

# THE RECORDINGS OF CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

## An Annotated Personello-Discography

WEBB, 'Chick' William Henry, drums

Born: Baltimore, Maryland, 10th February 1909

Died: Baltimore, Maryland, June 16th, 1939

Overcame physical deformity caused by tuberculosis of the spine. Bought first set of drums from his earnings as a newspaper boy. Joined local boys' band at the age of 11, later (together with John Trueheart) worked in the Jazzola Orchestra, playing mainly on pleasure steamers. Moved to New York (c. 1925), subsequently worked briefly in Edgar Dowell's Orchestra. In 1926 led own five-piece band at the Paddock Bottom Club, New York, for five-month residency. Later led own eight-piece at the Paddock Club before leading own Harlem Stompers at Savoy Ballroom from January 1927. Added three more musicians for stint at Rose Danceland (from December 1927). Worked mainly in New York during the late 1920s – several periods of inactivity – but during 1928 and 1929 played various venues including Strand Roof, Roseland, Cotto Club (July 1929), etc.. During the early 1930s played the Roseland, Savoy Ballroom, and toured with the 'Hot Chocolates' revue. From late 1931 the band began playing long regular seasons at the Savoy Ballroom (later fronted by Bardu Ali). They continued to play theatre dates and tour and also did a season at the Casino de Paris, New York, in 1934 (in late 1932 the band did a series of theatre dates accompanying Louis Armstrong). By the mid-1930s Chick Webb's name was virtually synonymous with the Savoy ballroom, in 1935 he introduced his new vocaliste, Ella Fitzgerald. The band also did far-ranging tours. During the summer of 1938 they broke several all-time attendance records at ballrooms and theatres, by then Chick's health had begun to fail. He left hospital in November 1938 and began a tour of Texas, he was stricken by pleurisy and again entered hospital until January 1939. He continued to appear regularly with the band until shortly before his death, playing his last engagement on a big riverboat sailing out of Washington. He died in the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, shortly after undergoing a major urological operation. The personnel of the band remained together to work for a while under Ella Fitzgerald's leadership. In 1947 a memorial recreation centre, dedicated to the memory of Chick Webb, was opened in Baltimore. Showman Bardu Ali (from Wavesland, Mississippi) was for several years employed by Chick Webb to front the band and act as master of ceremonies.

(J. Chilton, Who's Who of Jazz)

**Chick Webb and his Savoy Orchestra were the No. One black dance band in Harlem, New York, until Webb's early death in 1939. The band lived from Chick's immense swing and drive on his drums, and from a very steady personnel of young and ambitioned jazz musicians. In 1935, Ella Fitzgerald was added to the band as their singer. This combination made the Webb band most attractive to the recording industry and internationally known. Their home-base was the Savoy Ballroom at 596, Lenox Avenue, New York, the "Home of Happy Feet".**

It must be stated that the Chick Webb Orchestra were a bunch of great jazz players, but the Decca Company "reduced" them to a band mainly to accompany Ella Fitzgerald. Thus, the best of their jazz material may be found on transcriptions and air-checks published on LPs and special CD-labels,

See also my 'Chick Webb – the Non-Webb Recordings' list elsewhere at this web-site under 'Drums'!

### CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

#### 001 CHICK WEBB'S HARLEM STOMPERS

Bobby Stark – tpt; *Wilbur de Paris* – tbn;

Johnny Hodges – alt; clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;

Don Kirkpatrick – pno; Benny James – bjo; Leon England – bbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr

E-6358

Low Levee, High Water

New York,

Aug. 25, 1927

Voc unissued

not on LP/CD

To my utmost regret, there is no test of this recording left for our interest and delight!

Following my remarks about trombone player William Paris in my article on the Original Jazz Hounds (see elsewhere on this website) the personnel for Chick Webb's Harlem Stompers of 25 August 1927 in Rust\*6 should certainly be: Bobby Stark – tpt; William R. Paris (recte Wilbur de Paris) – tbn; Johnny Hodges – alt; Elmer Williams – ten; Don Kirkpatrick – pno; Benny James – bjo, gtr; Leon England – bbs; Chick Webb – dms. This is the common dance band instrumentation of the period in Harlem when not augmented for larger premises.

Arrangements were written for this basic personnel with possible parts for additional musicians. A personnel of tpt – 2 altos – ten – rhythm as listed in Rust\*6 would have been very un-normal at the time, Frankie Newton used it ten years later, and possibly others, too. No William Paris is mentioned anywhere as altoist, but certainly as trombonist, but should be recognised as Wilbur de Paris.

Notes:

Rust\*2: not listed

Rust\*3: Bobby Stark -t; Johnny Hodges -as; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -g; Chick Webb -d -ldr

Rust\*4,\*6: Bobby Stark -t; William R. Paris -Johnny Hodges -as; Ed Williams -ts; Don Kirkpatrick -p; Benny James -bj -g; Leon England -bb; Chick Webb -d -ldr

**002 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

Ward Pinkett, Edwin Swayze – tpt; Bennie Morton – tbn;

Hilton Jefferson, Bobby Holmes – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;

Don Kirkpatrick – pno; John Trueheart – bjo, gtr; unknown – bbs; Chick Webb – dms;

James Barton – voc (2); George “Shorty” Snowden, unknown – dancers

I Ain’t Got Nobody (fragment)

Waitin’ For The Evenin’ Mail

Sweet Sue (3 fragments)

Tiger Rag (incomplete)

I Ain’t Got Nobody (fragment)

New York, c. late 1928  
Paramount film ‘After Seben’

not on LP/CD, [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

not on LP/CD, [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Ristic Special SAC (LP) not on CD

Ristic Special SAC (LP) not on CD

Ristic Special SAC (LP) not on CD

These unfortunately very short musical examples of an early Chick Webb band accompany a dance-contest in a Harlem night club on film. What this fantastic band might have sounded like if recorded with adequate equipment! First issued by John R.T. Davies on his Ristic label, later also on Harlequin HQ 2038 ‘Black Bands on Film 1928 – 1935’.

- The ‘I Ain’t Got Nobody’ eight-bars fragment at the beginning certainly has the Webb band playing (and not a studio band as I have found stated somewhere!), with syncopated muted-trumpet by Edwin Swayze. And Chick Webb can clearly be recognised playing press-rolls in ragtime-derived style and a final cymbal stroke to end the number. Another eight-bars fragment of this tune is played at the end of the film, but the drummer is less audible, there. This first fragment of ‘I Ain’t Got Nobody’ then has to be seen as the first documented appearance of Chick Webb playing drums.

- Two of the three ‘Sweet Sue’ fragments each comprise a three-quarter chorus by the band with dancing by different couples of dancers, the third fragment comprising a whole chorus. The first chorus has a muted-trumpet solo by very probably Ward Pinkett, the second chorus a muted-trombone solo by Bennie Morton, and the third chorus a muted-trumpet solo by Ward Pinkett, again.

- The clarinet solo on the ‘Tiger Rag’ part is played by Bobby Holmes, who, by the way, is shown with his clarinet at hand in the entire band-part of the film, his alto lying on the floor besides his feet. In this title he shows a fast multi-toned and straight-ahead clarinet performance with little harmonic and rhythmic finesse, but swinging and giving a lift to the band.

- It is very interesting to note that no written arrangements are used, and the band play entirely ad-lib for the whole duration of the band parts. The saxophones noodle along ad-lib, creating a thick harmonic background, yet un-structured – for the brass soloists. This, I presume, was the usual way Harlem big bands played for dancing when they were assembled lately and for short duration only, and lacked a sufficiently large band-book of arrangements.

Notes:

- not listed in the discographies

Solos ad-lib:

IAGN: ES m-tpt + CW dms + ens 12

WFTEM: DK pno 2; JB voc + DK pno obl 12+24+28

SS: WP m-tpt + ens 24; BM o-tbn + ens 24; WP m-tpt + ens 32

TR: BH clt + ens 14; WP m-tpt + ens 2; BH clt + ens 14; WP m-tpt + ens 2; BH clt + ens 16

IAGN: ES o-tpt + ens 8

**003 THE JUNGLE BAND**

Ward Pinkett, Edwin Swayze – tpt; (Bennie Morton?) or Robert ‘Mack’ Horton – tbn;

Hilton Jefferson, Joe Garland – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;

Don Kirkpatrick – pno; John Trueheart – bjo; Elmer James – bbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ward Pinkett – voc; Benny Carter - arr

E-30039-A Dog Bottom

Composer credits: E-30039 (Webb)

New York, Jun. 14, 1929

Br 4450, Chronological Classics 502

This is absolute first-class Harlem big band music. Chick Webb soloing on the Ludwig hand-cymbal. I firmly believe that this is a Benny Carter arrangement. Solos by Horton (or Bennie Morton? see below!), Kirkpatrick, Jefferson, Williams, probably Swayze tpt and Pinkett voc.

Joe Garland’s presence is affirmed by Johnny Simmen of Zurich, Switzerland, from Garland’s own recollections.

But I found myself unable to decide the identity of the trombonist!

Notes:

- Charles Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Featuring Ward Pinkett (tp & vo); Chick Webb (dm & leader)*

- Storyville 14, Richard Rains, ‘Conversations with Doc’ (Cheatham and Benny Morton! - KBR): “We first played the Jungle Band’s ‘Dog Bottom’ because we suspected that Benny (Morton – KBR) was on it. He recognised the arrangement at once but could not remember the session. He felt, however, that he must have been there, after having said that the trombone was not Jimmy Harrison, Robert Horton, or Sandy Williams. He said that both trumpet solos were taken by Ward Pinkett (who, incidentally, passed for white on occasion). ... Chick Webb must have an Ellington sound in mind, more by design than accident, on both this date and thirteen days later when ‘Jungle Mama’ was made with a slightly different personnel. Benny said that the trombone was definitely not himself (! – KBR) but was more like Joe Nanton than Harrison or Horton, one of whom might be deliberately imitating the style of Nanton, however.”

- Rust\*2: Ward Pinkett (tpt, vcl); Edwin Swayzee (tpt); Jimmy Harrison (tbn); Albert Nicholas (clt); Louis Jordan (alt); Elmer Williams (ten); Don Kirkpatrick (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Chick Webb (dms)

- Rust\*3: Ward Pinkett -t -v; Edwin Swayzee -t; Robert Horton -tb; Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Louis Jordan -as; Elmer Williams -ts; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; Elmer James -bb; Chick Webb -d

- Rust\*4,\*6: Ward Pinkett -t -v; Edwin Swayzee -t; Robert Horton -tb; Hilton Jefferson, Louis Jordan -cl -as; Elmer Williams -cl -ts; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; Elmer James -bb; Chick Webb -d

- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Ward Pinkett (tp, vcl); Edwin Swayzee (tp); Robert Horton (tb); Hilton Jefferson, Louis Jordan (as); Elmer Williams (ts); Don Kirkpatrick (p); John Trueheart (bjo); Elmer James (tu); Chick Webb (d)

Tunes structures:

E-30039-A *Dog Bottom* Key of Ab / Db / Ab Brunswick  
 (Intro 8 bars ens)(Vamp 4 bars ens)(Strain A1 14 bars AA' saxes)(Interlude 6 bars brass+CW cymb)(Strain B 8 bars RMH o-tbn)  
 (Strain C1 8 bars brass)(Strain C2 8 bars DK pno 6 – ens 2)(Tag 2 bars ens 2)(Strain D 16 bars JG alt)(1/2 Strain D 8 bars saxes  
 br 4 – ens 4)(Bridge 4 bars brass+ CW cymb)(1/2 Strain A 8 bars ens)(Strain A2 16 bars EW ten)(Strain A3 16 bars ES o-tpt)(Strain  
 A 4 16 bars WP scat-voc)(1/2 Strain A 8 bars ens)(Coda 6 bars ens)

004 **THE JUNGLE BAND**

New York, Jun. 27, 1929

Ward Pinkett, Edwin Swayze – tpt; Robert 'Mack' Horton – tbn;  
 Hilton Jefferson, Joe Garland – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;  
 Don Kirkpatrick – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Elmer James – bbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr  
 E-30091-A *Jungle Mama* Br 4450, Chronological Classics 502  
*Composer credits: E-30091 (Webb)*

And a first-class big band blues by this early Chick Webb band. Solos by probably Pinkett muted, Jefferson or rather Garland clarinet, Horton muted, probably Swayze. Chick Webb can clearly be heard using his Ludwig hand-cymbal at the very end of this title. He is thus not omitted from proceedings as listed in the discographies.

Joe Garland's presence is affirmed by Johnny Simmen of Zurich, Switzerland, from Garland's own recollections.

And yes, the Mosaic booklet is right in stating that John Trueheart switches to guitar on this side. But who may be the eleventh man participating? A third trumpet would be the first possibility, but the brass section does not sound like it. Nor does the clarinet section sound to have four players. And: arrangements of this time did usually not include parts for third trumpet or fourth saxophone/clarinet! So, I – KBR – would rather see this statement resulting in some negligent observation of a studio assistant.

Notes:

- Charles Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Featuring Ward Pinkett (tp & vo); Chick Webb (dm & leader)*  
 - Storyville 14, Richard Rains, 'Conversations with Doc' (Cheatham and Benny Morton! - KBR): "We first played the Jungle Band's 'Dog Bottom' because we suspected that Benny (Morton – KBR) was on it. He recognised the arrangement at once but could not remember the session. He felt, however, that he must have been there, after having said that the trombone was not Jimmy Harrison, Robert Horton, or Sandy Williams. He said that both trumpet solos were taken by Ward Pinkett (who, incidentally, passed for white on occasion). ... Chick Webb must have an Ellington sound in mind, more by design than accident, on both this date and thirteen days later when 'Jungle Mama' was made with a slightly different personnel. Benny said that the trombone was definitely not himself (! – KBR) but was more like Joe Nanton than Harrison or Horton, one of whom might be deliberately imitating the style of Nanton, however."

- Rust\*2: Ward Pinkett (tpt, vcl); Edwin Swayzee (tpt); Jimmy Harrison (tbn); Albert Nicholas (clt); Louis Jordan (alt); Elmer Williams (ten); Don Kirkpatrick (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Chick Webb (dms)

- Rust\*3: Ward Pinkett -t -v ; Edwin Swayzee -t; Robert Horton -tb; Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Louis Jordan -as; Elmer Williams -ts; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; Elmer James -bb; Chick Webb -d

- Rust\*4,\*6: Ward Pinkett -t -v ; Edwin Swayzee -t; Robert Horton -tb; Hilton Jefferson, Louis Jordan -cl -as; Elmer Williams -cl -ts; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; Elmer James -bb; Chick Webb -d

- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Ward Pinkett (tp, vcl); Edwin Swayzee (tp); Robert Horton (tb); Hilton Jefferson, Louis Jordan (as, cl); Elmer Williams (ts,cl); Don Kirkpatrick (p); John Trueheart (g); Elmer James (tu); Chick Webb (d); "The Brunswick ledgers show that 11 men were used for this recording."

