

# A STAR OF THE JAZZ WORLD

## REMEMBER WHEN

IN the latest of his profiles of movers and shakers from Bradford's rock 'n' roll scene, DEREK AJ LISTER pays tribute to multi-instrumentalist Eric Holroyd:

Eric was born in 1938 and attended Heckmondwike Grammar School. Leaving school, he was employed at Illingworth Morris Mills, Thornton Road. A multi-instrumentalist, Eric's main instrument is trumpet (or cornet), although his musical training began with classical piano at the age of six. In his early teens he learned cornet, trombone and tuba, later switching to electric guitar to play in rock 'n' roll bands. Eric took his first professional music job aged 16 at the Textile Hall, Westgate. With this 16-piece dance orchestra, complete with three vocalists, Eric's love of jazz blossomed. He later became the trumpeter in the band's seven-piece jazz group, which played Harry Gold Pieces of Eight Dixieland orchestrations and improvised jazz. In his early twenties Eric joined Dal Stevens and the Four Dukes, reformed from the Blue Jays, and transformed it into a very professional rock 'n' roll group. It was Eric's lead guitar performances that gave them some



Eric Holroyd was a talented musician and became a star in Australia

A foundation member of Tom Baker's mid-1970s San Francisco Jazz Band, Eric has played trumpet with other popular jazz groups such as the Abbey Jazz Band, Ocean City Jazz Band, Southern Jazzmen, as well as featuring regularly with Graeme Bell's All Stars. Eric's own band has several times played as support to Britain's Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen on tours of Australia. From a superb rock 'n' roll lead guitarist to a world-renowned jazz musician, Eric was married for just over 50 years. Sadly, his wife Jean passed away in January 2007. In Australia he was, for more than half a century, a world-renowned jazz musician with the trumpet, right up through to his passing in 2016. Another Bradford lad, who made to the top, albeit in the jazz world. He was far too good for our group, Dal Stevens and the Four Dukes, and deserved his success. It was a pleasure to have known him. He was very professional and a good friend.

\* Derek and his friend and collaborator Reuben Davison have profiled singers, bands and musicians from Bradford's 1950s and 60s music scene in their website: [www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk](http://www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk)

success for a short time.

It was at the Textile Hall that Eric had met his future wife Jean, and they were soon married. When they were both aged 23 in July 1966, they and their two daughters left the UK for a new life in Australia. Eric is

now a famous jazz musician in Australia and throughout the world. He's a regular at Australia's annual jazz conventions, and features regularly at jazz festivals around Australia both as a soloist and with various bands.

He toured in California several times with Melbourne's Creole Bells, playing the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, Santa Rosa Jazz Festival, the Los Angeles Sweet and Hot Festival and a short season in Las Vegas.

★★★★★

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