

THE LIFE AND MUSICAL CAREER OF HARRY JAMES

Harry Haag James (March 15, 1914– July 5, 1981) was an American musician who is best known for his work with the Harry James Orchestra. In Peter Levinson's biography, Dan Morgenstern, the respected critic and Director of the Institute of Jazz He played his last professional job, with the Harry James Orchestra, on June 26, in Los Angeles, dying just nine days later.

But he left behind ample evidence that he was a great jazzman who made self-destructive career choices, at least where his reputation was concerned. What he played was a trumpet version of her singing. He was only 67 at the time of his death, but he looked much, much older. Dorsey's was and because Mr. James into the Goodman band, where he joined Ziggy Elman and Chris Griffen to form a "powerhouse" trio, one of the most celebrated big-band trumpet sections in jazz history. Growing up in the South, James was also exposed to blues music, which had an additional influence on his style. Then he asked me what else I could play and I told him drums. He toured with the band into the 1940s, and as of July the Harry James Orchestra, led by Fred Radke, was still very much in business. James also had a fine ear for female vocalists - his singers during the years of his peak success from to were Helen Forrest and Kitty Kallen. He missed the singer's name but he liked his voice so much that he later went to hear him. That spring, he heard the then-unknown Frank Sinatra on a radio broadcast and hired him. Shellac, from which recordings were then made, was rationed because of the war, and the record company was pouring much of its limited supply into Mr. But the color of his skin did not prevent such illustrious black trumpeters as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, and Clark Terry from admiring his technique and artistry. One can't and should't forgive a great many saccharine ballads in return for such consistent excellence. To the extent that he is still remembered today, it is only for having set Frank Sinatra on the road to glory by hiring the young singer to perform with his big band in In September, when Miller went into the armed forces and gave up his radio show, Chesterfield Time, he handed it over to James, a symbolic transference of the title of top bandleader in the country. In the 60's, Buddy Rich was his drummer, and when Mr. Frank Sinatra gave the eulogy at his funeral, held in Las Vegas. James's popularity was such that he was able to form his own band in James' first job with a national band came in when he was hired by Ben Pollack. They must be bringing out new models all the time. While each served up its own brand of magnificence, James produced more consistently brilliant tracks than the others James's playing with the Pollack band, heard Mr. He was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer in 1978, but continued to play, making his last appearance only nine days before his death at James widened his popularity across the country. He was also a founding investor in the Atlantic City Race Course. We're a hit? James was the child of circus performers. He wanted guys who could play at least four or five instruments, so I didn't get the job. He played his last professional job, with the Harry James Orchestra, on June 26, in Los Angeles, [30] dying just nine days later in Las Vegas, Nevada [34] on July 5, at age