

PAUL NERO DISCOGRAPHY

Discography of sessions under Paul Nero's name and, where known, where he is featured soloist with others
- it does not include the hundreds, if not thousands, of sessions where he is a member of string sections

Why the German saxophonist Klaus Doldinger took the name Paul Nero for some Liberty and other labels pop releases is not known

Consolidates, corrects, and adds to, sessions in *Fable Bulletin: Violin Improvisation Studies*, no. 10, 1998, vol. 3 and
online updates at <http://www.abar.net/fbvisupdate.htm> where some further general information is posted

Compositions by Nero are identified - he also published compositions unrecorded or recorded by others

Compiled by Anthony Barnett - original research Copyright © AB Fable Archive 2020–2022

Research assistance Desne Villepigue Ahlers, James Harrod, David G. Martin, Daniel Nero

Deiter Salemann, Jordan Taylor

ET = broadcast or private transcription - variable Capitol matrix suffix codes after 1949 seem to suggest
multiple released takes of some titles but whatever the codes denote they are not takes and they are omitted
here as no multiple released Capitol takes exist - kindly notify corrections and additions to ab@abar.net

first posting 5 June 2020, latest update 9 November 2022

see also Stephanie Solomonoff Reich, Paul Nero's niece, at <https://www.paulneroshotfiddles.com>

A NOTE ABOUT THE HOT CANARY

Paul Nero's famous The Hot Canary was partly an arrangement of Le Canari, a polka by Russian violinist Ferdinand Poliakin - some sources give the composer as Russian violinist Miron Polyakin but this is wrong
In 1951 Nero recorded a version of The Hot Canary with the Jan Garber Orchestra and the Ewing Sisters singing 1949 lyrics by Ray Gilbert, which is why Gilbert is sometimes co-credited as composer - other vocal versions include one by Ella Fitzgerald - despite Nero's several recordings of the tune the most famous was the 1951 million-seller by violinist Florian ZaBach, with whom relations were not always cordial - 1949 first publication of the instrumental score bore a dedication to violinist Eddie South, who recorded the tune in 1946 for Gold Seal and in 1959 for Mercury Wing, but the dedication is not present in the vocal score and later editions - Nero played South's Tzigane in Rhythm at his Town Hall, New York, recital, 9 March 1946

PAUL NERO TRIO

Paul Nero (vn), Harry Volpe (gt), Richard von Holberg (sb)

New York, 7 July 1940 – NBC Blue Network – *Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street* – Gino Hamilton mc

a Bachie-Wachie (Bach, ar. Nero) – boogie-woogie treatment incorporating first four
bars of first movement (Preludio) of Bach's "Partita No. 3 in E-major" from
Sonatas and Partitas for Unaccompanied Violin

b Take Off (Nero) – announced by mc as interpolating cadenza of Saint-Saëns' *Violin Concerto*

ET NBC tape copy deposited at LoC

NOTE Program also features Paul Lavelle, Henry Levine, Dinah Shore

PAUL NERO TRIO

Paul Nero (vn), *prob.* Harry Volpe (gt), *prob.* Richard von Holberg (sb)

New York, 6 August 1940 – Nero was a qualified pilot

a 67962 A Happy Landing (Nero – all)

- b 67963 A In the Blue
- c 67964 A Take Off – *see annotation for 7 July 1940 broadcast*
- d 67965 A Tailspin
- e 67966 B On the Beam
- f 67967 A Contact

78 Decca 23165 (f,c), 23166 (e,b), 23167 (d,a) in album [3 discs] Decca I64 *Decca Presents Solo Flight (Suite for Hot Fiddle): Composed and Played by Paul Nero* – two label states known: one black, one red

NOTE Recording order not the same as released suite order

PAUL NERO TRIO

Paul Nero (vn), Alexander D. Richardson (pn), Joel Stone (sb)

New York, ?February 1946 – WNYC broadcast – annual *American Music Festival* – produced by Al Andersen

- a JF7003-A Concerto for Hot Fiddle [second, slow movement] (Nero) – truncated at least on 78 – recapitulation and coda possibly edited out from unauditioned ET
- b JF7004-A Bird in Hand [aka The Hot Canary] (Nero) – first identified recording of The Hot Canary though under a different title

ET State Department Cultural Affairs Division for rebroadcast in South America – release details unknown

