

# TRUMPET STORY

by

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# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	vii
Dedication	ix
Preface	xi
1. Born in Paris	1
2. Trumpet playing is not easy	18
3. The Clarence Paige orchestra	32
4. The Lloyd Scott orchestra	42
5. The great Savoy era	48
6. Sideman, here and there	71
7. Falling in love with Paris	83
8. India and Egypt	103
9. The great comeback	120
10. Jazz in wartime	137
11. Drum Boogie Unit 789	151
12. Back to Europe for keeps	164
13. Checking out the USA	193
14. On the road again	203
15. Trumpet jubilee	219
Discography	230
Index	241

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And to Richard Dartigues, many thanks for his relentless efforts in finding a publisher interested enough to bring my memoirs to the jazz enthusiasts and others who will read them.

Bill Coleman

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Lily Renée Coleman Yersin for her moral assistance when it was needed to continue until the end, and her tireless efforts of typing, translating my memoirs from English to French, and actually managing the process of the publication of this book.

Bill Coleman

## PREFACE

Reading about jazz music and its performers can be a fascinating experience when somebody who has been part of the scene happens to be the author. Somebody who lived, loved and played jazz for a life-time. Somebody like Bill Coleman.

Bill, one of the very creators of this music, has been an active performer for over half of a century. Himself a great, original artist, he has worked with and befriended most of the finest jazz-people of several generations. Since Bill Coleman is not an egotistical eccentric but a keen observer and genuinely interested in other people's doings, his biography is a fantastic account of what has happened to Bill himself as well as to his musical associates—and the ever-changing world they are living in.

In my opinion, this is one of those really authentic stories of jazz and the up-and-down life that goes with playing, living and enjoying this music. In addition, the book gives a vivid description of the atmosphere prevailing during the almost six decades while Bill Coleman was so greatly contributing to making and keeping jazz the unique music it is. Any reader with an understanding and love for good music and for good people will go through the pages of this book with an increasing respect and admiration for its author. Because Bill Coleman The Man matches Bill Coleman The Artist. Thank you, Bill, for giving so much!

Johnny Simmen  
August 4, 1979