

JAZZ & BLUES MUSIC

DIXIELAND

BLUES IN THE CAVE

JZ-DL1 France 1951

BLUES IN THE CAVE

JZ – Dixieland – Blues – Big Band – Instrumental

Comp: Sidney BECHET (1897-1959)

Rts: Editions Musicales Warner Chappell (SACEM)

Perf: Sidney **BECHET**

& the Claude Luter orchestra

Sidney Bechet (piano & soprano Sax)

Claude Luter & Andre Reweliotty (clarinets)

Pierre Dervaux & Claude Philippe (trumpets)

Guy Longnon (trombone)

Christian Azzi (piano)

Roland Bianchini (bass)

François Galépidès (drums)

Prod. Co: Vogue Productions

Rec. Date: May 4, 1951

Matrix: 51-V-4052

Liner Notes: (8-page booklet in French & English) *Jacques Journal*, July 1990

Time: 2:47 & (Nos 4 & 5) 2:51

A. French Releases:

1. Original **78:**

Vogue 5091

Flip Sd: Egyptian Fantasy

2. Reissue on **CD:** BLUES IN THE CAVE

Vogue VG 660 660525-1 (CD1 – Tk 22)

3. Reissue on **CD:** SIDNEY BECHET – VOL. 2 –

IN THE GROOVE (1993)

Vogue 74321169522 (Tk 19)

4. Reissue on **CD:** SIDNEY BECHET 1950-1951 (2004)

Classics 1326 (Tk 9)

5. Reissue on **CD:** VIVE LA FRANCE (2005)

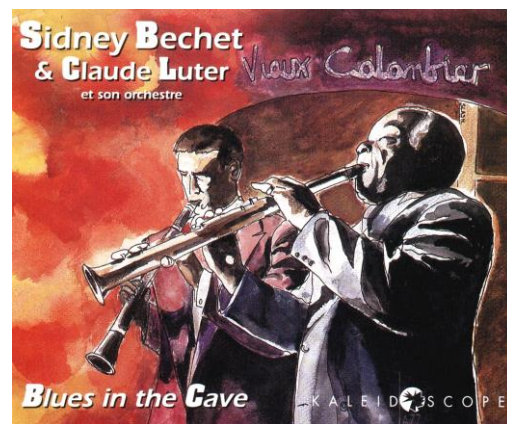
Epm Musique 160632 (4XCDs) (Disc 2 – Tk 14)

B. American **LP:** BECHET AND BLUES (ca. 1960s)

Scepter 537 (mono)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 7)

Notes: "The *Vieux Colombier* club – the "*Vieux Co*" for regulars – where Bechet and Luter officiated every night became one of the most attended cave in Saint-Germain-des-Prés." (Liner notes) This jazz cellar club was located in the basement of the Theatre du Vieux Colombier at 21 rue du Vieux Colombier, Paris 6eme. Starting in 1948 New Orleans Dixieland jazz was performed in this cellar.



CD Cover Painting by Slash



Sidney introduces the piece on the record –

"Now, boys, I want ya all to gather around me. I wanna show you all how easy it is to play a blues, a different blues, but in the meantime you'll stay right with the blues melody an' we're gonna call this blues, 'Blues In the Cave'. Pierre, I want you to take your trumpet an' play this melody. You hear that melody? Claude play the second part. Guy, you take your trombone. Play the second trombone part. Roland take the bass part. Look out now for the changes... That's what I mean. Now [...?.] you take over now while I get my soprano."

A happy blues that swings along very nicely. One critic said – "A real gem is 'Blues in the Cave' wherein Bechet set up the tune with seemingly informal but very theatrical spoken introduction... The timing is impeccable and Bechet's solo is one of the very best on record." (Arwulf, n.d.)

Ref: Arwulf arwulf 2014, Review, Sidney Bechet – 1950-1951, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Discographie de Sidney Bechet, 1951, [ifccom.ch](#)

Sidney Bechet, Biography, (in English), [Wikipedia](#) & (in French), [Wikipedia](#)

Sidney Bechet, Vive la France CD, Blues in the Cave, [musicme](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Sidney Bechet, Blues in the Cave, Intro & First bars, [deezer](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Théâtre du Vieux Colombier, (in French), [Wikipedia](#)

Théâtre du Vieux Colombier, Historique (in French), [free.fr](#)

JZ-DL2 France 1992

BLUES IN THE CAVE

JZ – Blues – Modern Jazz – Big Band – Instrumental

Comp: Sidney BECHET

Rts: Editions Musicales Warner Chappell (SACEM)

