Contents

Foreword xi
Acknowledgments xv
Prefatory Notes xix
Introduction 1

PART I. THE CALIFORNIA YEARS

SCENE ONE: On the Road 7
SCENE TWO: Spot 12

BEHIND THE SCENES ONE: The Giaimos 19
SCENE THREE: Eleanor Powell’s Shoes 23

BEHIND THE SCENES TWO: The Tiptons 29
SCENE FOUR: The Eight-Day Clock 33
SCENE FIVE: Polio 38

SCENE SIX: Jail Bait 43
SCENE SEVEN: TD&L 47

SCENE EIGHT: Mingus 55
SCENE NINE: Apple Pie, Apple Pie, Apple Pie 60
SCENE TEN: A Little Help from My Friends 66
SCENE ELEVEN: The Drummer Was Always Late 71
SCENE TWELVE: Monty 77
SCENE THIRTEEN: Jerry 84
SCENE FOURTEEN: 176 Steps 91
BEHIND THE SCENES THREE: Eugene’s Lessons 96
SCENE FIFTEEN: First Time in Vegas 102
SCENE SIXTEEN: Followed by Myself in the Moonlight 107
SCENE SEVENTEEN: The It Club 112
SCENE EIGHTEEN: Thunderbird 117

PART II. THE NEW YORK AND EAST COAST YEARS

SCENE NINETEEN: 14 Drummers 125
SCENE TWENTY: Mount Airy Lodge 132
SCENE TWENTY-ONE: Strollers 138
SCENE TWENTY-TWO: The Village Stompers 144
SCENE TWENTY-THREE: Eddie Condon’s 153
BEHIND THE SCENES FOUR: Pearls to Swine 161
SCENE TWENTY-FOUR: Park Ridge 167
SCENE TWENTY-FIVE: Piano Party 171
BEHIND THE SCENES FIVE: Ruby 178
SCENE TWENTY-SIX: Suburban Housewife 187
SCENE TWENTY-SEVEN: In the Middle of the Brook 191
SCENE TWENTY-EIGHT: Harold’s Rogue and Jar 200
SCENE TWENTY-NINE: Melba Liston and Company 210
SCENE THIRTY: Fazee Cakes 220
PART III. CALIFORNIA REDUX

SCENE THIRTY-ONE: The Best Kept Secret in Town  227
SCENE THIRTY-TWO: A Leader at Sixty-Five  231
SCENE THIRTY-THREE: Pacific Grove  237
SCENE THIRTY-FOUR: Nonagenarian  239

Postscript  243

Notes  245
Selected Discography  255
Index  257

Illustrations follow page 152