Tunes structures:

E-30091-A *Jungle Mama* Key of Eb Brunswick  
 (Intro 6 bars ens)(Chorus 1 12 bars WP m-tpt)(Chorus 2 12 bars WP m-tpt)(Chorus 3 12 bars ?JG clt)(Chorus 4 12 bars ?JG clt)  
 (Chorus 5 12 bars RMH m-tbn 10 – ES o-tpt 2)(Chorus 6 12 bars ES o-tpt)(Chorus 7 12 bars ens)

005 **CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York, Mar. 30, 1931

Shelton Hemphill, Louis Hunt, Louis Bacon – tpt; Jimmy Harrison – tbn;  
 Benny Carter, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;  
 Don Kirkpatrick – pno, cel, vib; John Trueheart – gtr; Elmer James – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Louis Bacon – voc (2); Benny Carter - arr  
 E-36432- Heebie Jeebies Voc 1607, Mosaic MD8-252-I  
 E-36433-A Blues In My Heart Voc 6156, Mosaic MD8-252-I  
 E-36434- Soft And Sweet Voc 1607, Mosaic MD8-252-I

*Composer credits: E-36432 (Boyd Atkins); E-36433 (B. Carter – I. Mills); E-36434 (Edgar Sampson)*

*Note: Takes -A and -B were cut of the first and third titles, but it is not known which takes were used for issue!*

This is one of the early Chick Webb bands before their long-lasting engagement as house-band at the Savoy Ballroom with its quite steady personnel. The band sounds typically Carterish in playing Benny Carter arrangements. Yet, we do not hear any ad-lib Carter solos on these sides, except for his eleven clarinet notes at the very end of 'Soft And Sweet'. Jimmy Harrison was in a bad state because of his cancer ailment, and he had to live less than four months, only. Yet, he still shines in his un-comparable trombone style.

But the band had a solid trumpet soloist in Louis Bacon, who stayed with Webb until 1934. Don Kirkpatrick and John Trueheart are Webb's life-long friends and stalwarts.

There are two very short spots of a celesta heard in the first title, and two spots of vibraphone heard in the second, the first of these – at the start of the first chorus – might possibly also well be the sound of a tubular-bell. The Mosaic booklet adjoins these sounds to drummer/bandleader Chick Webb. But – regarding the fact that Webb would have to get up from his seat, go to the celesta or the vibraphone and hit some very few notes and then go back – I would like to adjoin these notes to be played by the pianist, who would have been annoyed much less than the drummer. And he knew the notes much better!

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Shelton Hemphill, Louis Hunt, Louis Bacon (tp); Jimmy Harrison (tb); Benny Carter, Hilton Jefferson, Elmer Williams (s); Don Kirkpatrick (p); John Trueheart (bjo); Elmer James (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- Rust\*2: Shelton Hemphill, Louis Hunt (tpt); Louis Bacon (tpt, vcl); Jimmy Harrison (tbn); Benny Carter (clt, alt, vcl, arr); Hilton Jefferson (alt); Elmer Williams (ten); Don Kirkpatrick (pno); John Trueheart (bjo); Elmer James (bbs, sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr)

- Rust\*3,\*4,\*6: Shelton Hemphill -Louis Hunt -t; Louis Bacon -t -v; Jimmy Harrison -tb; Benny Carter -cl -as -a; Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Elmer Williams -cl -ts; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; Elmer James -bb -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr  
- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Shelton Hemphill, Louis Hunt (tp); Louis Bacon (tp, vcl); Jimmy Harrison (tb); Benny Carter (cl, as, arr); Hilton Jefferson (cl, as); Elmer Williams (cl, ts); Don Kirkpatrick (p); John Trueheart (g); Elmer James (b); Chick Webb (d, cel, bells)

Tunes structures:

E-36432: *Heebie Jeebies* Key of Bb Vocalion  
(Intro 8 bars LB o-tpt + ens 6 – ens 2)(Chorus 1 18 bars AA' ens)(Tag 2 bars ens (Verse 8 bars LB o-tpt)(Chorus 2 18 bars AA' EW ten)(Bridge 4 bars ens)(Chorus 3 18 bars AA' DK pno)(Chorus 4 18 bars AA' saxes)(Tag 2 bars ens)(Chorus 5 18 bars AA' JH o-tbn)(Chorus 6 18 bars AA' LB o-tpt + pno)(Chorus 7 18 bars AA' ens 4 – LB o-tpt + ens 14)

E-36433: *Blues In My Heart* Key of Bb Vocalion  
(Intro 6 bars ?SH o-tpt + ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA saxes 16 – SH o-tpt 8 - saxes 8)(Verse 8 bars ens) (Chorus 2 32 bars AABA LB voc + DK pno)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA EW ten 16 – ens 8 – SH o-tpt 8)

E-36434: *Soft And Sweet* Key of Bbm / Db Vocalion  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 16 bars AABA clts/tpts + JH o-tbn 8 – ens 4 – clts/tpts + JH o-tbn 4)(Chorus 2 16 bars AABA ens + JH o-tbn 16 - EW ten 8 – ens 4)(Bridge 12 bars ens + EW ten + JH o-tbn)(Chorus 3 16 bars AABA ens – EW ten 8 – JH o-tbn 4 – ens + EW ten 4) (Bridge 4 bars LB m-tpt)(Chorus 4 16 bars AABA LB o-tpt 8 – DK pno 4 – LB o-tpt 4)(Interlude 8 bars LB o-tpt)(Chorus 5 16 bars AABA ens 7 – JH o-tbn 1+4 – ens 4)(Tag 4 bars ens + JH o-tbn 1 – BC clt 2)

**006 LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Dec. 08, 1932

Louis Armstrong – tpt, voc, ldr;

Louis Hunt, Billy Hicks, Louis Bacon – tpt; Charlie Green – tbn;

Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten;

Joe Steele or Don Kirkpatrick – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Elmer James – bbs; Chick Webb – dms;

Mezz Mezzrow – bells (3,4), unknown - train effects (3,4)

|         |                                   |               |                            |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 74820-1 | That's My Home                    | Vic 24200,    | Chronological Classics 536 |
| 74820-2 | That's My Home                    | BB B-10236,   | BMG 09026 68682 2 II       |
| 74821-1 | Hobo, You Can't Ride This Train   | Vic 24200,    | Chronological Classics 536 |
| 74821-2 | Hobo, You Can't Ride This Train   | Vic uniss 78, | BMG 09026 68682 2 II       |
| 74822-1 | I Hate To Leave You Now           | Vic 24204,    | Chronological Classics 536 |
| 74822-2 | I Hate To Leave You Now           | Vic 1A-2016,  | BMG 09026 68682 2 II       |
| 74823-1 | You'll Wish You'd Never Been Born | Vic 40-0102,  | BMG 09026 68682 2 II       |
| 74823-2 | You'll Wish You'd Never Been Born | Vic 24204,    | Chronological Classics 536 |

Composer credits: 74820 (Leon & Otis Rene – Ben Ellison); 74821 (Louis Armstrong); 74822 (Dorothy Dick – Harry Link – Fats Waller); 74823 (Louis Armstrong)

This recording session is played by the early Chick Webb band under Armstrong's name, when Louis did not have a band of his own. As almost always in later years, these titles are feature-numbers for Armstrong, and nothing will be said here in praise of Louis as so much has been said before, and certainly more appropriate than I would be able to.

In consequence, there is little solo performance of band members on these sides. But the following should be mentioned:

- 'That's My Home': Louis shares a too-short chase part in the verse with Elmer Williams on tenor. Otherwise, it's Armstrong throughout in this tune, except, perhaps, for two possibly ad-lib bars by probably Louis Bacon on the trumpet.

- 'Hobo, ...': there is beautiful 4/4 tuba by Elmer James all over, a tenor sax chorus by Williams, and a rather modern muted swing/bluesy trombone chorus – a bit shaky, perhaps. (Charlie Green had obviously listened to the younger trombonists of his time.)

- 'I Hate To Leave You, Now': Louis Bacon – probably – plays a nice muted obligato behind Louis' vocal. Then it is all Louis again.

- 'You'll Wish ... Born': obviously is an early setting of his 'You Rascal, You'. There are fine solo outings by Elmer Williams, by Green with a solo in early swing fashion and nice Pete Clark on clarinet.

The pianist is listed as Don Kirkpatrick. (J. Chilton's 'Who's Who of Jazz' says that Kirkpatrick "worked mainly with Chick Webb until late 1932, then long spell with Don Redman from early 1933." When listening to these late 1932 Victor sides it strikes that the pianist here plays very similar to Joe Steele's style (two tags in 'I Hate To Leave You Now' and the piano below the ensemble parts in 'You'll Wish You'd ...') with its filigree harmonics. I therefore have added Steele as possible pianist for these sides instead of Kirkpatrick.

I believe not to have heard Elmer James on string-bass here, but on tuba only throughout this session.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Louis Armstrong (tp & vo); Louis Bacon, Louis Hunt, Billy Hicks (tp); Charlie Green (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Don Kirkpatrick (p); John Trueheart (g); Elmer James (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- B. Rust, *The Victor Master Book, Vol. 2: LA-t-v; 3t; tb; 3s; vn; p; g; b-bb; d.*

- Rust\*2: Louis Armstrong (tpt, vcl); Louis Bacon, Louis Hunt, Billy Hicks (tpt); Charlie Green (tbn); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson (alt); Elmer Williams (ten); Don Kirkpatrick (pno); John Trueheart (gtr); Elmer James (sbs); Chick Webb (dms); Mezz Mezzrow (bells)

- Rust\*3,\*4,\*6: Louis Armstrong -t -v; Louis Bacon -Louis Hunt -Billy Hicks -t; Charlie Green -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as; Edgar Sampson -as -vn; Elmer Williams -ts; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -g; Elmer James -bb -sb; Chick Webb -d; Mezz Mezzrow -bells

- J. Willems, *All Of Me, The complete discography of Louis Armstrong: Louis Armstrong (tp, voc); Louis Bacon, Louis Hunt, Billy Hicks (tp); Charlie Green, tb); Pete Clark (cl, as); Edgar Sampson (as); Elmer Williams (ts); Don Kirkpatrick (p); John Trueheart (g); Elmer James (tu); Chick Webb (d)*

- Louis Armstrong, *The complete RCA Victor Recordings, booklet: Armstrong, trumpet and vocals; Louis Bacon, Louis Hunt, Billy Hicks, trumpets; Charlie Green, trombone; Pete Clark, clarinet and alto sax; Edgar Sampson alto sax and violin; Elmer Williams tenor sax; Don Kirkpatrick, piano; John Trueheart, guitar; Elmer James, tuba and bass; Chick Webb, drums; Mezz Mezzrow, bells.*

Tunes structures:

74820: *That's My Home* Key of Ab / Bb Victor  
(Intro 8 bars ens 4 – LA o-tpt 4)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA LA voc + ens)(Bridge 4 bars ens)(Verse 16 bars LA o-tpt 4 – EW ten 3 – LA o-tpt 1+4 – EW ten 4)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA LA o-tpt + ens)

74821: *Hobo, You Can't Ride This Train* Key of Bb Victor  
(Intro 16 bars ens)(Verse 28 bars AABC ens)(Chorus 1 16 bars AA LA voc + ens)(Chorus 2 16 bars AA LA voc + ens)(Chorus 3 16 bars AA EW ten)(Chorus 4 16 bars AA LA voc + ens)(Chorus 5 16 bars AA CG o-tbn)(Chorus 6 16 bars AA LA o-tpt)(Chorus 7 16 bars AA LA o-tpt 8 – ens + LA voc 8)

74822: *I Hate To Leave You Now* Key of F / Bb / F Victor  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA LA-m-tpt + ens 30 - DK pno 2)(Bridge 2 bars JS or DK pno)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA LA

voc + ens + LB m-tpt obl 30 – JS or DK pno 2)(Bridge 2 bars JS or DK pno)(1/2 Chorus 3 16 bars AA LA o-tpt)

74823: *You'll Wish You'd Never Been Born* Key of F Victor

(Intro ? bars LA o-tpt)(Chorus 1 16 bars AA'BA ens)(Chorus 2 16 bars AABA ens + EW ten)(Chorus 3 16 bars AA'BA LA voc + ens)(Chorus 4 16 bars AA'BA LA voc + ens)(Chorus 5 16 bars AA'BA EW ten)(Chorus 6 16 bars AA'BA LA voc + ens)(Chorus 7 16 bars AA'BA CG o-tbn)(Chorus 8 16 bars AA'BA LA voc)(Chorus 9 16 bars AA'BA PC clt)(Chorus 10 16 bars AA'BA LA o-tpt)(Chorus 11 16 bars AA'BA LA o-tpt)

Notable differences of takes:

74820-1: Introduction: single chimes-strokes in bars 1, 2 and 3 (prob by Webb), rhythm-section starting on measure 3 of bar 6  
 74820-2: Introduction: one single chimes-stroke at the end of bar 4, rhythm-section starting with measure 1 of bar 6  
 74821-1: Train-effects at start of tune: 2 bell-strokes, then steam-effects and train-whistle; LA beginning with "My, my, my, ..."  
 74821-2: Train-effects at start of tune: train-whistle, then 2 bell-strokes, then steam-effects; LA beginning vocal with "Boy, ..."  
 74822-1: Introduction bar 4: LA starts with eighth-notes c-d-e-f-f, then quarter-note e (upbeat to melody)  
 74822-2: Introduction bar 4: LA starts with eighth-note c and quarter note c (syncopated), then 2 eighth-notes c (upbeat to melody)  
 74823-1: LA begins introduction with: half-note a, 6 eighth-notes bb-a-ab-a-c-c  
 74823-2: LA begins introduction with: half-note a, 2 eighth-notes c-b, quarter-note bb

#### 007 CHICK WEBB'S SAVOY ORCHESTRA

New York,

Dec. 20, 1933

Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones, Taft Jordan – tpt; Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;  
 Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – grt; John Kirby – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, bells, ldr;  
 Taft Jordan – voc (1);  
 Benny Carter – arr (2)

152658-1 On The Sunny Side Of The Street

Col 2875-D, Chronological Classics 502

152659-2 Darktown Strutters Ball

Col CBS CL-2639 (LP), HEP CD 1023

Composer credits: 152658 (Fields - McHugh); 152659 (Brooks)

This is the start of the Chick Webb band in their classic and more modern form, only Bobby Stark not yet on his chair. 'Sunny Side Of The Street' shows young Taft Jordan's capability in following Armstrong's way of playing and singing.

