

Jimmy LaRocca's
Original Dixieland Jazz Band®



www.odjb.com

Original Dixieland Jazz Band®

- **Founded in 1916**
- **Recorded First Jass/Jazz Recordings in 1917**
- **Led by Jimmy LaRocca with four new CD's**



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Original Dixieland Jazz Band® - BIO

Jimmy LaRocca's father, Dominic James "Nick" LaRocca organized and led the Original Dixieland Jass Band (ODJB) in 1916 with five musicians, all from New Orleans, performing a steady "gig" in Chicago. They were seen by a promoter who offered them an engagement to perform at a supper club in New York City. While in New York they were asked to record cover songs for Columbia records and they did! ... Columbia shelved the recording saying it would not sell. Then Victor Records recorded the ODJB on February 26, 1917 where they recorded their own original compositions with "Dixie Jass Band One-Step" and "Livery Stable Blues"

A quick note here: Ragtime began in the late 1800's and was first published on sheet music in 1897, John Phillip Sousa was hugely popular from the 1890's through the 1930's. Enrico Caruso, an opera tenor, was the first million seller in 1904. There were many styles of music being performed and then along came this new style of music that no one had heard.

In 1917 the ODJB outsold Enrico Caruso and became the first "Pop" band to sell over a million 78's. Their music was for dancing, Fox-Trot, and they were so huge that bands changed instrumentation and compositions to try and match their success.

From 1917 through 1923 you can look in any Victor records catalogues and see only two jazz bands listed. The ODJB recorded eight Victor 78's in 1917 alone and by 1918 they are called the Original Dixieland Jazz Band both in letters of correspondence and on the recording labels. This five member band was true Dixieland jazz – "the music that made New Orleans famous!" If you don't have the opportunity to hear this style of jazz then you are not hearing "real" New Orleans jazz. The ODJB recorded fifty-two 78's from 1917 until 1936 that are still sold today on various CD compilations.

The ODJB began the jazz era in 1917 with the first recorded "jass" for both Columbia and Victor Records. Their "hit" recordings of "Dixie Jass Band One-Step," "Livery Stable Blues," "Darktown Strutters' Ball," and "Indiana" sold over 1.5 million copies worldwide and began the jazz era. Their hit recordings introduced the word "jass" to the world and in 1918 the name changed to "Jazz" on the ODJB recordings securing the word as a musical definition or term worldwide and the rest is history!

On February 8, 2006 the Original Dixieland Jazz Band was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for their 1917 recording of the "Darktown Strutters' Ball."

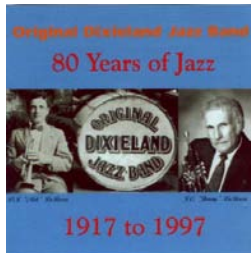
Jimmy LaRocca's father had retired from the music business by the time he was born but his father's influence was still very impressionable. From the time that Jimmy opened his father's cornet case, as a young boy, and smelled the brass horn, he had a passion to learn, play and perform. Jimmy's father, Nick, was completely self taught and played by ear. He could not read or write music and would hire professional musicians to write his music down. In later years, Jimmy studied music and would write his father's new compositions onto manuscript paper.

Jimmy has kept the band performing over many decades and in the mid 1990's Jimmy LaRocca and David Hansen teamed up to promote and perform the music of the ODJB. Jimmy owns the registered trademark name: Original Dixieland Jazz Band and is very particular in keeping the sound, style and feel of the music as correct as possible. Jimmy says the tempo, style, feel, sound and especially the form of the songs are vital to the integrity. The musicians in the band are able to solo and have their musical say, but the basic melody, harmony and form of each song has to be honored.

Since 1996, the (neo) ODJB has performed concerts and jazz festivals all over the world.

The (neo) ODJB shines the brightest on a concert stage and it is refreshing to see so many people tap feet, clap hands, smile and comment on how good they feel when they listen to this music from New Orleans. Selections you might hear at an ODJB performance include "Dixie Jass Band One-Step," "Livery Stable Blues," "Fidgety Feet," "Clarinet Marmalade," "Tiger Rag," "St. Louis Blues," "St. James Infirmary," "Bourbon Street Parade," "When It's Sleepy Time Down South," "Basin Street Blues," "When the Saints Go Marching In" and many other great New Orleans classics.

CD's – music samples



To hear samples of the band please select an album cover (above) ...

or select the link below (you can also copy and paste the link into your web browser)

www.cdbaby.com/Artist/OriginalDixielandJazzBand

ODJB VIDEO



<http://youtu.be/ABWrjhBVnAk>



<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3EB8BCFD23166A25>

(ODJB videos playlist link!)

(Select each photo or the YouTube links)

ODJB Stage Plot / Layout

Stage: 16 to 24 feet wide X 16 to 20 feet deep (20 X 16 or 16 X 16)

Two (2) standard 20 amp electrical outlets

One (1) case (12) of bottled water (does not need to be on ice) at the side of the stage.

Drums, Bass and Piano should be tight.

- Bass pushed back
- Drums and Piano pushed up (so a visual line of sight is established)

Piano, Bass & drums mic as needed.

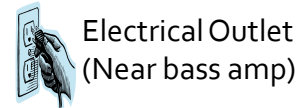
- (prefer Earthworks)
- D/I & mic for bass

2 monitors for:

- Trumpet

1 monitor each for:

- Clarinet
- Trombone
- Piano
- Drums
- (no monitor for bass)



For technical or set up questions Contact: David Hansen 504-283-3786

ODJB Photos



Radio Eviva Interview
Zurich, Switzerland 2006
Jimmy LaRocca and Max Wirtz



Verona Jazz Festival
Italy June, 2007

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