

Fifteen Critical Years of The Melody Maker British Jazz Polls

The Melody Maker Jazz Polls British Section 1960–1974

The 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s were very exciting decades for British modern jazz and were almost totally dominated by the phenomenal Tubby Hayes. However, at this point there were other musicians who had made a big impact on the scene, notably Johnny (now Sir John) Dankworth and Humphrey Lyttelton who was initially a traditional jazz musician but later ‘defected’ to a rather more modern (mainstream) jazz style. Trad had been a dominant feature of the music scene in the 1950s thanks to its rise in popularity and a later sub–genre of trad, skiffle, spawned initially by Ken Colyer and Chris Barber and which was consolidated by the chart success of Barber’s guitarist and singer Lonnie Donegan. Whilst Donegan was known to have, to some extent, influenced the Beatles, who started out playing in skiffle bands, John Dankworth’s compositions,

particularly his writing and arrangements for his big bands in the 1960s, undoubtedly had a big influence on the modern / contemporary jazz scene. Other major players at this time included Kenny Ball and Acker Bilk both of whom (like Humph) achieved pop chart success. John Dankworth also dominated the polls in the 1950s as did Humphrey Lyttelton in the early to mid 1960s. The Melody Maker, which was launched in 1926, was the premier popular music newspaper of the 20th Century. Its annual jazz polls were a major event in the jazz world but also were an important historical public record of the state of British jazz through the years. The Melody Maker ceased publication in 2000 and these polls have been cited verbatim in an attempt to provide qualitative context to the main section of musical criticism above. Additionally, the quoting of these polls attempts to preserve some historical perspective on British jazz, which the Melody Maker dutifully reflected for many years. The British jazz sections normally accompanied the World jazz sections which are not included here.

This list covers the 15 years of jazz polls from 1960 to 1974, during which time there were several major changes in jazz. There was an obvious move away from traditional jazz to modern jazz. The domination of the former is shown to diminish in the polls from the early 1960s in favour of the latter genre. Also, later in the 1960s there is a burgeoning presence in the polls of some free players such as Derek Bailey and Tony Oxley (although Oxley also played some 'straight' jazz too). From the early 1970s there was a notable divergence towards fusion with John McLaughlin in the guitar section and Ian Carr's Nucleus and later Soft Machine dominating the small group section. This list of British jazz poll winners also aims to provide an illustration of what has often been referred to as a 'golden age' of British jazz, when for the first time British jazz musicians were being taken very seriously indeed by their American counterparts. Dankworth was friends with the likes of Duke Ellington and Charlie Parker, Hayes recorded with some great American stars, whilst McLaughlin and Dave Holland

were eagerly snatched away to the USA by Miles Davis (although they were not the first British musicians Miles had employed, nor the first to achieve jazz stardom in America). Stan Tracey had been highly lauded by Sonny Rollins when, as house pianist at Ronnie Scott's, Tracey accompanied him. By the late 1960s and early 1970s, Ian Carr's Nucleus having won the Montreux Jazz Festival and played at Newport were now international stars. Others were gaining or later gained international status, such as Derek Bailey, Tony Coe, John Marshall, Tony Oxley, John Surman and Kenny Wheeler. Other factors in the growing international reputation of British jazz were the lifting of the Musicians Union ban on American and British musicians visiting each others' countries and the subsequent increasing popularity and commercial success of Ronnie Scott's jazz club in London which acted as a pivotal base at that time for both home grown and international musicians. Several other jazz clubs were thriving at that time including the 100 Club but jazz musicians were also being given stage room at

rock venues. Certainly this was the case with Nucleus, Soft Machine, IF, Mike Westbrook's Solid Gold Cadillac and many others. Jazz was also benefiting from the rise in The Beatles and rock music, thus 'electric' jazz started to become more widespread. There were many crossover bands who straddled both jazz and rock such as Brand X, Caravan, Colosseum, Hatfield and The North and The Keef Hartley Band. However by the mid-1970s and especially by 1976 when punk rock robustly ousted any other popular musical format for some time (particularly progressive rock) the 'golden age' of jazz was doomed and took years to recover in the UK.

Ian Carr and the Melody Maker

The inclusion of fifteen years of these Melody Maker jazz polls affords a wider perspective on the rise of Ian Carr's musical prowess and attempts to show the pre-Carr years in relation to the rise of Carr's partner Don Rendell, who was something of a jazz star even in the 1950s having been a member of Johnny

Dankworth's Seven and also charts the slightly earlier rise to fame of other Ian Carr colleagues such as Jeff Clyne and Michael Garrick. This early inclusion also attempts to put a perspective on the British jazz Scene at the beginning of the 1960s and illustrates who were the major players at this time. It must be remembered that although Tubby Hayes and John Dankworth were pre-eminent in the British Jazz world at this time, by the mid 1960s, the Rendell-Carr Quintet had become major players on the scene and notably Ian Carr retained his popular stature until the middle of the next decade. Don Rendell had made a brave move away from mainstream jazz to original and very modern jazz, first with his seminal album *Roarin'* and then with the Rendell-Carr Quintet. Don Rendell came top in the British section of the 1957 Melody Maker jazz poll in the tenor saxophone section before Tubby Hayes dominated this section from 1958 onwards until 1970. Also in the 1957 poll Don Rendell was voted into fourth place in the 'Musician of the Year' category and he was in

third place in the 'small combo' section for the same year. His trajectory was thence slightly downwards until it dramatically revived some ten years later, except in the category of tenor where he consistently figured highly apart from 1965 and from 1970 onwards. Other modernists who began to be noticed in these polls in the 1950s were Joe Harriott (top alto player in 1959) and Ronnie Ross (baritone) in 1958 and 1959. The late Allan Ganley was top drummer in 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960. He was still playing in Dankworth's bands right up until his untimely death in 2008 following routine heart surgery. The fact that Don Rendell was already a highly regarded tenor player in the 1950s, added to the piquancy of his renaissance in the next decade with the Rendell-Carr Quintet. Table 1 (below) gives the number of times the following respective musicians or their own records were featured in any place in the Melody Maker jazz polls (British section) over the fifteen year period between 1960 and 1974. Only those who were featured for a minimum of twenty times during this period have been listed. Of

these fourteen musicians Tubby Hayes came top and unsurprisingly musicians such as John Dankworth and Stan Tracey featured in the next two places. Although trad jazz musicians did not feature much in these polls after 1963, in which year the MM published a separate trad poll, it is surprising that Sandy Brown, a mainly trad musician figured so highly in these (non-trad) polls. However, Sandy Brown did make one highly unusual album, *Hair At Its Hairiest*, with Brown depicted on the LP sleeve half naked and wearing a long wig. What was more unusual about this album than the cover was that it included modernists John McLaughlin and Kenny Wheeler amongst the sextet. The arrangements and performances of covers of *Hair* (the musical) were quite extraordinary and at times almost avant garde in their approach, despite George Chisholm's often successful attempts to impart a sense of humour into the proceedings. Other notable prominently featured musicians in the poll included singer and organist Georgie Fame who achieved considerable success in the (pop) charts and pianist and

vibraphonist Bill Le Sage who undoubtedly never received the more widespread recognition he deserved.

Also, crucially, though perhaps not surprisingly, both Ian Carr and Don Rendell figure highly in the polls. Although two of the musicians in Table 1 were regarded as traditional jazz musicians (Humphrey Lyttelton and Sandy Brown), Lyttelton shocked the trad world in the late 1950s by transferring his musical allegiance to mainstream jazz. Whilst even trad stalwart Sandy Brown had made a few mainstream recordings including the aforementioned *Hair At Its Hairiest*. By 1960 things were set in place for a movement away from mainstream and trad. John Dankworth, who started his career playing dance music but moved on to play mainstream by the late 1950s, totally embraced modern jazz by the early 1960s with his suite of four important big band albums and his collaborative recording with Kenny Wheeler, the seminal *Windmill Tilter*.

<u>Musician</u>	<u>Featured</u>
Tubby Hayes	93
John Dankworth	60
Stan Tracey	41
Don Rendell	37
Joe Harriott	36
Tony Coe	34
Humphrey Lyttelton	31
John Surman	30
Ronnie Scott	28
Ian Carr	27
Sandy Brown	27
Bill Le Sage	25
Georgie Fame	22
Mike Gibbs	20

Table 1 – Highest ranking musicians in the Melody Maker British Jazz polls 1960–1974

Source: Melody Maker (1960–1974)

The main poll listings begin on the next page...