78 Stinson 777-2B (a); Stinson 777-3B (b) in Stinson album [3 discs] 777 *Albert Black and Al Andersen Present American Jazz Festival Album Number One* – disc 777-1A by Kaye Bros Orchestra coupled -1B by Vin Roddie (pn); 777-2A and 777-3A by Kay Bros Orchestra – album notes by Al Andersen incl: “ ‘Bird in the Hand’ [*sic*] is based on one of the sections from Paul Nero’s *Animal Jam Suite*”, however it is not based on but is The Hot Canary

PAUL NERO featured with EASTMAN ROCHESTER ORCHESTRA

Orchestra incl. Paul Nero (solo vn), conducted by Howard Hanson

Rochester, NY, 16 April 1946, University of Rochester, Eastman School of Music

- a Prelude and Allegro for Hot Fiddle for Dance Band (Nero) 7:32

ET (a) – private recording and/or *poss.* broadcast – streamed at

https://archive.org/details/cd_eastman-rocher-orchestra_ronald-lopresti-holon-matthews-walter-mour/disc1/05.+Paul+Nero+-+Prelude+And+Allegro+For+Hot+Fiddle+For+Dance+Band.flac

NOTE Prelude here bears close affinity with Prelude, January 1947, for oboe – although not credited as performer here the violinist is believed to be Nero – Rocher in error for Rochester

PAUL NERO ORCHESTRA / PAUL NERO DUO

Paul Nero (vn), *prob.* Irving Whitenack (sb), 10-piece orchestra *prob.* incl. mostly ex-Johnny Bothwell Orchestra members incl. *prob.* Dick Kenney (tb), Ike Carpenter (pn), Paul Villepigue (ar) on (a,d) only

New York, c. September 1946 – spoken intro by Nero before (a) – voice interjection, not Nero, on (a): “Hey, man, that’s a corny riff. This is a V-Disc.”

- a The Hot Canary (Nero)
- b Pitzi Cats (Nero) – orchestra out
- c Pitzi Cats (Nero) – (b) mastered at twice the speed as a gimmick – orchestra out
- d Ellington Medley
[Solitude
Sophisticated Lady]

78 V-Disc [12"] 72I (a-c) – coupled with Claude Thornhill

78 V-Disc [I2"] 734 (d) – coupled with Dick Haymes; Gordon Jenkins

CD Time-Life OPCD4537 (a) *V-Disc: The Songs that Went to War*

NOTE The self-deprecating voice interjection is telling

PAUL NERO TRIO

Paul Nero (vn), Hy White (gt), Irving Whitenack (sb)

New York, c.autumn 1946

a 451 Pitzi-Cats (Nero – all) – no twice the speed gimmick

b 452 The Hot Canary

c 453 The Hip Hippo

d 454 As the Crow Jumps

78 Disc 6033 (a,b), Disc 6034 (c,d) in album Disc [2 discs] 624 *Paul Nero, Animal Jam*

78 Baronet [SD] 48506 (b,c) – odd label credit (Zamenik, Nero) [John Zamecnik was an American composer]

78 Selmer [FR] 7128 (b,c) – odd label credit as Baronet

LP Folkways FJ2854 *Jazz Violins of the Forties: Stuff Smith, Paul Nero, Joe Kennedy* (a–d)

NOTE See 1949 for a rerecording of this suite with different musicians

PAUL NERO / BUDDY STEWART / HAROLD GOMBERG

Paul Nero orchestra incl. string section, Paul Villepigue (ar), Paul Villepigue (ar), Buddy Stewart (vc),

New York, c.late 1946

a Time Out for Love (Villepigue, ?–Ralph Bess) – Stewart (vc) – unreleased test

b Summertime – currently unplayable – instrumentation status unknown – probably the same session as (a) – unreleased test

c Gliding Dance of the Maidens from Polovtsian Dances (Borodin) [later, i.e. 1953, aka Stranger in Paradise] – instrumental – (cl) feature – status unclear – *poss.* Nero orchestra – *poss.* same session as (a) or *poss.* Westlake Music College, OH involvement – unreleased test

78 test (a) – scheduled on unreleased Nero 69002 coupled with title from session fol.