The band swings like mad in 'Darktown Strutters Ball', played in a Benny Carter arrangement showing Carter's generous handling of tune structures and chord sequences. And then there is Sandy Williams' sharp and moderately dirty way of soloing, and a nice chorus of little-known Reunald Jones. Sadly, Joe Steele's complex piano solo cannot match the given pace of the arrangement, and is even more disturbed by someone's silly tinkling with bells. I have found these bells attributed to bandleader Webb somewhere. And I did not believe. But listening, you may recognise that the drums are silent for the duration of the piano solo, and thus Chick Webb really might have got up from his drum-seat to use the bells – a single one, that is.

As the reader/listener may see in session 008, this 'Darktown Strutters Ball' take -2 seems to be the only one existing (see next session)! But I certainly would like to hear of an explanation different from mine of this problem.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Mario Bauza, Renald Jones, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, grt); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr)

Tunes structures:

152658-1 *On The Sunny Side Of The Street* Key of C Columbia

(Intro 4 bars TJ m-tpt)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA TJ voc 30 – EW ten 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA TJ o-tpt)(Tag 2 bars TJ o-tpt)

152659-2 *Darktown Strutters Ball* Key of Eb Columbia

(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 20 bars AA' ens)(Chorus 2 20 bars AA' RJ m-tpt 18 – ens 2)(Tag 2 bars ens)(Chorus 3 20 bars AA' EW ten 18 – ens 2)(Chorus 4 20 bars AA' JS pno + ? bells 8 – ens 4 – SW o-tbn 6 – ens 2)(Chorus 5 20 bars AA' ens)(Chorus 6 20 bars AA' PC clt 16 – ens 4)(Tag 2 bars ens)(Chorus 7 20 bars AA' ens 15 – MB o-tpt 5)(Chorus 8 20 bars AA' ens)

#### 008 CHICK WEBB'S SAVOY ORCHESTRA

New York,

Jan. 15, 1934

Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones, Taft Jordan – tpt; Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;  
 Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – grt; John Kirby – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, bells, ldr;  
 Benny Carter – arr (1); Edgar Sampson – arr (2,3)

152659-4 *Darktown Strutters Ball*

Col CB-754,

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

152686-3 If Dreams Come True

Col 2883-D,

Chronological Classics 502

152687-2 Get Together

Col 2883-D,

Chronological Classics 502

Composer credits: 152686 (Mills – Sampson - Goodman); 152687 (Webb)

It seems that this take of 'Darktown Strutters Ball' was not reissued up to now, but you may find it on "YouTube". I – KBR – did, with the help of my "good ole" friend Michael Rader. The "YouTube" version does not show a take designation – the matrix number 152659 only – but clearly the disc number CB-754. But much to my displeasure, this take seems to be identical to take -2 above. Every anchor-phrase in the instrumental solos are identical, even the tinkling bell sounds during the piano solo with silent drums.

As the matrix number of "this" 'Darktown Strutters Ball' does not belong to the matrix-block of January 15, I assume that there is no take -4, but take -2 only from the December 20 date. Thus, I'd prefer to list it in italics, here.

Take -2 – as we know it - might not have been issued early on, but found in the Columbia vaults by Miss Chmura and issued on CBS CL-2639, and used for CD reissues since then. Strange to say, Rust\*2 lists the title as rejected in December 20, while all other Rusts list it as on the Columbia LP CL-2639. Take -4 is listed in all Rusts as on Col CB-754 from January 15, 1934.

The other two tunes are typical Edgar Sampson arrangements, the first title 'If Dreams Come True' a Sampson original that has become famous among jazz musicians in the subsequent years as a session number. In this tune we find an entire chorus of piano soloing by Steele, here in profound Harlem stride-style, yet played in his kind of symphonic manner. Great solos by Edgar Sampson, Sandy Williams and little known Reunald Jones, but no solos by Taft Jordan.

ADDENDUM 10-09-2024: Ph. Melick sent me a photo of Col 2883-D showing the title's name as a plain 'Get Together'.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Renald Jones, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)*

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr)

Tunes structures:

152686-3 If Dreams Come True Key of F Columbia  
(Chorus 1 32 bars ABAB' brass+JS pno 16 – saxes 8 – brass+JS pno 6 – ES alt 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars ABAB' ES alt 16 – RJ m-tpt 8 – ES alt 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars ABAB' JS pno)(Chorus 4 32 bars ABAB' SW m-tbn 32)(Chorus 5 32 bars ABAB' ens)

152687-2 Let's Get Together Key of C Columbia  
(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA RJ m-tpt)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA ES alt 16 – SW o-tbn 8 – ES alt 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA ens 16 – EW ten 8 – ens 8)(Coda 22 bars ens)

**009 CHICK WEBB'S SAVOY ORCHESTRA**

New York,

May 09, 1934

Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones, Taft Jordan – tpt; Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; John Kirby – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Taft Jordan – voc (1,3); Chuck Richards – voc (2);

Edgar Sampson – arr (1,3)

152733-2 I Can't Dance (I Got Ants In My Pants) Col 2920-D, Chronological Classics 502

152734-1 Imagination Col 2920-D not on LP/CD

152734-2 Imagination Col 2920-D, Chronological Classics 502

152735 Why Should I Beg For Love? Col unissued not on LP/CD

Composer credits: 152733 (Gaines – Williams); 152734 (Van Heusen)

'I Can't Dance' is Philadelphia trumpeter Charlie Gaines' famous party tune, sung by Taft Jordan and a band choir and arranged by Edgar Sampson in his no-nonsense arranging style.

On another level is the somewhat trashy stock arrangement of 'Imagination' with its queer chorus structure, sung in an adequate way by white singer Chuck Roberts, but rescued in some way by Jordan's very jazzy trumpet outings.

I have just recently (10-09-2024) been informed by Phil Melick of Charleston, W.V. that "at least two copies of Col 2920-D were pressed with 152734-1, a quite noticeably different performance of 'Imagination' especially in Jordan's solos." (Unfortunately, I was not able to hear this take and compare.)

No Steele solos, here, but he is apparent behind the opening ensembles of 'I Can't Dance'.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Renald Jones, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)*

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Chuck Richards (vcl)

Tunes structures:

152733-2 I Can't Dance Key of Db Columbia

(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Tag 6 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA TJ voc+choir 30 – SW o-tbn 2)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA SW o-tbn 16 – RJ m-tpt 8 – SW o-tbn 6 – PC clt 2)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA PC clt 16 – EW ten 7 – PC clt 9)(Coda 8 bars TJ voc+choir 7 – ens 1)

152734-2 Imagination Key of F Columbia

(Intro 8 bars PC clt 4 – EW ten 2 – ens 2)(Chorus A1 24 bars ABA ens)(Chorus B1 32 bars AABA CR voc)(Tag 2 bars ens)(Chorus A2 24 bars ABA TJ o-tpt 8 – CR voc 8 – TJ o-tpt 8)

Notable differences of takes:

152734-1: Having no access to this generally in-known take, I am un-able to comment.

152734-2: Having no access to the above take -1, I am un-able to comment on differences.

**010 CHICK WEBB'S SAVOY ORCHESTRA**

New York,

May 18, 1934

Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones, Taft Jordan – tpt; Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; John Kirby – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Taft Jordan – voc (1);

Edgar Sampson – arr

152735-4 Why Should I Beg For Love? Col 2926-D, Chronological Classics 502

152740-2 Stomping At The Savoy Col 2926-D, Chronological Classics 502

Composer credits: 152735 (Sampson); 152740 (Razaf – Goodman – Sampson – Webb)

The first title – like 'Imagination' of the session before – is part of the sentimental and commercial side of the Webb band. And it is a showcase for Taft Jordan's Armstrong-oriented performance. His final trumpet half-chorus is beautiful but little original. But listen to Joe Steele's piano accompaniment in his very own semi-classical style, which is expertly played and very tasteful and elegant. Steele fills all "empty" spaces of Sampson's arrangements perfectly.

'Stompin' At The Savoy' is one of the all-time jazz tunes, arranged by its composer/originator Edgar Sampson, who on this way gave the classic Chick Webb band their shape. Great solos by the horn men. (The personnel of HEP CD 1023 have Bobby Stark as trumpet soloist on 'Savoy', but this seems to be wrong and is not in accordance with the discs.)

Edgar Sampson's arrangements with their light and flowing texture are in strong contradiction to Benny Carter's full and condensed scores, often lacking introductions and/or codas.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Renald Jones, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)*

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza, Reunald Jones (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr)

Tunes structures:

152735-4 *Why Should I Beg For Love?* Key of C / Ab Columbia  
(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA SW m-tbn 16 – ens 8 – SW m-tbn 6 – JS pno 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA TJ voc)(Bridge 4 bars EW ten+ens modulation) (1/2 Chorus 3 16 bars AA TJ o-tpt)

152740-2 *Stomping At The Savoy* Key of Db / D Columbia  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA ens 16 - MB m-tpt 8 – ens 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA SW o-tbn 16 – EW ten 8 – SW o-tbn 8)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA RJ m-tpt 16 – PC clt 8 – RJ m-tpt 8)(Chorus 5 32 bars AABA ens 16 – ES alt 8 – ens 8)

011 **CHICK WEBB'S SAVOY ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Jul. 06, 1934

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt; Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;  
Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; John Kirby – sbs, bbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Charles Linton – voc (2,4);  
Edgar Sampson – arr

|          |                  |           |                            |
|----------|------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 152769-2 | Blue Minor       | OK 41572, | Chronological Classics 502 |
| 152770-2 | True             | OK 41571, | Chronological Classics 502 |
| 152771-2 | Lonesome Moments | OK 41572, | Chronological Classics 502 |
| 152772-2 | If It Ain't Love | OK 41571, | Chronological Classics 502 |

Composer credits: 152769 (Sampson); 152770 (Sampson); 152771 (Sampson – Webb); 152772 (Razaf – Redman – Waller)

Although listed as a member of the Chick Webb band in all Rusts for this date, Arbello is not present here.

Again, one of Edgar Sampson's unobtrusive but beautiful compositions/arrangements: 'Blue Minor'. Sampson seems not to have liked arranged modulations of keys. He always changes from one key to another without any modulation, the direct way. So, 'Blue Minor' starts in Bb minor, solos are in Db major, and the whole affair ends with a half-chorus in Bb minor, again. There is much space for beautiful improvisation. This tune was also recorded for Decca two months later, on 11 September, 1934. Diversities to this recording (not alternate takes!) may be found in the corresponding 'Tunes Structures' below. John Kirby plays a wonderful legato tuba here in 'True'. In 'If It Ain't Love' it's Webb on his hi-hat cymbal in the beginning, and below singer Linton we hear the very under-rated Joe Steele delivering a nice piano accompaniment.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Fernando Arbello (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Wayman Carver (ts & fl); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Fernando Arbello (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Charles Linton (vcl)

Tunes structures:

152769-2 *Blue Minor* Key of Bbm / Db / Bbm Columbia  
(Intro 8 bars ens 7 - ES alt 1)(Chorus A1 32 bars AABA ens 16 – ES 8 – ens 8)(Chorus B1 32 bars AABA SW o-tbn 16 - ens 8 – SW o-tbn 8)(Chorus B2 32 bars AABA BS m-tpt 16 – ES alt 8 – BS m-tpt 6 – ens 2)(1/2 Chorus A2 16 bars BA JS pno 8 – ens 7 – BS m-tpt 1)

152770-2 *True* Key of Bb Columbia  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' TJ m-tpt 24 – ens 8)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' TJ voc + BS m-tpt)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' EW ten 16 – TJ o-tpt 16)

152771-2 *Lonesome Moments* Key of F Columbia  
(Intro 8 bars JT gtr 4 – JS pno 4)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ?MB m-tpt 16 – SW o-tbn 8 - ?MB m-tpt 8)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA EW ten 16 – PC clt 8 – EW ten 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA ens 4 – TJ o-tpt 4 – ens 4 – TJ o-tpt 4 – ES alt 8 – ens 8)

152772-2 *If It Ain't Love* Key of Eb / C / Eb Columbia  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars TJ o-tpt 16 – EW ten 12 – ens 4 modulation)(Chorus 2 32 bars ABAC CL voc)(Tag 2 bars modul.) (Chorus 3 32 bars ABAC ens 8 – SW o-tbn 8 – ens 16)

012 **CHICK WEBB'S AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Sep. 10, 1934

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Claude Jones, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;  
Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; John Kirby – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, vib, ldr;  
Taft Jordan – voc (1,2);  
Edgar Sampson – arr (4,5)

|         |                                 |          |                            |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 38593-A | That Rhythm Man                 | Dec 173, | Chronological Classics 502 |
| 38594-A | On The Sunny Side Of The Street | Dec 172, | Chronological Classics 502 |
| 38595-A | Lona                            | Dec 173, | Chronological Classics 502 |
| 38596-A | Blue Minor                      | Dec 172, | Chronological Classics 502 |
| 38596-B | Blue Minor                      | Dec 172, | not on LP/CD               |

Composer credits: 38593 (Brooks – Razaf - Waller); 38594 (J. McHugh – D. Fields); 38595 (Mario Bauza); 38596 (Edgar Sampson)

This is the first recording of the Chick Webb band under the name of 'Chick Webb and his Orchestra', the 'Savoy' addition dropped.

There is an entire chorus of piano solo in 'Lona' and an 8-bar solo spot in 'Blue Minor', and both solos are played in a linear style with typical Stride-style embellishments in Joe Steele's "symphonic" style.

And: Claude Jones still is with the Henderson band recordings for Decca until September 25, 1934. So, was he really with the Chick Webb band on this date? All trombone solos on these sides are apparently by Sandy Williams. And again, listen to John Kirby's fantastic bass playing. There are vibraphone sounds at the very end of 'Lona' and might well be by Webb.

And what a jazzy singer and trumpet player Taft Jordan was – very much in Armstrong's style.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tb); Pete

Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Wayman Carver (ts & fl); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)

- Rust\*2,\*3: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tp); Taft Jordan (tp, vcl); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr)

- Rust\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Sandy Williams -Claude Jones -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as; Edgar Sampson -as -a; Elmer Williams -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -bs; Chick Webb -d -ldr  
- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tp); Taft Jordan (tp, vcl); Claude Jones, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl, as); Edgar Sampson (as, arr); Elmer Williams, Wayman Carver (ts); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (d, bells); "Some discographies list a -B take for 'Blue Minor', however, this has yet to surface and does not exist as a metal part or test pressing in the Decca vault."