Perf: Charlie WATTS (drums)

Evan Parker & Lol Coxhill (soprano saxes)

Brian Lemon (piano)

Dave Green (bass)

Prod: Jean Rochard

Prod. Co: Nato & Warner Chappell

Liner Notes: (8-page booklet)

Time: 5:20

1. Compilation **CD:** VOL POUR SIDNEY (Aller)

Nato 53001.2 (Tk 8)

2. Reissue Compilation **CD:** VOL POUR SIDNEY (Aller) (1997)

Nato 777706 (Tk 8)

Notes: A compilation album intended as a tribute to the music of Sidney Bechet.

This version, although a modern free jazz interpretation, is included here with the original Dixieland version because it uses the original theme composed by Bechet.

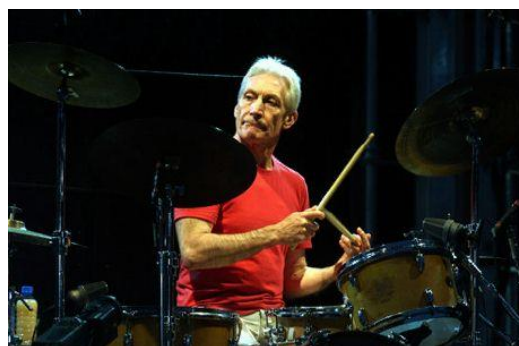
This is indeed Charlie Watts, the drummer for the Rolling Stones, branching out into modern jazz. His beat swings alright, but the sopranos go wailing off somewhere on a flight to Sydney. The piano brings us back to a more mainstream locale.

Ref: Charlie Watts, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Charlie Watts, Bio, [satisfaction.dk](#)

Vol pour Sidney CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Vol pour Sidney CD, [Discogs](#) & Reissue CD, [Discogs](#)



JZ-DL3 United States 1996

CAVERN RAG

JZ – Dixieland – Instrumental

Comp: Robin WETTERAU

Perf: DOWN HOME JAZZ BAND

Robin Wetterau (piano)

Chris Tyle (trumpet)



John Gill (trombone)
Bill Helm (clarinet)
Carl Lunsford (banjo)
Bill Carroll (tuba)
Hal Smith (drums)

Prod: Bob Erdos

Prod. Co: Stomp Off Records; York, PA

Liner Notes: Hal Smith

Time: 3:19

CD: PADDLE WHEELIN' ALONG

Stomp Off SOSCD 1300 (Tk 11)

Notes: A typically jolly Dixieland rag, possibly inspired by a jazz nightclub with "cavern" in its name. The 30-second Internet audio clip presented a piano solo backed by tuba-banjo-drum rhythm.

Ref: Down Home Jazz Band, Paddle Wheelin' Along CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Down Home Jazz Band, Paddle Wheelin' Along CD, [CDUniverse](#)

ECHO IN THE CAVERN

JZ-DL4 United States ca.1956

ECHO IN THE CAVERN

JZ – Dixieland – Instrumental

Comp: Ben POLLACK & Matty MATLOCK

Rts: (Unknown)

Perf: Bob **CROSBY AND**
THE BOB CATS

Charlie TEAGARDEN (trumpet)
Zeke Zarchy & Ray Linn (trumpets)
Lou McGarity (trombone)
Country Washburne (tuba)
Stan WRIGHTSMAN (piano)
Nappy Lamare (guitar)
Phil Stephens (bass)
Nick Fatool (drums)

Prod. Co: Coral Records Inc.

Rec. Date: Oct. 9, 1950

Liner Notes: (LP) Leonard Feather

Time:

A. American & Argentinian **LP:** BOB CROSBY & HIS ORCHESTRA 1936-1956

Coral CRL 57089 (mono) (Argentinian Title: ECO EN LA CAVERNA)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 5)

B. British **LP:** BOB CROSBY & HIS ORCHESTRA 1936-1956

Vogue/ Coral LVA-9045 (mono)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 5)

Notes: Bob Crosby, younger brother of Bing, started out singing in different orchestras. When asked to take over the leadership of the remnants of the Ben Pollack orchestra in 1935, he decided to create his own brand of jazz by adapting and arranging Dixieland music to the big band format. The Bob Cats was the name given to the smaller, more informal groups formed out of the big band for recording sessions. Then in 1942 the Bob Cats broke up. This recording made in 1950 includes only two musicians, Lamare and Zarchy, who had been with the original Bob Cats.

