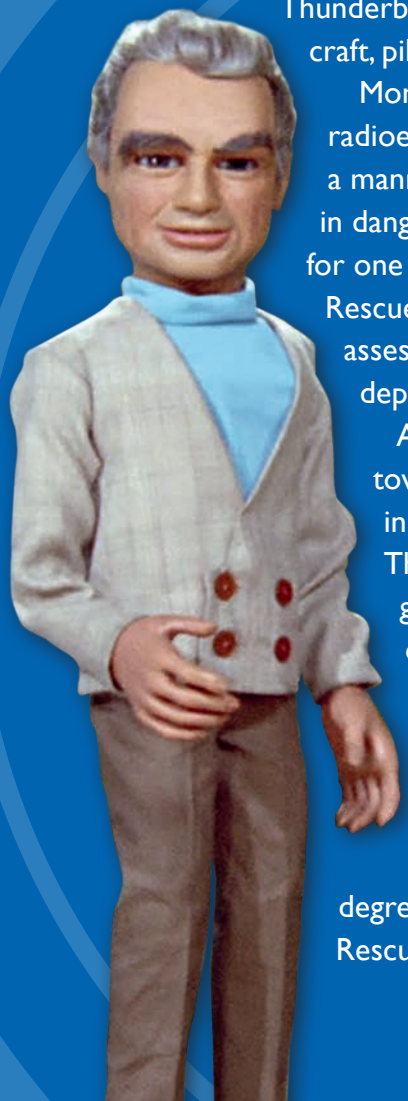
ORIGINAL TELEVISION SOUNDTRACK
A GERRY ANDERSON PRODUCTION
THUNDERBIRDS
MUSIC BY BARRY GRAY
THUNDERBIRD 1
THUNDERBIRD 2
THUNDERBIRD 4
THUNDERBIRD 5

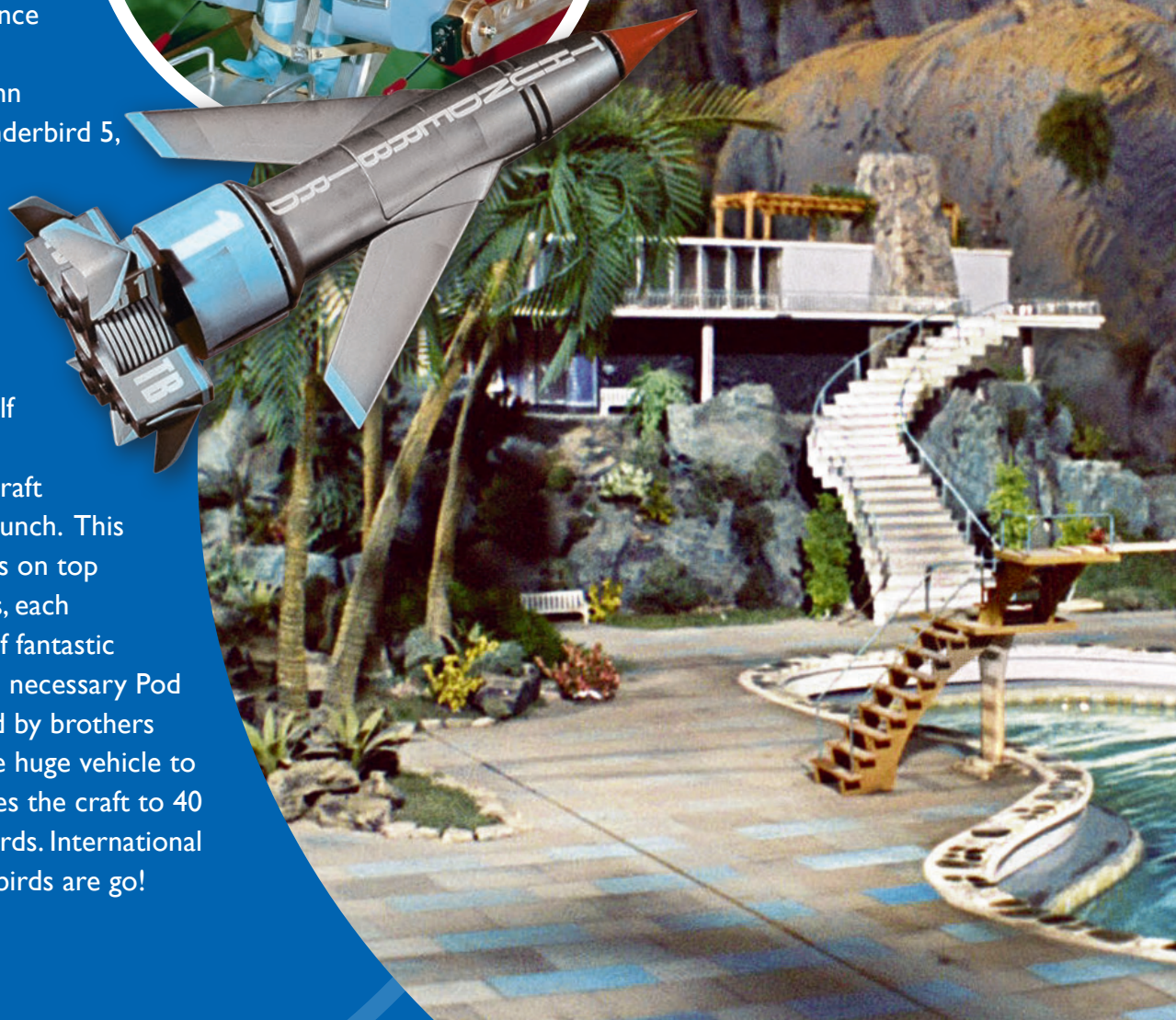
Calling International Rescue...