Melody Maker Jazz Polls **1960–1974**

Melody Maker Jazz Poll **British Section,** **23 January 1960, page 3**

Don Rendell can be seen placed here second only to Tubby Hayes in the tenor saxophone category. Those fortunate enough to have seen Don Rendell play live will appreciate why, on account of his forceful yet sensitive playing.

Musician of the Year

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Ronnie Ross
3. Humphrey Lyttelton
4. Chris Barber
5. Joe Harriott
6. Tubby Hayes
7. Ted Heath
8. Acker Bilk
9. Monty Sunshine
10. Tony Coe
11. Ronnie Scott
12. Kenny Ball
13. Tony Kinsey / Others

Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Ted Heath
3. Humphrey Lyttelton
4. Downbeat Big Band /
/ Others

Small Combo

1. Humphrey Lyttelton
2. Jazzmakers
3. Jazz Committee
4. Chris Barber
5. Joe Harriott
6. Tony Kinsey
7. Tubby Hayes
8. Kenny Ball / Alex Welsh
10. Acker Bilk
11. Jazz Couriers
12. Dick Charlesworth /
Terry Lightfoot
14. Clyde Valley Stompers
15. Johnny Dankworth 7 /
Al Fairweather
/SandyBrown
17. Ken Colyer
18. Eddie Thompson
19. Bruce Turner / Vic Ash
/ Others

Trumpet

1. Humphrey Lyttelton
2. Kenny Baker
3. Bert Courtley
4. Dizzy Reece
5. Hank Shaw
6. Pat Halcox
7. Dickie Hawdon
8. Eddie Blair
9. Kenny Ball
10. Al Fairweather
11. Alex Welsh / Bobby Pratt
13. Les Condon / Alan Elsdon
15. Ken Colyer / Stu Hamer
17. Leon Calvert / Others

Trombone

1. George Chisholm
2. Keith Christie
3. Chris Barber
4. Johnny Picard
5. Don Lusher / Ken Wray
7. Laurie Monk
8. John Bennett
9. Eddie Harbey
10. Roy Crimmins
11. Mac Duncan
12. Tony Milliner / Cyril Preston / Others

Clarinet

1. Vic Ash
2. Monty Sunshine
3. Tony Coe
4. Sandy Brown
5. Henry Mackenzie
6. Wally Fawkes
7. Archie Semple
8. Terry Lightfoot
9. Dave Shepherd
10. Dave Jones
11. Acker Bilk
12. Sid Phillips
13. 14. Ian Wheeler / Others / Dick Charlesworth

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Bruce Turner
4. Tony Coe
5. Alan Branscome / Others

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Don Rendell
3. Jimmy Skidmore
4. Ronnie Scott
5. Art Ellefson
6. Danny Moss
7. Bob Efford
8. Tommy Whittle
9. Ronnie Ross
10. Betty Smith / Others

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Joe Temperley
3. Harry Klein
4. Tubby Hayes / Others

Vibes

1. Bill Le Sage
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Stan Tracey
4. Reg Wale
5. Lennie Best
6. Martin Slavin
7. Roy Marsh / Others

Flute

1. Johnny Scott
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Phil Goody / Others

Piano

1. Dill Jones
2. Eddie Thompson
3. Stan Tracey
4. Dave Lee
5. Lennie Felix

6. Alan Clare
7. Terry Shannon
8. Ian Armit / Colin Bates
10. Johnny Parker
11. Steve Race
12. Fred Hunt / Bill Le Sage
14. Bill McGuffie
15. Ken Moule
16. Harry South
 Alan Branscombe / Dick
 Katz / Eddie Harvey /
 Others

Bass

1. Johnny Hawkesworth
2. Lennie Bush
3. Kenny Napper
4. Eric Dawson
5. Coleridge Goode
 Micky Ashman
7. Brian Brocklehurst
8. Spike Heatley
9. Dick Smith
10. Vic Pitt
11. Pete Blannin
12. Jeff Clyne
13. Arthur Watts
14. Stan Wasser
15. Jack Fallon
16. Bill Reid
17. Joe Muddel / Others

Drums

1. Allan Ganley
2. Tony Kinsey
3. Phil Seamen
4. Kenny Clare
5. Eddie Taylor

6. Ronnie Verrell
7. Ron Bowden
8. Jack Parnell
9. Johnny Richardson
10. Jackie Dougan
11. Eric Delaney
12. Graham Burbidge
13. Bobby Orr
14. Tony Crombie
15. Ron McKay
16. Lennie Hastings / Others

Guitar

1. Dave Goldberg
2. Diz Disley
3. Ken Sykora
4. Ike Isaacs
5. Bert Weedon
6. Bill Bramwell
7. Judd Proctor
8. Ivor Mairants
9. Dennis Newey
10. Denny Wright / Others

Miscellaneous Instrument

1. Max Geldray (Harmonica)
2. Dickie Hawdon (French
 Horn)
3. Ronnie Chamberlain
 (Soprano Sax)
4. Kenny Baker (Flugelhorn)
5. Eddie Smith (Banjo) /
 / John Bastable (Banjo)
7. Ray Premru (Bass Trumpet)
8. Dickie Bishop (Banjo)
9. Diz Disley (Banjo) / Others

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Kenny Graham
3. Ken Moule
4. Dave Lindup
5. Eddie Harvey
6. Johnny Keating
7. Humphrey Lyttelton
8. Tubby Hayes / Others

Composer

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Kenny Graham
3. Ken Moule
4. Eddie Harvey
5. Bert Courtney
6. Humphrey Lyttelton /
Bill Le Sage
8. Sandy Brown / Al
Fairweather
9. Tubby Hayes
10. Tony Crombie / Dave
Lindup / Others

Male Singer

1. George Melly
2. Bobby Breen
3. Jeremy Lubbock
4. Dennis Lotis
5. Dickie Valentine
6. Ray Ellington
7. Frank Holder
8. Michael Holliday
9. Cab Kaye / Others

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Otilie Patterson

3. Beryl Bryden
4. Rosemary Squire
5. Shirley Bassey
6. Georgia Brown
7. Fiona Duncan / Others

New Star

1. Pete King
2. Alan Branscombe
3. Tony Coe
4. Stan Tracey
5. Bobby Wellins
6. Joe Harriott
7. Acker Bilk
8. Dick Charlesworth
9. Dudley Moore
10. Derek Warne /
Hank Shaw / Others

Vocal Group

1. Polka Dots
(The Polka Dots won this
section outright – nearest rivals
polled 1.8 percent)

**Source: Melody Maker,
23 January 1960**

**Melody Maker Jazz Poll
British Section,
28 January 1961, page 15**

Musicians from the trad jazz scene were still in conspicuously high positions. There was roughly a fifty percent split between the ‘dirty

boppers' and the 'mouldy fygges'. Humphrey Lyttelton was still in pole position in the trumpet section but there was a quiet change as momentum from the modernists built up inexorably.

Musician of the Year

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Chris Barber
4. Acker Bilk
5. Joe Harriott
6. Humphrey Lyttelton
7. Ronnie Scott
8. Ian Menzies
9. Bruce Turner
10. Terry Lightfoot

Small Combo

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Terry Lightfoot
3. Humphrey Lyttelton
4. Joe Harriott
5. Chris Barber
6. Scott–Deuchar
7. Tony Kinsey
8. Ash–Klein Jazz Five
9. Alex Welsh
10. Bruce Turner
11. Riverside Jazzmen
12. Acker Bilk

Big Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Ted Heath
3. Tubby Hayes

(The MM notes here 'Harry South drew enough support in this section to take fourth place – but had to be omitted because his band was formed for one date only – on the BBC's *Jazz Club* airing of November 10.')

