

# Harry Engleman - Musician

HARRY WAS BORN IN BIRMINGHAM ON 17 JANUARY 1912 AND LIVED AT 58 HARBURY ROAD, CANNON HILL. HIS FATHER JOSEPH WHOSE WIFE GERTRUDE



(NEE COHEN) WAS FROM POLAND, WAS A DISTINGUISHED COMPOSER OF LIGHT MUSIC AND WAS HARRY'S ONLY TEACHER. HIS FIRST JOB WAS PLAYING PIANO IN CINEMA FOR SILENT FILMS. THIS PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT TRAINING IN A WIDE VARIETY OF MUSICAL STYLES AND INCLUDED HIS ABILITY TO IMPROVISE ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT TO CREATE WHATEVER MOOD HE DESIRED. EVENTUALLY, HE WORKED IN THE THEATRE, HIS FIRST JOB BEING IN THE ORCHESTRA OF THE EMPIRE THEATRE, HURST STREET. HE AUDITIONED FOR THE BBC IN 1934 AND WAS ACCEPTED, HIS FIRST BROADCASTS BEING ON "CHILDREN'S HOUR". IN

1936, HARRY MADE HIS RECORDING DEBUT WITH THREE RECORDS FOR PANACHORD. HARRY ENGLEMAN'S QUINTET TOPPED THE BILL AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM IN 1937 AND 1938. DURING THE WAR, HARRY SERVED IN THE RAF WHILST CONTINUING TO WORK WITH QUINTET AND HIS COLLEAGUE JACK WILSON WITH WHOM HE'D FORMED A TWO-PIANO PARTNERSHIP JUST BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR. HARRY AND JACK PLAYED TOGETHER FOR THE BBC UNTIL 1952 WHEN JACK CALLED IT A DAY. HARRY, HOWEVER CARRIED ON WITH MANY BROADCASTS FOR THE BBC WITH IS TRIO AND QUINTET ACCOMPANYING MANY OF THE "WORKER'S PLAYTIME" BROADCASTS. IN THE 1970'S HE PLAYED ON THE ENORMOUSLY POPULAR MUSIC QUIZ ON PEBBLE MILL AT ONE. HE ALSO PLAYED 5 OR 6 NIGHTS A WEEK IN THE ALBANY HOTEL WELL INTO THE 80'S AND PLAYED AT THE GRAND HOTEL ON A SATURDAY NIGHT UNTIL HE FINALLY FINISHED 1N 1998.



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