Palm Trees flutter and the sound of distant crashing waves echo around a luxurious looking house. Suddenly a low gravelly hum emerges from a swimming pool as it slides aside, revealing an cavernous hanger below. Muffled automated sounds echo, before an almighty roar followed by the lightning-fast blur of a rocket as it shoots skyward. This is Thunderbird 1, high-speed reconnaissance craft, piloted by Scott Tracy.



Moments ago, Scott's brother John radioed-in a distress call from Thunderbird 5, a manned orbital satellite. A life is in danger with all hope lost, except for one possibility: International Rescue. Jeff Tracy, the boys' father assesses the situation and duly deploys his sons into action.

As Thunderbird 1 propels itself towards the danger zone (now in horizontal flight), its fellow craft Thunderbird 2 is readied for launch. This giant green transporter stands on top of a conveyer-belt of six Pods, each containing a different array of fantastic rescue equipment. With the necessary Pod selected, Virgil Tracy (joined by brothers Alan and Gordon) taxis the huge vehicle to the launch ramp, which raises the craft to 40 degrees before it too blasts skywards. International Rescue are on their way, Thunderbirds are go!



Approaching Danger Zone...

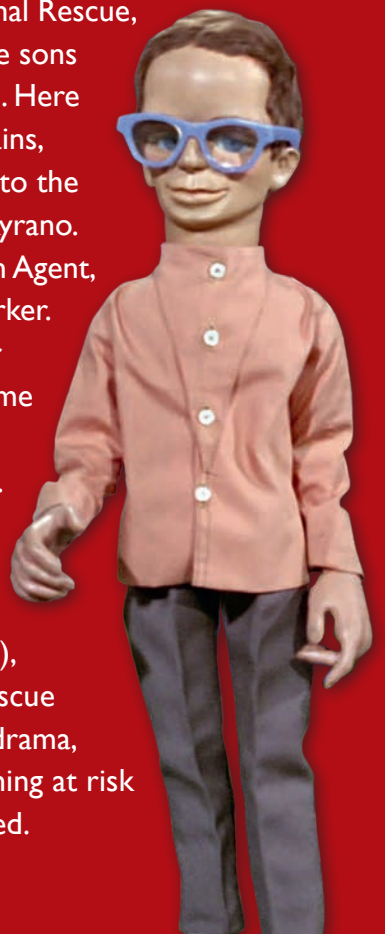
In the Autumn of 1963, writer and producer Gerry Anderson, along with the whole nation, was swept up by an unfolding mining disaster at the Lengede-Broistedt mine in Germany. Against all odds a small group of men had survived the flooding of a mine shaft. It was decided the only way to rescue these men was to use a special drill to bore a hole large enough to lower a capsule, designed to hold one miner at a time. However, the only drill large enough was eight hours away, and the miners situation was worsening...

Inspired by this dramatic event, for his next television series Gerry Anderson envisioned an organisation prepared for such eventualities and ready to deploy their equipment anywhere in the world at any time. With the working title of 'International Rescue' a script was written and the process of bringing the premise to the screen was put into action at AP Films' unassuming studios on the Slough Trading Estate. From these buildings an entire miniature world was meticulously designed and built in a combination of marionette puppetry and miniature special effects, a process known as "Supermarionation".

Thunderbirds, as the series would eventually be titled, would result in 32 brilliant television episodes (spread over two series) and two feature-length films.