Trumpet

1. Humphrey Lyttelton
2. Jimmy Deuchar
3. Kenny Baker
4. Bert Courtley
5. Pat Halcox
6. Alan Elsdon
7. Bob Wallis
8. Shake Keane
9. Bob Taylor
10. Kenny Ball

Clarinet

1. Vic Ash
2. Sandy Brown
3. Monty Sunshine
4. Terry Lightfoot
5. Acker Bilk
6. Tony Coe
7. Alan Cresswell
8. Wally Fawkes
9. Archie Semple
10. Forrie Cairns

Flute

1. Johnny Scott
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Phil Goody

Trombone

1. George Chisholm
2. Keith Christie
3. Chris Barber
4. Ken Wray
5. Phil Rhodes
6. Johnny Picard
7. Don Lusher
8. Avo Avison
9. Mike Hills
10. Eddie Harvey

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Ronnie Scott
3. Jimmy Skidmore
4. Don Rendell
5. Danny Moss
6. Art Ellefson
7. Tommy Whittle
8. Kathy Stobart
9. Bob Efford
10. Bobby Wellins

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Bruce Turner
4. Tony Coe
5. Pete King
6. Alan Branscombe
7. Harold McNair
8. Ian Wheeler
9. Tubby Hayes

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Harry Klein

3. Joe Temperley
4. Tubby Hayes

Vibes

1. Bill Le Sage
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Lennie Best
4. Martin Slavin
5. Stan Tracey

Piano

1. Dill Jones
2. Terry Shannon
3. Eddie Thompson
4. Lennie Felix
5. Dave Lee
6. Fred Hunt
7. Stan Tracey
8. Pete Gresham
9. Dudley Moore
10. Stan Greig

Guitar

1. Diz Disley
2. Dave Goldberg
3. Ken Sykora
4. Bert Weedon
5. Bill Bramwell
6. Dennis Newey

Bass

1. Johnny Hawksworth
2. Kenny Napper
3. Lennie Bush
4. Spike Heatley
5. Vic Barton
6. Micky Ashman
7. Jack Fallon

8. Dick Smith
9. Phil Bates
10. Brian Brocklehurst

Drums

1. Phil Seamen
2. Allan Ganley
3. Tony Kinsey
4. Johnny Richardson
5. Lennie Hastings
6. Ron McKay
7. Kenny Clare
8. Bobby Ore
9. Eddie Taylor
10. Ronnie Verrell

Misc. Instrument

1. Max Geldray (Harmonica)
2. Hugh Rainey (Banjo)
3. Shake Keene (sic)
(Flugelhorn)
4. Paddy Lightfoot (Banjo)
5. Tommy Watts (Banjo)
6. Eddie Smith (Banjo)
7. Ron Snyder (Tuba)
8. Kenny Baker (Flugelhorn)
9. Norrie Brown (Banjo)
10. Frank holder (Bongoes)

Male Singer

1. George Melly
2. Matt Monro
3. Bobby Breen
4. Cab Kaye

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Otilie Patterson

3. Beryl Bryden
4. Shirley Bassey
5. Rosemary Squires
6. Fionna Duncan

Vocal Group

1. Polka Dots
(The Polka Dots won this section outright – nearest rivals polled 4.1 percent)

Composer

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Kenny Graham
3. Harry South
4. Ken Moule
5. Tubby Hayes
6. Joe Harriott
7. Sandy Brown
8. Humphrey Lyttelton /
Bill Le Sage
10. Dave Lindup

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Harry South
3. Kenny Graham
4. Dave Lindup
5. Johnny Keating
6. Eddie Harvey
7. Ken Moule
8. Chris Barber
9. Tubby Hayes
10. Humphrey Lyttelton

New Star

1. Brian Dee
2. Dick Morrissey

3. Gus Galbraith
4. Alan Branscombe
5. Tony Manne
6. Bobby Wellins
7. Pete Ridge
8. Harold McNair
9. Dudley Moore
10. Bob Wallis

Source: Melody Maker
28 January 1961

Melody Maker Jazz Poll
British Section,
17 February 1962, page ii

Even as early on as 1962, some important names were beginning to appear in the 'New Star' category. There were musicians who were totally committed to the modern movement and whose influence would be felt for years to come. These included Dick Morrissey, Graham Bond, Harold McNair, Gordon Beck, Shake Keane, Bobby Wellins and Michael Garrick.

Musician of the Year

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Joe Harriott
4. Bruce Turner
5. Humphrey Lyttelton
6. Sandy Brown/Kenny Ball
8. Don Rendell/Ronnie Ross

10. Ted Heath

Big Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Ted Heath
3. Downbeat Big Band

Combo

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Humphrey Lyttelton
3. Joe Harriott
4. Bruce Turner
5. Vic Ash/Harry Klein
6. Ronnie Scott/Jimmy Deuchar
7. Don Rendell
8. Al Fairweather/Sandy Brown
9. Dudley Moore
10. Jazzmakers

Male Singer

1. Matt Monro
2. George Melly
3. Bobby Breen
4. Cab Kaye
5. Clinton Ford
6. Danny Williams

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Shirley Bassey
3. Rosemary Squires
4. Helen Shapiro / Elaine Delmar
6. Otilie Patterson

Vocal Group

1. Polka Dots

Trumpet

1. Humphrey Lyttelton
2. Jimmie Deuchar [sic]
3. Kenny Baker
4. Bert Courtley
5. Shake Keane
6. Al Fairweather
7. Les Condon
8. Eddie Blair
9. Kenny Ball
10. Bobby Pratt

Trombone

1. George Chisholm
2. Keith Christie
3. Ken Wray
4. Don Lusher/John Picard
6. Eddie Harvey
7. John Mumford
8. Tony Milliner
9. Chris Barber
10. Roy Crimmins

Clarinet

1. Vic Ash
2. Sandy Brown
3. Tony Coe
4. Wally Fawkes
5. Henry MacKenzie
6. Archie Semple
7. Acker Bilk
8. Monty sunshine
9. Bruce Turner
10. Dave Shepherd

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Bruce Turner
3. Johnny Dankworth
4. Tony Coe
5. Harold McNair
6. Graham Bond
7. Pete King
8. Alan Branscombe
9. Tubby Hayes

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Danny Moss
3. Don Rendell
4. Ronnie Scott
5. Jimmy Skidmore
6. Tony Coe
7. Tommy Whittle
8. Bobby Wellins
9. Art Ellefson
10. Dick Morrissey

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Harry Klein
3. Joe Temperley
4. Tubby Hayes

Flute

1. Johnny Scott
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Harold McNair
4. Phil Goody

Piano

1. Dudley Moore
2. Terry Shannon

3. Eddie Thompson
4. Dill Jones
5. Stan Tracey
6. Lennie Felix
7. Dave Lee
8. Brian Dee
9. Ian Armit/Fred Hunt

Guitar

1. Dave Goldberg
2. Diz Disley
3. Ken Sykora
4. Bert Weedon
5. Dennis Newey
6. Ike Isaacs
7. Bill Bramwell
8. George Kish / Judd Proctor
/ Tony Pitts

Bass

1. Johnny Hawksworth
2. Kenny Napper
3. Lennie Bush
4. Spike Heatley
5. Jeff Clyne
6. Malcolm Cecil
7. Coleridge Goode
8. Brian Brocklehurst
9. Jack Fallon
10. Pete Blannin

Drums

1. Phil Seamen
2. Allan Ganley
3. Tony Kinsey
4. Bill Eyden
5. Eddie Taylor
6. Lennie Hastings

7. Kenny Clare
8. Ronnie Verrell
9. Jackie Dougan
10. Ron Stephenson /
/ Eric Delaney

Vibes

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Lennie Best
4. Martin Slavin
5. Peter Shade

Miscellaneous Instrument

1. Shake Keane (Flugelhorn)
2. Max Geldray (Harmonica)
3. Ron Snyder (Tuba)
4. Kenny Baker (Flugelhorn)
5. Ronnie Chamberlain
(Soprano sax)
6. Frank Holder (Bongoes)

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Dave Lindup
3. Kenny Graham
4. Tubby Hayes
5. Johnny Keating
6. Harry South / Eddie Harvey
8. Alan Roper
9. Jimmy Deuchar / Stan
Tracey / Joe Harriott

Composer

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Kenny Graham
4. Joe Harriott

5. Sandy Brown
6. Stan Tracey
7. Dave Lindup
8. Harry South
9. Humphrey Lyttelton

New Star

1. Dick Morrissey
2. Graham Bond
3. Dudley Moore
4. Harold McNair
5. Dave Castle
6. Gordon Beck
7. Shake Keane
8. Bobby Wellins
9. Michael Garrick

**Source: Melody Maker,
17 February 1962**

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 16 February 1963, pages 9 and 12

The modernists were just beginning to gain a slight lead against the traditionalists and the Melody Maker also published in this issue a British trad jazz poll in 1963 with Chris Barber's band in top place, which underlined this peculiar dichotomy within the genre of jazz music. Things were about to change.

