

Monterey County Sunday Brunch



HORN OF PLENTY

GEORGE YOUNG SAYS HE IS "ONE OF THE MOST-HEARD, LEAST-KNOWN PLAYERS IN THE WORLD"

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Hard to imagine how anybody's universe could be larger. Likewise, it's hard to fathom how anyone's world could be as intimate as the one occupied by George Young.

During his 63 years, the Carmel Valley resident seemingly has done virtually everything, touched almost everybody. Anyone who has listened to the radio, watched a TV commercial, or attended a concert, undoubtedly has experienced Young, who quietly has built a formidable legend as one of the greatest studio saxophonists of his era.

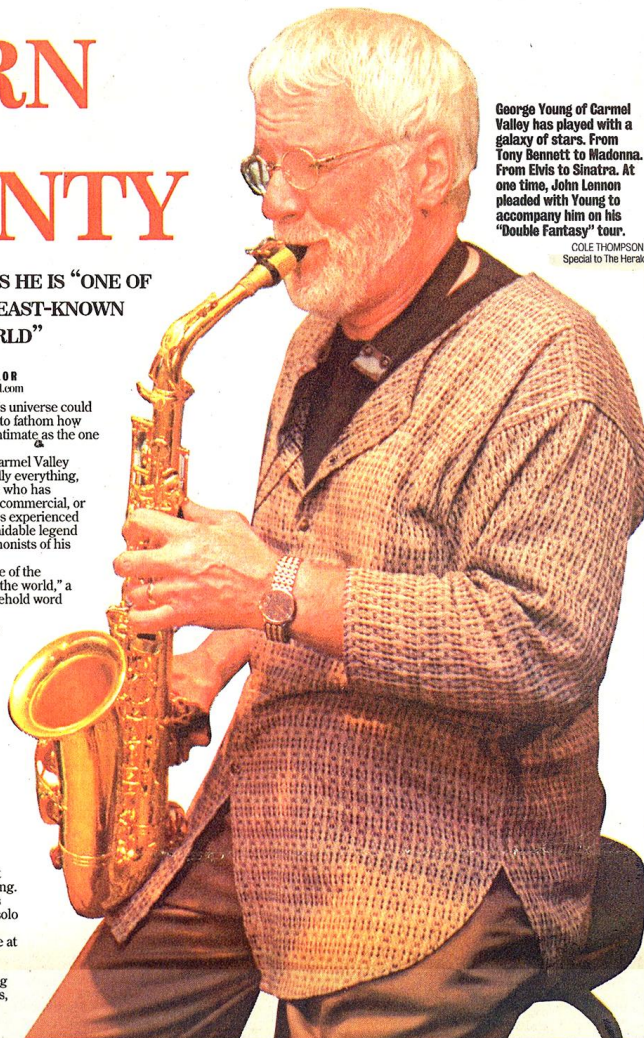
By his own description, he is "one of the most-heard, least-known players in the world," a man whose name is literally a household word — but not to you or me.

Tony Bennett, Luciano Pavarotti, Liza Minelli... they all know him. Sammy Davis Jr. refused to take the stage in Las Vegas for his own 40th birthday performance unless Young was behind him, blowing the sax. Nat King Cole stood on a stage-side table and *sneaked* the crowd when Young's band was playing "Laura." John Lennon pleaded with Young to accompany him on his "Double Fantasy" tour.

When John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd danced as the Blues Brothers on Saturday Night Live, Young was blowing his horn right behind. When the Village People recorded "YMCA," the saxophonist wailing in the background was Young. When Chubby Checker sang "Let's Twist Again," Young provided the solo on tenor sax.

Drop a name — almost any name at all — and Young has a personal anecdote. And, yet, he's not a name-dropper. You're simply asking him to talk about his life, his friends,

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George Young of Carmel Valley has played with a galaxy of stars. From Tony Bennett to Madonna. From Elvis to Sinatra. At one time, John Lennon pleaded with Young to accompany him on his "Double Fantasy" tour.

COLE THOMPSON
Special to The Herald



Pavarotti Jagger Lennon Madonna Gillespie Brown Sinatra Elvis

JUST A FEW OF THE STARS WITH WHOM GEORGE YOUNG HAS PLAYED

Following is a very abbreviated list of the music legends who have been accompanied on records or in concert by Carmel Valley jazz saxophonist George Young:

- Steve Allen
- Frankie Avalon
- Burt Bacharach
- Pearl Bailey
- Tony Bennett
- George Benson
- Blues Brothers
- Band (the original)
- Mel Brooks
- James Brown
- Mariah Carey
- Ray Charles
- Chubby Checker
- Eric Clapton
- Dick Clark's American
- Bandstand
- Joe Cocker
- Al Cohn
- Natalie Cole
- Vixi Damone
- Sammy Davis Jr.
- Celine Dion
- Fabian
- Maynard Ferguson
- Roberta Flack
- Bob Fosse
- Four Tops
- Aretha Franklin
- Four Freshmen
- Art Garfunkel
- Marvin Gaye
- Stan Getz
- Terry Gibbs
- Dizzy Gillespie
- Benny Goodman Orchestra
- Merv Griffin
- Elvis Presley
- Guns and Roses
- Lionel Hampton
- Herbie Hancock
- Lena Horne
- Sissy Houston
- Whittney Houston
- Jackson Five
- Mick Jagger
- Quincy Jones
- Gladys Knight & the Pips
- Brenda Lee
- Michel LeGrand
- John Lennon
- David Letterman Show
- Madonna
- Johnny Mandel
- Manhattan Jazz Quintet
- Manhattan Transfer
- Barry Manilow
- Wynton Marsalis
- Dean Martin
- Steve Martin
- Al Martino
- Bette Midler
- Liza Minelli
- Laura Nero
- Oak Ridge Boys
- Dolly Parton
- Luciano Pavarotti
- Kenny Rankin
- Johnny Ray
- Joshua Redman
- Little Richard
- Diana Ross
- Bobby Rydell
- David Sanborn
- Doc Severinson
- Diane Shurr
- Paul Simon
- Carly Simon
- Zoot Sims
- Frank Sinatra
- Sonny and Cher
- Ed Sullivan Show
- James Taylor
- Temptations
- 10,000 Maniacs
- Clark Terry
- Toots Thielmans
- Mel Tormé
- Luther Vandross
- Sarah Vaughn
- Village People
- Dionne Warwick
- Grover Washington Jr.
- Dinah Washington
- Nancy Wilson