

# Dan Morgenstern on Symphony Sid

**Now, A Jazz Moment...**

MUSIC: "Hot House" CD: Dizzy Gillespie-Charlie Parker Town Hall, Uptown UPCD 2751 (cut 6)

**Each year, one NEA Jazz Masters Award goes to a non-musician. It's called the Jazz Advocate award. Recipient Dan Morgenstern is a writer and historian. It was 1947 when he moved from Copenhagen, Denmark, to the great jazz mecca of New York City.**

Dan Morgenstern: My first night in New York I listened to the radio and I had this mistaken impression that I would find a lot of jazz on the radio. This of course is in the days when it was AM only, 1947. But I finally found something at the tail end of the dial and that was Symphony Sid.

MUSIC: "Groovin' High" (Symphony Sid broadcast) CD: Dizzy Gillespie-Charlie Parker Town Hall, Uptown UPCD 2751 (cut 4)

**Symphony Sid Torrin, a New York institution from the 1940s to the '60s, spun records and broadcast live jazz on his weekly show, originally based out of 52nd street's "Royal Roost" jazz club.**

The Royal Roost, I think Symphony Sid dubbed it the Metropolitan Bopera House. (laughs) And then Sid wasn't exactly a master of the English language. Sometimes he messed up the musicians names. Most of the time he was really pretty loaded (big laugh). But he had a great radio voice, wonderful radio voice. And he never messed up the commercials. Those he did right. (laughs) He was a character, Sid was.

MUSIC: up for punctuation, then fades

**...writer and historian Dan Morgenstern remembering legendary New York DJ, Symphony Sid. This Jazz Moment was created by the National Endowment for the Arts. I'm Delfeayo Marsalis**