

# New book from Equinox Publishing

## Jazz Me Blues

The Autobiography of Chris Barber

**Chris Barber, with Alyn Shipton**

"It is very apparent to the critical observer that all roads lead to Chris, from the skiffle with Donegan period through Big Bill Broonzy, Sonny and Brownie and the electrifying Muddy Waters and Sister Rosetta Tharpe. He is the pivotal player in the game of British blues, jazz and skiffle whose blues offshoots strongly influenced the American scene also."

**Van Morrison**

"I have been listening to jazz for about 60 years and Chris Barber has been a big name in the music throughout that time. He is the epitome of British jazz and this book explains why."

**Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP**

"Chris Barber is one of the most important post-World War II British musicians. His autobiography is a captivating account of a fascinating life - a musical and social history viewed from behind his magnificent trombone."

**Tim Rice**

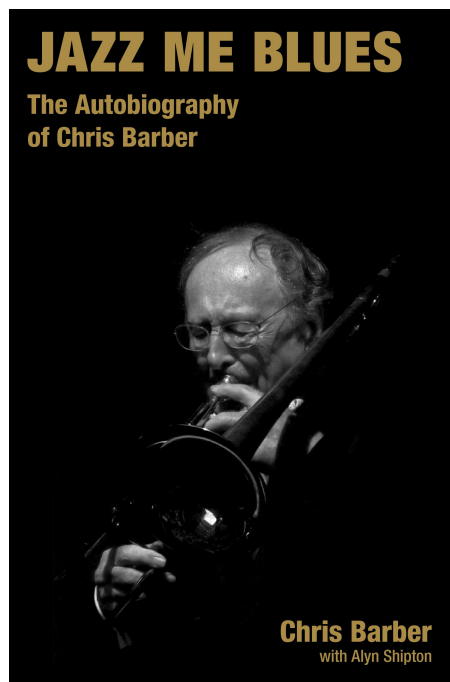
**Jazz trombonist Chris Barber formed his first band in the late 1940s, but it is the band that he has led from 1954, after parting company with trumpeter Ken Colyer, that has established all kinds of records for success and longevity. The 54 year partnership with trumpeter Pat Halcox is the longest continuous association in jazz history. The Barber band achieved chart success on both sides of the Atlantic, with "Petite Fleur", and from the middle to late 1950s it was the most popular music act in the UK. The band was one of the first British jazz groups to tour extensively in the United States. It has remained one of the most popular and widely imitated jazz bands in Europe for over half a century.**

**In this candid account of his life and music, Barber tells the story of his band, but also of his many other contributions to music in Britain. He and his guitarist and singer Lonnie Donegan began the skiffle movement. His band pioneered touring with authentic American blues and gospel musicians, including Big Bill Broonzy, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Muddy Waters, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee. There were also tours with American jazz soloists, including John Lewis, Trummy Young, Ray Nance and many others. Barber and his colleague Harold Pendleton also launched the Marquee Club in London, which became a legendary jazz and rock venue, as well as becoming the launchpad for the Richmond and Reading Festivals.**

### The Author

Chris Barber is a jazz trombonist and leader of the Barber band formed in 1954. Alyn Shipton, PhD, MA, ARAM, is an award winning author and editor of books on popular music. He is currently lecturer in jazz history at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and at City University, London.

**Table of Contents Overleaf**



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