78 tests (b,c) – unreleased

NOTE Possibly a similar orchestra to that on Nero's V-Disc session, with the addition of string section

Harold Gomberg (ob), Paul Nero, Eric Siday (vn), Dave Schwartz (vl), Izzy Gusikoff (ce), Doc Goldberg (sb), Paul Villepigue (ar), Buddy Stewart (vc)

New York, January 1947

a I Was It Infatuation? (Ulanov, Nero) – Nero solo – Stewart (vc) – released

b 2 Kilroy *Really* Was Here! (Murray Kilroy Kane) – Nero solo – Stewart (vc) – released

c III Prelude [and Allegro] (Nero) – Gomberg (ob) feature – unreleased test of Prelude – note matrix in Roman numerals

d 4 Has Anyone Told You? (Ralph Bess, Villepigue) – Stewart (vc) – unreleased test

?e ?V [Prelude and] Allegro (Nero) – Gomberg (ob) feature – unlocated unreleased test of Allegro – ?unrecorded

78 Nero 69001 / 69001-X (a,b) – released

78 test (c,d) – (d) scheduled on unreleased Nero 69002 coupled with title from session prec.

78 test (?e) – scheduled with (c) on unreleased Nero 69003

NOTE Session photo and report in *Down Beat* (29 January 1947) and review of (a,b) in *Down Beat* (12 February 1947) – to speculate: studio time was short and in order to ensure recording *Has Anyone Told You?*, *Prelude and Allegro* was interrupted, with *Allegro* ending up not being recorded either at this session or later, thus explaining curious matrix sequence and extant test of III coupled with 4 – *Prelude* here bears close affinity to the *Prelude* part of *Prelude and Allegro* for Hot Fiddle for Dance Band, 16 April 1946

PAUL NERO DUO / IKE CARPENTER ORCHESTRA

Paul Nero (vn), ? (gt) on (a), orchestra incl. Ike Carpenter (pn, md) on (b)
McCormack General Hospital, Pasadena, ?March 1948 [first broadcast or released II June 1948] – AFRS
broadcast – *Jubilee*, No. 277 – Gene Norman mc

a Take Off [as Taking Off in error] (Nero)

b The Hot Canary (Nero)

ET AFRS Jubilee 277 (a,b) *Jubilee*: No. 277

NOTE Carpenter orchestra is not present on Take Off despite mc intro to the contrary – the two titles are performed in different parts of the show – other performers include Sir Lancelot; Jane Thompson

PAUL NERO featured with TED DALE ORCHESTRA

orchestra incl. string section incl. Paul Nero (solo vn), Ted Dale (md)
Los Angeles, 3 January 1949 [mastering or rebroadcast not necessarily recording date] – NBC broadcast –
Carnation Contented Hour

a The Hot Canary (Nero)

ET AFRS Melody Hour 276 (a) *Melody Hour*: No. 276

NOTE Announcer reveals this is a repeat performance of the tune on the program some months previously – other show performers incl. Buddy Clark; Bob Nolan and the Sons of the Pioneers

PAUL NERO featured with PAUL WESTON ORCHESTRA

orchestra incl. Paul Nero (vn), Paul Weston (md)
Hollywood, 7 January 1949

a 3837 The Hot Canary (Nero)

78 Capitol I5373 (a)

78 Capitol I459 (a)

78 Capitol [SD] C 9029 (a)

78 Capitol [AL] I495 (a)

EP Capitol [AL] FI495 (a)

PAUL NERO TRIO

Paul Nero (vn), Carmen Mastren (gt), Doc Goldberg (sb)
Los Angeles, 1949

a A-UN 69-1 The Hot Canary (Nero – all)

b A-UN 69-2 Pitzi-Cats – second part mastered at twice the speed as a gimmick

c A-UN 69-3 The Hip Hippo

d A-UN 69-4 As the Crow Jumps

78 Nero 69-1/-2 (a,b), Nero 69-3/-4 (c,d) in album Nero [2 discs] A-UN 69 *Paul Nero: Animal Jam*

NOTE Rerecording, in slightly different order, of 1946 Disc *Animal Jam* suite, with different musicians

PAUL NERO AND HIS ENTOURAGE

Paul Nero (vn), Paul Smith (pn), Tony Rizzi (gt), Ray Leatherwood (sb), Jack Sperling (dm)
Hollywood, 19 April 1950

a 5871 The Hot Gavotte (Nero – all)

b 5872 Vine Street Gypsy

c 5873 Beverly Hill Billy

d 5874 The Hot Canary

e 5875 Placidia

f 5876 Oh, Fiddlesticks

g 5877 A Lover's Waltz

h 5878 Pitzi-Cats – second part mastered at twice the speed as a gimmick

78 Capitol I5618 (b,d), I5619 (c,e), I5620 (a,g) in album CC236 [3 discs in box] (a-e,g [not f,h])

Nero Fiddles: Conversation Pieces by Paul Nero and His Entourage

EP Capitol FI5618 (b,d), FI5619 (c,e), FI5620 (a,g) in album CCF236 [3 discs in box] (a-e,g [not f,h])

