

Transcript for Jenkins Orphanage Band:

Narrator: Not all Jenkins side men reached stardom, but the list of side men is impressive. They peopled the famous bands of the twenties, thirties, and forties lending their efforts to Lucky Millinder, Charlie Johnson, Blanche Calloway, Luis Russell, Carl Hopkins, Dizzie Gillespie, Fletcher Henderson, Jelly Roll Martin, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and more. Today there are no bands to support the reduced number of children now entrusted to foster care at the orphanage. The orphanage has a new mission, but the legacy of the Jenkins Orphanage Band lives on in the musical heritage it inspired.

Music Playing...

Lonnie: I would get to know the guys by hanging around the band. I would hold their music for them because they were playing on the street. They had no stands and stuff like that, so I would hold music. These guys were exceptional musicians anybody who came out of that orphanage at that time they really played.

Music Playing...

Joey: There was a time that the northerner, black and white, thought that all the musicians from Charleston South Carolina were good. If they weren't because being preceded by the Jenkins Orphanage's history even if you had nothing to do with it. Assuming that you were in Charleston. You seen the Jenkins Orphanage Band, you got something from it. And that still hold true today.

Music Playing...