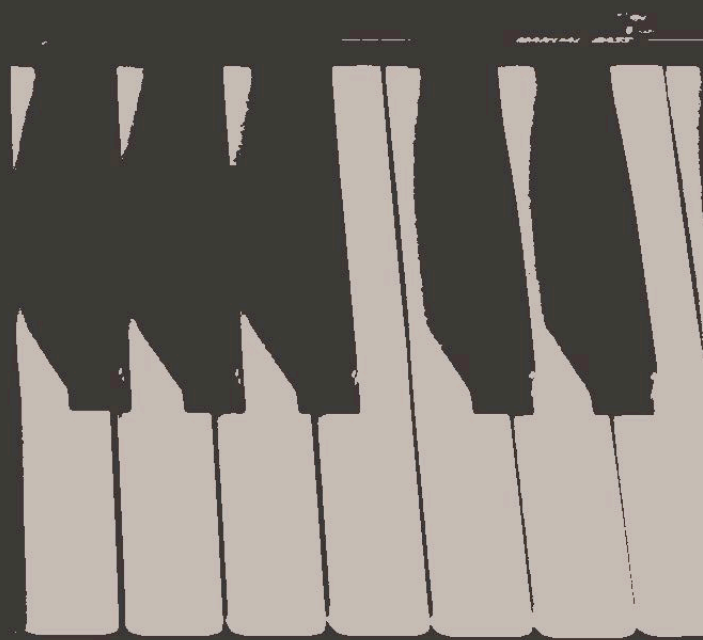
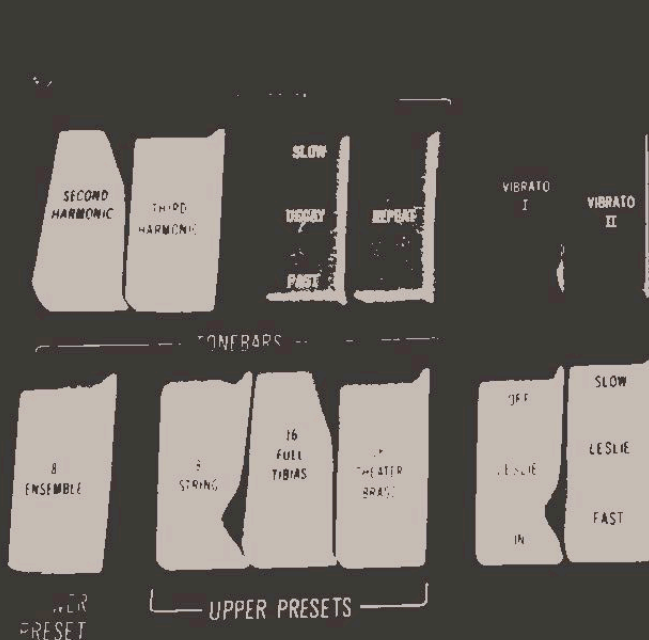




# THE GUVNOR HAMMOND

## BRYAN RODWELL



# THE GUVNOR

This is a rare recording of Bryan Rodwell (aka 'the Guv'nor') doing what he did best - swinging his way through some of his favourite numbers to the delight of an enthralled audience. For his many fans - myself included - this was a night to remember.

The person who made the evening possible was Gene Ashwoth, MD and founder of Chingford Organ Studios, who recognised that Bryan's musical talents simply 'demonstrating' the latest Hammond models were being constrained. When Bryan said "what I would REALLY like to do is a 'JAZZER' on an X-5 with a decent drummer" Gene and his colleague Gerry responded immediately and booked a venue in Finchley, North London.

The Hammond X-5 was a small 'no frills' portable model with two 44 note manuals and 13 note pedalboard to which Bryan added a Roland SH Synthesiser as a 'third keyboard' to provide solo effects. The organ specification comprised drawbars for upper and lower manuals plus touch response percussion and pedal sustain. Animation was created by Leslie 760 cabinets. This all took place in the pre digital era - the only 'digits' being Bryan's fingers performing up tempo items and improvisations with amazing dexterity before sensitively interpreting ballads with those famous 'Rodwellian' harmonies. His pedal work was legendary.

I had the privilege of working closely with Bryan. He was, in my opinion, a musical genius. His concerts, broadcasts and recordings elevated the electronic and theatre pipe organ to new levels. At electronic organ festivals other organists would gather in the wings to see him perform whilst his showmanship, artistry and Northern sense of humour kept audiences fully entertained. Bryan is sadly missed in the organ world. Thankfully we have recording gems such as this to keep his memory alive.

*Keith Beckingham*

## The Recording

The origins of this recording are unknown - they were passed to the producer with the message that his copy came from another copy. Because of this, we politely request that if anyone has any further information, can they please reach out to the producer. We felt that the sheer musicality of the recording made it worthy for this limited release.

Re-mastering & Producer: Damon Cox 2019



# THE GUVNOR BRYAN RODWELL

1. Cute.....Count Basie
2. The Sweetest Sounds.....Richard Rodgers
3. **Duke Ellington Selection:**
  - Take The A-Train.....Billy Strayhorn
  - Mood Indigo.....Duke Ellington/Barney Bigard
  - Caravan.....Juan Tizol/Duke Ellington
4. You Stepped Out of a Dream.....Nacio Herb Brown
5. Wave.....Antônio Carlos Jobim
6. Bryan's Blues.....arr. Rodwell
7. Gone With the Wind.....Herb Magidson/Allie Wrubel
8. A Night in Tunisia.....Dizzy Gillespie
9. **Contrasts:**
  - At Last.....Mack Gordon/Harry Warren
  - Tuxedo Junction.....Erskine Hawkins/Bill Johnson/Julian Dash
  - My Hero.....Oscar Straus
  - Marie.....Irving Berlin
  - Caribbean Clipper.....Jerry Gray
  - Moonlight Serenade.....Glenn Miller
10. Announcement
11. **Contrasts:**
  - Stompin' at the Savoy.....Edgar Sampson
  - Sweet Georgia Brown.....Ben Bernie/Maceo Pinkard
  - Muskrat Ramble.....Kid Ory
12. At the Woodchoppers Ball.....Joe Bishop/Woody Herman