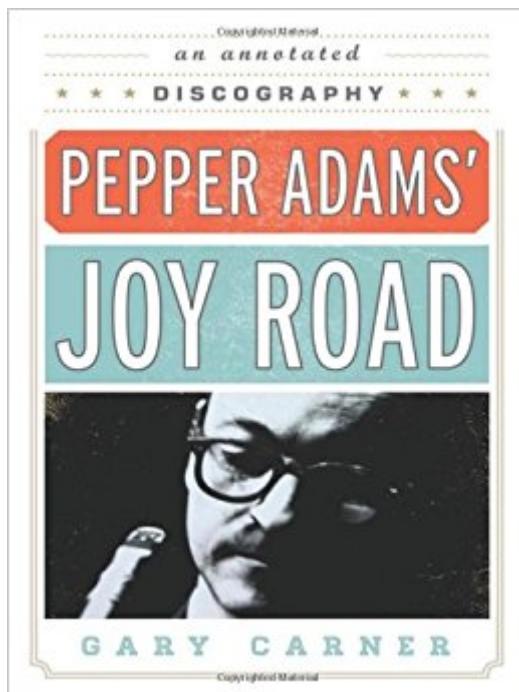


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# Pepper Adams' Joy Road: An Annotated Discography (Studies In Jazz)



## Synopsis

Pepper Adams' Joy Road is more than a compendium of sessions and gigs done by the greatest baritone saxophone soloist in history. It's a fascinating overview of Adams' life and times, thanks to colorful interview vignettes, drawn from the author's unpublished conversations with Adams and other musicians. These candid observations from jazz greats about Adams and his colleagues reveal previously unknown, behind-the-scenes drama about legendary recordings made by John Coltrane, Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Pearson, Thad Jones, David Amram, Elvin Jones, and many others. All types of sound material—studio recordings, private tapes and broadcasts, film scores, audience tapes, and even jingles—are listed, and Adams' oeuvre is pushed back from 1956 to 1947, when Adams was 16 years old, before he played baritone saxophone. Because of Carner's access to Adams' estate, just prior to its disposition in 1987, much new discographical material is included, now verified by Adams' date books and correspondence. Since Adams worked in so many of the great bands of his era, Pepper Adams' Joy Road is a refreshing, sometimes irreverent walk through a large swath of jazz history. This work also functions as a nearly complete band discography of the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra, the most influential big band of its time. Adams was a founding member and stayed with the band until a year before Jones left to relocate in Denmark. Finally, Carner charts the ascent of Adams as an original yet still underappreciated composer, one who wrote 43 unique works, nearly half of them after August, 1977, when he left Jones-Lewis to tour the world as a soloist. Pepper Adams' Joy Road, the first book ever published about Pepper Adams, is a companion to the author's forthcoming biography on Adams.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1984, while recuperating from a leg injury, baritone saxophonist Pepper Adams was visited by Gary Carner, who was at the time a City College of New York graduate student researching a thesis on Adams' life and works. The temporarily incapacitated Adams was happy to relate stories to his student biographer, but plans to publish his memoirs were shelved when Adams was diagnosed with lung cancer. Adams passed away in 1986, and while he did see a version of Carner's manuscript, it's doubtful he would have imagined the massive collection of material Carner has released 26 years after the saxophonist's death. First is an annotated discography "Pepper Adams' Joy Road" (Scarecrow) which in its 552 pages lists Adams' entire recorded history, including unissued sessions dating back to 1947, and several filmed appearances. In addition, Carner produced a series of recordings that present all 43 of Adams' compositions, and commissioned lyrics for seven of the ballads. (Jazz History Online) This book is peppered with interviews with Adams and other great musicians as well as vignettes drawn from the author's conversations with Adams. There are many behind-the-scenes anecdotes of other famous musicians, including John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Charles Mingus, and Duke Pearson.... This first comprehensive discography to the works of Pepper Adams is a valuable addition to the jazz research literature. (American Reference Books Annual) A 2012 Holiday Gift Guide Choice! This book is a comprehensive listing of the baritone saxophonist's recordings, often expanded upon with illuminating comments and interviews. (Hothouse Jazz Magazine) This is an overwhelming work of research that goes well beyond the usual concept of a discography, or even annotated discography. Carner's dedication to documenting this under-honored musical giant shines throughout the book. Fans of Adams and jazz will be both greatly satisfied, and left wanting more as Carner finishes what will surely be a masterful biography. (ARSC Journal) In recent years a few exemplary discographies have appeared that enhance the original purpose of the discography (namely, to list recordings) by adding information of a biographical nature or details about the music. Gary Carner's thick work on baritone saxophone player Pepper Adams belongs to this new species of discographies that provide much more than dates and facts. In the mid-1980s Carner worked together with Adams