The series follows the exploits of International Rescue, headed up by ex-astronaut Jeff Tracy and his five sons based at their isolated island home, Tracy Island. Here the family are joined by the genius inventor Brains, creator of the five craft which lend their name to the series' title, along with Tin-Tin and her father Kyrano. The organisation is often assisted by its London Agent, Lady Penelope and her butler and chauffeur Parker. Together, the team has one simple goal, to offer help when all hope is lost, whilst at the same time stopping the secrets of their fantastic rescue equipment from falling into the wrong hands.

From the fate of hundreds on-board the Fireflash airliner (*Trapped in the Sky*) to the lone astronaut Elliott perilously lost in space (*The Impostors*), each appearance of International Rescue would play out as a family-friendly drama, seeing the Tracy Family put everything at risk to come to the aid of those in need.



Elegance, Charm and Deadly Danger...

On the strength of an early screening of the first episode of **Thunderbirds**, TV mogul and financier of the series Lew Grade decided that the exploits of International Rescue were simply too good for the usual 25 minute running time of the previous Supermarionation productions. Insisting that each episode should be doubled in length to enjoy a 50 minute transmission slot.

For producers Gerry and Sylvia Anderson, aside from the short-term headache of expanding episodes already completed, the extra running time was an incredible gift. This would effectively enrich each episode, allowing a detailed scenario to be set-up as well as establish guest characters before they called upon International Rescue. Adding layers of drama to each plot in the process as audiences got wrapped-up in the unfolding story.

From the riveting tension and nick-of-time heroics, to the genuine feminist icon of effortlessly cool-under pressure Lady Penelope. **Thunderbirds** became a global sensation.

The resulting 32 episodes would go down as one of the greatest television series ever made. Captivating generations of viewers swept up in the brilliant adventures and situations, all magnificently realised with exquisite practical miniatures.

As the International Rescue call sign would put it, F.A.B.

Episode Listing

Episodes listed in production order, with original UK airdate/premiere.

Series One (1965)

1. Trapped in the Sky *30-9-65*
2. Pit of Peril *7-10-65*
3. City Of Fire *6-1-66*
4. Sun Probe *9-12-65*
5. The Uninvited *2-12-65*
6. The Mighty Atom *30-12-65*
7. Vault of Death *23-12-65*
8. Operation Crash Dive *16-12-65*
9. Move – and You're Dead *10-2-66*
10. Martian Invasion *17-3-66*
11. Brink of Disaster *24-2-66*
12. The Perils of Penelope *14-10-65*
13. Terror In New York City *21-10-65*
14. End of The Road *25-11-65*
15. Day of Disaster *4-11-65*
16. Edge of Impact *28-10-65*
17. Desperate Intruder *18-11-65*
18. 30 Minutes After Noon *11-11-65*
19. The Impostors *13-1-66*
20. The Man From MI.5 *20-1-66*
21. Cry Wolf *27-1-66*
22. Danger At Ocean Deep *3-2-66*
23. The Duchess Assignment *17-2-66*
24. Attack of the Alligators! *10-3-66*
25. The Cham-Cham *24-3-66*
26. Security Hazard *31-3-66*

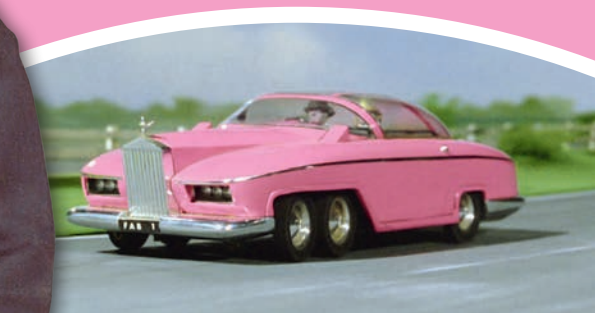
Series Two (1966)

1. Atlantic Inferno *2-10-66*
2. Path of Destruction *9-10-66*
3. Alias Mr Hackenbacker *16-10-66*
4. Lord Parker's 'Oliday *23-10-66*
5. Ricochet *6-11-66*
6. Give or Take a Million *25-12-66*

Feature Films

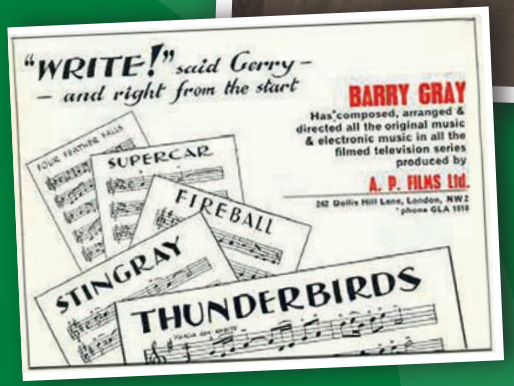
Thunderbirds are Go (1966)
London Pavilion *12-12-66*

Thunderbird 6 (1968)
Odeon Leicester Square *29-7-68*



Countdown to launch

From the cascading strings which dance around the melody of the main theme's title march, to the brooding and foreboding brass which effortlessly add drama to many tense unfolding rescues. Barry Gray's distinctive score composed for **Thunderbirds** is as much of a character in the series as one of the Tracy brothers.