Tunes structures:

38593-A *That Rhythm Man* Key of Ab Decca  
(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA BS o-tpt 16 – ES alt 8 – BS o-tpt 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA TJ voc)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA SW m-tbn 32)(Chorus 5 32 bars AABA ens 16 – TJ o-tpt 8 – ens 6 – TJ o-tpt 2)(Coda 14 bars TJ o-tpt 6 – ens 8)

38594-A *On The Sunny Side Of The Street* Key of C Decca  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA TJ m-tpt 16 – ens 8 – TJ m-tpt 7 – EW ten 1)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA TJ voc 30 – EW ten 2)(1/2 chorus 16 bars BA TJ o-tpt)

38595-A *Lona* Key of D Decca  
(Intro 4 bars EW ten)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' MB m-tpt 30 – ES alt 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' ES alt)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' JS pno)(Chorus 4 32 bars AA' ens)

38596-B *Blue Minor* Key of Bbm / Db / Bbm Decca  
(Intro 8 bars ens 7 – ES alt 1)(Chorus A1 32 bars AABA ens 16 – ES 8 – ens 8)(Chorus B1 32 bars AABA SW m-tbn 16 – ens 8 – SW m-tbn 6 – PC clt 2)(Chorus B2 32 bars AABA PC clt 16 – JS pno 8 – PC clt 6 – ens 2)(Chorus B3 32 bars AABA BS m-tpt 16 – ES alt 8 – BS m-tpt 8)(1/4 Chorus A2 8 bars BA ens 7 – BS m-tpt 1)

013 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Nov. 19, 1934

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Claude Jones, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; John Kirby – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Taft Jordan – voc (1);

Edgar Sampson – arr (1,2,4); Don Kirkpatrick – arr (3)

39138-A It's Over Because We're Through Dec 483, Mosaic MD8-252-I

39140-A Don't Be That Way Dec 483, Mosaic MD8-252-I

39141-A What A Shuffle Dec 1087, Mosaic MD8-252-I

39142-A Blue Lou Dec 1065, Mosaic MD8-252-I

Composer credits: 39138 (W. Bryant – L. Reed); 39140 (Goodman – Sampson - Parish); 39141 (Don Kirkpatrick); 39142 (Edgar Sampson)

Taft Jordan stars on 'It's Over Because We're Through' on trumpet and singing this Willie Bryant tune in his own Armstrong mould. And listen to Joe Steele's fine piano accompaniment to Jordan's vocal. The second tune is one of Edgar Sampson's very famous compositions and performed in his typically simple and unobtrusive arrangement.

And 'Don't Be That Way' carries an eight-bars drum solo by the master in the last chorus, played with brushes in fast triplets.

'What A Shuffle' is a composition – if you like to call it one – and an arrangement by pianist Don Kirkpatrick ... and it really is a shuffle.

Seldom did I have such difficulties in analysing an arrangement and distinguish the different parts. (Please, excuse, if I am partly wrong here!) Most interestingly: Kirkpatrick did not leave room for the pianist to solo.

And, at the end of this session another Sampson composition, 'Blue Lou', one of my own very favourite swing-tunes, with an entire piano-chorus by Joe Steele – beside his exemplary band accompaniment.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Wayman Carver (ts & fl); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)

- Rust\*2,\*3: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tp); Taft Jordan (tp, vcl); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr)

- Rust\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Sandy Williams -Claude Jones -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as; Edgar Sampson -as -a; Elmer Williams -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -bs; Chick Webb -d -ldr  
- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tp); Taft Jordan (tp, vcl); Claude Jones, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl, as); Edgar Sampson (as, arr); Elmer Williams, Wayman Carver (ts); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (d)

Tunes structures:

39138-A *It's Over Because We're Through* Key of Ab Decca  
(Intro 4 bars ens+ CJ o-tbn)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA TJ m-tpt 16 – ens 8 – TJ m-tpt 6 – JT gtr 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA TJ voc 30 – SW o-tbn 2)(1/2 Chorus 16 bars BA TJ o-tpt)

39140-A *Don't Be That Way* Key of D / G Decca  
(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens 16 – tbn 8 – ens 8)(Tag 2 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA EW ten 16 – ES alt 8 – EW ten 6 – ens 2)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA CJ m-tbn 16 – TJ o-tpt 8 – CJ m-tbn 6 – ens 2)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens 16 – CW dms 8 – ens 8)

39141-A *What A Shuffle* Key of Bb Decca  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 16 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 16 bars AABA EW ten 8 – ens 8)(Bridge 4 bars ens)(Chorus 3 16 bars AABA TJ o-tpt 8 – ens 8)(Interlude 1 8 bars brass)(Chorus 4 16 bars AABA BS m-tpt 8 – ES alt 8)(Interlude 2 12 bars ES alt)

(Interlude 3 16 bars SW m-tbn 8 – ES alt 4)(Chorus 5 16 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 6 16 bars AABA ens)(Coda 4 bars ens+ TJ o-tpt)

39142-A *Blue Lou* Key of G Decca  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA BS m-tpt 16 – ES alt 8 – BS m-tpt 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA JS pno)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens)(Coda 4 bars ens)



## 014 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Jun. 12, 1935

Mario Bauza, *Reunald Jones* or (*Bobby Stark*), Taft Jordan – tpt;

Fernando Arbello, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Elmer Williams – ten; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; John Kirby – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc (4); Charles Linton – voc (3);

Edgar Sampson – arr (1,3); Wayman Carver – arr (2); George Bassman – arr (4)

39614-A I'll Chase The Blues Away Br 02602, Mosaic MD8-252-I

39615-A Down Home Rag Dec 785, Mosaic MD8-252-I

39616-A Are You Here To Stay? Dec 494, Mosaic MD8-252-I

39617-A Love And Kisses Dec 494, Mosaic MD8-252-I

*Composer credits: 39614 (E. Sampson – K. Harrison); 39615 (L. Brown – W. Sweatman); 39616 (E. Sampson – K. Harrison); 39617**(Whiting – Schwartz - Johnson)*

We have the very young Ella Fitzgerald at age 17 here, at her very first recording session. And what an impact she makes!

I have Reunald Jones on trumpet substituting for Bobby Stark for this and the subsequent session in my notes (see Ken Vail's Jazz Itineraries, Vol.2, 'Ella Fitzgerald'). There is no soloing recognisable as by Stark on these sides. Certainly, Fernando Arbello was a reputed musician in Harlem jazz circles, and yet, he can be heard only in 8 bars in 'Love And Kisses' at this session. (Ken Vail's 'Ella Fitzgerald' has no Fernando Arbello anywhere!)

Again, on piano we hear Joe Steele with fast linear runs on these sides, playing beautifully. And it's Wayman Carver on flute in 'Down Home Rag' and 'Are You Here To Stay?'. This is the "commercial" Chick Webb band with little hot soloing. It is reported that Webb wanted his band to sound like the famous white bands!

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Wayman Carver (ts & fl); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)*

- *Rust\*2,\*3: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); John Kirby (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl)*

- *Rust\*4,\*6: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Sandy Williams -Claude Jones -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as; Edgar Sampson -as -a; Elmer Williams -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Don Kirkpatrick -p; John Trueheart -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -bs; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -Charles Linton -v*

- *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); poss Fernando Arbello, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl, as); Edgar Sampson (as, arr); Elmer Williams (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, fl, arr); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (g); John Kirby (b); Chick Webb (d, bells); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl)*

Tunes structures:

39614-A I'll Chase The Blues Away Key of D/C/Ab Brunswick  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA EF voc)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA TJ o-tpt – EW ten 8 – ens 8)

39615-A Down Home Rag Key of Ab/Fm/F/Bb Decca  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Strain A1 8 bars WC flt + PC clt)(Strain A2 8 bars WC flt + PC clt)(Strain A3 8 bars brass)(Strain B 1 8 bars ens)(Strain B 2 8 bars EW ten)(Strain B 3 8 bars TJ o-tpt)(Strain C 1 8 bars ens)(Strain C 2 8 bars JS pno)(Strain C 3 8 bars JS pno)(Strain D 1 8 bars PC clt)(Strain D 2 8 bars PC clt)(Strain E 1 8 bars ens)(Strain E 2 8 bars ens)(Strain E 3 8 bars ens)(Strain E 4 8 bars ens)(Coda 4 bars ens)

39616-A Are You Here To Stay? Key of Eb/F/Eb Decca  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Verse 8 bars CL voc)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA CL voc)(Tag 3 bars ens modulation)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA ens 16 – CL voc 16)

39617-A Love And Kisses Key of Ab/C Decca  
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Verse? 24 bars ABA MB m-tpt 8 – FA m-tbn 8 – ens 8)(Tag 2 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA EF voc)(Tag 3 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA brass 4 – EW ten 4 – brass 4 – EW ten 4 – ens 15 – ES alt 1)(Coda 2 bars ES alt 1 – ens 1)

## 015 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 12, 1935

Mario Bauza, *Reunald Jones* or (*Bobby Stark*), Taft Jordan – tpt;

Fernando Arbello, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark – alt, clt; Edgar Sampson – alt, clt, bar; Elmer Williams – ten; Wayman Carver – ten, clt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Bill Thomas – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc (1,3); Charles Linton – voc (2); Taft Jordan – voc (4);

Edgar Sampson – arr (3,5)

60054-A Rhythm And Romance Dec 588, Mosaic MD8-252-I

60055-A Moonlight And Magnolias Dec 588, Mosaic MD8-252-I

60056-A I'll Chase The Blues Away Dec 640, Mosaic MD8-252-I

60057-A I May Be Wrong (But I Think You're Wonderful) Dec 640, Mosaic MD8-252-I

60058-A Facts And Figures Dec 830, Mosaic MD8-252-I

*Composer credits: 60054 (Burton – Johnson - Whiting); 60055 (P. DeRose – H. Gillespie); 60056 (E. Sampson – K. Harrison); 60057 (H.**Ruskin – H. Sullivan); 60058 (Edgar Sampson)*

Bandleader Chick Webb, wanting his band "to sound like the famous white bands", is now on his way to more commercialism. His repertoire will more and more be dominated by arrangements of young white arranger Van Alexander, and by Ella Fitzgerald's fame.

At this session, we still have two arrangements by Edgar Sampson played. And I believe that it's Sampson leading the reed section in 'I'll Chase The Blues Away'.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Wayman Carver (ts & fl); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); Bill Thomas (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); Bill Thomas (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl)

- Rust\*6: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Don Kirkpatrick (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); Bill Thomas (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl)

- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tp); Taft Jordan (tp, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl,as); Edgar Sampson (as, arr); Elmer Williams, Wayman Carver (ts); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (g); Bill Thomas (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl)

Solos ad-lib:

60054: ES alt 3; EF voc 32; EF voc 16  
 60055: CL voc 32  
 60056: EF voc 32; TJ o-tpt 16; EW ten 8  
 60057: TJ m-tpt 28; TJ voc 32; FA m-tbn 2+16; TJ o-tpt 16  
 60058: ES alt 16; PC clt 7; ES 1+8+2; TJ o-tpt 30; FA m-tbn 8; CW temple-blocks 2

016 **CHUCK WARNER AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York, Feb. 19, 1936  
 World Transcriptions

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, unknown – tpt;

Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark – alt, clt; Edgar Sampson – alt, clt, bar; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Bill Thomas – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc (2,5,7, 12); Charles Linton – voc;

Horace Henderson – arr (1); Edgar Sampson – arr (2,3,4,5,6,7,11,12); Van Alexander - arr (8); Will Hudson – arr (9); Charlie Dixon – arr (10)

|        |                             |                       |               |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| W-1249 | Big John Special            | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1250 | You Hit The Spot            | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1251 | Stompin' At The Savoy       | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1252 | Don't Be That Way           | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1265 | Shine                       | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1266 | Go Harlem                   | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1267 | Darktown Strutters' Ball    | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1268 | Keepin' Out Of Mischief Now | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1269 | Nit Wit Serenade            | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1270 | King Porter Stomp           | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1271 | If Dreams Come True         | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |
| W-1272 | Rhythm And Romance          | World Transcriptions, | Circle CCD-72 |

Thanks to George H. Buck, Jr's immensely fertile efforts to reissue hundreds of performances of the jazz and Swing eras out of the scope of the big record companies, we find these wonderful transcriptions on his Circle label. These transcriptions were not made for commercial sale, but for radio broadcasts. "Due to contractual agreements, the transcriptions credited the artists as Chuck Warner and his Orchestra with vocals by Evelyn Fields and Carl Landon" (Frank Diggs, booklet to Circle CCD 72). According to this same booklet, Taft Jordan's presence is doubtful. A possible replacement is named as Wallace Jones of Ellington fame, but lacking any solos nothing substantial can be said. And there is pianist Joe Steele with a whole solo chorus in 'Big John Special'. His style is clearly recognisable.

Arrangers V. Alexander and C. Dixon are designated in the Circle-CD booklet, only. I – KBR – have attributed all other arrangements to Edgar Sampson to the best of my knowledge.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: not listed

- Rust\*2: not listed

- Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); Bill Thomas (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl)

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Sandy Williams, Claude Jones, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Edgar Sampson, as, a; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Don Kirkpatrick, p; John Trueheart, g; Bill Thomas, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton, v

Solos ad-lib:

W-1249: BS o-tpt 16; ES alt 8; BS o-tpt 7; JS pno 16 + 8; BS o-tpt 16  
 W-1250: JS pno 4; EF voc 31; EF voc 10  
 W-1251: SW o-tbn 16; TMR ten 8; SW o-tbn 8; BS o-tpt 16; PC clt 8; BS o-tpt 6; ES alt 1+8  
 W-1252: PC clt 7+7 + 7; SW o-tbn 16; BS o-tpt 8; SW o-tbn 7; CW dms 8  
 W-1265: TMR ten 7; EF voc 32 + 4  
 W-1266: TMR ten 8; PC clt 1+6; SW o-tbn 1+4  
 W-1267: EF voc 19; EF voc 19  
 W-1268: ES alt 2; PC clt 1+21; BS m-tpt 1+21; TMR ten 4; JS pno 4; TMR ten 4; JS pno 4  
 W-1269: TMR ten 12; BS m-tpt 12; SW m-tbn 12  
 W-1270: BS o-tpt 22; TMR ten 2+16; SW o-tbn 4 + 4; TMR ten 16; SW o-tbn 16 + 16; ES alt 16; BS o-tpt 16; TMR ten 16 + 1+1 + 2  
 W-1271: JS pno 4; ES alt 2+16; SW m-tbn 15; JS pno 32; CL voc 30  
 W-1272: TMR ten 4; EF voc 32 + JS pno obl 32; EF voc + JS pno obl 16

## 017 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Apr. 07, 1936

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Bill Thomas – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

Van Alexander – arr (1,2,4); *Edgar Sampson – arr (3)*

60999-A Love, You're Just A Laugh Dec unissued Mosaic MD8-252-I

61000-A Crying My Heart Out For Love Dec 785, Mosaic MD8-252-I

61001-A Under The Spell Of The Blues Dec 831, Mosaic MD8-252-I

61002-A When I Get Low I Get High Dec 1123, Mosaic MD8-252-I

*Composer credits: 60999 (Cahn – Chaplin - Gardner); 61000 (C. Hopkins – J.C. Johnson); 61001 (E. Sampson – K. Harrison); 61002**(Marion Sunshine)*

From now on, young white Van Alexander is an integral part of the Chick Webb organisation as the chief arranger, relieving Edgar Sampson who left the band to become a free-lance arranger in July 1936 – out of annoyance, perhaps? And the whole affair tends to become less airy and soft, but more academical and strict. And the band loses their original adolescence and chastity. What a pity.