on his autobiography and after Adams died in 1986, Carner interviewed many of Adams' colleagues that had either made music with him or met him in the studio. With the help of many friends of discography he discovered several unpublished recordings. Carner's book *Joy Road* is a definitive book on baritone saxophonist Pepper Adams. (Jazzinstitut Darmstadt) When I received a copy of Pepper Adams' *Joy Road*, I opened it at random, out of curiosity. I had not been terribly involved in Adams' work • coming from a long immersion in Harry Carney and Ernie Caceres, among others. But I stood in the middle of the living room, reading eagerly for a half hour, before remembering that a) I could sit down, and b) other tasks had to be taken care of. If a book can 'stop me in my tracks,' it is one I will read, keep, and value. (Jazz Lives) This is, on the surface, a book-sized discography, a listing of all known recordings of the great baritone saxophonist Pepper Adams. But the academic-sounding discography category does not adequately describe the exhaustive work that author Gary Carner has done to tell the story of Adams' life in what amounts to a gig-by-gig, session-by-session biography. (Saxophone Today) The work Carner has put into this is just unmeasurable, truly staggering, and does justice to a neglected giant, a musician respected by his peers, for his harmonic prowess, his energy with the larger saxophone, his enthusiasm for music, his imagination... like drummer Bill Goodwin describes him: "someone who played as if there was no tomorrow; at all times!" (JazzontheRecord) Good discographies are certainly very useful tools, but it is highly uncommon for a discography, even an annotated one, to also qualify as a good read. But Pepper Adams' *Joy Road* most definitely is. It brings the man as well as his music to life. Read and listen well! (Jazz Profiles)

Gary Carner, an independent jazz researcher, is the author of *Jazz Performers* and *The Miles Davis Companion*. From 1984 until Adams' death in 1986, Carner collaborated with Pepper Adams on his memoirs. Carner's research on Adams spans four decades.

This is a truly amazing work. It is an indispensable resource for any Pepper Adams fan. I first heard Pepper in 1976 at the Village Vanguard with the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra. Pepper's brilliant, gripping solos were always the highlight of the set. Over the years I have become increasingly interested in finding Pepper's recordings. I struck gold when I recently came across *Joy Road*. This incredible work has led me to more than 75 sessions featuring Pepper Adams that I previously had no idea he performed on. And the discographical information is only the beginning. I've referenced numerous jazz discographies over the years, but Gary Carner's commentary that

accompanies so many of these sessions gives the listener and the fan insight and a personal perspective that is truly unique. Mr. Carner's annotations add significantly to the already stunning musical performances. Pepper Adams artistry is worthy of the monumental years of effort that went into producing this highly recommend book.

This collection is a must not only for the aspiring/established baritone saxophonist, but any serious lover of jazz. All of Pepper's recollections and memories of musicians such as Thad Jones, Thelonious Monk, Charles Mingus, and the musical scenes he was a part of painted a more personal picture of those players and environments, more than Wikipedia could ever do. The discography has many hidden gems in the form of record dates, from jazz combos to big bands and even symphonic orchestra. A must read for anyone interested in jazz, the baritone saxophone, or the great Pepper Adams!

A masterpiece by Gary Carner. If you are a fan of Pepper Adams, this discography is a must. In depth recording details of a vast body of work, with notes and quotes from Adams himself and many that knew him.

Having owned and used this book for several months now, I can honestly say "Joy Road" is an amazing book that provides an overview of Pepper's recordings, with wonderful anecdotes from musicians and other witnesses to the sessions. The obsessive compulsive jazz record collector will find the details provided in the book helpful in locating the many lesser-known sessions Pepper played on. The student of modern jazz will make interesting connections between the dates/locations of recordings, the different sidemen used, and the variety of musicians that Pepper recorded with (this list includes Thelonious Monk, Shorty Rogers, Johnny Griffin, Joe Zawinul, Stan Kenton, Howard McGhee, Chet Baker, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, Barry Altschul, Kenny Clarke, Lennie Niehaus, Jimmy Witherspoon, and Toots Thielemans --- how's that for variety?). The student of jazz composition will be able to locate the original recordings of many of Pepper's songs, which show another side of this under-recognized jazz master. These tunes can be heard on the Motema Box Set "Joy Road," on Gary Smulyan's CD Homage, and many other great recordings. The jazz musician will be able to locate Pepper Adams solos for study on many jazz standards, since the author puts in bold letters those songs in the discography on which Pepper solos. In summary, buy this great work! Many thanks to Gary Carner for putting it all together. Can't wait to read the upcoming Pepper biography!

I'm very impressed with "Joy Road." It's one of the two best annotated discographies that I'm aware of (the other being "The John Coltrane Reference"). It's really wonderful; the interviews particularly put it on my "must read" list. I really look forward to the release of the biography. Congratulations to the author on the release of the paperback edition. Certainly speaks to the quality of the scholarship. Well done.

Thirty years really pays off. That's how long Mr. Carner has been working on this beautiful monster of a book and it really shows. Every recording baritone sax legend Pepper Adams ever made (both issued and unissued) is covered in stunning detail and the entire thing is nicely laid out and easy to read. Best of all are the producer and musician interviews that frame many of the sessions and bring them to life. I thought I had most of Pepper's recordings (both as sideman and leader) in my collection but this book showed me I have some work to do. Great musicians deserve books like this but rarely get them so its publication is a reason to rejoice! Thank you Mr. Carner for this detailed and fascinating work-of-love and I'm looking forward to your upcoming companion piece: a Pepper Adams biography. I cannot possibly recommend this book highly enough for the serious music lover or discography obsessed jazz freak.

Love this book that Gary wrote. The stories told by people involved with Pepper's career are priceless. I had a chance to meet and become friends with Pepper and this is a fitting tribute to a great person and musician. CHEERS

Very in depth Chronology. Very good anecdotes! I would have preferred some photos from the sessions? In any event , well done. Yours Truly Brian

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