Musician of the Year

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Humphrey Lyttelton
4. Joe Harriott
5. Sandy Brown
6. Tommy Whittle
7. Ted Heath
8. Bruce Turner
9. Ronnie Scott
10. Don Rendell

Big Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Ted Heath
3. Colin Hulme
4. John Williams

Combo

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Joe Harriott
3. Humphrey Lyttelton
4. Bruce Turner
5. Tony Coe
6. Al Fairweather / Sandy Brown
7. Tony Kinsey
8. Don Rendell
9. Ronnie Scott
10. Tommy Whittle

Male Singer

1. Matt Monro
2. George Melly
3. Bobby Breen
4. Barry Keith
5. Clinton Ford
6. Danny Williams

7. Roy Castle

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Dinah Kayes
3. Shirley Bassey
4. Annie Ross
5. Marion Williams
6. Rosemary Squires
7. Mavis Taylor

Vocal Group

1. Polka Dots

Trumpet

1. Humphrey Lytttelton
2. Jimmy Deuchar
3. Shake Keane
4. Kenny Baker
5. Bert Courtley
6. Al Fairweather
7. Dougie Roberts
8. Les Condon
9. Eddie Blair / Ken Wheeler

Trombone

1. Keith Christie
2. George Chisholm
3. John Picard
4. Don Lusher
5. Ken Wray
6. John Mumford
7. Eddie Harvey
8. Roy Crimmins
9. Chris Barber

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown

2. Vic Ash

3. Tony Coe
4. Colin Hulme
5. Bruce Turner
6. Henry McKenzie
7. Archie Semple
8. Wally Fawkes
9. Acker Bilk

Alto

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Bruce Turner
3. Joe Harriott
4. Tony Coe
5. Harold McNair / Graham Bond
7. Tubby Hayes

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Danny Moss
3. Ronnie Scott
4. Don Rendell
5. Tony Coe
6. Tommy Whittle
7. Art Ellefson
8. Stan Richards
9. Dick Morrissey
10. Jimmy Skidmore

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Harry Klein
3. Joe Temperley
4. Tubby Hayes
5. Alan Spencer

Flute

1. Johnny Scott
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Harold McNair
4. Phil Goody
5. Roy East

Piano

1. Dudley Moore
2. Lennie Felix
3. Stan Tracey
4. Terry Shannon
5. Dave Lee
6. Brian Auger
7. Ian Armit
8. Bill Le Sage
9. Alan Branscombe

Guitar

1. Dave Goldberg
2. Diz Disley
3. Alexis Korner
4. Bert Weedon
5. Ike Isaacs
6. Ken Sykora
7. Ray Dempsey
8. Dennis Newey / Tony Pitts

Bass

1. Johnny Hawkworth
2. Kenny Napper
3. Lennie Bush
4. Spike Heatley
5. Brian Brocklehurst
6. Malcolm Cecil
7. Coleridge Goode
8. Jack Fallon
9. Tony Archer

Drums

1. Phil Seamen
2. Allan Ganley
3. Tony Kinsey
4. Eddie Taylor
5. Kenny Clare

Vibes

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Lennie Best
4. Martin Slavin
5. Alan Branscombe

Miscellaneous

1. Shake Keane (Flugelhorn)
2. Alan Haven (Organ)
3. Ron Snyder (Tuba)
4. Don Rendell (Sop sax)
5. Jimmy Deuchar
(Mellophonium)
6. Humphrey Lyttelton (Tenor
horn)
7. Max Geldray (Harmonica)
8. Kenny Baker (Flugelhorn)

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Dave Lindup
3. Kenny Graham
4. Tubby Hayes
5. Johnny Keating
6. Bill Le Sage
7. Ted Heath

Composer

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes

3. Kenny Graham
4. Sandy Brown
5. Joe Harriott
6. Bill Le Sage
7. Johnny Scott
8. Humphrey Lyttelton
/Dudley Moore

New Star

1. Alan Haven
2. Graham Bond
3. Brian Auger
4. Shake Keane
5. Gordon Beck / Tony Coe
7. Dudley Moore
8. Bobby Wellins

**Source: Melody Maker,
16 February 1963**

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 1 February 1964, page 7

The headline for this year's page was 'Tubby still top but Auger is rising fast' – this was at a time when organist Brian Auger was still playing the piano! A fairly inconspicuous entry in the bass section placed Rick Laird at number three. Yet within the space of just 6 years he would become a founder member of one of the most important jazz rock fusion groups ever, The Mahavishnu Orchestra.

Musician of the Year

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Ronnie Scott
4. Humphrey Lyttelton /
Kenny Ball / Brian Auger
7. Joe Harriott
8. Ted Heath
9. Ken Colyer

Big Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Ted Heath
3. John Williams
4. Tubby Hayes

Small Group

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Brian Auger
3. Ronnie Scott
4. Humphrey Lyttelton
5. Alan Elsdon
6. Joe Harriott
7. Kenny Ball
8. Sandy Brown / Al
Fairweather
9. Chris Barber
10. Bruce Turner

Male Singer

1. Matt Monro
2. George Melly
3. Mick Emery
4. Bobby Breen
5. Long John Baldry
6. Barry Keith
7. Clive Peterson

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Annie Ross
3. Otilie Patterson
4. Joy Marshall
5. Elaine Delmar
6. Jeannie Lambe
7. Millicent Martin /
/ Rosemary Squires
9. Beryl Bryden
10. Mavis Taylor

Vocal Group

1. Polka Dots
2. Mick Emery Group
3. Velvettes

Trumpet

1. Jimmy Deuchar
2. Humphrey Lytttelton
3. Shake Keane
4. Kenny Ball
5. Kenny Baker
6. Alan Elsdon
7. Ken Coyle
8. Pat Halcox
9. Ken Wheeler
10. Bert Courtley

Trombone

1. George Chisholm
2. Keith Christie
3. Chris Barber
4. Phil Rhodes
5. Don Lusher
6. John Picard
7. Ken Wray
8. Johnny Mumford

9. Roy Crimmins
10. John Bennett

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Vic Ash
3. Acker Bilk
4. Johnny Barnes
5. Monty Sunshine
6. Archie Semple
7. Dave Jones
8. Tony Coe
9. Henry McKenzie

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Bruce Turner
4. Tony Coe
5. Tubby Hayes
6. Graham Bond / Johnny
Barnes
8. Alan Branscombe

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Ronnie Scott
3. Danny Moss
4. Dick Morrissey
5. Don Rendell

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Joe Temperley
3. Harry Klein
4. Glen Hughes
5. Tubby Hayes

Flute

1. Johnny Scott
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Harold McNair

Piano

1. Brian Auger
2. Stan Tracey
3. Ron Weatherburn / Lennie Felix
5. Arthur Wood
6. Dave Lee / Terry Shannon
8. Dudley Moore
9. Bill McGuffie
10. Bill Le Sage

Guitar

1. Dave Goldberg
2. Diz Disley
3. Alexis Korner
4. Ray Dempsey
5. Tony Pitt
6. Mick Emery
7. Ken Sykora

Bass

1. Johnny Hawksworth
2. Spike Heatley
3. Rick Laird
4. Mick Gilligan
5. Malcolm Cecil
6. Kenny Napper
7. Vic Pitt
8. Coleridge Goode
9. Lennie Bush / Brian Brocklehurst

Drums

1. Allan Ganley
2. Phil Seaman [sic]
3. Ronnie Stephenson
4. Phil Kinorra
5. Tony Kinsey
6. Keith Webb
7. Lennie Hastings
8. Ronnie Verrell / Ron Bowden
10. Johnny Richardson

Vibes

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Lennie Best

Miscellaneous

1. Shake Keane (Flugelhorn)
2. Alan Haven (Organ)
3. Jimmy Deuchar (Mellophone)
4. Graham Bond (Organ)
5. Humphrey Lyttelton (Tenor horn)
6. Cyril Davies (Harmonica)
7. Don Rendell (Soprano sax)

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Kenny Graham
4. Johnny Keating
5. Dave Lindup

Composer

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes

3. Kenny Graham / Sandy Brown
5. Joe Harriott
6. Bill Le Sage

New Star

1. Brian Auger
2. Shake Keane
3. Mike Felana
4. Graham Bond
5. Mick Emery

**Source: Melody Maker,
1 February 1964**

**Melody Maker Jazz Poll
British Section,
20 February 1965, page i-iv**

The opening commentary for the jazz polls page British section for 1965 went thus: ‘Tubby Hayes does it Again – Tubby Hayes bestrides the British jazz scene like a colossus. Once again his name dominates the British section of the annual Melody Maker Readers’ Jazz Poll. He is musician of the year, top combo leader, top tenorist, number one on flute and our best vibist. If winning five sections outright was not enough, he also came second among big bands, composer and arranger’ (Bob Dawbarn). The rise of the ‘blues boom’

was reflected in the inclusion of an R & B category for the first time in the poll. Note: New star in fourth place: Ian Carr.