A little special are Chick Webb's two soft drum breaks on the "traps" at the end of the last title, very melodic and with feeling.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Wayman Carver (ts & fl); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); Bill Thomas (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)*

- *Rust\*2,\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Claude Jones (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); Bill Thomas (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl)*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Sandy Williams, Claude Jones, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Edgar Sampson, as, a; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Don Kirkpatrick, p; John Trueheart, g; Bill Thomas, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*

- *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Claude Jones, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl,as); Edgar Sampson (as, arr); Elmer Williams (ts); Wayman Carver (bari); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (g); Bill Thomas (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

61000: BS o-tpt 4; EF voc 32; PC clt 4 + 2; JS pno 6

61001: NS m-tbn 7+7 + 8; EF voc 30 + 7

61002: ES alt 2+2; EF voc 32; PC clt 3; TMR ten 4; CW dms 2 + 2; EF voc 4

## 018 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Jun. 02, 1936

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;

Joe Steele – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Bill Thomas – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

Edgar Sampson – arr (1); Van Alexander – arr (2,3,4,5)

61123-A Go Harlem Dec 995, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61124-A Sing Me A Swing Song (And Let Me Dance) Dec 830, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61125-A A Little Bit Later On Dec 831, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61126-A Love, You're Just A Laugh Dec 1114, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61127-A Devoting My Time To You Dec 995, Mosaic MD8-252-II

*Composer credits: 61123 (J.P. Johnson – A. Razaf); 61124 (H. Carmichael – S. Adams); 61125 (J. Livingston – A. Neiburg); 61126 (Cahn – Chaplin - Gardner); 61127 (C. Webb – C. Williams)*

James P. Johnson's interesting title 'Go Harlem' carries the charm of Sampson's arrangement, with a couple of very short solo spots embedded, the most beautiful of them being Sandy Williams' "squeezed" trombone break with its upward glissando "rip" of an octave. (Williams certainly is one of the closest heirs of Jimmy Harrison.) And the three minimal drum breaks by Webb – very nice.

'Sing Me A Swing Song' is Ella Fitzgerald's title in the new style and includes a fantastic drum break in Chick Webb manner in sixteenth pace.

There is little room now for hot soloistic by the horn men, but plenty of space for Ella. Instead, the improved recording technique makes us hear very clearly Chick Webb's drumming in bridges and breaks, and his use of the high-hat cymbal in driving the band. To be heard in 'A Little Bit Later On' and in 'Love, You're Just A Laugh'.

Have a look at my 'Solos ad-lib' list below to see what has been lost in soloistic and jazz-wise, compared to the earlier days of the band.

And: this is Joe Steele's last recorded session with the Webb band. The more so, it's the last recording session after all of this remarkable and extra-ordinary musical and sensitive pianist.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tb); Pete Clark, Edgar Sampson, Elmer Williams (s); Wayman Carver (ts & fl); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (bj & g); Bill Thomas (b); Chick Webb (dm); Taft Jordan, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Linton (vo)*

- *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Elmer Williams (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); Bill Thomas (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*

- *Rust\*2,\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Ted McRae (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, gtr); Bill Thomas (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Edgar Sampson, as, a; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Don Kirkpatrick, p; John Trueheart, g; Bill Thomas, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*

- *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl, as); Edgar Sampson (as, arr); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (bari); Joe Steele (p); John Trueheart (g); Bill Thomas (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

61123: TMR ten 1+8; PC clt 7; SW o-tbn 1+4; CW dms 1+1+1  
 61124: EF voc 16 + 32; CW dms 2; EF voc 3 + 20 + 8  
 61125: TMR ten 4; EF voc 32; BS o-tpt 8; SW o-tbn 8  
 61126: TMR ten 5; EF voc 32; TMR ten 4; EF voc 16  
 61127: TMR ten 4; EF voc 32; PC clt 4; EF voc 12; TJ o-tpt 1+3+3

## 019 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 29, 1936

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;

Tommy Fulford – pno; John Trueheart – grt; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

*Ted McRae* – arr (1,2); *Van Alexander* or *Wayman Carver* – arr (3); *Van Alexander* – arr (4); *Charlie Dixon* – arr (5)

61361-A (If You Can't Sing It) You'll Have to Swing It Dec 1032, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61361-B (If You Can't Sing It) You'll Have to Swing It Dec GRD-2-618, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61362-A Swinging On The Reservation Dec 1065, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61363-A I Got The Spring Fever Blues Dec 1087, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61364-A Vote For Mr. Rhythm Dec 1032, Mosaic MD8-252-II

*Composer credits: 61361 (Sam Coslow); 61362 (W. Carver – C. Webb); 61363 (Werner – Werner - Bauer); 61364 (Robin – Rainger – Siegel)*

The band now has gone through a couple of significant changes: Louis Jordan succeeded in Edgar Sampson's chair in summer (July) 1936, pianist Tommy Fulford joined in summer 1936, as did Beverly Peer on string-bass, both of them at the age of 24 years. And tenorist Teddy McRae starts contributing own arrangements. The first title's arrangement may well be his work.

From here on it's the youthful Ella Fitzgerald with Chick Webb and his band in arrangement, "sounding like the famous white bands", with a minimum of hot solos. For me – KBR – a lover of hot jazz music, it is sort of a decline, I am sorry to say.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tb); Pete Clark, Louis Jordan, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, arr); Ted McRae (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Joe Steele (pno); John Trueheart (bjo, grt); Bill Thomas (sbs); Chick Webb (dms, ldr); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*

- *Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, v; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*

- *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl, as); Edgar Sampson (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (bari); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

61361: TF pno 4; EF 36; TMR ten 3; TF pno 1+4; EF voc 15

61362: PC clt 16; EF voc 32; SW o-tbn 1+6; CW dms 6

61363: EF voc 34; TMR ten 2 + 2; EF voc 18

61364: EF voc 32 + 8; CW dms 2 + 2; EF voc 8; CW dms 2; EF voc 16

Notable differences of takes:

61361-A: Chick Webb starts with brushes on the fourth beat of the piano introduction

61361-B: Chick Webb starts with brushes on the second beat of the piano introduction

## 020 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Jan. 14, 1937

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Pete Clark, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;

Tommy Fulford – pno; John Trueheart – grt; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc (1); Charles Linton – voc (2);

Van Alexander – arr

61527-A Oh Yes? Take Another Guess Dec 1123, Mosaic MD8-252-II

61528-A Love Marches On Dec 1115, Mosaic MD8-252-II

*Composer credits: 61527 (Mencher – Newman - Sherman); 61528 (J. Loeb – C. Tobias)*

Chick Webb and his Orchestra are a serious and professional big band now, driven by a fantastic drummer, accompanying Ella Fitzgerald and Charles Linton, but the charm and the looseness have gone. Yes, it's a very good dance and show band, but there is very little jazz only – eight bars of ad-lib trumpet in two titles. And: drummer Webb is fascinating me with his work on the skins when segueing from different parts of the arrangement to the subsequent ones.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tb); Pete Clark, Louis Jordan, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Louis Jordan (alt, vcl); Ted McRae (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); vcl trio (2)*

- *Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, v; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*

- *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat*

Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (as); Louis Jordan (as, vcl); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, bari); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)

Solos ad-lib:

61527: EF voc 32 + 3 + 3+15  
61528: CL voc 32; TJ o-tpt 1+7; CL voc 15

021 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York, Jan. 15, 1937

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Pete Clark, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc (1); Louis Jordan – voc (1,2); Charles Linton – voc (1);  
Edgar Sampson – arr (1); Van Alexander or Wayman Carver – arr (2)

61529-A There's Frost On The Moon

Dec 1114,

Mosaic MD8-252-II

61530-A Gee! But You're Swell

Dec 1115,

Mosaic MD8-252-II

Composer credits: 61529 (F. Ahlert – J. Young); 61530 (A. Baer – C. Tobias)

And again, the outstanding Chick Webb band with their jazz-oriented hot-dance music without the pep of their instrumental soloists. That's the commercial way. Very good and very nice, but . . .

Ch. Linton in J. Chilton, 'Let The Good Times Roll': "I think the arrangement of that number ('There's Frost On The Moon' - KBR) was by Edgar Sampson, but we were left to work out the vocal harmonies ourselves, the tree of us, and we did so without any problems."

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tb); Pete Clark, Louis Jordan, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

- Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Louis Jordan (alt, vcl); Ted McRae (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); vcl trio (1)

- Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, v; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v

- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (as); Louis Jordan (as, vcl); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, bari); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)

Solos ad-lib:

61529: EF+LJ+CL voc 32; TMR ten 4+7; EF+LJ+CL voc 8+8

61530: TF pno 2; TMR ten 1+16 + 4; LJ voc 32; TJ o-tpt 1+4; LJ voc 1+16

022 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York, Feb. 08, 1937  
broadcast Savoy Ballroom, New York ?  
Radio WJZ, Radio City

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Pete Clark, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Ted McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
unknown choir - voc (1); Ella Fitzgerald – voc (3,5);  
Van Alexander – arr (2)

Have A Good Night, Folks!

Transc. Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP)

That's A Plenty (Open 'Em Up, Chick!)

Transc. Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP)

Vote For Mr. Rhythm

Transc. Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP)

Wanton Rhythm Man

Transc. Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP)

Big Boy Blue

Transc. Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP)

These titles were recorded as radio transcriptions for Radio WJZ in New York City. And – as to my own knowledge – this seems to be the earliest live recording of the Webb band issued on LP/CD.

After an un-identified choir accompanied by the Webb band rhythm section plus Wayman Carver on baritone sax first and Pete Clark on clarinet second, there is a great and driving 'That's A Plenty' with plenty of room for soloists and Mr. Webb personally on drums. That's the jazz side of the band. 'Vote For Mr. Rhythm' has Ella and Chick, the "King of the Savoy", in exchange of song and drums. Very nice.

'Wanton Rhythm Man' then is a fast but boring accumulation of riffs without one bar only of hot soloistic. And 'Big Boy Blue' has fine vocal all through, but no solos. Anyway, this is the Webb band in a hot and loose form, and nice to listen to and appreciate.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: not listed

- Rust\*2: not listed

- Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, v; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Chick Webb, d; Ella Fitzgerald, v

Solos ad-lib:

HAGNF: choir voc 16 + 32

TAP: PC clt 16; SW o-tbn 16; TJ o-tpt 16; TMR ten 2 + 2; PC clt 16; CW dms 2 + 2; PC clt obl 14

VFMR: EF voc 32 + 8; CW dms 2 + 2; EF voc 8; CW dms 2; EF voc 16

WRM: no ad-lib solos

BBB: EF voc 8 + 32 + 6 + 6+16+2 + 2 + 2

023 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York, Mar. 24, 1937

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Pete Clark, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Louis Jordan – voc (1,2,3); Charles Linton – voc (2); Ella Fitzgerald – voc (2,4,5,7,8);  
 Van Alexander – arr (1,2,3,4,5,7,8); Edgar Sampson – arr (6); Charlie Dixon – arr (9)

|         |                                 |           |                    |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 62064-A | Rusty Hinge                     | Dec 1273, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62065-A | Wake Up And Live                | Dec 1213, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62066-A | It's Swell Of You               | Dec 1213, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62067-A | You Showed Me The Way           | Dec 1220, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62067-B | You Showed Me The Way           | Dec 1220, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62068-A | Clap Hands! Here Comes Charlie! | Dec 1220, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62069-A | Cryin' Mood                     | Dec 1273, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62072-A | Love Is The Thing, So They Say  | Dec 1356, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62073-A | That Naughty Waltz              | Dec 1356, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |

*Composer credits:* 62064 (E. LaFremiere – L. Brown); 62065 (M. Gordon – H. Revel); 62066 (M. Gordon – H. Revel); 62067 (Fitzgerald – Green – McRae – Webb); 62068 (Rose – McDonald – Meyer); 62069 (A. Razaf – C. Webb); 62072 (K. Werner – S. Werner); 62073 (S. Levy – E. Stanley)

It looks like the Charlie Johnson band was out of action, so that Bobby Johnson, their “eternal” guitarist, switched over to the Chick Webb band for almost two years. John Trueheart, Chick’s lifelong friend and co-worker, had to pause because of a serious illness. But he was back in the Webb band in spring 1939.

Of eight titles recorded at this session, six restrict to the vocal – band formula. Only two present the jazz potency of the band: ‘Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie’ in a fast Sampson arrangement with some Webb drum-breaks and the reed-soloists as given below. ‘That Naughty Waltz’ has the melody played by Carver’s baritone sax, then a half-chorus by the reeds led by first trumpet. The subsequent clarinet solo decidedly is not by Pete Clark, but – as I assume – by Louis Jordan. And the last chorus juggles with the beat. A very nice arrangement by former Henderson banjoist Charlie Dixon. (J. Chilton in his ‘Let The Good Times Roll’ has Jordan playing the baritone solos and leaves the clarinet solo un-mentioned.)

