

ELLIOTT HENSHAW UK'S DRUM KING

He's been compared with Rich, Krupa and other drum greats, but he's in a class of his own. Elliott Henshaw, one of England's foremost drummers, is currently making quite a stir across the pond and is recognized as one of the best.

In 1996, he won the BBC Radio Two Big Band Drummer of the Year Award for his playing with the University of Salford Big Band. In 1997, he won the award for the second year running and attended the All-Winners Concert which was held at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and broadcast on BBC Radio Two.

At age 23, this talented lad beat off the challenge of over 20 other semi-professional hopefuls to scoop up the prestigious title. As well as his prize trophy, Elliott got to design his own custom-built snare drum, which was presented to him at an evening concert in London.

Henshaw believes that this was just the beginning. According to Elliott, "One of the past winners of the award, soon became one of the most-in-demand drummers in London. The right sort of people heard me play then...those who helped shape my career."

Musical success seems to run in the family. His dad, Philip was formerly lead singer and guitarist with "The Electrons" during the late 1950's. Indeed, it was Philip who took the then 10-year-old Elliott to see and hear his drumming idol, Buddy Rich. It was then that this youngster was on his way to emulating his hero.



During a recent phone call, Elliott brought us up to date with his current activities. Said Henshaw, "These are some of the things that I have been up to lately, I'm still playing drums for the 'Ratpack Show' in London's West End. At the moment, this is booking until early 2006. I have also been working on the West End production of Mel Brook's 'The Producers,' which houses a 22-piece orchestra."

Continued Elliott, "Away from the West End, I have been working with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, the BBC Big Band, the Laurie Holloway Trio, and have a concert coming up with the legendary American saxophonist, Bob Mintzer. In addition, other projects on the go include a trio album with Andy Rumble, who is the musical director for the 'Ratpack' and have also set up my own band, and I'm in the process of recording an album. As you can see, Jack, things are quite busy, but I am enjoying the diversity of the music I'm playing."

HOWARD SCHNEIDER RESERVES GARBER SOUND

Kewaskum, WI – The late bandleader Jan Garber, known as "The Idol of the Airlines," led a sweet band from the 1930's through 1971. He led one of the most successful dance bands during the "Golden Era of Big Bands." He was also dubbed "The Mighty Little Maestro of Modern Melody" and has generally been credited with creating the "One Night Stand" concept among dance orchestras. Jan was on the bandstand 53 years and, during that time, went to many places and played for more dancers than any other leader while performing in ballrooms coast-to-coast. Garber left the bandstand in 1971 and passed on at age 82 in 1977.

Today, the Garber popularity continues under the leadership of Howard Schneider, with the blessings of the Garber family. He's a talented trumpeter/pianist/singer/arranger. Howard took over the Garber Band in 1995 and also conducts his own orchestra when not leading the Garber Band.

In German, the word "Schneider" means tailor and that certainly describes Howard, who tailors his music to his audience. With the Schneiders, it's a family affair. His daughter Kathryn is the vocalist, his Mom, Theresa handles the piano chores and brother Les is the lead sax player. Howie, as he likes to be called, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with a Bachelor's Degree in Music, then enlisted in the military. There he played trumpet and piano with the internationally acclaimed NORAD Based in Colorado Springs, CO. Following his military service, he taught in Wisconsin for a number of years at various institutions.

Howie continued to play in a variety combo, The Sunrays, out of Fond DuLac, all the while building his own big band. With his present band, Schneider says they can now imitate the exact sounds of the many bands of the 40's. He now possesses a 300-plus arrangement library. In addition to handling the JG Band and his own organization, Howard features a small combo for intimate affairs. When called upon, Teresa can perform an "on-the-money" impersonation of Wee Bonny Baker. Howie, when not involved with his various music interests, he is a Certified Financial Planner.

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