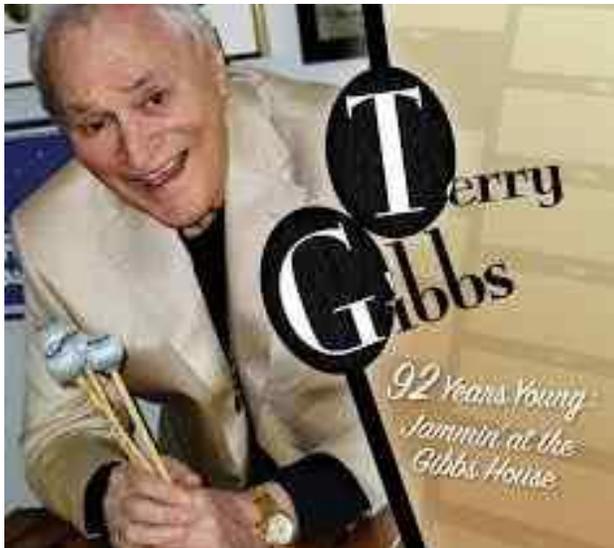


Jammin' at the Gibbs House: Doug McIntyre



Courtesy photo Terry Gibbs' 66th recording, "92 Years Young: Jammin' at the Gibbs House", which debuts this month.

by [Doug McIntyre](#),
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Just after New Year's Day in 2016, Gerry Gibbs dropped by to see his famous father. Nothing unusual about that. Lots of sons come to see their dads to kick off a new year even if their father's aren't famous jazz musicians. What made this visit particularly memorable was who and what Gerry brought with him; his drum kit, pianist John Campbell and bassist, Mike Gurrola.

Terry Gibbs, 92-year old vibraphone master, picks up the story.

"My son suggested we have a jam session. I told him to forget it because I retired a year and a half earlier and I wasn't sure how much energy I had," said Gibbs with the energy of a teenager. "Of course, at the time I was younger. Only 91-years old."

Added Gibbs with a smile: "He talked me into it."

Smiling comes easily to Terry Gibbs. After a lifetime of love and achievement he has a new record to cap a career that has seen him play with practically every legend in American music; Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis, Benny Goodman—the full list would fill a phone book—for those of you old enough to remember phone books.

While Terry dusted off his mallets, Gerry's wife Kyeshie pulled out her iPhone. Posted to YouTube and Facebook, Terry Gibbs became a viral sensation at 91, rolling up 45,000 views in the first 24-hours and quickly soaring north of 200,000.

It's not like Gibbs hasn't been a hit before. A six-time Downbeat poll winner, Terry has been swinging in clubs, records and television since the 1940s. His "Dream Band" is still considered one of the all-time great bands, a band that continues to inspire today's musicians.

So why would a man who lives for music retire?

"I was on the road for 80-years," explains Terry. "I know every cockroach in every motel room in the world."

But with all those YouTube clicks it was just a matter of time before the world came knocking.

Neil Weiss, owner of Whaling Sounds Records, offered to record Terry in his own home. It was an offer too good to turn down. "He asked what music I would be playing and I told him I hadn't the slightest idea." What resulted was a four-day jam with Terry, Gerry, John and Mike nailing 31-songs.

"We were right on top of each other. That's how we recorded in the 50s," says Gibbs proudly displaying a freshly pressed copy of his 66th recording, "92 Years Young: Jammin' at the Gibbs House", which debuts this month.

"We played some, went out by the pool had some sandwiches, told stories and laughed, came back and recorded a few more songs. No playbacks. It really was an old fashioned jam session. By the third day we actually had a band that I wish I was young enough to travel and play with!"

The truth be told, there aren't many young players who can play with Terry Gibbs.

"When I was younger I only heard myself. What I was playing. I learned over the years to hear everybody."

And thanks to his ageless talent, indomitable spirit and the internet, the world is hearing Terry Gibbs, still in top form. Swinging. Always swinging.

"I hate to say swan song" says Terry reflectively, "But it's nice to leave behind something I'm proud of. It's the last thing I'm going to play."

That's it, Terry? Isn't there anything else you'd like to do?

"No. That's why I can quit."

Doug McIntyre's column appears Sundays. Hear him weekday mornings, 5-10 on AM 790 KABC. He can be reached at: Doug@DougMcIntyre.com.