

Jersey Jazz

New Orleans Jazz Festival

1969 was the year of the first New Orleans Jazz Festival. Highlights from that event were broadcast on television, with Clark Terry, Zoot Sims, Marion Love, Paul Desmond, Gerry Mulligan, Dizzy Gillespie, James Moody, Count Basie and Sarah Vaughan among the featured artists. Steve Allen served as the host for the program. This material has been released on DVD titled ***The 1969 New Orleans Jazz Festival*** (MVD Visual – 56969). The action moves from venue to venue, opening with Terry and Sims in a small setting, and concluding with Vaughan singing a stunningly beautiful version of “The Lord’s Prayer” in a concert hall. In between, Desmond and Mulligan, Gillespie and Moody, and the Basie band serve up a variety of delights. The presentation is straightforward, and allows the performers and their music to absorb all of the viewer’s attention. It is a pleasant hour of wonderful sounds played by some of the elite of the jazz world in 1969. (mvdb2b.com)

- Joseph Lang