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948:* Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tb); Pete Clark, Chauncey Haughton, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

- Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Pete Clark (alt); Louis Jordan (alt, vcl); Ted McRae (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); vcl trio (2)

- Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Pete Clark -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Pete Clark, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, v; Ted McRae, cl, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v

- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet:* Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Pete Clark (cl, as); Louis Jordan (as, vcl); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, bari); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Linton (vcl); Van Alexander, Charlie Dixon, Edgar Sampson (arr)

Solos ad-lib:

62064: LJ voc 31; TJ o-tpt 1+8; TMR ten 6

62065: EF+CL+LJ voc 32; TMR ten 4 + 4; TJ o-tpt 8; EF voc 8; EF+CL+LJ voc 10

62066: TF pno 1+8; LJ voc 36; BS o-tpt 6; TMR ten 6

62067: EF voc 34; TJ o-tpt 5; EF voc 16+2

62068: CW dms 4; TMR ten 1+16; PC clt 8; TMR ten 8; TF pno 1+16; WC bar 8; TF pno 6; TJ o-tpt 2+16; SW o-tbn 8; TJ o-tpt 6; CW dms 2 + 2 + 2 + 2

62069: EF voc 32; TJ o-tpt 1+4 + 1+3; EF voc 16

62072: EF voc 32; TMR ten 2 + 2; EF voc 18

62073: LJ clt 1+8 + 4; TJ o-tpt 1+4 + 1+4 + 7

Notable differences of takes:

62067-A: TJ starts his short solo with: upward glissando bb to eb sustained for 6 counts with slow vibrato

62067-B: TJ starts his short solo with: 3 eighth-notes c-eb-c, 3 quarter-notes eb-c-g, 1 eighth-note bb, 1 half-not bb

**024 CHICK WEBB AND HIS LITTLE CHICKS**

New York,

Sep. 21, 1937

Chauncey Haughton – clt; Wayman Carver – flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Wayman Carver - arr

62618-A In A Little Spanish Town

Dec 1513,

Mosaic MD8-252-III

62618-B In A Little Spanish Town

Dec uniss 78, test exists not on LP/CD

62619-A I Got Rhythm

Dec 1759,

Mosaic MD8-252-III

62620-A I Ain't Got Nobody

Dec 1513,

Mosaic MD8-252-III

*Composer credits:* 62618 (Lewis – Wayne – Young); 62619 (G. Gershwin – I. Gershwin); 62620 (Graham – Williams – Peyton)

These are the first recordings of Chick Webb and his Little Chicks, the band within the band.

This is nice and swinging chamber jazz, arranged by flutist Wayman Carver. And it shows a remarkably potent clarinet soloist in Chauncey Haughton, of whom little can be heard in solo in the big band. Flutist Carver is a bit too intellectual for my taste, but very good, and Tommy Fulford shows his great abilities as a band pianist when not just soloing. And Chick fools around with his temple-blocks and high-hat.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948:* Chauncey Haughton (cl); Wayman Carver (f); Tommy Fulford (p); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: Chauncey Haughton (clt); Wayman Carver (flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet:* Chauncey Haughton (cl); Wayman Carver (fl, arr); Tommy Fulford (p); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); “The Decca metal parts, which currently reside at the Library of Congress, are said to contain matrix 62618-B. However, we have been unable to gain access to this alternate take.”

Solos ad-lib:

62618: TF pno 4; TF pno 1+16; WC flt 14; TF pno 2+8; CH clt 8; TF pno 8; CH clt 8; CW temple-blocks 8; TF pno 8; CW temple-blocks 7; TF pno 4; CW temple-blocks 4  
 62619: CH clt 4; TF pno 4 + 34; CH clt 34 + 34; CW high-hat 16; WC flt 8; CW high-hat 10  
 62620: TF pno 4; TF pno obl 32; TF pno 32; WC flt 32

Notable differences of takes:

62618: As the -B take of 'In A Little Spanish Town' is not reissued – but is said to be held at the Library of Congress – nothing can be said about it's difference to take -A.

## 025 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 27, 1937

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
 Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Chauncey Haughton, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Ella Fitzgerald – voc;  
 Van Alexander – arr (1,2); Harry White – arr (3)

|         |                      |           |                    |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 62725-A | Just A Simple Melody | Dec 1521, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62726-A | I Got A Guy          | Dec 1681, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62727-A | Strictly Jive        | Dec 1586, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62728-A | Holiday In Harlem    | Dec 1521, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |

Composer credits: 62725 (S. Cahn – S. Chaplin); 62726 (Marion Sunshine); 62727 (Chick Webb); 62728 (? Reed – C. Webb)

And again, we have a set of three titles 'big band with vocal' including two instrumental ad-lib solos, and one jazz title, 'Strictly Jive', that presents twenty-two bars of Taft Jordan with fire on trumpet.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Chauncey Haughton, Louis Jordan, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)  
 - Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Chauncey Haughton (alt); Louis Jordan (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

- Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Chauncey Haughton -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v  
 - Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Chauncey Haughton, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v  
 - Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Chauncey Haughton (cl, as); Louis Jordan (as); Teddy McRae; Wayman Carver (ts); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)

Solos ad-lib:

62725: EF voc 30; EF voc 6 + 6  
 62726: EF voc 32; TMR ten 8; EF voc 16  
 62727: TJ o-tpt 16 + 6  
 62728: EF voc 32; CH clt 2+16; EF voc 16

## 026 CHICK WEBB AND HIS LITTLE CHICKS

New York,

Nov. 01, 1937

Chauncey Haughton - clt; Wayman Carver – flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Wayman Carver - arr

|         |                     |           |                    |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 62737-B | Sweet Sue, Just You | Dec 1759, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|

Composer credits: 62737 (W. Harris – V. Young)

The leader's 'Little Chicks' with a very fast 'Sweet Sue, Just You', arranged obviously by Wayman Carver again, referring to the rhythmic and harmonic work-out as known from the former 'Little Chicks' session. Webb gives a permanent very fast rhythm base with his brushes to the band, soloing in the three A-parts of the fourth chorus.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Chauncey Haughton (cl); Wayman Carver (f); Tommy Fulford (p); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: Chauncey Haughton (clt); Wayman Carver (flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)  
 - Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet*: Chauncey Haughton (cl); Wayman Carver (fl, arr); Tommy Fulford (p); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

Solos ad-lib:

62737: WC flt 30; CH clt 32; CW brushes 16; TF pno 8; CW brushes 7

## 027 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Nov. 01, 1937

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
 Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Chauncey Haughton, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Ella Fitzgerald – voc;  
 Van Alexander – arr (1); Charlie Dixon -arr (2,3)

|         |                |           |                    |
|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 62738-A | Rock It For Me | Dec 1586, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62739-A | Squeeze Me     | Dec 1716, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |
| 62740-A | Harlem Congo   | Dec 1681, | Mosaic MD8-252-III |

Composer credits: 62738 (K. Werner – S. Werner); 62739 (F. Waller – C. Williams); 62740 (Harry White)

The first title is Ella Fitzgerald's performance in her renowned manner, on an arrangement of Van Alexander. It is my suspicion that Alexander was mainly responsible for Ella's tunes with "streamline" – or sterile - swing music, and that Webb bought arrangements for jazz titles from other arrangers. Thus, we have two titles arranged by the former Henderson banjoist Charlie Dixon: 'Squeeze Me' with a short Taft Jordan trumpet solo and Chick's eighth strokes all through, very urgent but yet lazy and swinging. Wonderful! And then the very fast 'Harlem Congo', a composition by early swing trombonist/arranger Harry White of 'Mills Blue Rhythm Band' fame – here arranged by Charlie Dixon again, and carrying hot solos by trumpet, trombone and clarinet, and finally by Chick Webb's drums taking 24 bars. Wow! This title is played with an astounding pace of c. 290 beats per minute.

And: the Chick Webb band are said to have had 800 arrangements in their book!

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Chauncey Haughton, Louis Jordan, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*  
 - *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Chauncey Haughton (alt); Louis Jordan (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*  
 - *Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Chauncey Haughton -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*  
 - *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Chauncey Haughton, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*  
 - *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Chauncey Haughton (cl, as); Louis Jordan (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, bari); Tomy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander, Charlie Dixon (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

62738: EF voc 32 + 12 + 4 + 4+16+2  
 62739: TJ o-tpt 13; CW dms 2 + 2 + 4  
 62740: CW dms 1; TJ o-tpt 16 + 8; CH clt 16; SW o-tbn 8; CH clt 8; CW dms 24

**028 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York, Nov. 02, 1937

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
 Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Chauncey Haughton, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Ella Fitzgerald – voc;  
 Van Alexander – arr

|         |                    |                           |              |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 62743-A | Hallelujah!        | Dec uniss 78, test exists | not on LP/CD |
| 62743-B | Hallelujah!        | Dec unissued              | not on LP/CD |
| 62744   | I Want To Be Happy | Dec unissued              | not on LP/CD |

No title from this session has been issued, yet, a test of 62743-A is said to exist, but had not been included in the un-comparable Mosaic Chick Webb – Ella Fitzgerald CD box. So, no comment possible.

Notes:

- *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Chauncey Haughton (alt); Louis Jordan (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*  
 - *Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Chauncey Haughton -cl -as -bar; Louis Jordan -as -v; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*  
 - *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Chauncey Haughton, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*  
 - *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Chauncey Haughton (cl, as); Louis Jordan (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, bari); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr); "The Decca metal parts at the Library of Congress are said to contain matrix 62743-A. However, we have been unable to gain access to this alternate take."*

**029 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York, 1937  
 broadcast Savoy Ballroom, New York

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
 Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Chauncey Haughton, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Fletcher Henderson – arr (4,5)

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Tea For Two          | air-ch. First Time Records FTR-1508 (LP) |
| How Am I To Know?    | air-ch. First Time Records FTR-1508 (LP) |
| Crazy Rhythm         | air-ch. First Time Records FTR-1508 (LP) |
| Grand Terrace Rhythm | air-ch. First Time Records FTR-1508 (LP) |
| Sugar Foot Stomp     | air-ch. First Time Records FTR-1508 (LP) |
| Blue Skies           | air-ch. First Time Records FTR-1508 (LP) |

Although the 'First Time' LP-cover says that these titles were recorded off the air in 1937, there is no definite date mentioned for this broadcast, and I have been unable to extract such from Ken Vail's Jazz Itineraries No. 2, 'Ella Fitzgerald'. Is it, because Ella is not on them? Yet, it might be the second broadcast issued after the one of February 8, 1937 (see session 022 above). When checking 'Ken Vail's Jazz Itineraries Vol. 2' for all the known or documented broadcasted sides and titles, there must be much more of this material in private hands than has been issued in the last decades. And I fear that most of them will disappear in vaults and archives – at the end of the CD era - without being made accessible to the public.

This again is the Chick Webb jazz band playing, and there are a lot of fine hot solos around. We here have six wonderful dance band titles by the Webb band preserved on LP.

The band starts with 'Tea For Two' featuring Bobby Stark's typical technical trumpet and Tommy Fulford's piano cum Chick's wood-block. The most interesting title for me is Fletcher Henderson's 'Grand Terrace Rhythm' – developed out of Henderson's earlier 'D Natural Blues'



(and it still is played in the very un-common key of D major). Chick Webb is heard playing great drums accompaniment to the band tutti, and at the end we hear tenor sax and baritone sax coupled for un-common sounds of the band, while early on the sax section is led by a clarinet. 'Sugar Foot Stomp' also has great solos and fantastic rhythm by the rhythm section and its drummer. It is Fletcher Henderson's arrangement again. And hear Chick's wood-block behind the piano solos! Fantastic music!

Notes:

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4,\*6: not listed

Solos ad-lib:

TFT: BS o-tpt 1+16 + 4; TF pno 1+16  
 HAITK: CH clt 8; TMR ten 2+16; NS o-tbn 8; TJ o-tpt 16  
 CR: BS o-tpt 8; TJ o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 8  
 GTR: SW o-tbn 2+8; TJ o-tpt 12+12  
 SFS: SW o-tbn 2+12; BS o-tpt 12+12+12; TF pno 8 + 8; SW o-tbn 12+12+12; TMR ten 12+10; CW dms 2+1  
 BS: SW o-tbn 1+15; TJ o-tpt 1+8; SW o-tbn 8; TMR ten 2+8

030 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York, Dec. 10, 1937  
 broadcast Savoy Ballroom, New York

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
 Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Garvin Bushell, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Ted McRae – ten; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverley Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Ella Fitzgerald – voc

|                                       |           |                          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Bronzeville Stomp                     | air-check | Jazz Archives JA-33 (LP) |
| She's Tall, She's Tan, She's Terrific | air-check | Jazz Archives JA-33 (LP) |
| Honeysuckle Rose                      | air-check | Jazz Archives JA-33 (LP) |
| Let's Get Together (Theme)            | air-check | Jazz Archives JA-33 (LP) |

And here is a third batch of live Chick Webb and his Orchestra from the Savoy Ballroom of New York, the 'Home of Happy Feet'. And it's great and swinging dance music with drive and masterly played jazz music. Ella Fitzgerald is with the band in the second title, and all Chick's great soloists spread over the first three titles, the fourth one is part of the band's theme song, only.

Notes:

- Rust\*2,\*3,\*4: not listed

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v

Solos ad-lib:

BS: GB clt 8; TJ o-tpt 8; SW o-tbn 16; TMR ten 16; TJ o-tpt 4  
 STSTST: EF voc 32; BS o-tpt 16; TMR ten 6  
 HR: TJ o-tpt 2+30; EF voc 30; GB clt 2+16; TMR ten 8; GB clt 8; LJ alt 8  
 LGT: no instrumental solos

031 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York, Dec. 17, 1937

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
 Nat Story, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
 Garvin Bushell, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
 Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
 Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

Van Alexander or Wayman Carver – arr (1,2); Charlie Dixon – arr (3,5); Edgar Sampson – arr (4)

|         |                       |                  |                      |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 62886-A | I Want To Be Happy    | Dec 15039 (12"), | Mosaic MD8-252-IV    |
| 62886-B | I Want To Be Happy    | Dec Z778 (Aus),  | Mosaic MD8-252-IV    |
| 62887-A | The Dipsy Doodle      | Dec 1587,        | Mosaic MD8-252-IV    |
| 62888-A | If Dreams Come True   | Dec 1716,        | Mosaic MD8-252-IV    |
| 62889-A | Hallelujah!           | Dec 15039 (12"), | Mosaic MD8-252-IV    |
| 62890-A | Midnite In A Madhouse | Dec Y5208 (Aus), | Chrono. Classics 517 |
| 62890-B | Midnite In A Madhouse | Dec 1587,        | Mosaic MD8-252-IV    |

Composer credits: 62886 (I. Caesar - V. Youmans); 62887 (Larry Clinton); 62888 (E. Sampson - B. Goodman); 62889 (Robin - Gray - Youmans); 62890 (Larry Clinton)

Turk Van Lake was listed as arranger of 'I Want To Be Happy' in some discographies in the past, but he confirmed that he was not the arranger. The Mosaic CD-booklet lists Van Alexander instead. This may be valid for the big-band-parts of the arrangement, but the flute-clarinet parts in the middle of the number exactly follow the Wayman Carver formula of arranging for the 'Little Chicks'. Thus, I assume that these parts were inserted into the Van Alexander arrangement to pep this number up. This certainly is the explanation for the title issued on a 12" Decca disc. That same feature of Carver's flute-clarinet combination we find in 'Hallelujah!' – also on the 12" issue - causing me to assume both title's arrangements as collaborations of Alexander and Carver.

'The Dipsy Doodle' owns a 44-bar AABA chorus the melody of which is presented by the reed section led by a clarinet, obviously using Glenn Miller's trade-mark.

