzen “Eterna” long model prototype cornet, c. 1970.

Photograph: Jack Bradley



BOBBY HACKETT

Exclusive Management  
**W/a** WILLARD ALEXANDER INC.  
 660 MADISON AVE.  
 N. Y., N. Y. 10021  
 TEL. PL 1-7070



Bobby Hackett  
 3421 84th St.  
 Jackson Ave, N.Y. 11372  
 TEL. 212  
 639-2499



(Left to right) Bobby Hackett,  
 Sue Pletcher, unknown,  
 cornetist Tom Pletcher and Vic  
 Dickenson. Cabaret la Boheme,  
 Pontchartrain Hotel, Detroit,  
 c. August 1969.

Sue and Tom Pletcher, with  
 Bobby Hackett. Cabaret la  
 Boheme, Pontchartrain Hotel,  
 Detroit, c. August 1969.





Bobby Hackett with Getzen  
"Eterna" cornet, 1968.

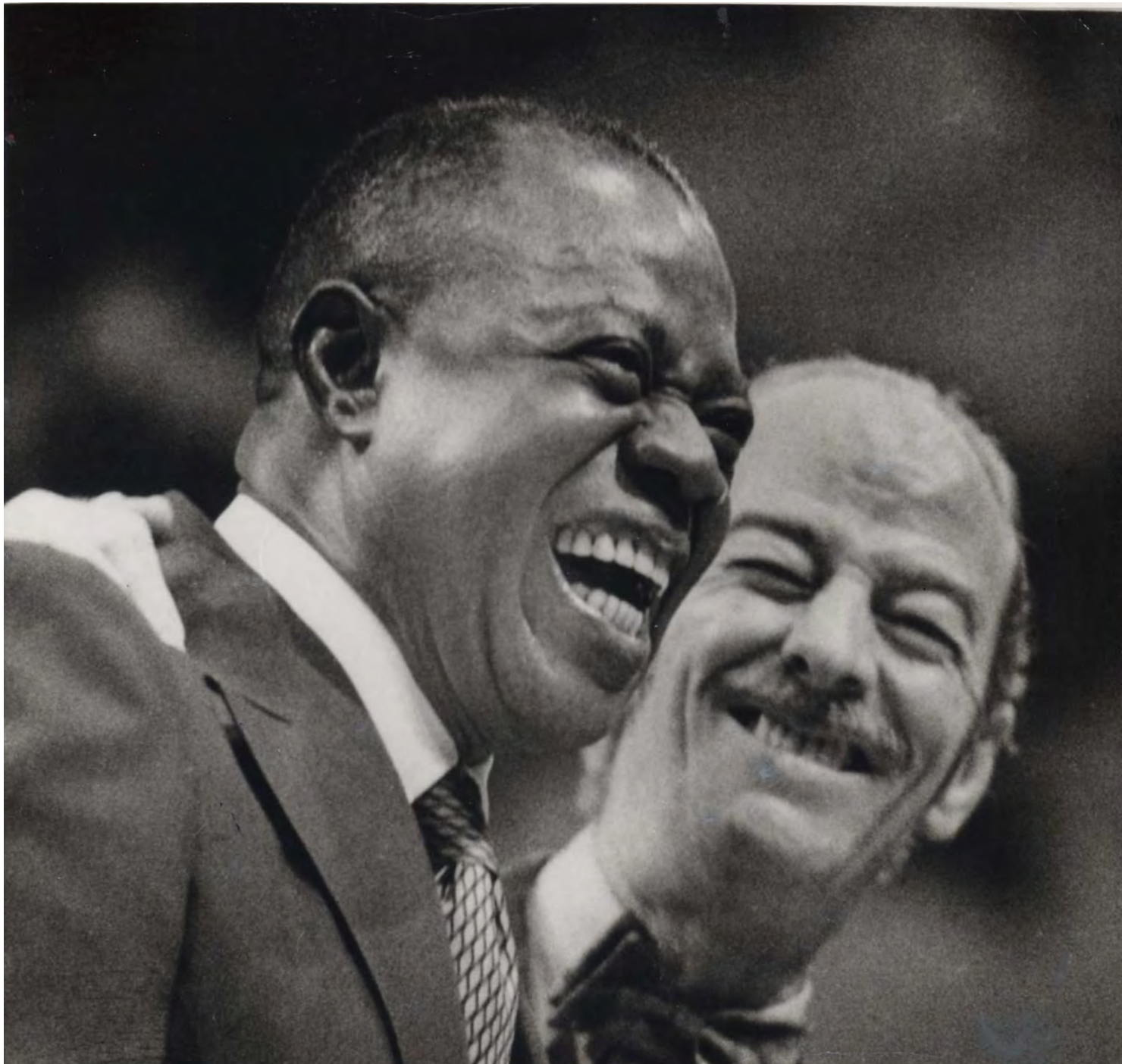
Photo: Gus Faingold



(CUP3) NEWPORT, R.I., JULY 10 - "MR. JAZZ" HAS A PAPA - Louis Armstrong joins in his own joke over an old jazz story with trumpeter Bobby Hackett and Newport Jazz Festival impresario George Wein at Newport, R.I. today. The Festival is making a return to traditional jazz tonight with a "New Orleans tribute to Louis Armstrong." Armstrong was 70 on the 4th of July. (AP Wirephoto) (dcs61700JWG) 1970

