

STROLLIN'

A Jazz Life Through
John Levy's Personal Lens



Devra Hall Levy

NEA Jazz Master John Levy celebrates his 98th birthday in April 2010. *Strollin': A Jazz Life Through John Levy's Personal Lens* is a high-quality soft-cover coffee table book of exquisite photos interspersed with John's memories and vignettes that celebrate his long life in jazz. [Click here](#) for a sampling of a few of the 389 photos that fill the 272 11-inch x 8.5-inch pages.

People have been asking for a sequel to "Men, Women and Girl Singers," but what to write? Originally titled "At The Feet of a Jazz Master," this project began with a photo of John's feet in a pair of red "All Star" sneakers made by Converse. Photographer Leroy Hamilton, perhaps inspired by his appreciation, or should I say reverence, of John's career, eyeballed that shot while at a Nancy Wilson recording session. A few months later (January 2006), John and Devra went to New York for John's induction into the NEA Jazz Master Fellowship and Leroy went with them to document jazz history. Four days and thousands of pictures later they headed back to Los Angeles and an idea was born.

Since that time this project evolved from a lessons-and-legacy approach using only Hamilton's professional photos of the NEA Jazz Masters events of 2006, to a more personal trip down memory lane, or more accurately, through personal photo albums spanning decades in jazz. Most of the pictures were shot by John, some by his wife and author, Devra Hall Levy, and a small smattering by professional photographers including a section featuring Hamilton's NEA pictures.

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