Musician of the Year

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Ronnie Scott
4. Joe Harriott

Big Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Ted Heath
4. Humphrey Lyttleton / Joe Loss / Harry South

Small Group

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Joe Harriott
3. Ronnie Scott
4. Dick Morrissey
5. Freddy Randall
6. Alex Welsh / Stan Tracey
8. Humphrey Lyttleton
9. Tony Kinsey

Male Singer

1. Matt Monro
2. Long John Baldry
3. Bobby Breen
4. George Melly
5. Georgie Fame

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Annie Ross

3. Otilie Patterson
4. Millicent Martin
5. Shirley Bassey
6. Joy Marshall

Blues Artist

1. Long John Baldry
2. Georgie Fame
3. Alexis Korner
4. Otilie Patterson

Trumpet

1. Jimmy Deuchar
2. Humphrey Lyttleton
3. Shake Keane
4. Freddy Randall
5. Kenny Ball
6. Kenny Baker

Trombone

1. Keith Christie
2. Chris Barber
3. George Chisholm
4. Ken Wray
5. Don Lusher

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Vic Ash
3. Acker Bilk
4. Monty Sunshine
5. Bruce Turner
6. Archie Semple
7. Tony Coe

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Johnny Dankworth

3. Bruce Turner
4. Tony Coe
5. Graham Bond

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Ronnie Scott
3. Danny Moss
4. Dick Morrissey
5. Tony Coe

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Joe Temperley
3. Johnny Barnes
4. Harry Klein

Flute

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Scott

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. Lennie Felix
3. Terry Shannon
4. Ian Armit
5. Dudley Moore / Fred Hunt/
Bill Le Sage /
Ron Weatherburn

Organ

1. Alan Haven
2. Georgie Fame
3. Graham Bond
4. Manfred Mann
5. Sandy Brown

Guitar

1. Ernest Ranglin
2. Dave Goldberg
3. Diz Disley
4. Alexis Korner

Bass

1. Spike Heatley
2. Johnny Hawksworth
3. Malcolm Cecil
4. Kenny Napper
5. Lennie Bush / Coleridge Goode
7. Vic Pitt / Rick Laird /
/ Brian Brocklehurst

Drums

1. Allan Ganley
2. Phil Seamen
3. Ronnie Stephenson
4. Ed Taylor / Tony Kinsey
6. Kenny Clare
7. Lennie Hastings

Vibes

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Ron Gleaves
4. Mike Hugg

Miscellaneous Instrument

1. Shake Keane (Flugel)
2. Jimmy Deuchar
(Mellophonium)

Vocal Group

1. Polka Dots
2. Morgan James Duo

R & B Group

1. Georgie Fame
2. Rolling Stones
3. Manfred Mann
4. Long John Baldry
5. Alexis Korner
6. Animals
7. Graham Bond
8. Zoot Money

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Harry South
4. Kenny Graham
5. Bill Le Sage

Composer

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Ian Hamer

New Star:

1. Ernest Ranglin
2. Roy Budd
3. Shake Keane
4. Ian Carr

Source: Melody Maker, 20 February 1965

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 19 February 1966, page 13

With Ian Carr featuring in no fewer than three sections of the 1966 poll (trumpet, misce-

laneous instrument and new star), his impact on the scene was beginning to be felt.

Musician of the Year

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Bruce Turner
4. Ronnie Scott
5. Tony Coe
6. Stan Tracey
7. Joe Harriott
8. Dick Morrissey/George Chisholm

Big Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Harry South
3. Tubby Hayes
4. Ted Heath
5. New Jazz Orchestra

Small Group

1. Freddy Randall
2. Dick Morrissey
3. Tubby Hayes
4. Group Sounds Five
5. Humphrey Lyttelton
6. Joe Harriott/Ronnie Scott
8. Don Rendell/Stan Tracey
10. Bruce Turner

Trumpet

1. Freddy Randall
2. Humphrey Lyttelton
3. Jimmy Deuchar
4. Ian Carr
5. Shake Keane

6. Kenny Baker

Trombone

1. George Chisholm
2. Keith Christie
3. Johnny Mumford
4. Chris Barber
4. [sic] Ray Williams
6. Don Lusher
7. Ken Wray

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Vic Ash
3. Bruce Turner
4. Acker Bilk
5. Alan Cooper/Tony Coe
6. Al Gay

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Dick Morrissey
3. Ronnie Scott
4. Tony Coe
5. Danny Moss
6. Bobby Wellins
7. Al Gay
8. Don Rendell
9. Tommy Whittle

Alto

1. Bruce Turner
2. Joe Harriott
3. Johnny Dankworth
4. Tony Coe
5. Ray Warleigh

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Joe Temperley
3. Johnny Barnes
4. Harry Klein

Flute

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Scott
3. Ray Warleigh

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. Dudley Moore
3. Lennie Felix
4. Michael Garrick/Harry South

Organ

1. Alan Haven
2. Georgie Fame
3. Brian Auger
4. Graham Bond

Guitar

1. Dave Goldberg
2. Ernest Ranglin
3. Diz Disley
4. Alexis Korner
5. Terry Smith

Bass

1. Spike Heatley
2. Kenny Napper
3. Brian Brocklehurst / Johnny Hawkworth
5. Malcolm Cecil /
/ Lennie Bush

6. Vic Pitt

Drums

1. Phil Seamen
2. Allan Ganley /
/ Ronnie Stephenson
4. Kenny Clare

Vibes

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Ronnie Gleaves

Miscellaneous Instrument

1. Shake Keane (Flugelhorn)
2. Don Rendell (Soprano)
3. Ian Carr (Flugelhorn) /
/ Jimmy Deuchar
(Mellophone)

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Harry South
3. Tubby Hayes

Composer

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Stan Tracey
3. Harry South
4. Tubby Hayes

New Star

1. Roy Budd
2. Dudley Moore / Ian Carr
4. Ray Warleigh / Norma Winstone

Male Singer

1. Georgie Fame
2. Matt Monroe
3. Bobby Breen
4. George Melly
5. Long John Baldry

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Annie Ross
3. Norma Winstone
4. Joy Marshall

Vocal Group

1. Morgan–James Duo
2. Polka Dots

Blues Artist

1. Georgie Fame
2. Long John Baldry
3. Eric Burdon / Alexis Korner
5. George Melly

**Source: Melody Maker,
19 February 1966**

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 18 February 1967, page 15

In the 1967 jazz poll, the great Tubby Hayes had grabbed the top positions in four sections: top musician, flute, tenor sax and vibes whilst Ian Carr continued his ascendancy, by featuring in four sections including for the first time,

topping the small group category with the Rendell–Carr Quintet.

Musician of the Year

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Stan Tracey
3. Johnny Dankworth
4. Joe Harriott
5. Don Rendell
6. Ronnie Scott
7. Dick Morrissey
8. Alan Haven

Big Band

1. Harry South
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. New Jazz Orchestra
4. Tubby Hayes
5. Stan Tracey
6. Ted Heath

Small Group

1. Don Rendell/Ian Carr
2. Dick Morrissey
3. Tubby Hayes
4. Freddy Randall
5. Stan Tracey / Alex Welsh
7. Spontaneous Music Ensemble
8. Dudley Moore
9. Mike Westbrook

Male Singer

1. Georgie Fame
2. Matt Monroe
3. Bobby Breen

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Annie Ross
3. Norma Winstone
4. Joy Marshall

Vocal Group

1. Morgan James Duo
2. Polka Dots

Blues Artist

1. Georgie Fame
2. Alexis Korner
3. Long John Baldry
4. John Mayall
5. Eric Burdon
6. Eric Clapton
7. Stevie Winwood

Trumpet

1. Ian Carr
2. Freddy Randall
3. Humphrey Lyttelton
4. Kenny Wheeler
5. Jimmy Deuchar
6. Shake Keane
7. Alex Welsh / Kenny Baker

Trombone

1. George Chisholm
2. Keith Christie
3. Chris Pyne
4. Roy Williams
5. Johnny Mumford
6. Chris Barber
7. Don Lusher

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Tony Coe
3. Acker Bilk
4. Vic Ash
5. Alan Cooper
6. Bruce Turner
7. Ron Rendell [sic] should be Don!

