

The London Jazz Archive top 10

04/04/2017

During the 1960s, London became the global centre of jazz music. One HLF-supported project has saved some unique recordings from that time from being lost forever.

Gearbox Records' London Jazz Archive project drew on a collection of live 1960s recordings from London clubs, including the famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho.

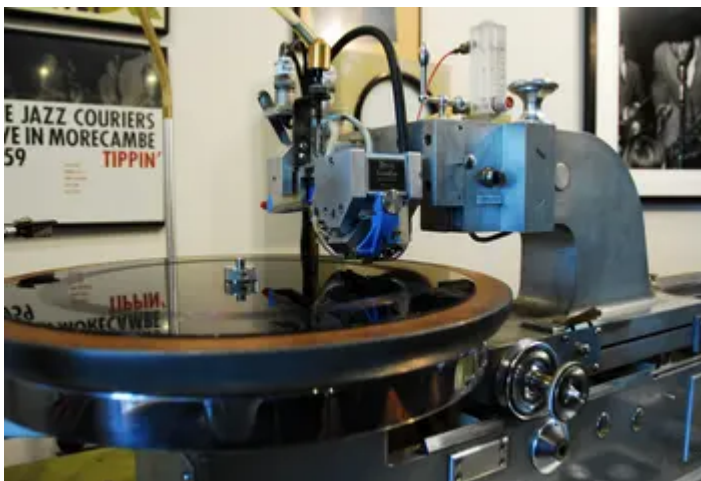
The archive was collated by Les Tompkins, a jazzophile who worked at Ronnie Scott's. Gearbox Records was able to release 15 rare and never-heard-before recordings in both digital and vinyl formats, including tracks by jazz legends such as Blossom Dearie, Sonny Stitt and Yusef Lateef.

Listen to the recordings on the [London Jazz Archive website](#).

Key stats from the project:

- **£79,000** - grant from HLF
- **242** - live recordings made by Les Tompkins
- **35** - restorations of recordings made by Gearbox (**20** vinyl, 15 tape)
- **8** volunteers plus one part-time project manager
- **1** apprentice trained in conservation, remastering and vinyl production techniques
- **20** vinyl copies of each recording given to archives including the British Library
- **3** listening sessions held with young people; **2** interpretation sessions with music education organisation Tomorrow's Warriors – plus **1** performance at Ronnie Scott's
- **10** [online courses](#) in vinyl production created
- **1959** - the year Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club opened; **2009** - the year Gearbox Records was founded
- **100** - number of people at London Jazz Archive launch party at Ronnie Scott's

Find out more on the [London Jazz Archive website](#).



[A vinyl record being cut](#)

[Gearbox Records celebrate the completion of the London Jazz Archive](#)