Building upon a canon of motifs and themes created over the last five years of working with AP Films on previous Supermarionation productions. The expanded 50 minute format of **Thunderbirds** allowed Barry Gray to further evolve and expand his musical palette. With many instalments requiring establishing musical anchors, to set a location or mood, Gray was able to incorporate a wide range of styles. In the process, the rich landscape of the Anderson's 21st century was rendered instantly familiar to viewers. With the whole affair usually completed by Gray elegantly weaving in his melodic and heroic main theme to tie everything together.

The results not only complimented, but undoubtedly lifted what was on screen, projecting depth and emotion on to miniature cast as they went about their noble rescue missions.

Track Notes

01. Thunderbirds Main Titles (1:30)

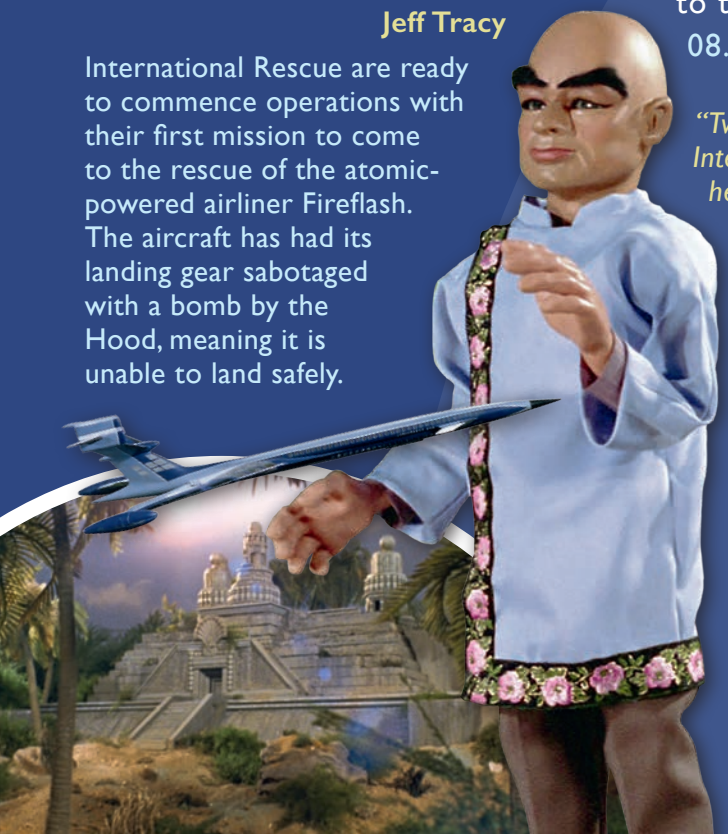
Trapped in the Sky

02. The Hood and London Airport (3:54)
03. Tracy Island and Thunderbirds Are Go! (3:16)
04. Fireflash Landing (1:14)
05. Tracy Lounge Piano (1:49)

"OK, boys. That's the brief. It's our first assignment, so make it good. As you know, your uniforms are in your craft, and must only be worn on call"

Jeff Tracy

International Rescue are ready to commence operations with their first mission to come to the rescue of the atomic-powered airliner Fireflash. The aircraft has had its landing gear sabotaged with a bomb by the Hood, meaning it is unable to land safely.



The Perils of Penelope

06. Penny in Paris (2:51)
07. International Rescue to the Rescue (1:26)
08. Monorail Drama (2:23)

"Two nights ago, after the International conference here in Paris, I saw him off by train to Anderbad. When the train reached its destination, he simply was not on it."

Sir Jeremy Hodge

Lady Penelope comes to the aid of an old friend, who has been involved in the research of turning water into rocket fuel, a secret an ambitious scientist is keen to get his hands on...

The Man From MI.5

09. Espionage on the French Riviera (2:24)

A moonlit bay on the French Riviera is the perfect setting for spycraft as a luxurious motor cruiser arrives in port...

Pit of Peril

10. Sidewinder (1:32)
11. The Pit (1:20)
12. Recovery (1:21)

"Just look at that thing. It's like a monster from another planet."

