



WHAT
HAPPENED

Preservation
Hall was
established
in 1961.

Preservation Hall was created as a space for musicians to play jazz in an era dominated by rock 'n' roll.



The effort was so successful that the Preservation Hall Jazz Band now plays with today's top rock stars.

Preservation Hall's roots predate its official establishment in 1961. In the 1950s, Larry Bornstein began inviting musicians to play at his gallery at 726 St. Peter St. These early sessions featured New Orleans legends including George Lewis and Sweet Emma Barrett. Soon, the sessions were being held nightly, and the New Orleans Society for The Preservation of Traditional Jazz was created. Borenstein turned over the venue to two idealistic jazz lovers from Pennsylvania in 1961, Allen and Sandra Jaffe.

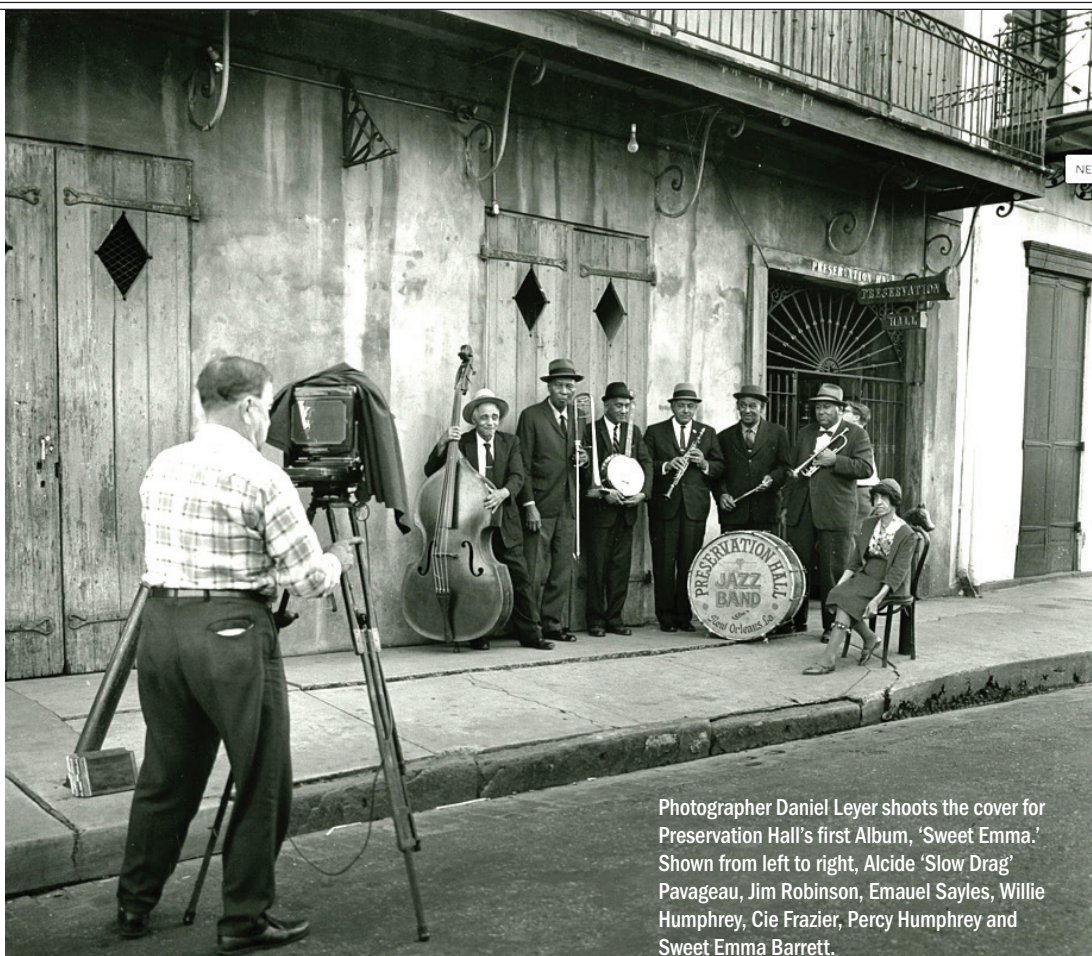


THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE

Allen Jaffe created a touring Preservation Hall band in 1963. From Carnegie Hall to Japan, the Preservation Hall band, at first led by Kid Thomas, wowed audiences, who further spread New Orleans jazz and sparked a nationwide interest in New Orleans music. In 1967, the band performed with the Grateful Dead, Carlos Santana and Steppenwolf.

That performance would mark the start of 50 years of collaboration that would accelerate when Jaffe's son, Ben, took over Preservation Hall in the mid-1990s. Since then, the band has played with the Blind Boys of Alabama, My Morning Jacket, Arcade Fire and the Foo Fighters, among others.

In 2006, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band was awarded the National Medal of Arts from President George W. Bush. The citation read: "With enormous talent and pride, this ageless ensemble has toured the world displaying the unbreakable spirit of New Orleans and sharing the joy of New Orleans jazz with us all."



Photographer Daniel Leyer shoots the cover for Preservation Hall's first Album, 'Sweet Emma.' Shown from left to right, Alcide 'Slow Drag' Pavageau, Jim Robinson, Emanuel Sayles, Willie Humphrey, Cie Frazier, Percy Humphrey and Sweet Emma Barrett.



Sweet Emma, the band's first album, was heavy on Dixieland jazz and traditional New Orleans' music.



Sweet Emma's band, shown here in 1974, with Barrett, who performed with only her right hand after a stroke in 1967.