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Bruce Turner
3. Johnny Dankworth
4. Ray Warleigh
5. Trevor Watts

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Dick Morrissey
3. Don Rendell
4. Bobby Wellins
5. Ronnie Scott
6. Tony Coe
7. Danny Moss

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. Johnny Barnes
3. John Surman
4. Harry Klein

Flute

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Scott
3. Harold McNair
4. Ray Warleigh
5. Don Rendell

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. Dudley Moore
3. Mike Garrick
4. Gordon Beck
5. Lennie Felix

Organ

1. Alan Haven
2. Georgie Fame
3. Brian Auger

Guitar

1. Dave Goldberg
2. Terry Smith
3. Alexis Korner
4. Diz Dislwy
5. Jim Douglas

Bass

1. Kenny Napper
2. Jeff Clyne
3. Ron Mathewson
4. Spike Heatley
5. Dave Green
6. Phil Bates
7. Brian Brocklehurst / Peter Ind
9. Johnny Hawksworth

Drums

1. Phil Seamen
2. Alan Ganley
3. Lennie Hastings
/ Tony Crombie
5. Ronnie Stephenson
6. John Hiseman [sic]
/ John Stevens

Vibes

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Lennie Best
4. Alan Branscombe /
Mike Hugg / Ron Gleaves
7. Mike Carr

Miscellaneous Instrument

1. Don Rendell (Soprano)
2. David Snell (Harp)
3. Ian Carr (Flugelhorn)
4. John Mayer (Violin)

Arranger

1. Harry South
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Stan Tracey
4. Tubby Hayes
5. Neil Ardley

Composer

1. Stan Tracey
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Harry South
4. Mike Garrick

LP of the Year

1. *Indo-Jazz Suite* – Joe Harriott
& John Mayer
2. *Alice in Jazzland* – Stan
Tracey
3. *Under Milk Wood* – Stan
Tracey
4. *Sound Venture* – Georgie
Fame / Harry South
5. *Dusk Fire* – Don Rendell /
Ian Carr

6. *Storm Warning* – Dick Morrissey

**Source: Melody Maker,
18 February 1967**

**Melody Maker Jazz Poll
British Section,
24 February 1968, page 19**

The 1968 headline announced “Tubbs scoops up five firsts” but this was the last year of his dominance in the MM jazz polls (although he still figured highly in subsequent years). Ian Carr meanwhile consolidated his prowess again taking first place in the trumpet section. Oddly, as with the previous year, the Rendell–Carr Quintet album *Dusk Fire* yet again figured in the ‘LP of the Year’ section.

Musician of the Year

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Joe Harriott
4. Don Rendell
5. John Surman

Big Band

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Mike Westbrook
4. Harry South
5. Chris McGregor

6. Ted Heath

Small Group

1. Don Rendell/Ian Carr
2. Alex Welsh
3. Tubby Hayes
4. Dick Morrissey
5. Spontaneous Music Ensemble
6. Chris McGregor
7. Joe Harriott

Trumpet

1. Ian Carr
2. Kenny Wheeler
3. Humphrey Lyttelton
4. Shake Keane
5. Ian Hamer
6. Alex Welsh
7. Kenny Baker

Trombone

1. George Chisholm
2. Roy Williams
3. Keith Christie
4. Chris Pyne
5. Paul Rutherford
6. Chris Barber

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Tony Coe
3. Acker Bilk
4. Don Rendell

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Bruce Turner

3. Johnny Dankworth
4. Trevor Watts
5. Ray Warleigh
6. Tony Coe
7. Mike Osbourne [sic]

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Don Rendell
3. Dick Morrissey
4. Tony Coe
5. Ronnie Scott
6. Danny Moss
7. Evan Parker
8. Pete King

Baritone

1. Ronnie Ross
2. John Surman
3. Johnny Barnes

Flute

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Harold McNair
3. Johnny Scott
4. Don Rendell

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. Michael Garrick
3. Gordon Beck
4. Dudley Moore
5. Fred Hunt
6. Roy Budd
7. Chris MacGregor
8. Peter Lemer

Organ

1. Alan Haven
2. Mike Carr
3. Georgie Fame
4. Brian Auger

Guitar

1. Terry Smith
2. Dave Goldberg
3. Jim Douglas

Bass

1. Jeff Clyne
2. Ron Matthewson (sic)
3. Dave Green
4. Spike Heatley
5. Kenny Napper

Drums

1. Phil Seamen
2. John Stevens
3. Ronnie Stephenson
4. Jon Hiseman/Kenny Clare
6. Tony Oxley/Tony Crombie
8. Lennie Hastings/Alan Ganley (sic)
10. Trevor Tomkins

Vibes

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Frank Riccotti
4. Lennie Best

Miscellaneous Instrument

1. Don Rendell (Soprano)
2. David Snell (Harp)
3. Ian Carr (Flugelhorn)
4. Evan Parker (Soprano)

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Harry South
3. Mike Westbrook
4. Graham Collier
5. Stan Tracey
6. Michael Garrick

Composer

1. Stan Tracey
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Michael Garrick

New Star

1. John Surman
2. Mike Westbrook
3. Terry Smith
4. Trevor Watts

Male Singer

1. Georgie Fame

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine

Blues Artist

1. John Mayall
2. Georgie Fame
3. Alexis Korner
4. Long John Baldry
5. Eric Clapton

LP of the Year

1. *100% Proof* – Tubby Hayes
2. *Fusions* [sic] – actually *Indo Jazz Fusions* – Joe Harriott and John Mayer
3. *Celebration* – Mike Westbrook

4. *Dusk Fire* – Don Rendell and Ian Carr
5. *Deep Dark Blue Centre* – Graham Collier
6. *Trio* – Mike Taylor

Source: Melody Maker, 24 February 1968

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 1 March, 1969 page 16

Ian Carr and the Rendell–Carr Quintet continued their dominance in trumpet and small group categories whilst serious evidence of the ‘new wave’ of rising British jazz stars was emerging, as later reflected in Ian Carr’s seminal book *Music Outside* (1973), with musicians such as Dave Holland, John Surman and Mike Westbrook.

Top Musician

1. Tubby Hayes
2. John Surman
3. Johnny Dankworth

Big Band

1. Mike Westbrook
2. Ronnie Scott
3. Johnny Dankworth

Small Group

1. Don Rendell/Ian Carr

2. Chris McGregor
3. Tubby Hayes
4. Dick Morrissey
5. Spontaneous Music Ensemble
6. Chris MacGregor
7. Joe Harriott

Male Singer

1. Georgie Fame

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine

Blues Artist

1. John Mayall
2. Eric Clapton
3. Georgie Fame

Trumpet

1. Ian Carr
2. Kenny Wheeler
3. Hank Shaw

Trombone

1. Chris Pyne
2. George Chisholm
3. Keith Christie

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Acker Bilk
3. Tony Coe

Alto

1. Joe Harriott
2. Peter King
3. Bruce Turner

Tenor

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Ronnie Scott
3. Don Rendell

Baritone

1. John Surman
2. Ronnie Ross
3. Johnny Barnes

Flute

1. Harold McNair
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Johnny Scott

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. Michael Garrick
3. Gordon Beck

Organ

1. Alan Haven
2. Brian Auger
3. Mike Carr

Guitar

1. Terry Smith
2. Louis Stewart
3. Dave Goldberg

Bass

1. Dave Holland
2. Dave Green
3. Ron Mathewson

Drums

1. Tony Oxley
2. Phil Seamen

3. Jon Hiseman

Vibes

1. Frank Ricotti
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Bill Le Sage

Miscellaneous Inst.

