

Locksley “Slide” Hampton

Locksley Wellington Hampton (April 21, 1932 – November 18, 2021) was an American [jazz trombonist](#), composer and arranger.^[1] As his nickname implies, Hampton's main instrument was [slide trombone](#), but he also occasionally played [tuba](#) and [flugelhorn](#).

Early life and career^[edit]

Locksley Wellington Hampton was born on April 21, 1932, in [Jeannette, Pennsylvania](#).^[2] Laura and Clarke "Deacon" Hampton raised 12 children, taught them how to play musical instruments and set out with them as a family band. The family first came to [Indianapolis](#) in 1938. The Hamptons were a very musical family in which mother, father, eight brothers, and four sisters, all played instruments.^[3] His sisters included [Dawn Hampton](#) and [Virtue Hampton Whitted](#). Slide Hampton is one of the few left-handed trombone players. As a child, Hampton was given the trombone set up to play left-handed, or backwards; and as no one ever dissuaded him, he continued to play this way.^{[4][5]}

At the age of 12, Slide played in his family's [Indianapolis](#) jazz band, The Duke Hampton Band. By 1952, at the age of 20, he was performing at [Carnegie Hall](#) with the [Lionel Hampton](#) Band. He played with the [Buddy Johnson's R&B](#) band from 1955 to 1956, then became a member of [Maynard Ferguson's](#) band (1957–1959), where he played and arranged, providing excitement on such popular tunes as "The Fugue," "Three Little Foxes" and "Slides Derangement." In 1958, he recorded with trombone masters on the classic release of [Melba Liston](#), *Melba Liston and Her 'Bones*. As his reputation grew, he soon began working with bands led by [Art Blakey](#), [Tadd Dameron](#), [Barry Harris](#), [Thad Jones](#), [Mel Lewis](#), and [Max Roach](#), contributing both original compositions and arrangements. In 1962, he formed the Slide Hampton Octet, with horn players [Freddie Hubbard](#), and [George Coleman](#). The band toured the U.S. and Europe and recorded on several labels.

From 1968^[edit]

In 1968, he toured with [Woody Herman's](#) orchestra, settling in Europe where he remained until 1977. He taught at [Harvard](#), artist-in-residence in 1981,^[6] the University of Massachusetts, De Paul University in Chicago, and Indiana State University. During this period he led World of Trombones, his own nine-trombone, three-rhythm band; co-led Continuum, a quintet with [Jimmy Heath](#) that plays the music of [Tadd Dameron](#); and freelanced as a writer and a player. In 1986 Hampton appeared in "Play It Again, Russell," an episode of *The Cosby Show*.^[7] He also played the trombone in *Diana Ross Live! The Lady Sings... Jazz & Blues: Stolen Moments* (1992), DVD.^[8]

On June 4, 2006, Hampton and long time manager and writing partner Anthony-charles: Bey promoted his first self funded concert at The Tribeca PAC in New York City (a tribute to [Antonio Carlos Jobim](#)) and debuted the Slide Hampton™ Ultra-Big Band. The concert was the first of many planned for the near future.^[9]

In 2009, Hampton completed four new compositions collectively titled "A Tribute to African-American Greatness". The songs honored [Nelson Mandela](#), [Oprah Winfrey](#), [Tiger Woods](#), [Venus Williams](#), [Serena Williams](#) and [Barack Obama](#). The songs contained accompanying lyrics written by Hampton and manager/writing partner Anthony-charles: Bey, arrangements honoring [Thelonious Monk](#), [Thad Jones](#), [Eddie Harris](#), [Dexter Gordon](#) and [Gil Evans](#) round out the program. He completed two new Big Band arrangements – "In Case of Emergency" and "The Drum Song" (both Hampton originals). These two songs (and others) will be available exclusively to universities and other educational institutions through Slide Hampton™ Musique/Music Publishing-in-trust.

Hampton was a resident of [Orange, New Jersey](#).^[10] He died on November 18, 2021, at the age of 89.^[11]

Awards and honors

In 1998, he won a [Grammy Award](#) for "Best Jazz Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s)", as arranger for "[Cotton Tail](#)" performed by [Dee Dee Bridgewater](#). He was also a Grammy winner in 2005^[12] for "Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album," *The Way: Music of Slide Hampton*, [The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra](#) ([Planet Arts](#)), and received another nomination in 2006 for his arrangement of "Stardust" for the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band.

In 2005 Hampton was honored at the jazz festival in [Indianapolis](#). There the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation inducted him into their Hall of Fame.^[13]

In 2005, the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) honored Slide Hampton with its highest honor in jazz, the [NEA Jazz Masters](#) Award.^[14]

From:
International Trombone
Association
Honorary Life Members