The Left Bank Jazz Society was a Baltimore, Maryland-based organization formed in 1964, hosting a series of concerts featuring nationally acclaimed performers like John Coltrane and Duke Ellington. Recordings of these performances were tied up in legal disputes and few were officially released until 2000.

Left Bank was founded by Vernon L. Welsh (10 February 1919 – 8 August 2002) and Benny Kearse (16 March 1930 – 29 June 1999). Welsh recorded hundreds of jazz performances at the Famous Ballroom during the 1960s and 1970s. The recordings were stored at the Morgan State University library for years before being acquired by record producer Joel Dorn of the Label M record company.

For seven years, Kearse was president of the group, which sponsored 47 concerts per season at its peak. The Left Bank's first gig was held at the Al-Ho Club, in the 2500 block of Frederick Ave., the year it was founded. The society established a long run at the Famous Ballroom in 1967. Portions of Robert Mugge's 1980 documentary, Sun Ra: A Joyful Noise, were shot at the Famous Ballroom during the Left Bank's residency there. The hall is the site of the expanded Charles Theatre.

The items in this catalog are from the estate of Mr. Kearse. The full collection of 180 items may be found on the Second Story Books website under Special Collections.

ART BLAKEY AND BENNY KEARSE PHOTO. From the negative of LBJS co-founder Benny Kearse (upper left) with legendary drummer Art Blakey (right) in the office of the Famous Ballroom. (11” x 14” photo. Date and photographer unknown). 16-493-1329140 Price: $50
50 JAZZ PUBLICITY PHOTOS - AN AMAZING ARCHIVE!
Fifty 8x10 publicity photos of jazz greats stored in clear sleeves in a ring binder. These are from the archive of the Left Bank Jazz Society and represent important artists from the 50’s to the 80’s. You’ll find MJQ, Carmen McRae, Clark Terry, Yusef Lateef, McCoy Tyner, Sonny Fortune, Don Shirley, Jimmy Smith, Charlie Byrd, Sonny Stitt, Max Roach and many other luminaries. 16-493-1327872  Price: $500

LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY BUMPER STICKER
A colorful and large bumper sticker advertising the Sunday night concerts at the Famous Ballroom. 16-493-1328682  Price: $35
LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY CONCERT ACCOUNTING SHEETS
Baltimore: 1970s. This is a fascinating look into the finances of the Society from 1972 to 1973 in mostly handwritten sheets for 17 individual concerts. Some of the sheets are quite detailed, others are ticket sales records and income statements. Concerts include Elvin Jones, Richard “Groove” Holmes, Stanley Turrentine, Charles Mingus, Art Blakey, Louis Hayes, Pat Martino, Horace Silver, Stan Getz, Maynard Ferguson and Louie Bellson. The archive is preserved in plastic sleeves and is stored in a binder. 16-493-1327994 Price: $300
28 JAZZ PUBLICITY PHOTOS
A great collection of miscellaneous jazz publicity photos from the Left Bank Jazz Society archives. 28 photos including: Freddie Hubbard, Lionel Hampton, Sonny Fortune, Duke Ellington, Carmen McRae Buddy Rich & etc.  16-493-1328657  Price: $275
LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY PACKAGE #32
Six Large Flyers, Tabloid size: 11” x 17”

November/December 1975: The Heath Brothers, Fuzzy Kane, Charles Mingus, The USN Commodores
November 1976: Zahir Batin, Leon Thomas, Arche Shepp and Stan Kenton;
December 1976: Ahmad Jamal, Art Blakey, Army Blues and Sun Ra. Oct/Nov (No Year Stated): Sonny Fortune, Woody Herman, Barry Harris, Eddie Harris, Milt Jackson, Chico Hamilton, Art Ensemble of Chicago. January 1977: Sun Ra, Rahsaan Roland Kirk and Thad Jones/Mel Lewis. This is the New Years flyer with a fundraising appeal from Vernon Welsh
16-493-1327988 Price: $200
LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY PACKAGE #26
Five Large Flyers, Tabloid size 11” x 17”
February/March: Sun-Ra, Elvin Jones, Ahmad Jamal, Horace Silver, Eddie Jefferson
March/April: Herb Ellis, Phil Woods, Don Cherry, Red Mitchell, Ted Curson, Keeter Betts
April/May: Earl Hines, Jimmy Smith, Keter Betts, Eddie Harris
May/June/July: Walter Bishop, Arnold Sterling, The Apollo Stumpers, Ira Sullivan, Sun Ra, Johnny Griffin, Yusef Lateef, Hugh Masekela
August: Frank Foster, Arthur Prysock, Duke Ellington Orchestra
16-493-1327981 Price: $175

A COLLECTION OF TICKETS AND COUPONS
LBJS tickets, cards and coupons including Army, Navy and Air Force bands, Count Basie, Maynard Ferguson, Huston Person and more.
16 items.
16-493-1328776 Price: $25
LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY  
CORRESPONDENCE AND OFFICE DOCUMENTS  