1. John Surman (Soprano Sax)
2. Johnny Barton (Banjo)
3. Don Rendell (Soprano Sax)

Arranger

1. Johnny Dankworth
2. Stan Tracey
3. Michael Garrick

Composer

1. Stan Tracey
2. Michael Garrick
3. Johnny Dankworth

New Star

1. Dave Holland

LP of the Year

1. *Little Klunk* – Stan Tracey
2. *Mexican Green* – Tubby Hayes
3. *Phase III* – Rendell–Carr Quintet

Source: Melody Maker, 1 March 1969

**Melody Maker Jazz Poll
British Section, 28 February
1970 page 18**

1970 was a pivotal, transitional year when things started to change. The Rendell–Carr Quintet was splitting up and by the next year Ian Carr's Nucleus would reign supreme. This was a clear example of Ian Carr hitting the ground running with his new group.

Top Musician

1. John Surman
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Mike Westbrook

Big Band

1. Mike Westbrook
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Stan Tracey

Small Group

1. Alex Welsh
2. Spontaneous Music Ensemble
3. Tubby Hayes

Male Singer

1. Georgie Fame

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Norma Winstone
3. Annie Ross

Blues Artist

1. John Mayall
2. Georgie Fame
3. Jo Anne Kelly

Trumpet

1. Kenny Wheeler
2. Ian Carr
3. Henry Lowther

Trombone

1. Malcolm Griffiths
2. Chris Pyne
3. Paul Rutherford

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Tony Coe
3. Don Rendell

Alto Sax

1. Mike Osborne
2. Joe Harriott
3. Pete King

Tenor Sax

1. Tubby Hayes
2. Alan Skidmore
3. Ronnie Scott

Baritone Sax

1. John Surman
2. Ronnie Ross
3. Johnny Barnes

Flute

1. Harold McNair
2. Tubby Hayes
3. Bob Downes

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. Mike Pyne

3. Gordon Beck

Organ

1. Alan Haven
2. Gordon Beck
3. Brian Auger

Guitar

1. John McLaughlin
2. Chris Spedding
3. Terry Smith

Bass

1. Jeff Clyne
2. Ron Matthewson
3. Dave Holland

Drums

1. Tony Oxley
2. John Marshall
3. John Stevens

Vibes

1. Frank Ricotti
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Tubby Hayes

Miscellaneous instrument

1. John Surman (Soprano Sax)
2. Karl Jenkins (Oboe)
3. Trevor Watts (Soprano Sax, Stritch)

Arranger

1. Mike Westbrook
2. Johnny Dankworth
3. Stan Tracey

Composer

1. Mike Westbrook
2. Stan Tracey
3. Johnny Dankworth

New star

1. Keith Tippett
2. John McLaughlin
3. Alan Skidmore

LP of the Year

1. *Extrapolation* – John McLaughlin (Marmalade)
2. *Alex Welsh and his Band '69* – / Alex Welsh (Columbia)
3. *Marching Song* – Mike Westbrook (Deram)

**Source: Melody Maker,
28 February 1970**

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 6 March, 1971 page 21

Things were really changing now, with the not-so-new wave of British jazz musicians taking top places in all sections, John Surman, Mike Osborne, Alan Skidmore (later to form the acronym-named trio S.O.S.), Mike Westbrook, Nucleus, John McLaughlin and Soft Machine's Mike Ratledge. The emphasis was now on free jazz and rock-influenced jazz and although some of the old

guard was still represented (Tubby Hayes and Ronnie Ross), this was definitely a portent of the future.

Top Musician

1. John Surman
2. Mike Gibbs
3. Chris McGregor/John McLaughlin

Big Band

1. Mike Westbrook
2. Mike Gibbs
3. Brotherhood of Breath

Small Group

1. Nucleus
2. The Trio
3. Alex Welsh

Male Singer

1. Georgie Fame
2. Jack Bruce
3. Robert Wyatt

Female Singer

1. Norma Winstone
2. Cleo Laine
3. Julie Driscoll

Blues Artist

1. John Mayall
2. Alexis Korner
3. Jo-Ann Kelly

Trombone

1. Paul Rutherford
2. Malcolm Griffiths
3. Nick Evans

Trumpet

1. Kenny Wheeler
2. Henry Lowther
3. Mongesi Feza / Ian Carr

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Mike Osborne
3. Tony Coe

Alto Sax

1. Mike Osborne
2. Trevor Watts
3. Elton Dean

Tenor Sax

1. Alan Skidmore
2. Evan Parker
3. Tubby Hayes

Baritone Sax

1. John Surman
2. Johnny Barnes
3. Ronnie Ross

Flute

1. Harold McNair
2. Bob Downes
3. Ray Warleigh

Piano

1. Keith Tippett
2. Howard Riley

3. John Taylor

Organ

1. Mike Ratledge
2. Brian Auger
3. Alan Haven

Guitar

1. John McLaughlin
2. Chris Spedding
3. Derek Bailey

Bass

1. Dave Holland
2. Jack Bruce
3. Barry Guy

Drums

1. Tony Oxley
2. John Marshall
3. Louis Moholo / Jon Hiseman

Vibes

1. Frank Ricotti
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Tubby Hayes

Miscellaneous Inst

1. John Surman (soprano sax)
2. Karl Jenkins (oboe)
3. Elton Dean (saxello)

Arranger

1. Mike Gibbs
2. Mike Westbrook
3. Neil Ardley

Composer

1. Mike Gibbs
2. Mike Westbrook
3. Tony Oxley

New Star

1. Mike Gibbs
2. John McLaughlin
3. Mike Osborne

LP of the Year

1. *The Trio* – The Trio
2. *Michael Gibbs* – Michael Gibbs
3. *Four Compositions for Sextet* – Tony Oxley

**Source: Melody Maker,
6 March 1971**

...and for another perspective at this time...

“Miles doesn’t appear on list simply because as a jazz-rock *group*, Nucleus crush him” – Derek Jewell (whose top ten list of albums for 1971 placed *We’ll Talk About It Later* at number 5 and Mike Gibbs’ *Tanglewood ‘63* was at number 3, whilst Graham Collier’s *Mosaics* was at number 7).

Source: Jazz Record of the Year (Critics Poll) **Jazz Journal**, December 1971, 24 (12) p 4.

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 26 February 1972, page 16

The new guard of musicians had consolidated with Nucleus still on top as best small group, but there was rivalry afoot in the form of Soft Machine. This threat was actually more substantial to the very existence of Nucleus than merely taking over the top small group position.

Top Musician

1. John Surman
2. Keith Tippett
3. Harry Beckett / Mike Gibbs

Big Band

1. Centipede
2. Brotherhood of Breath
3. Mike Gibbs

Small Group

1. Nucleus
2. Soft Machine
3. John Surman Trio

Male Singer

1. Jack Bruce
2. Robert Wyatt
3. Georgie Fame

Female Singer

1. Norma Winstone
2. Julie Tippett [sic]

3. Cleo Laine

Blues Artist

1. John Mayall
2. Alexis Korner
3. Duster Bennett

Trombone

1. Paul Rutherford
2. Malcolm Griffiths
3. Nick Evans

Trumpet

1. Harry Beckett
2. Kenny Wheeler
3. Ian Carr

Clarinet

1. Mike Osborne
2. Tony Coe
3. Sandy Brown

Soprano Sax

1. John Surman
2. Evan Parker
3. Don Rendell

Alto Sax

1. Mike Osborne
2. Elton Dean
3. Pete King

Tenor Sax

1. Alan Skidmore
2. Evan Parker
3. Ronnie Scott / Brian Smith

Baritone Sax

1. John Surman
2. Johnny Barnes
3. Ronnie Ross / Karl Jenkins

Flute

1. Bob Downes
2. Ray Warleigh
3. Barbara Thompson

Piano

1. Keith Tippett
2. John Taylor
3. Howard Riley

Organ

1. Mike Ratledge
2. Alan Haven
3. Mike Carr

Guitar

1. John McLaughlin
2. Chris Spedding
3. Derek Bailey

Bass

1. Jack Bruce
2. Barry Guy
3. Dave Holland

Violin

1. Henry Lowther
2. Dave Arbus / Rab Spall

Drums

1. Tony Oxley
2. John Marshall/
Louis Moholo

Vibes

1. Frank Ricotti
2. Bill Le Sage

Miscellaneous Inst

1. Karl Jenkins, oboe
2. Harry Beckett, flugelhorn

Arranger

1. Mike Gibbs
2. Neil Ardley
3. Mike Westbrook / Barry Guy

Composer

1. Mike Gibbs
2. Keith Tippett
3. Mike Westbrook

New Star

1. Stan Sulzmann
2. Elton Dean / Marc Charig

LP of the Year

1. *September Energy* – Centipede
2. *Tanglenwood '63* – Mike Gibbs
3. *Solar Plexus* – Ian Carr

Source: Melody Maker, 26 February 1972

Melody Maker Jazz Poll British Section, 30 June 1973 page 26

Finally the great John Marshall managed to topple Tony Oxley in top drummer place. Surman,

Osborne and Skidmore were still the top saxophonists and Nucleus was still top small group but things were about to change again, as reflected by the results in the next (1974) poll.