Bobby Hackett, with Louis Armstrong  
and George Wein, 1970.





Louis Armstrong and Bobby Hackett, 1970.

Armstrong, Louis  
photo # 16 L.A.  
Caption: Louis at "seventy" with trumpeter, Bobby Hackett, at the annual Newport Jazz Festival where ~~Satchmo~~ was feted on this big birthday. Newport, Rhode Island, 1970

Lee Falk  
**PRESENTS**  
A BENEFIT FOR P.A.L.A. ★  
**A NIGHT OF JAZZ**  
MONDAY AUGUST 30 8:30 P.M.  
*Featuring the famous Cornet of*  
**BOBBY HACKETT**  
*The jazz musicians' singer*  
**MISS TEDDI KING**  
**THE DIXIELAND SIX**  
Featuring **DAVE McKENNA** at Piano  
**Paul Nossiter** **Jim Blackmore**  
**Charles Tourjee** **Jim Cullum**  
**Steve Bergstrom**  
**PROVINCETOWN TOWN HALL**  
Tickets \$3.50 ★Provincetown Academy  
Students \$1.50 of Living Arts.  
TICKETS ON SALE AT  
PROVINCETOWN: Group Gallery 359 Commercial - 487-9642  
"Record Rack" - 487-9666  
WELLFLEET "Record Rack" - 349-7738  
ORLEANS Musitronics, Route 6A - 255-0556

Concert Poster:  
"A Night of Jazz",  
18" x 24", 1971.