Nero Fiddles: Conversation Pieces by Paul Nero and His Entourage

LP Capitol [10"] H236 (a-h) *Nero Fiddles*

LP Capitol [10"] [EN] LC6547 (a-h) *Nero Fiddles*

CD AB Fable [EN] ABCD2-011/12 (f) *I Like Be I Like Bop: Odds & Svends of Early Bebop Violin & Contemporary Violin Curiosities* - on Disc 1: *Abbey's Boogie: The Americans* [Disc 2: *Bebop Woogie: The Europeans*]

NOTE LPs have all 8 titles despite covers listing only the 6 in the 78/EP boxes because it is the box cover that is stuck onto the LP cover – the 1950 published sheet music of Oh, Fiddlesticks bears dedication: “To the Les Brown Band of 1950 who helped me write it.” – a vocal version of A Lover’s Waltz, with lyric by Sheldon Allman, was recorded by Gisele MacKenzie and Gordon MacRae for Capitol in 1951, with orchestra conducted by Bill Loose, whose solo violinist is not believed to be Nero

PAUL NERO featured with JAN GARBER ORCHESTRA

orchestra incl. Paul Nero (vn), Ewing Sisters (vc), Jan Garber (md)

Hollywood, 19 February 1951

a 7145 The Hot Canary (Nero, Gilbert) – Ewing Sisters (vc)

78 Capitol I430 (a)

EP Capitol FI430 (a)

PAUL NERO QUINTET

Paul Nero (vn), ? (pn), *poss.* Tony Rizzi (gt), ? (sb), ? (dm)

Hollywood, 8 June 1951

a 7639 Frustrated Woodpecker (Nero)

b 7640 There’s a Small Hotel – unissued

c 7641 “Cool” Turkey (Al Polnarioff, Nero) – original title Cold Turkey changed by Nero to “Cool” Turkey [“Cool”, *not* Cool] to avoid clash with Florian ZaBach’s near contemporary recording of Nat Brusiloff’s different composition Cold Turkey written by Brusiloff as a riposte to The Hot Canary

d 7642 The Poon Tango (*prob.* Nero) – unissued

78 Capitol I859 (a,c)

78 Capitol [CN] C-861 (a,c)

78 Capitol (b,d) unissued

EP Capitol FI859 (a,c)

PAUL NERO featured with NEELY PLUMB ORCHESTRA

orchestra incl. Paul Nero (vn), Neely Plumb (as, md)

Los Angeles, *c.*1952

a Yours – Nero ensemble – Kathrynne Steele (vc)

b Because You’re Mine – Nero obbligato – Bobby Doyle (vc)

c April in Portugal – Nero solo – Larry Roberts (vc)

d Ruby – Nero solo – instrumental

e The Song from Moulin Rouge – Nero solo – Kathrynne Steele (vc)

f Say You’re Mine Again – Nero obbligato – Kathrynne Steele, Larry Roberts (vc)

78 Ace-Hi I010 (a,b)

78 Ace-Hi I022 (c,d)

78 Music Masters 2007 (c-f) – two titles each side

EP Music Masters 2007 (c-f)

NOTE B-side label of 78 Music Masters 2002 by Steele, Doyle with Plumb gives Nero (vn) but he is not featured

PAUL NERO AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Chico Alvarez (tp), Dick Kenney (tb), Bud Shank (as, fl), Bob Cooper (ts, ob), Bart Calderal (br), Paul Nero (vn), Donn Trenner (pn), Tony Rizzi (gt), Stan Fletcher (sb), Billy Wilson (dm), Helen Carr, Don Kwaymoo and His Art House Choir: Kate Skwiersczynski, Schmook Allgall, Kurt von Goldstein (vc)

Hollywood, 22 April 1952

- a RH-I002-Y Sittin' 'Neath the Willow Tree (Anita Nero) – Helen Carr (vc)
- b RH-I002-Z Whistler's Father (Nero)
- c RH-I003-Y Lover Come Back to Me
- d RH-I003-Z The Do-Do Song (Nero, Allman) – Don Kwaymoo and His Art House Choir (vc)

78 Rhythm Records I002 (a,b)

78 Rhythm Records I003 (c,d)

EP Rhythm Records 45-I002 (a,b)

EP Rhythm Records 45-I003 (c,d)

NOTE Nero proprietor of Rhythm Records – I00I is by Neely Plumb without Nero – releases also exist as white label “Exploitation” 78s – are we to believe the Art House Choir names?