Top Musician

1. John McLaughlin / Mike Gibbs
3. John Surman
4. Stan Tracey
5. Johnny Dankworth

Big Band

1. Mike Gibbs
2. Brotherhood of Breath
3. London Jazz Composers Orchestra
4. Centipede
5. Johnny Dankworth / Maynard Ferguson [sic]

Small Group

1. Nucleus
2. Soft Machine
3. Back Door
4. Iskra 1903
5. Alex Welsh

Male Singer

1. George Melly
2. Jack Bruce
3. Robert Wyatt
4. Georgie Fame
5. Bobby Breen / Phil Minton

Female Singer

1. Norma Winstone
2. Cleo Laine
3. Julie Tippett [sic]
4. Annie Ross
5. Maggie Nichols

Blues Artist

1. John Mayall
2. Alexis Korner
3. Duster Bennett
4. Eric Clapton
5. George Melly / Rory Gallagher

Trumpet

1. Harry Beckett
2. Kenny Wheeler
3. Ian Carr
4. Marc Charig
5. Henry Lowther

Trombone

1. Paul Rutherford
2. Malcolm Griffiths
3. Nick Evans
4. George Chisholm
5. Roy Williams

Clarinet

1. Mike Osborne
2. Tony Coe
3. Sandy Brown
4. Acker Bilk
5. John Surman / Dave Shepherd

Soprano Sax

1. John Surman
2. Evan Parker
3. Lol Coxhill
4. Don Rendell
5. Trevor Watts

Alto Sax

1. Mike Osborne
2. Elton Dean
3. Trevor Watts
4. Peter King
5. Bruce Turner

Tenor Sax

1. Alan Skidmore
2. Evan Parker
3. Brian Smith
4. Tubby Hayes
5. Ronnie Scott/Don Rendell

Baritone Sax

1. John Surman
2. Ronnie Ross
3. Johnny Barnes
4. Karl Jenkins

Flute

1. Bob Downes
2. Ray Warleigh
3. Tubby Hayes
4. Jimmy Hastings
5. Johnny Scott

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. John Taylor
3. Keith Tippett

4. Howard Riley
5. Chris McGregor

Organ

1. Mike Ratledge
2. Alan Haven
3. Mike Carr
4. Dave McRae (sic)
5. Harry Stoneham

Guitar

1. John McLaughlin
2. Derek Bailey
3. Gary Boyle
4. Alan Holdsworth [sic]
5. Chris Spedding

Bass

1. Dave Holland
2. Barry Guy
3. Roy Babbington
4. Harry Miller
5. Jack Bruce/Jeff Clyne

Drums

1. John Marshall
2. Tony Oxley
3. Louis Moholo
4. John Stevens
5. Jon Hiseman

Violin

1. Henry Lowther

Vibes

1. Frank Ricotti
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Tubby Hayes

Miscellaneous instrument

1. Karl Jenkins
2. Elton Dean
3. John Surman
4. Harry Beckett / Evan Parker
/ Kenny Wheeler

Arranger

1. Mike Gibbs
2. Barry Guy
3. Neil Ardley
4. Johnny Dankworth
5. Stan Tracey

Composer

1. Mike Gibbs
2. Stan Tracey
3. Ian Carr
4. John Surman / Keith Tippett
/ Howard Riley

New Star

1. Alan Holdsworth
2. Elton Dean
3. Back Door
4. Colin Hodgkinson / Dave
McRae

LP of the Year

1. *Six – Soft Machine /
Iskra 1903 – Iskra 1903*
2. *Belladonna – Nucleus [sic]*
3. *Phil Seamen – Phil Seamen*
4. *Metropolis – Mike Westbrook*

**Source: Melody Maker,
30 June 1973**

**Melody Maker Jazz Poll
British Section,
29 June 1974, page 54**

The top small group was now Soft Machine which had poached Karl Jenkins and John Marshall from Nucleus. To make matters worse Soft Machine then recruited bassist Roy Babbington who had replaced Jeff Clyne following his departure from Nucleus. Although Ian Carr still appeared in the trumpet and composer sections (both third place) his – and Nucleus’ – luck was running out as far as the MM poll was concerned. However, the Melody Maker jazz poll itself was running out of luck too, perhaps seen as an anachronism in an increasingly rock-influenced musical world.

Top Musician

1. Mike Gibbs
2. John Dankworth
3. John Surman / Stan Tracey
5. John McLaughlin

Big Band

1. Mike Gibbs
2. John Dankworth
3. Brotherhood of Breath
4. NYJO
5. Syd Lawrence /
/ Centipede/Alan Cohen

Small Group

1. Soft Machine
2. Freddie Randall
3. S.O.S.
4. Isotope
5. Paraphernalia

Male Singer

1. George Melly
2. Robert Wyatt
3. Jack Bruce
4. Mark Murphy
5. Georgie Fame/Phil Minton

Female Singer

1. Cleo Laine
2. Norma Winstone
3. Julie Tippet
4. Annie Ross / Maggie
Nichols

Blues Artist

1. John Mayall
2. George Melly
3. Eric Clapton
4. Alexis Korner
5. Back Door

Trumpet

1. Kenny Wheeler
2. Harry Beckett
3. Ian Carr
4. Freddie Randall
5. Henry Lowther

Trombone

1. Paul Rutherford
2. Malcolm Griffiths

3. Nick Evans
4. Chris Pyne
5. George Chisholm

Clarinet

1. Sandy Brown
2. Tony Coe
3. Mike Osborne
4. John Surman
5. Al Gay

Soprano Sax

1. John Surman
2. Lol Coxhill
3. Evan Parker / Al Gray
5. Trevor Watts

Alto Sax

1. Mike Osborne
2. Elton Dean
3. John Dankworth
4. Bruce Turner
5. Pete King

Tenor Sax

1. Alan Skidmore
2. Evan Parker
3. Danny Moss
4. Ronnie Scott
5. Don Rendell

Baritone Sax

1. John Surman
2. Ronnie Ross
3. Karl Jenkins
4. Johnny Barnes

Flute

1. Bob Downes
2. Barbara Thompson
3. Ray Warleigh
4. Jimmy Hastings
5. Brian Smith

Piano

1. Stan Tracey
2. Brian Lemon
3. John Taylor
4. Keith Tippett
5. Gordon Beck

Organ

1. Mike Ratledge
2. Mike Carr
3. Alan Haven
4. Dave McRae
5. Brian Auger

Guitar

1. John McLaughlin
2. Derek Bailey
3. Gary Boyle
4. Terry Smith
5. Diz Disley

Bass

1. Roy Babbington / Ron Mathewson
3. Barry Guy
4. Chris Laurence
5. Lennie Bush / Dave Holland

Drums

1. John Marshall
2. Tony Oxley

3. John Stevens
4. Lennie Hastings
5. Jon Hiseman

Violin

1. Henry Lowther
2. Fred Frith
3. Dave Arbus / Allan Holdsworth

Vibes

1. Frank Ricotti
2. Bill Le Sage
3. Alan Branscombe

Miscellaneous instrument

1. Karl Jenkins (Oboe)
2. John Surman (Moog/Bass clarinet)
3. Kenny Wheeler (Flugelhorn)

Arranger

1. Mike Gibbs
2. John Dankworth
3. Neil Ardley
4. Alan Cohen

Composer

1. Mike Gibbs
2. John Dankworth
3. Ian Carr
4. Mike Westbrook / John Surman

New Star

1. Gary Boyle
2. Barbara Thompson
3. Colin Hodgkinson

Stan Sulzmann /
/ Derek Bailey

LP of the Year

1. *In the Public Interest* – Mike Gibbs
2. *Original* – Stan Trace/Mike Osborne
3. *Soft Machine 7* – Soft Machine
4. *Isotope* – Isotope
5. *Morning Glory* – John Surman

**Source: Melody Maker,
29 June 1974**

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