

The

BARITONESAX

of

KNUT HYRUM

Solographer: Jan Evensmo
Last update: Dec. 2, 2015

Born: Oslo, April 21, 1927
Died: May 6, 2013

Introduction:

Knut Hyrum was the first Norwegian jazz artist who played modern baritone saxophone and recorded on this instrument, certainly enough to merit a solography!

History:

Member of Den Norske Swingklubb's orchestra 1946-49, baritonesax in Lasse Gerlyng's orchestra 1949-50, then member of Egil Monn-Iversen's orchestra 1950-54. Also participating in several Gerlyng events (Norsk Jazzelite 1950, Easter Parade 1952), with Rowland Greenberg from 1951, Lulle Kristoffersen, Cecil Aagard at Farris Bad (summer 1952), Scott Lunde and Leiv Flisnes' orchestra. Won favourite polls as best baritonesax player 1953-57, record sessions with Verden Rundts All Stars 1954-56. Professional musician 1954-68 with tenorsax as main instrument, with Egil Monn-Iversen's orchestra at Chat Noir 1954-57, member of Monn-Iversen's bigband rest of the decade, recording sessions with Herman's Norwegian Jazzgroup, Rowland Greenberg, Kjell Johansen and Atle Hammer, all in 1954, many jobs with Rowland's orchestra, recording session with Karl Otto Hoff / Kjell Johansen's orchestra 1956 and also Nora Brøckstedt 1957 (ref. Bjørn Stendahl & Johs Bergh: "Cool, Kløver & Dixie – Jazz i Norge 1950 – 1960, Norsk Jazzarkiv).

Message:

Reference to his (few) tenorsax recordings are omitted below.

KNUT HYRUM BARITONESAX SOLOGRAPHY

**NORA BROCKSTEDT VOCAL WITH
EGIL MONN-IVERSENS ORKERSTER** **Oslo, Feb. 18, 1954**

Bigband personnel including Knut Hyrum (ts, bar).
Three titles, "Ja Hvorfor Det", "Why Daddy Why" and "Hvorfor Kysser Alle
Solveig" were recorded for Musica / Cupol, but no baritonesax soli.

VERDEN RUNDT's ALL STAR BAND **Oslo, April 29, 1954**

Rowland Greenberg (tp), Andreas Skjold (tb), Kjell Stokke (as), Kristian Bergheim (ts), Knut Hyrum (bar), Scott Lunde (p), Ivar Børsum (b), Karl Otto Hoff (dm), Egil Monn-Iversen (arr).

Two titles were recorded for Musica:

N1372	Perdido	Solo 16 bars. (FM)
N1373	Thou Swell	Solo 8 bars. (M)

The first Norwegian jazz baritonesax session on record! The soli on "Perdido" and "... Swell" are well constructed and move along fine.

HERMAN's NORWEGIAN JAZZGROUP **Oslo, Dec. 3, 1954**

Rowland Greenberg (tp), Arne Hermandsen (euph), Knut Hyrum (ts), Ragnar Robertsen (bar), Carsten Klouman (p), Knut Ljungh (b), Tore Birkedal (dm), Eilif Holm (arr).

One title, 438-1 "Lonesome Road" was recorded for Parlophone, no KH but there is a good baritonesax solo 16 bars (M) by Ragnar Robertsen, primarily known for his prominent and very professional clarinet playing.

ROWLAND GREENBERG's KVINTETT **Oslo, Dec. 11, 1954**

Rowland Greenberg (tp), Knut Hyrum (bar), Carsten Klouman (p), Frank Cook (b), Tore Birkedal (dm).

One title was recorded for Musica:

N1417	Ain't Misbehavin'	Solo 32 bars. (FM)
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If necessary to choose KH's best solo, it must be this one! This lonely quintet item with an excellent rhythm section lays the basis for a creative, relaxed and swinging baritonesax solo of high class. Great item in general! Why couldn't the date have produced at least two full 78s?

KJELL JOHANSEN **same date**

Kjell Johansen (tp), Arve Seth (frh), Arne Hermandsen (euph), Rolf Nord (ts, arr), Knut Hyrum (bar), Eilif Holm (vib), Knut Ljungh (b), Arnulf Neste (dm).

One title was recorded for Musica:

N1418	Taking A Chance On Love	No solo. (FM)
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ATLE HAMMER **same date**

Atle Hammer (tp, arr), Hans Hammer (ts), Knut Hyrum (bar), Arvid Amundsen (p), Erik Amundsen (b), Arnulf Neste (dm).