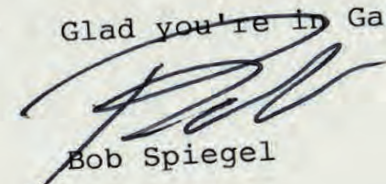
Nick,

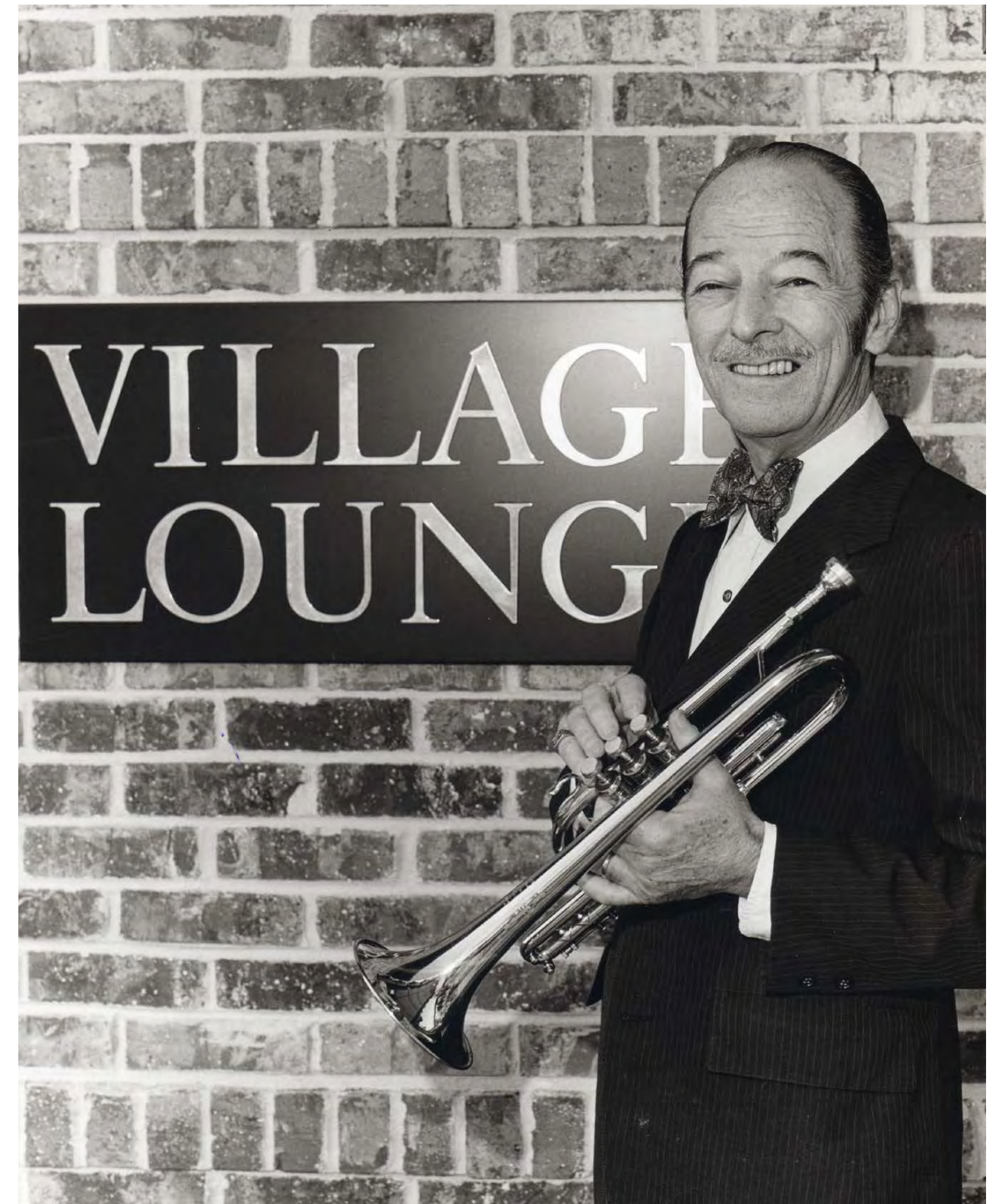
When Walt Disney World opened in 1971, I was senior publicity writer for the company. When they opened the renowned Village Lounge jazz club at the Walt Disney World Village a few years later, as a lifelong jazzier, I volunteered to handle the jazz events, hosting press parties for our artists (I'm talking people like Red Norvo, Zoot Sims, Urbie Green, Jack Sheldon, Dick Hyman, etc) and also set up the publicity photos/interviews.

The very first act we hired was Bobby Hackett and the enclosed photo is one I had set up at the Village Lounge entrance. It was about 1975 and I think a matter of months later so this may be one of the last photos taken of him.

I thought it would generate better vibes on your wall than in my 'Jazz Room'. Love your CD, enjoyed the liner notes, and was very impressed (as was my date) with your knowledge of Old Blue Eyes last month at your concert.

Glad you're in Gainesville.

  
Bob Spiegel



Bobby Hackett with Bach "Stradivarius" cornet, The Village Lounge, Lake Buena Vista Village, c. 1975.





Bobby Hackett playing Red Nichols' F.E. Olds "Super" cornet, c. 1975.

Table Card for appearance at Michael's Pub from December 2, 1975 to January 3, 1976.



Bobby Hackett's last F. Besson cornet, which was played by Lou Columbo at Bobby's funeral service. Note the Amado water keys, which Bobby often had added to his horns.