The inspiration for this particular piece, written by Ben Pollack and Matty Matlock (who often played clarinet in the Crosby orchestra), remains unknown. Matlock had joined the Ben Pollack Band in Oct. 1929 and quit in late 1934 along with other musicians who soon would form the backbone of the Crosby orchestra. This jazz piece was possibly composed by Pollack and arranged by Matlock sometime during that five-year



B. Crosby, R. Scott, Louis Armstrong, & Connie Boswell – Nov. 1937

period when they were together. Or it may have been composed later for the Pollack band, Ben Pollock and His Pick-A-Rib Boys, at the time they recorded it with Matlock as part of a radio transcription in Los Angeles in April or May 1950 (see next entry).



Ben Pollack



Matty Matlock

Most likely this piece is a tribute to some jazz club that used the word "cavern" in its name. For instance, there was the Beverly Cavern in Los Angeles, where in the early 1950s Nappy Lamare (on guitar here) was playing with his own band filling in on the nights when the resident Kid Ory Band were absent. (Chilton 1983)

Kicking off with hi-hat trumpet wah-wah blasts the orchestra sets the medium-paced theme. A nice long stride piano solo is followed by the ensemble that reaches crescendo. Then another short piano solo slides into the wah-wah brass right to the coda.

Ref: Ben Pollack, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Bob Crosby, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Bob Crosby & His Orchestra 1936-1956 LP, [worldcat](#)

Chilton, John 1983, *Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Story of Bob Crosby's Bob Cats & Big Band*, Jazz Book Service, London, p. 205

Eder, Bruce 2014, Bob Crosby, Artist Biography, [Allmusic](#)

Jazz 'n Pops Catalog, v. 3, n. 5, Summer 1959, Long Player Publication, New York, p. 39

Matty Matlock, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Parabrisas 2005, Ben Pollack, Bio, [parabrisas](#)

JZ-DL5 United States 1994

ECHO IN THE CAVERN

JZ – Dixieland – Instrumental

Comp: Ben POLLACK & Matty MATLOCK

Rts: (Unknown)

Perf: Ben **POLLOCK & HIS PICK-A-RIB BOYS**

Dick Cathcart (trumpet)

Moe SCHNEIDER (trombone)

Matty MATLOCK (clarinet)

Ray Sherman (piano)

Walt Yoder (bass)

Ben Pollock (drums)

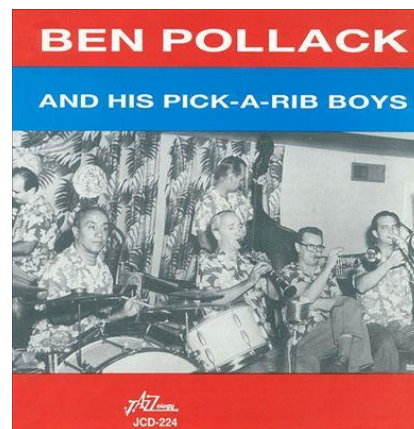
Rec. Loc: (Radio transcription) Los Angeles, CA

Rec. Date: Apr. 25 or May 3, 1950

Time: 2:42

CD: BEN POLLOCK AND HIS PICK-A-RIB BOYS

Jazzology 224 (Tk 15)



Notes: The first recording of this Chicago-style Dixieland jazz number composed by Ben Pollock and Matty Matlock, both performing it here live on radio. "By 1950, drummer Ben Pollack was regularly playing Dixieland in the Los Angeles area." (Yanow 2014)

This radio transcription recorded in Los Angeles in early 1950 but not released until 1994, so it naturally has to follow the Bob Crosby version.

The inspiration for this piece remains unknown, but it was undoubtedly a tribute to some jazz nightclub that used the word "cavern" in its name, more than likely the Beverly Cavern in Los Angeles (see entry above). The New Orleans-style trombonist, Kid Ory, recorded several pieces with his band at the Beverley Cavern in 1949, radio transcriptions that were later released on LP and CD (see under Recorded in Artificial Caves – United States – Beverley Caverns).

Ref: Ben Pollack, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Ben Pollack & His Pick-a-Rib Boys CD, Trombone solo, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Ben Pollack & His Pick-a-Rib Boys CD, [Amazon](#)

Kid Ory at the Beverley Cavern LP, [worldcat](#)

Yanow, Scott 2014, Ben Pollack & His Pick-a-Rib Boys CD, Review, [Allmusic](#)

caveinspiredmusic.com