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Pippo Starnazza Quintetto del Delirio Jazz in Italy in the 40s series

[Previous article: Effects of Financial Sector's Development and Financial Sector's Efficiency on Economic Growth:...](#)

[Next article: Editor's Introduction](#)

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Pippo Starnazza

Quintetto del Delirio

Jazz in Italy in the 40s series

Riviera Jazz 017

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Quintetto (really an Orchestra) del Delirio : Pietro Di Salvatore, Astore Pittana, tp,

Franco Mojoli, cl, as, Piero Cottiglieri, tens , Enzo Ceragioli, p, Armando Camera, soloist g, Angelo Servida, rhythmic g, Adriano Almangano, sb, Luigi Redaelli ("Pippo Starnazza"), dr, voc ; Milan, June 1941 : Come ti chiami?

Clinio Bergamini, tbn, added; Milan, Autumn 1941 :

Da quando penso a te / O Ciucci, perché mi fai gli occhioni?

Add Sergio Almangano, vl, and Quirino Spinetti, vibraharp; Camera, out; Milan, Winter 1941 : La marchesa Sinforosa

Astore Pittana, Pietro Di Salvatore, tp, Clinio Bergamini, tbn, Rinaldo Ferri, as, Franco Mojoli, cl, as, Piero Cottiglieri, tens, Sergio Almangano, vl, Enzo Ceragioli, p, Canapino, g-voc, Angelo Servida, rhythmic g, Adriano Almangano, sb, Luigi Redaelli, dr, voc; Milan, Winter 1941 :

Ua ua / T'aspetterò alle nove / Il solletico / Il fantasma innamorato

Milan, Beginning 1942 :

Ritmando in sol / C'è sempre un ma.../ Tu sei bella

Milan, Spring 1942 : Starnazza

Astore Pittana, Pietro Di Salvatore, tp, Clinio Bergamini, tbn, Aldo Poggi, as, Franco Mojoli, cl, as, Piero Cottiglieri and unknown, tens, Sergio Almangano, vl.

Enzo Ceragioli, p, Cosimo Di Ceglie, soloist g, Angelo Servida,, rhythmic g, Adriano Almangano, sb, Luigi Redaelli, dr; Milan, May 1942 :

Ciao biondina / Sarà l'amore? / Guarda un po' / Fragile

Add Quirino Spinetti, vibraharp; Pippo Starnazza, slide whistle; Milan, December 15, 1942 : Se mi vien (la mosca al naso)

Orchestra Ceragioli con Pippo Starnazza : Astore Pittana, Pietro Di Salvatore, tp, Clinio Bergamini, tbn, Franco Mojoli, cl, as, Piero Cottiglieri, tens, Sergio Almangano, vl. Enzo Ceragioli, p. Angelo Servida,, g, Adriano Almangano, sb, Luigi Redaelli,, dr, voc as Pippo Starnazza; Milan, December 1942 : Ah! Se fossi musicista

Orchestra Mojoli con Pippo Starnazza : Lino Petruzzelli, Pietro Di Salvatore, tp, Clinio Bergamini, tbn, Franco Mojoli, cl, as, acc, Piero Cottiglieri, tens, unknown, sax, Enzo Ceragioli, p, Quirino Spinetti, vibraharp, Angelo Servida, g, Adriano Almangano, sb, Luigi Redaelli, dr, voc as Pippo Starnazza; Milan, January 23, 1943 : Non lo dir

Quintetto del Delirio : Lino Petruzzelli, Pietro Di Salvatore, tp, Clinio Bergamini and unknown, tbn, unknown, as, Franco Mojoli cl, as, acc, Piero Cottiglieri and unknown, tens, Enzo Ceragioli, p, Angelo Servida,, rhythmic g, Adriano Almangano, sb, Luigi Redaelli, dr, voc as Pippo Starnazza; Milan, March 24, 1943 : Oh! Bimba

Astore Pittana, Pietro Di Salvatore, tp, Clinio Bergamini, tbn, Franco Mojoli cl, as, acc, Piero Cottiglieri, tens, Enzo Ceragioli p,. Sergio Almangano vl, Angelo Servida, rhythmic g, Adriano Almangano, sb, Luigi Redaelli, dr, voc as Pippo Starnazza;

Milan, November 1942 : Chi lo sa perché

Franco Mojoli cl, acc. Sergio Almangano vl. Enzo Ceragioli p, unknowns g and sb, Luigi Redaelli dr; Milan, May 16, 1944 : Il giovanotto matto

Orchestra Ceragioli con Pippo Starnazza : three tp, two tbn, Franco Mojoli, cl,, as, three saxes, Enzo Ceragioli, p, g,, sb, dr. Pippo Starnazza, voc; Milan, March 14, 1947 :

Così com'è / I Speak English

Pippo Starnazza e gli Squà Men : Giuliano Bernicchi, tp, Eraldo Romanoni, p, arr, Armando Camera, g, vl, Moschetti, sb, Enrico Cuomo, batteria, Pippo Starnazza, voc, Adriano Mazzoletti, A&R Manager; Milan, July 4, 1962 : Dinah / Oh! Bimba

Here's a CD of outstandingly musical numbers with quality acoustic guitar (always clear in the mix), trumpet, vibes, and of course the lovely bounce of Pippo Starnazza's drums. Pippo (1909-1975) sings a good jive number on this disc too. I'd be tempted to say that it's better than Louis Prima's sides of the same period, but they're just as swingy. As jazz historian Adriano Mazzoletti's accompanying notes unpack the story, there wasn't really just a Quintetto - that was just the name of a

studio band that recorded 'a few hundred titles', supposedly all regrettably 'commercial'. But if these twenty-six tracks represent the label's idea of the best, I'd like more of this swingy fun, please!

Dating from the Second World Insanity, when American records were not so easily imported to fascist Italy, these cats benefited from having to come up with their own material, rather than simply copying the American repertoire. Like the German bands of the period, very few of them are actually straight knockoffs of Tin Pan Alley hits, despite what the booklet notes claim, for the re-workings are indeed fresh and fun. Starnazza's vocal on Tu Sei Bella is really I Got Rhythm and not just a number based on its chord changes.

One surprise is Franco Mojoli's deep and warm, yes sometimes Shaw-ish clarinet. If you don't dig Dave Brubeck you probably won't think much of the heavy-handed technique of pianist Enzo Ceragioli, but I have a lot of time for him. And the guitar-violin duets are tasty too. Carlastella is a good singer - why, they all are - and there's even a falsetto number by Enza Passatore.

For those keeping score, there's full discographic detail in the booklet (more than on this page!), in both Italian and, for those like monolingual me, English too.

Dare I say that this stuff is miles better than the mandolins'n'pizza waxings of Italian-American culture in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Given the cultural and

political distance from New York City, these sides reflect mid-late 1930s sensibility. So if you played them for Harlem hipsters in 1941, they'd probably not measure up. But today, those of us who crave pre-bopster swing with oomph, that only head arrangements can supply, we'll each be lubricating those joints as soon the PLAY button kicks in.

[10/19/2010](#)[10/15/2010](#)[10/14/2010](#)[10/11/2010](#)[10/10/2010](#)

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