It looks like there is no hope to find a copy of take -A of 'Midnite In A Madhouse', although the French CD series 'Chronological Classics' (sic) list it in their CD 517 version of this title. Comparing all issued LP/CD versions result in recognising their identity. But this number – at least – is packed with good and hot jazz solos!

'If Dreams Come True' is Edgar Sampson's composition (what was Benny Goodman's part in it?), but I doubt his authorship of the arrangement, although listed thus in the Mosaic CD-booklet. But I must consider that Sampson is some years behind his early arranging activities and may have developed his style by now.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Louis Jordan, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)  
 - Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Sandy Williams, Nat Story (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Louis Jordan (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

- Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Louis Jordan -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v; Turk Van Lake -a (1,2)

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v  
- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Louis Jordan (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, fl); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverley Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander, Edgar Sampson (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

62886: EF voc 32; LJ clt 8; TF pno 16; WC flt 8; TMR ten 2+6 + 6; SW o-tbn 6; CW dms 1 + 1+4  
62887: EF voc 44; SW o-tbn 24  
62888: TMR ten 2; EF voc 32; NS o-tbn 1+7; EF voc 16  
62889: EF voc 32; TMR ten 1+14; TJ o-tpt 6  
62890: TMR ten 4; SW o-tbn 4; BS o-tpt 4; TJ o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 16

Notable differences of takes:

62886-A: Webb's second one-bar drum break in the last chorus ends with a wood-block stroke  
62886-B: Webb's second one-bar drum break in the last chorus ends with a cow-bell stroke  
62890-A: Mosaic CD-booklet: "Discographies list matrix 62890-A as being released on either Decca 1587 and/or Australian Decca Y5208. However, this take has yet to surface for confirmation by the producer". Chronological (sic) Classics CD 517 pretends to carry this take -A, but close listening reveals no differences to -B.

**032 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

May 02, 1938

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Garvin Bushell, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc;  
Van Alexander – arr (1); Charlie Dixon – arr (3)

|         |                      |           |                   |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 63693-A | A-Ticket A-Tasket    | Dec 1840, | Mosaic MD8-252-IV |
| 63694-A | Heart Of Mine        | Dec 2721, | Mosaic MD8-252-IV |
| 63695-A | I'm Just A Jitterbug | Dec 1899, | Mosaic MD8-252-IV |
| 63696-C | Azure                | Dec 1899, | Mosaic MD8-252-IV |

Composer credits: 63693 (E. Fitzgerald – V. Alexander)); 63694 (C. Webb – E. Heyman); 63695 (M. David – J. Livingston); 63696 (D. Ellington – I. Mills)

From now on, we have a three-part trombone section with George Matthews added. And Alexander's arrangements are sprinkled with three-part trombone sequences from now on.

This session then produced Ella Fitzgerald's composition and all-time hit 'A Tisket A-Tasket' – first in major, then in minor key - which for now is the measure for most of the subsequent recordings of Chick Webb and his Orchestra: Ella plus band – and a very little bit of hot soloing, but excellent performing of the band.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

- Rust\*3,\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Louis Jordan -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v  
- Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Louis Jordan (as); Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (ts); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

63693: EF voc 32 + 32; no instrumental solos  
63694: EF voc 32; TJ o-tpt 16  
63695: EF voc 32 + 8; TJ o-tpt 4; EF voc 8; TMR ten 4; EF voc 8; CW dms 4; EF voc 8  
6369: no instrumental hot solos

**033 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

May 03, 1938

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Garvin Bushell, Louis Jordan – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Wayman Carver – arr (1); Van Alexander – arr (2)

|         |                                    |           |                   |
|---------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 63707-A | Spinnin' The Webb                  | Dec 2021, | Mosaic MD8-252-IV |
| 63708-A | Liza (All The Clouds'll Roll Away) | Dec 1840, | Mosaic MD8-252-IV |

Composer credits: 63707 (C. Webb - E. Fitzgerald); 63708 (Gershwin – Gershwin – Kahn)

This then is a proper jazz session, inserted into a session of Ella Fitzgerald and her Savoy Eight (a contingent of the Webb orchestra), but the big band shining here. 'Spinnin' The Webb' has a beautiful solo by Webb's longest serving trumpeter Bobby Stark with his intricate style. He shares his chorus with Sandy Williams on trombone. And the drummer uses a large ride cymbal - unchoked - throughout the last chorus. I have never heard that before in a Webb recording! There is a constant "shuffle-rhythm" played by the rhythm section in this title.

'Liza' very probably is not – as often maintained - the arrangement of Benny Carter, but Van Alexander's. But I think to hear some of Carter's arranging characteristics here. It is a phenomenal concertino for jazz drums with orchestra, and it shows the physically disabled drummer/bandleader at the top of his capacities and taste, playing with a band of Harlem's top musicians, using traditional drum technique on the "traps" – utterly thrilling!

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*

- *Rust\*3: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Louis Jordan -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Louis Jordan -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v; Benny Carter -a (2)*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v, Benny Carter -a (2)*

- *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Louis Jordan (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, arr); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

63707: BS o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 8; BS o-tpt 8; CW dms 4

63708: CW dms 8+16; BS o-tpt 1+8; CW dms 1+10; BS o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 8; BS o-tpt 8; CW dms 4 + 8

**034 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Jun. 09, 1938

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;

Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc; Taft Jordan – voc (4)

Van Alexander – arr (2); Wayman Carver – arr (3,4)

63934-A Pack Up Your Sins And Go To The Devil Dec 1894, Mosaic MD8-252-V

63935-A McPherson Is Rehearsin' (To Swing) Dec 2080, Mosaic MD8-252-V

63936-A Everybody Step Dec 1894, Mosaic MD8-252-V

63937-A Ella Dec 2148, Mosaic MD8-252-V

*Composer credits: 63934 (Irving Berlin); 63935 (Marion Sunshine); 63936 (Irving Berlin); 63937 (B. Ellsworth – C. Webb)*

Louis Jordan has left the band by now, being replaced by one of the most un-recognised but most emotionally touching musicians of classic jazz, altoist Hilton Jefferson. His solos always seem to be sheer poetry.

We start with a jazz number 'Pack Up Your Sins...' with vocal by Ella and a fabulous and lovely solo by Hilton Jefferson on alto sax. He is followed by the earlier newcomer in the trombone section, George Matthews.

A little Scottish flavour brings us 'McPherson Is Rehearsin'' with Ella singing. No hot solos here. 'Everybody Step' has Ella singing and probably Bobby Stark playing the melody – or is it Mario Bauza? And 'Ella' is not a feature number for Ella, but Taft Jordan's offering up his adoration to her. Jordan is very much in Louis Armstrong's succession, vocally and trumpet-wise.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*

- *Rust\*3: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*

- *Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tp); Taft Jordan (tp, vcl); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Hilton Jefferson (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, bari); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

63934: TJ o-tpt 1+8; EF voc 32; HJ alt 16; GM o-tbn 1+8

63935: EF voc 39 + 24

63936: EF voc 32; ?BS o-tpt 1+16

63937: TMR ten 1+6; TJ voc 32; EF voc 8; TJ o-tpt 16

**035 SATURDAY NIGHT SWING CLUB HOUSE BAND**

New York,

Aug. 13, 1938

'Saturday Night Swing Club' house band, or - probably:

broadcast

Saturday Night Swing Club

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tp;

Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Ted McRae – ten; Wayman Carver – ten, clt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc (1,2);  
Van Alexander – arr (3)

|                                    |           |                                |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| A-Tisket, A-Tasket                 | air-check | held                           |
| I've Been Saving Myself For You    | air-check | Fanfare Records LP 17-117 (LP) |
| Liza (All The Clouds'll Roll Away) |           | Jazz Archives JA-33 (LP)       |

There's beautiful singing by Ella on these sides, accompanied probably by the Webb band – or at least part of them - and with very sensitive and light piano by Tommy Fulford and one solo spot for tenor sax. That's a bit sparse for a jazz lover, yet pleasant listening. But 'A-Tisket, A-Tasket' has decidedly more punch than the Decca version.

And then it's Chick Webb on drums and trumpet star Roy Eldridge are featured playing 'Liza (All The Clouds Roll Away)' on this air-check side, using the Webb band's arrangement of this title. The band probably/possibly is not the Chick Webb Orchestra, their personnel probably unknown, as yet. Chick Webb is un-sensitive and pounding here, and probably in tension, and thus in a hurry.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*

- Rust\*2, \*3, \*4: not listed

- Rust\*6: Title 3: Chick Webb, d, with the Saturday Night Swing Club house band, featuring Roy Eldridge, t. Titles 1,2 not listed

Solos ad-lib:

ATAT: EF voc 32 + 8; EF + choir 32 + 8 + 2

IBSMFY: TMR ten 3; EF voc + TF pno obl 32; TF pno 16; EF voc + TF pno obl 32

L (ATCRA): CW dms 8+16; RE o-tpt 1+8; CW dms 1+10; RE o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 8; RE o-tpt 8; CW dms 4 + 16 + 4 + 8

036 **CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA** New York, Aug. 17, 1938

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc;  
Van Alexander – arr (2)

|         |                         |           |                  |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 64459-A | Wacky Dust              | Dec 2021, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 64460-A | Gotta Pebble In My Shoe | Dec 2231, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 64461-A | I Can't Stop Loving You | Dec 2310, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |

Composer credits: 64459 (S. Adams – O. Levant); 64460 (V. Alexander – C. Tobias); 64461 (B. Jones – C. Webb)

And again, a decidedly commercial recording session with three titles of rather amateurish origin, sung by Ella and accompanied by Chick's band, with he very much retained. And only a few short solos spread over the titles.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

- Rust\*3: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v - Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Hilton Jefferson (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, bari); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

64459: EF voc 2+32; ?GM m-tbn 4; BS o-tpt 4; ?GM m-tbn 4; BS o-tpt 4; ?HJ clt 1+3

64460: EF voc 32; TJ o-tpt 16; EF voc + band choir 16

64461: ?NS o-tbn 8; EF voc 32; BS o-tpt 16; EF voc 1+18

037 **CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA** New York, Aug. 18, 1938

Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc;  
Van Alexander – arr (2)

|         |                                |           |                  |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 64464-A | Who Ya Hunchin'                | Dec 2231, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 64465-A | I Let A Tear Fall In The River | Dec 2080, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |

Composer credits: 64464 (C. Webb – E. Fitzgerald); 64465 (David – Livingston - Webb)

'Who Ya Hunchin'' being a Webb – Fitzgerald original, the band handle it with fire and drive, the drummer all over his drum-kit. He plays a four-bar break in a break-neck sixteenth-beat, only to drag heavily when falling in a one – three bass-drum rhythm with cymbal strokes on two – four at the very end of the title..

And although Ella had recorded two of her own titles at this session already – under her ‘E. F. and her Savoy Eight’, there still is a third title of hers, with the big band following the commercial ‘singer plus accompaniment’ formula.

When checking the composer credits of the tunes recorded here and at the following session, it looks like Chick Webb had discovered the opportunities to cash in on the royalties due to outside composers!

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- *Rust\*2: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*

- *Rust\*3: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*4: Mario Bauza -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*  
*- Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Hilton Jefferson (as); Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (ts); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

64464: BS o-tpt 16 + 8; CW dms 4 + 2

64465: EF voc 32; TMR ten 14; EF voc 16 + 8

038 **CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Oct. 06, 1938

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;

Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

Van Alexander – arr (1,2,4); Wayman Carver – arr (3)

64573-A F.D.R. Jones

Dec 2105,

Mosaic MD8-252-V

64574-A I Love Each Move You Make

Dec 2105,

Mosaic MD8-252-V

64575-A It's Foxy

Dec 2309,

Mosaic MD8-252-V

64576-A I Found My Yellow Basket

Dec 2309,

Mosaic MD8-252-V

*Composer credits: 64573 (Harold J. Rome); 64374 (H. Grumble – C. Webb); 64575 (W. Bishop – C. Webb); 64576 (C. Webb – E. Fitzgerald)*

All discographies state the take-over of the lead-trumpet chair by young Dick Vance for this session. Dick Vance had been with Fletcher Henderson before, and he certainly was a suitable candidate for this position. He kept this chair for a couple of years. Mario Bauza obviously tended back to Latin music with the Machito Orchestra, after stints with Don Redman and Cab Calloway. I do not hear any changes in the first trumpet parts performed by Dick Vance here, his tone being a slight bit slimmer, perhaps, but perfectly swinging. ‘F.D.R. Jones’ presents Chick Webb beautifully playing press-rolls on his snare-drum, as well as much more to be studied of Webb’s drumming on these sides. But still, this again is a collection of the ‘vocal – band’ formula with some silly childish songs, but played immaculately.

Notes:

- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- *Rust\*2: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)*

- *Rust\*3: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*4: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v*

- *Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v*  
*- Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Hilton Jefferson (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, arr); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)*

Solos ad-lib:

64573: HJ alt 3; EF voc +band choir 32 + 32 + 32+2+2

64574: GM o-tbn 8; EF voc 2+31; TJ o-tpt 2+16; EF voc 2+16

64575: EF voc 32; BS o-tpt 16; EF voc 14+2

64576: EF voc + band choir 1+24 + 32; EF voc + band choir 24

039 **CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Jan. 09, 1939

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tp;

Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Thesaurus Transcriptions

Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Ted McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverley Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

|  |                      |               |
|--|----------------------|---------------|
| Van Alexander – arr (1,5,6,10,12); Charlie Dixon – arr (2); Wayman Carver – arr (3,4); Edgar Sampson – arr (9) |                      |               |
| Crazy Rhythm   | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Sugar Foot Stomp   | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Grand Terrace Rhythm   | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| By Heck  | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Blue Skies   | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Dinah  | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Who Yuh Hunchin' ?   | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Liza (All The Clouds 'll Roll Away)  | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Tea For Two  | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| How Am I To Know ?   | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| One O'Clock Jump   | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |
| Blue Room  | Thes. Transcription, | TAX CD 3706-2 |

These titles were recorded by Victor for NBC Transcriptions and show the band in all their glory.

None of these titles – with two exceptions only - had been recorded before by Decca, and obviously show part of the band's jazz repertoire, whereas the Decca records brought the commercial stuff. But sorry to say, they did not record Ella here. A real pity! There is so much great music on these sides! Did anyone care in the past to preserve them on CD? I feel very lucky to own all these transcriptions and live recordings of the Chick Webb band listed on LP.

And these sides mediate a much better feature of the band as it would have been witnessed by the public in the Savoy Ballroom than on the Decca sides. Just listen!

