

Dewey Redman

One of the last great "Texas Tenors", saxophonist Dewey Redman was born in Fort Worth on March 17, 1931 and grew up across the street from a jazz club, where he could hear the music of Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, or Louis Jordan. He began studying clarinet at 13, learning from a music teacher named Goodman who held lessons in Mount Olive Baptist Church. Redman played in the old I.M. Terrell High School marching band, a group that also included Ornette Coleman, Charles Moffett and Prince Lasha.

Redman received a Master's degree in education from North Texas State University and taught public school from 1956-1959. He then moved to San Francisco and worked as a freelance musician, encountering both Pharoah Sanders and John Coltrane. In 1967 Redman joined high school bandmate Ornette Coleman's Quartet, staying until 1974. Redman was also a part of Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra and worked with Keith Jarrett and Pat Metheny. He released more than a dozen albums under his own name, recorded with his son Joshua Redman, and later joined Don Cherry, Charlie Haden, and Ed Blackwell in the Ornette Coleman reunion band, Old and New Dreams. A week before his death, in September 2006, the Dewey Redman quartet, including Frank Kimbrough, John Menegon, and Tani Tabaal performed at the Charlie Parker Jazz Festival in New York.