

San Francisco Chronicle

DATEBOOK

Section E

11.26.2005



In 1960, jazz kept San Francisco hopping like few other U.S. cities. Here's proof.

In 1960, photographer William Claxton and German musicologist Joachim E. Berendt must have gotten all jazzed up about a trip they were about to embark on.

Their mission was to travel the United States capturing the world of jazz from unknowns to the elite. The book came out a year later in German. Now Taschen books has published it in English and added color photographs. Consider this the ultimate jazz lover's coffee table book, "Jazzlife: A Journey for Jazz Across America in 1960" with photos by Claxton and text by Berendt.



Miniatures

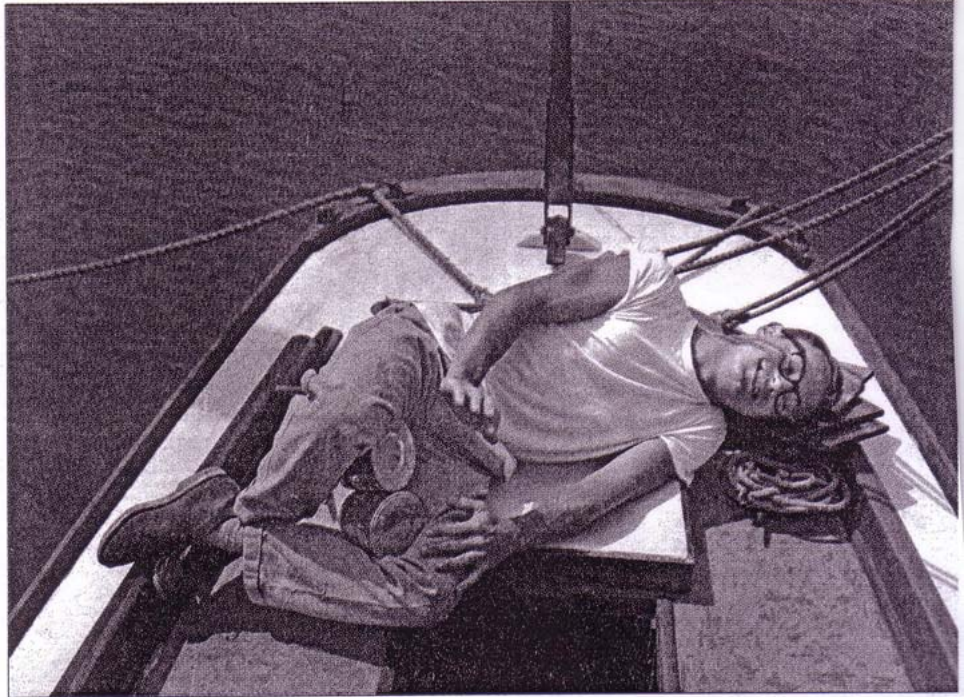
For such magazines as *Vogue* and *Life*, Berendt, nicknamed the "jazz poet" in Germany, is one of the foremost experts of jazz music. Included in Claxton and Berendt's travels was a trip to the Bay Area.

"San Francisco, the city by the Golden Gate, has more traditional jazz than any other American city except New Orleans," Berendt writes in the book. "Still, one can't speak of a flowering of traditional jazz there, but rather the opposite. And it's surely no accident that the city with the most traditional jazz in the U.S. is also the one that proves most convincingly that for all practical purposes, traditional jazz is virtually dead."

Traditional or not, here's a brief glimpse of the San Francisco jazz scene in 1960 as seen by two men who just love jazz.

William Claxton will sign books at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Cody's on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley and at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Booksmith in San Francisco.

—Leba Hertz



Photos by WILLIAM CLAXTON /

Thelonius Monk, top left, enjoys a champagne cocktail. He was part of the vibrant jazz scene that saw Cal Tjader, top, on his boat in Sausalito, drumming on coffee cans. Summing it all up, the city and the sound, is Darnell Howard, bottom, posing on Lombard Street.