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*

- Rust\*2: not listed

- Rust\*3: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*4: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Louis Jordan, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; Bobby Johnson, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v

Solos ad-lib:

CR: BS o-tpt 8; TJ o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 6  
SFS: SW o-tbn 2+12; BS o-tpt 12 + 12 + 12; TF pno 8 + 8; SW o-tbn 12 + 12 + 12; TMR ten 12 + 10; CW dms 2 + 1  
GTR: SW o-tbn 2+12; TJ o-tpt 12 + 12  
BH: HJ alt 6; CW temple-blocks 6+6; TJ o-tpt 1+7; HJ alt 6; CW dms 2+6+6  
BS: SW o-tbn 1+16; BS o-tpt 1+8; SW o-tbn 8; TMR ten 2+8  
D: GB clt 6; WC flt 6+6+6+6; SW o-tbn 7; TF pno 8 + 4  
WYH: SW o-tbn 8; TJ o-tpt 2+16 + 8; CW dms 4  
L: CW dms 8+16; BS o-tpt 1+8; CW dms 1+6; BS o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 8; BS o-tpt 8; CW dms 4 + 8  
TFT: BS o-tpt 1+16 + 4; TF pno 1+15  
HAITK: GB clt 8; TMR 2+16; GM o-tbn 8; TJ o-tpt 16  
OOCJ: TF pno 2+12+12; TMR 1+12 + 8; SW o-tbn 12 + 8; GB clt 1+12 + 8; TJ o-tpt 12 + 8  
BR: GB clt 16; TJ o-tpt 6; GB clt 2+8; SW o-tbn 1+8

**040 CHICK WEBB AND HIS LITTLE CHICKS**

Garvin Bushell – clt Wayman Carver – flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Beverley Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms  
Stompin' At The Savoy

New York, Jan. 21, 1939  
broadcast Saturday Night Swing Club  
air-check Jazz Archives JA-33 (LP)

This is a very nice version of 'Stompin' At The Savoy', very fast and different from any other recording of this title. Chick Webb has a whole chorus on his snare-drum, and a couple of additional spots, somewhat obtrusive, yet. And there is a surprisingly good clarinet solo by Bushell, just as an intellectual flute solo by Carver. Not to forget Tommy Fulford's theme chorus in Teddy Wilson's manner. This all in a Wayman Carver arrangement, probably.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*

- Rust\*2, \*3, \*4: not listed

- Rust\*6: Garvin Bushell – clt Wayman Carver – flt; Tommy Fulford – pno; Beverley Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms

Solos ad-lib:

SATS: TF pno 2 + 32; GB clt 1+24; TF pno 8; WC flt 32; CW dms 32 + 6

**041 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tp;  
Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Ted McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverley Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc

New York, Jan. 21, 1939  
broadcast Saturday Night Swing Club

I Let A Tear Fall In The River

air-check Fanfare Records LP 17-117 (LP)

There's beautiful singing by Ella on this side, accompanied by the Webb band, but only one solo spot for tenor sax. That, again, is a bit sparse for a jazz lover, yet pleasant listening.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*

- Rust\*2, \*3, \*4, \*6: not listed

Solos ad-lib:

ILATFITR: EF voc 32; TMR ten 7; EF voc 14 + 7

## 042 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tp;  
Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Ted McRae – ten; Wayman Carver – ten, bar, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc;  
Van Alexander – arr (3)

New York, Feb. 10, 1939  
NBC broadcast from the Coconut Grove  
Park Central Hotel, New York

|                    |           |                             |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Let's Get Together | air-check | Cicala BJJ 8010 (LP)        |
| Blue Room          | air-check | Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP) |
| Deep In A Dream    | air-check | Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP) |
| One O'Clock Jump   | air-check | Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP) |
| That Was My Heart  | air-check | Twinkgost Rogo CWIS 37 (LP) |
| Everybody Step     | air-check | Cicala BJJ 8010 (LP)        |

We hear Chick's bass-drum all the way through on these titles recorded live from New York's Coconut Grove Ballroom at the Hotel Park Central. And we hear the guitar, probably still Bobby Johnson who quit the band with John Trueheart's return shortly thereafter. And Beverly Peer can be heard slapping the bass. That's how it really sounded!

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*

- Rust\*2: not listed

- Rust\*3: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverly Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*4: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverly Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Hilton Jefferson, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverly Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, v

Solos ad-lib:

LGT: not checked! Probably no solos!

BR: GB clt 2+15; TJ o-tpt 6; GB clt 2+8; SW o-tbn 8

DIAD: GM o-tbn 6 + 6; EF voc 32; HJ alt 8; EF voc 1+16

OOCJ: TF pno 1+12+10; TMR ten 12 + 8; SW o-tbn 12 + 8; GB clt 12 + 8; TJ o-tpt 12 + 8; TF pno 10

TWMH: HJ alt 4; EF voc 32; TMR ten 1+8; NS o-tpt 6; EF voc 1+16

ES: not checked

## 043 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;  
Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;  
Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;  
Tommy Fulford – pno; Bobby Johnson – gtr; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;  
Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

New York, Feb. 17, 1939

Van Alexander – arr (1); Wayman Carver – arr (2,4)

|         |  |           |                  |
|---------|--|-----------|------------------|
| 65039-A | Undecided  | Dec 2323, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 65040-A | Tain't What You Do (It's The Way That Cha Do It) | Dec 2310, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 65041-A | In The Groove At The Grove                       | Dec 2323, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 65042-A | One Side Of Me                                   | Dec 2556, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 65043-A | My Heart Belongs To Daddy                        | Dec 2309, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |

Composer credits: 65039 (S. Robin – C. Shavers); 65040 (S. Oliver – T. Young); 65041 (Chick Webb); 65042 (Marion Sunshine); 65043 (Cole Porter)

This is Chick Webb closest to his tamest at the following session, and it is all Ella Fitzgerald plus band, with the exception of one single jazz title, 'In The Groove At The Groove'.

'Undecided' is Ella's song, yet composed by Charlie Shavers for the John Kirby band. The tune has the common AABA structure containing 32 bars. But Webb's arranger Van Alexander prolonged the theme in doubling each bar of the tune. Only at the start of the title there are 8 bars of the original theme presented by the saxophones with the original length. By doing so, the tune almost imparts the feeling of a waltz.

'Tain't What You Do' is a nice little song by Trummy Young and Sy Oliver for the Jimmy Lunceford band, recorded one month ago, and obviously regarded as a potential hit.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)*

- Rust\*2: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRea (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

- Rust\*3: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverly Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella

*Fitzgerald -v*

- Rust\*4: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -t; Taft Jordan -t -v; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -cl -as; Hilton Jefferson -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; Bobby Johnson -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Hilton Jefferson, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, - Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell (cl, as); Hilton Jefferson (as); Teddy McRae (ts); Wayman Carver (ts, arr); Tommy Fulford (p); Bobby Johnson (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl); Van Alexander (arr)

Solos ad-lib:

65039: EF voc 64; TMR ten 4; CW dms 4; EF voc 30+10  
 65040: GM o-tbn 1+8; EF voc 8+32 + 16; band choir + EF voc 16  
 65041: SW o-tbn 2+16; TF pno 8; SW o-tbn 6; TJ o-tpt 2+8  
 65042: TMR ten 2; EF voc 32; TJ m-tpt 1+8; EF voc 16  
 65043: EF voc 20+32 + 16

## 044 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Mar. 02, 1939

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;

Tommy Fulford – pno; John Trueheart – grt; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

Wayman Carver – arr (4)

|         |                                   |           |                  |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 65094-A | Sugar Pie                         | Dec 2665, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 65095-A | It's Slumbertime Along The Swanee | Dec 2389, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 65096-A | I'm Up A Tree                     | Dec 2468, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |
| 65097-A | Chew Chew Chew (Your Bubble Gum)  | Dec 2389, | Mosaic MD8-252-V |

Composer credits: 65094 (C. Webb – C. Beal); 65095 (Tinturin – Sacco - Smith); 65096 (A. Stillman – C. Coole); 65097 (Ram – Webb - Fitzgerald)

Chick's lifelong pal John Trueheart is back on guitar after a long illness! But – it has to be added – he had a wonderful replacement for two years with Bobby Johnson, many years strong and reliable banjoist/guitarist of the Charlie Johnson band earlier on.

That's a session for slumber-time in front of the record player. It certainly is the tamest of this whole investigation. And compared with Chick's un-official air-checks as listed above and below, this – for me – is the lowest point of Chick Webb's career on record.

One little point of joy: the 4-bar bridges in the first title, filled with sustained lip-trills of a trombonist, the player of which I cannot identify, but checked by tone this may be Matthews.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

- Rust\*2: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRae (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

- Rust\*3,\*4: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Hilton Jefferson, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, - Mosaic MD8-252, *The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions*, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson (as); Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (ts); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

Solos ad-lib:

65094: GM o-tbn 4; EF voc 31; SW or GM o-tbn 4; TMR ten 8; SW or GM o-tbn 4; EF voc 20  
 65095: EF voc 32; no instrumental solos  
 65096: ?DV o-tpt 1+4; EF voc 32 + 24  
 65097: EF voc 32; band choir voc 8; EF voc 8 + 16

## 045 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Apr. 21, 1939

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tpt;

Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Teddy McRae – ten, clt; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;

Tommy Fulford – pno; John Trueheart – grt; Beverly Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc

|         |                     |           |                   |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 65445-A | Have Mercy          | Dec 2468, | Mosaic MD8-252-VI |
| 65446-A | Little White Lies   | Dec 2556, | Mosaic MD8-252-VI |
| 65447-A | Coochie-Coochie-Coo | Dec 2803, | Mosaic MD8-252-VI |
| 65448-A | That Was My Heart   | Dec 2665, | Mosaic MD8-252-VI |

Composer credits: 65445 (B. Ram - C. Webb); 65446 (Walter Donaldson); 65447 (K. Werner – S. Werner); 65448 (J.C. Johnson – C. Webb)

This is the final recording session of Chick Webb and his Orchestra, with their leader playing the drums. I feel sorry to state that here the Chick Webb band deliver their low point of jazz/swing recordings. There are four titles of medium to slow music by Ella's vocal cum big band, containing 49 bars of instrumental solo – that is 12 bars each of the four titles, and one bar left over. And only 'Little White Lies' encloses a couple of interesting chord changes inherent in its composition. A pity!

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams



(tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson, Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (s); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm)

- Rust\*2: Dick Vance, Bobby Stark (tpt); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); Nat Story, Sandy Williams, George Matthews (tbn); Garvin Bushell (alt); Hilton Jefferson (alt, vcl); Ted McRae (ten); Wayman Carver (ten, flt); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (dm); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

- Rust\*3,\*4: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Hilton Jefferson, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald, - Mosaic MD8-252, The Complete Chick Webb & Ella Fitzgerald Decca Sessions, booklet: Mario Bauza, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan (tp); George Matthews, Nat Story, Sandy Williams (tb); Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson (as); Teddy McRae, Wayman Carver (ts); Tommy Fulford (p); John Trueheart (g); Beverly Peer (b); Chick Webb (d); Ella Fitzgerald (vcl)

Solos ad-lib:

65445: EF voc 32; HJ alt 4; EF voc 16+8

65446: EF voc 32; TF pno 1+16; EF voc 16+10

65447: EF voc 32; TJ o-tpt 16; EF voc 16+2

65448: HJ alt 4; EF voc 32; GM o-tbn 8; EF voc 16

**046 CHICK WEBB AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

Boston, May 04, 1939  
NBC broadcast Southland Café, Boston

Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan – tp;

Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams – tbn;

Garvin Bushell, Hilton Jefferson – alt, clt; Ted McRae – ten; Wayman Carver – ten, clt, flt;

Tommy Fulford – pno; John Trueheart – gtr; Beverley Peer – sbs; Chick Webb – dms, ldr;

Ella Fitzgerald – voc;

Edgar Sampson – arr (1,10); Van Alexander –arr (2,6,8); Wayman Carver – arr (4)

Let's Get Together

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

Poor Little Rich Girl

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

A New Moon And An Old Serenade

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

Breakin' 'Em Down

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

If I Didn't Care

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

Stars And Stripes Forever

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

I Never Knew Heaven Could Speak

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

My Wild Irish Rose

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

Chew, Chew, Chew (Your Bubble Gum)

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

Let's Get Together

air-check,

TAX CD 3706-2

These are the last sound images published of Chick Webb and his Orchestra. They were made in the Southland Café in Boston a few weeks before Chick's early death.

And they give us an amazing sound experience of the band playing. As in session 042 we can hear Beverly Peer's slap-bass and Trueheart's guitar almost drowning the drums out. And the band really swings like hell.

And mind the 8-bar trombone section parts in 'Breakin' 'Em Down', and in other titles, and the beautiful bass playing all over!

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: not listed*

- Rust\*2: not listed

- Rust\*3,\*4: Dick Vance -Bobby Stark -Taft Jordan -t; Nat Story -George Matthews -Sandy Williams -tb; Garvin Bushell -Hilton Jefferson -cl -as; Ted McRae -ts; Wayman Carver -ts -f; Tommy Fulford -p; John Trueheart -g; Beverley Peer -sb; Chick Webb -d -ldr; Ella Fitzgerald -v

- Rust\*6: Chick Webb, d, dir; Dick Vance, Bobby Stark, Taft Jordan, t; Nat Story, George Matthews, Sandy Williams, tb; Garvin Bushell, cl, as; Hilton Jefferson, as, Ted McRae, ts; Wayman Carver, ts, f; Tommy Fulford, p; John Trueheart, g; Beverley Peer, sb; Ella Fitzgerald,

Solos ad-lib:

LGT: CW dms 6; announcer

PLRG: TJ o-tpt 1+5+5+8+5; SW o-tbn 24; TF pno 12; TMR ten 4; TF pno 6

ANMAAOS: NS o-tbn 4; EF voc 32;

BED: SW o-tbn 2+16+16; TMR ten 1+8; TJ o-tpt 16+16; GB clt 7+2+6

IIDC: ?DV o-tpt 1+8; EF voc 1+31 + 1+16+2

S&SF: TMR ten 16; TJ o-tpt 16; GB clt 1+8; SW o-tbn 16; GB clt 3

INKHCS: ?DV o-tpt 4; TJ o-tpt 8; EF voc 32

MWIR: CW dms 8 + 8; BS o-tpt 16; SW o-tbn 14; CW dms 8 + 14

CCC: EF voc 32; band choir vocal 8; EF voc 8 + 16

LGT: announcer, no instrumental solos

| Chick Webb's recordings with groups under other musicians' names may be found on this web-site under: Drums - Chick Webb!

Many thanks to Michael Rader for his usual help and advice! And also to Phil Melick of Charleston, WV, for some corrections and news! And my biggest thanks to Ola Ronnow of Oslo, Norway, for checking, control, discussion, and consultation!