These are originals or office copies of items including: contract cover letters to Vernon Welsh signed by Bill Warburton of the Willard Alexander Agency for Phil Woods and Buddy Rich, a working copy of a concert flyer from 1965 (Jimmy Heath et al), another for Grachan Moncur III, a handwritten list of concerts for November 1972, a Buddy Rich press letter, press releases about LBJS, a letter of appreciation from db associates to Benny Kearse, the LBJS articles of incorporation, and a list of participants from the Society in a Neighborhood Youth Corp. program in 1972.  
16-493-1328771 Price: $75

DUKE PEARSON  
BLUE NOTE AUTOGRAPH LETTERS ORIGINAL CONCERT LIST  

Original Duke Pearson 1969 Autograph Letter(s) Signed (ALS), Handwritten Venue Notes on Blue Note letterhead to Vernon Welsh, co-founder of the LBJS.  
16-493-1327866 Price: $150
LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY PACKAGE #7
Ten unique items including time sheets, a liquor license, a copy of the Maryland Senates Resolution of Commendation, Mayor Sheaefer Declaration of Dec.17th - 23rd as Left Bank Jazz Society Week, blank letterhead and office documents and the 10th anniversary calendar.
16-493-1327864   Price: $150
WOODY HERMAN COLLECTION
A contract cover letter (no contract) to Vernon Welsh, co-founder of the Left Bank Jazz Society, from Irv Dinkin of the Willard Alexander management company plus an informational packet including the stage set up. This collection also includes eight Woody Herman publicity photos and one of vocalist Mary Ann McCall. 16-493-1327957 Price: $150
A DOZEN JAZZ PUBLICITY PHOTOS
Twelve publicity photos of important jazz artists including Woody Herman, Sonny Stitt, Dick Griffin, Lionel Hampton, Don Ellis, Count Basie, etc.
16-493-1327873   Price: $125

LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY FAMOUS BALLROOM FIRST SHOWS FLYER 1966
A pristine original flyer announcing the first shows at The Famous Ballroom. The lineup is impressive: Freddie Hubbard, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Ron Carter and Jack De Jonette 12/4/66; Donald Byrd, Mel Lewis, Duke Pearson and Pepper Adams 12/11/66; Jackie MacLean, Lamont Johnson, Scotty Holt and Billy Higgins 12/18/66 B.Y.O.B
16-493-132787   Price: $50

See all 180 listings for LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY
Browse the collection on Second Story Books website
BUDDY RICH, MAYNARD FERGUSON, COUNT BASIE VINTAGE ARTIST RIDERS STAGE BAND PLOTS


This material would have been sent by the artist's booking agency to the event promoter along with the contract in advance of the performance. In this case that promoter was Left Bank Jazz Society, a Baltimore, Maryland-based organization founded in 1964 that gained renown hosting a series of weekly concerts featuring nationally acclaimed performers like John Coltrane and Duke Ellington; concerts were held at the Famous Ballroom on N. Charles St. in Baltimore.

Lot includes Buddy Rich, Maynard Ferguson, and Count Basie. All are single stapled booklets, 8.5” x 11”; 10p, 2p, 11p, respectively. These are in excellent condition considering both their age and their use by a working promotional organization. No tears or major issues, mostly age toning and corner wear; Maynard Ferguson (2 pages, includes just a bio and a band plot) shows a little more handling wear.

16-493-1327755  Price: $100
Baltimore Jazz Scene 1967
A wonderful look at the events sponsored by the Left Bank Jazz society for the year. 21 page magazine with a card stock stapled cover. Profusely illustrated.
16-493-1328020  Price: $75

Baltimore Jazz Scene 1972 - 1973
Profusely illustrated. Stapled card stock. 8.5” x 11” annual magazine. Very nice condition. 16-493-1328025  Price: $75

Baltimore Jazz Scene 1977
Profusely illustrated. Stapled card stock. 8.5” x 11” annual magazine. Very nice condition. 16-493-1328026  Price: $75
BALTIMORE JAZZ SCENE 1968
Profusely illustrated. Stapled card stock.
8.5” x 11” annual magazine. Good condition only. Wear and discoloration.
16-493-1328021  Price: $40

BALTIMORE JAZZ SCENE 1970
Profusely illustrated. Stapled card stock.
8.5” x 11” annual magazine. Very nice condition. 16-493-1328022  Price: $75

BALTIMORE JAZZ SCENE 1971
Profusely illustrated. Stapled card stock.
8.5” x 11” annual magazine. Very nice condition. 16-493-1328023  Price: $75
A Gingham Club Scrapbook 1934 - Les Colvin
Washington D.C.: 1934. Found in the LBJS archives: this remarkable scrapbook with photos and clipped articles relating to the Les Colvin Band at the Gingham Club in DC. Located at 1423 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C. on the second floor of Child’s Restaurant, one of the first national dining chains. The Gingham Club was a dance club, restaurant and cocktail bar. Les Colvin was a local radio personality and band leader who was featured at the club. There are twelve 8x10 original photos (one signed by Colvin), several pages of clippings and smaller original photos and menus. 16-493-1327867 $350
To view all 180 items in the collection, tap this link: **Left Bank Jazz Society Special Collection** and browse on the Second Story Books website.

**Dealer Inquiries**

*Please contact*

Allan Stypeck: research@secondstorybooks.com  
 or  
 Zachary Green: zachary@secondstorybooks.com