

The Oliver Sain Revue

Tribute to a Legend



The Oliver Sain Revue continues the musical legacy of Oliver Sain, saxophonist, composer, arranger, talent scout, record producer and bandleader.

Born in 1932 in Dundee, Mississippi, Oliver grew up immersed in music. In 1949, he moved to Greenville, Mississippi to join his stepfather, pianist Willie Love, in a band fronted by Sonny Boy Williamson. In the mid-1950's, Oliver moved to Chicago, where he made a name for himself playing self-proclaimed "honky tonk" saxophone with Howlin' Wolf and Elmore James. But it was Oliver who wrote the chapter on R&B music in St. Louis after moving here, from 1959 until his passing in 2003. Mr. Sain is credited with launching the careers of Little Milton, Bobby McClure and Fontella Bass and many others. Sain wrote "Don't Mess up a Good Thing" which was a number one hit in the US for Bobby McClure in 1965. In the mid-1970s, he recorded his own danceable Jazz records such as "Bus Stop", "Booty Bumpin' (The Double Bump)" (1975), "Party Hearty" (1976) and "Feel Like Dancing" (1977) to prototype a new style of funk jazz fusion made even more popular by St. Louisan David Sanborn and others including prominent rappers such as Jay Z and P. Diddy Combs who have sampled Oliver's recordings. But the most comprehensive tribute to Oliver Sain is today's Oliver Sain Revue.

Oliver Sain having provided the fertile ground to nurture music in St. Louis created a cohesive family of musicians that still exists today. Today's Oliver Sain Revue continues this tradition thanks to Ruby Sain. Yes, a widow's promise to keep his music alive and the band performing concerts, festivals and dance halls continues a legacy with the Oliver Sain Revue tribute band and crescendos into opening of the Oliver Sain Museum including Oliver's historic recording studio which is fully operational. And to give back to the community and make a brighter future for our children, The Sain School of Music teaches in the blues tradition. Always the teacher and a genuine, caring man, Oliver taught others to count on one another and helped countless musical artists realize their full potential. For those who were fortunate to know him, revere him, or just in love with the contributions of this wonderfully talented man, Oliver will always be the personification of the St. Louis music scene.

Today's Oliver Sain Revue



James Warfield, Jr. is our "surrogate Oliver" and noted saxophonist in his own right having performed with not only Oliver's band, but also Jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Rufus Reid, and Peter Erskine and Soul and R& B artists O'Jays, Four Tops, Temptations, Little Anthony and the Imperials and Martha and the Vandellas.

Guitarist Michael Harris is also an alumnus of Oliver's band from over twenty years and hundred's of night clubs and concert stages including the Oliver Sain Revue's Today Show Performance. He has also performed with Little Milton, B.B. King, Shirley Brown and many others.

Our drummer Frank Williams was also in Oliver's band for an extended period of time. Also in his resume includes the Bosman Twins, Johnny Johnson, Little Milton Campbell and the Eddie Randle Band. Frank also continues the tradition as a recording engineer and producer.

Dean Minderman plays organ, piano and synthesizer in today's Oliver Sain Revue, and has worked with Johnnie Rawls, Bonnie Bramlett, Peter "Herman's Hermits" Noone and Bo Diddley. He performs with his own jazz piano trio and as a solo pianist, performs in "industrial" and theatrical shows and has created music and sound effects for TV and radio. Dean is also a veteran music journalist contributing to prominent music publications as well as his website St. Louis Jazz Notes.

Bassist David Certain is also the Oliver Sain Review's musical director. He also plays with the Eddie Henderson Quartet, St. Louis guitar legend Billy Barnett, and has performed with organ master Jimmy McGriff, saxophonist and Grammy-winning arranger Willie Smith, singer "Little" Jimmy Scott, Grammy-nominated drummer Greg Bandy, Latin jazz pianist Hilton Ruiz and many other internationally renowned Swing and Bebop legends.

Continuing Oliver's tradition of using St. Louis best singers, you're likely to see the Revue with singers Renee Smith, Marsh Evans or Uvee Hayes, all former members of Oliver's band when he was alive.

The Oliver Sain Revue performs festivals, concerts and dance clubs the world over. For booking information contact Ruby Sain at OliverSainMuseum@yahoo.com or by telephone 314 867 0451.