PAUL NERO OCTET

Maynard Ferguson (tp), Abe Most (cl), Bob Cooper (ts), Paul Nero (vn), Paul Smith (pn), Tony Rizzi (gt), Stan Fletcher (sb), Irv Cottler (dm)

Los Angeles, 20 May 1952, The Haig

- a 33-RS-400 Sweet Georgia Brown
- b 33-RS-40I Cool Canary Blues (Nero)

LP Skylark [10"] SKI ILP (a,b) *Jam Session*

CD V.S.O.P. I32 (a,b) *Early Skylark and Tampa EPs* [sic]

NOTE The only known recording of Nero playing spontaneous improvisations as opposed to carefully notated compositions – side 2 of EP Skylark EP I00-45 is a release of (a) under Ferguson, Most, Cooper, Cottler names with Nero edited out – it also appears under Ferguson's name on LP S&H SH4546 *The Young Giants* – Ferguson recorded *The Hot Canary* in 1950 without Nero

PAUL NERO AND HIS ORCHESTRA

dance orchestra with short solos as indicated incl. Paul Nero (vn), *poss.* Dick Kenney (tb), (sb) on a,b, (bb) on c,d

Los Angeles, c.November 1955

- a 45 EB-I375 East of the Sun – solos by violin, tenor sax, trombone
- b 45 EB-I375 Honeysuckle Rose – solos by violin, guitar, muted trumpet, trombone
- c 45 EB-I376 Isham Jones Medley
[It Had to Be You
I Can't Believe It's True
I'll See You in My Dreams] – solo by trombone
- d 45 EB-I376 Cheek to Cheek – solos by trombone, violin, duet by flute and guitar

EP For Promotional Use (a-d) – master numbers reveal that this is a 1955 custom pressing by Capitol's Hollywood studios – pressed by Capitol, evidently for Nero, definitely not for Capitol Records – it may also have been recorded at Capitol's studios, since there are released discs by Nero on that label – two titles each side – “Stewart” is hand-written on the second side's label on the example, the only one known, in the AB Fable Archive

PAUL NERO featured with LEW RAYMOND ORCHESTRA

orchestra with string section incl. Paul Nero (solo vn), Lew Raymond (md)

Los Angeles, 1956

- a When the White Lilacs Bloom Again

78 Tops R292 (a) – “4 Hits On Each Record” – two titles each side – Nero’s feature is side B track I – other titles feature other artists with the Raymond Orchestra
 EP Tops 45-R292-49 (a) – as above – known in two label states: black; blue

PAUL NERO SEPTET

Paul Nero, Gerald Vinci (vn), Stan Harris (vl), Paul Bergstrom (ce), Bobby Gibbons (gt), Rolly Bundock (sb), Milt Holland on 8 unspecified titles, Irv Cottler on 4 unspecified titles (dm), Nero, Paich, Giuffre, Raksin, Montrose, Comstock (ar)

Hollywood, two or three sessions, February & March 1956 – produced by Ruby Raksin

- a Scherzo-Phrenia (Nero)
- b Street of Dreams
- c Just a Minuet (Rogers)
- d I Cover the Waterfront
- e That’s a Plenty
- f Flew the Coop (Cooper)
- g Yes, We Have No Vibrato (Nero)
- h Love Is for the Very Young (Raksin)
- i Lullaby of the Leaves
- j Midnight Sun
- k A Foggy Day
- l Bridie Murphy, Won’t You Please Come Home (Nero)

LP Sunset LP303 (a-1) *Paul Nero and His Hi Fiddles Play the Music of Shorty Rogers, Marty Paich, Jimmy Giuffre, David Raksin, Frank Comstock, Bob Cooper, Jack Montrose, Ruby Raksin and Paul Nero*

LP Fresh Sound [ES] FSR727 (a-1) as above

CD AB Fable [EN] ABCDI-018 (a) *Professor Visits Harlem: or, Swingin’ till the Girls Come Home: Anthology of Swing Strings, 1930s–1950s*



The 1949 rerecording of Animal Jam on Nero’s own Nero label