One title was recorded for Musica:

N1419	Seven Eleven	No solo. (FM)
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VERDEN RUNDT's ALL STARS **Oslo, March 28, 1955**

Rowland Greenberg (tp), Andreas Skjold (tb), Kristian Bergheim (ts), Knut Hyrum (bar), Carsten Klouman (p), Ivar Børsum (b), Karl Otto Hoff (dm), Egil Monn-Iversen (arr).

Two titles were recorded for Musica:

N1466	Blue Skies	Solo 8 bars. (M)
N1467	Jumpin' At The Woodside	Solo 32 bars. (F)

KH swings the "... Woodside" in a high tempo and shows that he is in full command of this instrument. He is important in the sophisticated arrangement of "... Skies", also taking a brief, relaxed solo.

EGIL MONN-IVERSENS ORKESTER **Oslo, Nov. 11, 1955**

Aasmund Nordrum, Rowland Greenberg, Gunnar Hyrum, Bjarne Haraldsen (tp), Lyder Vengbo, Arne Hermandsen, Alf Blyverket, Ivar Thorstensen (tb), Arthur Strand, Yngvar Wang, Ola Henning Johannesen (as), Erling Andersen, William Syversen (ts), Knut Hyrum (bar), Arve Seth (p), Rolf Windingstad (b), Tore Birkedal (dm), Egil Monn-Iversen (dir).

Private recording, one title, "This Can't Be Love", but no baritonesax soli.

**NORA BROCKSTEDT WITH
EGIL MONN-IVERSENS ORKESTER** **Oslo, Feb. 1956**
Bigband personnel including Knut Hyrum (bar).
Two titles, "To Små Glade Papegøyer" and "Med Lykken I Ditt Sinn", were recorded for Musica but no baritonesax soli.

EGIL MONN-IVERSENS ORKESTER **Oslo, Feb. 25, 1956**
Bigband personnel as Nov. 11, 1955.
Private recording, one title, "Indian Summer", but no baritonesax soli.

Same. One title: **Oslo, March 10, 1956**

Alexander's Ragtime Band Solo 8 bars. (M)

Fine, relaxed solo here.

VERDEN RUNDTS ALL STAR BAND 1955 **Oslo, April 5/6, 1956**
Rowland Greenberg (tp), Andreas Skjold (tb), Mikkel Flagstad (cl), Bjarne Nerem (ts), Knut Hyrum (bar), Einar Iversen (p), Ivar Børsum (b), Egil Johansen (dm), Egil Monn-Iversen (arr).
Three titles were recorded for RCA:

N1592 Love Is Just Around The Corner Solo 8 bars. (SM)

N1593 Fascinating Rhythm Solo 16 bars. (FM)

N1594 Swingtime In Norway Solo 4 choruses of 12 bars.
Soli 4, 4 and 4 bars. (FM)

KH's last important recording session, with very professional arrangements by Monn-Iversen, locates him among the very best musicians Norway possessed at this time, an obvious evidence of his position as a recognized artist on his instrument. On the six minutes long "Swingtime ..." he is allowed to stretch out with four blues choruses, something he manages reasonably well, and also participates in a long 4/4 sequence. "Love ..." has a slow and delightfully relaxed solo, brief but fine. Note also his good soloing on "... Rhythm".

KARL OTTO HOFF
– **KJELL JOHANSENS ORKESTER** **Oslo, Oct. 16, 1956**
Bigband personnel including Kjell Johansen (tp), Knut Hyrum, William Syversen (bar), Karl Otto Hoff (dm), Ragnar Robertsen (arr).
Two titles were recorded for Musica, "Drum Boogie" and "Taking A Chance On Love", no baritonesax soli, but certainly present in orchestra arrangement.

**NORA BROCKSTEDT WITH
EGIL MONN-IVERSENS ORKESTER** **Oslo, Sept. 1957**
Bigband personnel including Knut Hyrum (bar).
Two titles, "A Tisket A Tasket" and "Basin Street Blues", were recorded for Cupol, but no baritonesax soli.

ROWLAND GREENBERG'S ORKESTER **Oslo, 1959**
Rowland Greenberg (tp), Knut Hyrum (bar), Einar Iversen (p), Håkon Nilsen (b), Pete Brown (dm), Eilif Holm (vib).
One title from the movie "Jakten" ("The Hunt") has baritonesax:

Åpningstema (Opening Theme) Soli 4, 4 and 4 bars. (M)

Chasing with the other musicians, KH plays some nice 4 bars soli. His presence has been debated (possibly Bjørn Johansen?), and he cannot be seen in the movie, but most likely this is KH and his last recorded baritonesax performance. Too bad he did not record more.

No further recording sessions.

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