Collection Michelle Fey.





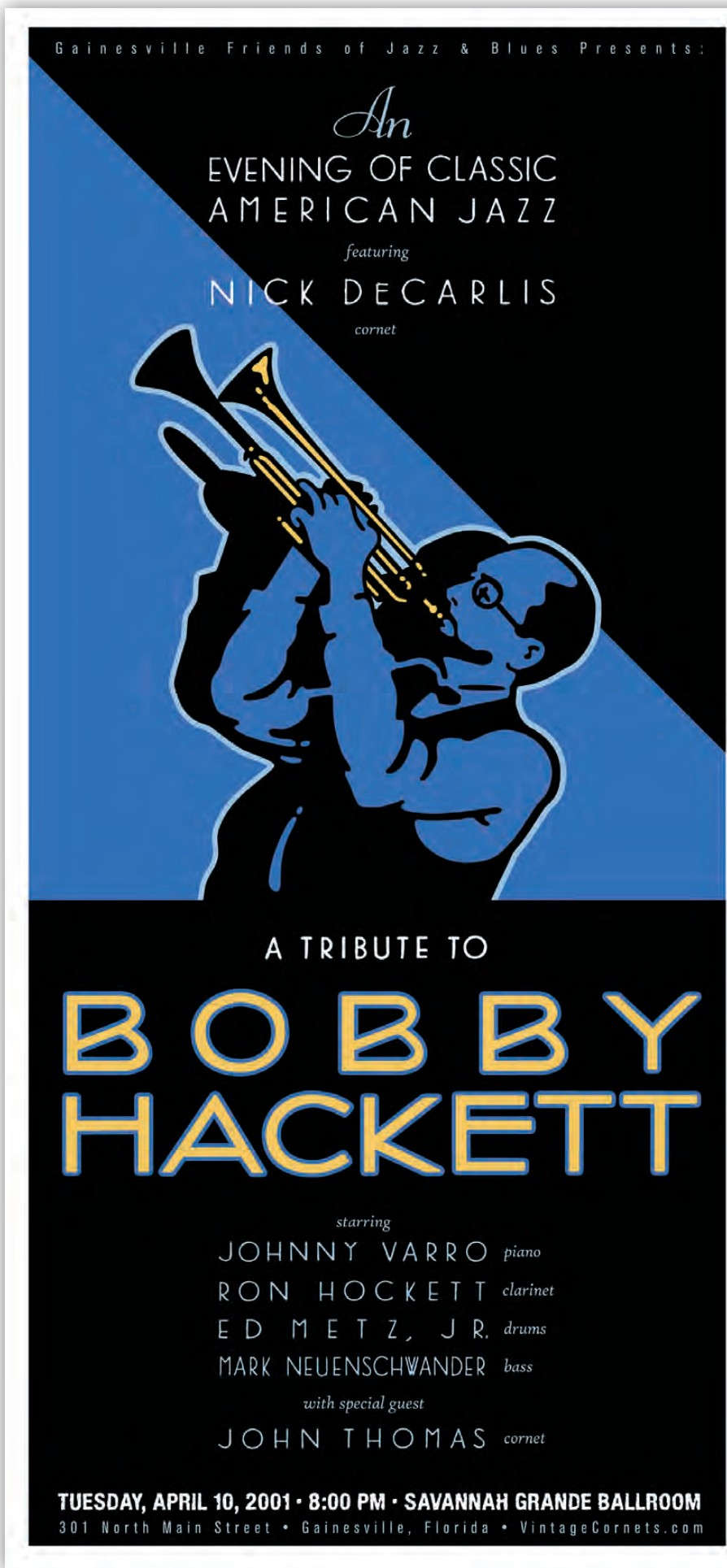


Nick DeCarlis with Bobby Hackett's Besson cornet: promotional photograph for “*A Tribute to Bobby Hackett*”, March, 2001.

