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January 2012



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06/15/2012

Chris Barber



Memories of My Trip



(Proper Records)

www.proper-records.co.uk

For nearly sixty years, bandleader Chris Barber has served as the most prominent name in British jazz, as singular a figure in the UK arm of the art as Miles Davis, Stan Getz or John Coltrane were here in the States. And that's not counting his important role in the rock world as the director of the famed Marquee Club in London, where the The Rolling Stones played their first-ever gig and the likes of The Who, Led Zeppelin, Yes and Pink Floyd cut their teeth.

And in celebration of the Hertfordshire-born trombonist and bass player's 80th birthday, Proper Records finally gives Mr. Barber the American exposure that's eluded him for so many moons with the release of *Memories of My Trip*, an insightful anthology chronicling not only his achievements in traditional jazz but his equally fruitful forays into the realms of blues, R&B, skiffle and gospel as well. Just a simple browse through the track list of this mammoth two-disc set provides ample proof of the scope of Barber's esteem amongst the cream of the United Kingdom's music heritage, including banjo great Lonnie Donegan (whose career Barber helped launch in the 1950s), Jools Holland, Alexis Korner, Mark Knopfler, Eric Clapton, Keith Emerson, Rory Gallagher, Van Morrison and Andy Fairweather-Low, not to mention such American icons as Dr. John, Muddy Waters, James Cotton, Sonny Terry, Brownie McGhee, Pinetop Perkins and Jeff Healey.

Yet regardless of who was playing by his side, they merely served as support for the purity of Barber's presence as the main attraction, very similar to the way Les Paul held court at the Iridium in New York City during the twilight of his life.

Memories of My Trip offers an essential gaze into the professional life of an international jazz giant whose time for discovery across the Atlantic has been long overdue.

DOWNLOAD: "Weeping Willow," "Kansas City," "Georgia On My Mind," "C-Jam Blues," "Jack Teagarden Blues," "Dallas Rag" [RON HART](#)