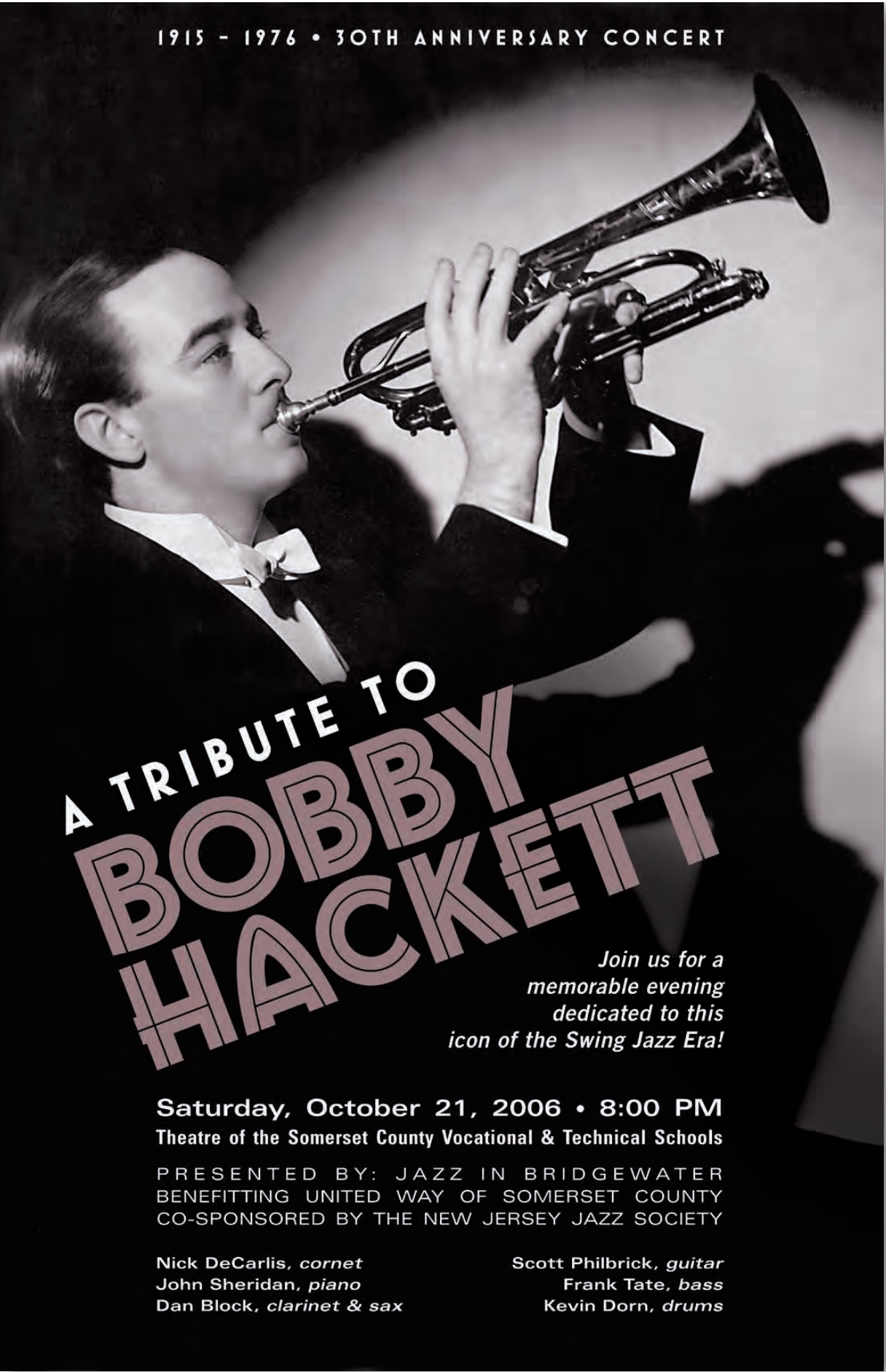
Photograph: Randy Batista

Concert Poster: “*A Tribute to Bobby Hackett*”, 9” x 19”:  
April 10, 2001.

Illustration/Design: Jim Harrison







Concert Poster: “A Tribute to Bobby Hackett”, 11” x 17”:  
October 21, 2006.

Design: Nick DeCarlis