General Peters

The US Army's incredible new all-terrain four-legged vehicle makes an ungainly site as it towers above the jungle navigates. Suddenly the ground gives way beneath it and the fantastic craft plunges downwards in a cloud of smoke.

30 Minutes After Noon

13. A night in Spoke City (1:37)

For Thomas Prescott, after picking up a mysterious hitch-hiker on the evening of his wedding anniversary the night will be memorable for all the wrong reasons.

Desperate Intruder

14. Expedition (3:55)
15. The Hood vs International Rescue (2:14)

"Good! A veritable swarm of Thunderbirds. Now for the first part of my plan." **The Hood**

Brains and Tin-Tin join Professor Blakely on expedition to Lake Anasta, in search of the lost sunken temple. Unbeknownst to them the Hood is watching their every move.

Edge of Impact

16. Evil Plan (1:50)
17. Tower of Terror (1:09)

"I am tired of competition. My army is becoming impatient and restless. All rivals must be removed from my path! Do you follow me?"

General Bron

The Hood has been tasked with destroying all of the Red Arrows, sabotaging a series of test flights. One craft crashes into the base of a telecommunications tower, leaving two men, trapped in the control room at the top.

End of the Road

18. Avalanche (2:24)
19. Eddie on Tracy Island (2:59)
20. The Rescue (3:24)

"Eddie, the seismograph shows that peak could collapse at any second! If you weren't blown to bits, you'd be buried alive" **Bob Gray**

Eddie Houseman, a junior partner of the Gray & Houseman Construction Company has just finished his job to clear a gap in a mountain range for a giant road builder to traverse through. For a well-deserved vacation, Eddie heads to Tracy Island to visit his old friend Tin-Tin, much to Alan Tracy's heartache. Eddie is abruptly called back to the road project when he hears that a disaster has arisen, leading him to take a drastic gamble to complete the project.

Give Or Take A Million

21. Christmas with the Tracy Family (1:52)

"Brains, you old devil, you've given us a real, old-fashioned Christmas"

Jeff Tracy

The Tracy family all join in to decorate their house and prepare a feast for the festive season... Later Brains uses his scientific genius to make it snow.

Move – and You're Dead

22. San Miguel Bridge (1:21)

Alan Tracy is in deadly danger, forced to stay absolutely still on top of San Miguel's suspension bridge. To move would alert the sonic wave device and activate a bomb. With rescue on its way, Alan uses the time to tell his father the story which led him to his deadly predicament.

Operation Crash Dive

23. Finding the Fireflash (1:56)

Gordon Tracy pilots Thunderbird 4 along the dark depths of the sea bed looking for the downed atomic-powered airliner Fireflash.

Ricochet

24. KLA Collision (1:28)

"O'Shea. Are you all right? O'Shea!"

Loman

An automated rocket lifts off but develops a fault, requiring its self destruct to be activated. Unknown to the rocket's ground crew an unregistered pirate satellite – KLA lies directly in the rocket's path...

Sun Probe

25. The Launch (1:12)
26. Heading for the Sun (0:57)

"All efforts to alter the spaceship's course by firing the retros by radio beam from earth have failed. Now I have a vital request to make. If International Rescue are watching, would they please communicate at once with Solar Control Centre"

Colonel Benson

Three solarnauts are on a mission to capture a piece of the sun. With their mission completed they find that they can't escape the sun's gravity, locking them on to a deadly collision course.

The Cham–Cham

27. The Cass Carnaby Set (1:35)
28. Dangerous Game (1:49)

"Well, they say if you go down well at Paradise Peaks, you'll go down well anywhere" **Parker**

The Cass Carnaby Five play for the gathered audience at the super-deluxe hotel Paradise Peaks, located high up in the Alps.

The Impostors

29. Jeremiah (1:21)

International Rescue's Agent 47, Jeremiah Tuttle might not seem the typical field operative, but his unconventional approach is highly effective.

The Uninvited

30. Crashed in the Desert (0:52)

"Not a sign of anything, what a predicament 5000 miles from base and the radio's dead" **Scott Tracy**

Scott Tracy has been shot down by three mysterious fighter jets. Opening TB1's cockpit hatch he looks out over his desolate desert surroundings and loses consciousness.

Vault of Death

31. The Vault (2:32)
32. Light-Fingered Fred (0:59)

Lady Penelope and Parker have been tasked with testing the alarm system of the Bank of England. A short time later one of Parker's former safe-cracking colleagues stages a dramatic break out from Parkmoor Scrubs prison.

Path of Destruction

33. San Martino (3:38)

"Alas, señor, we have no menu. But for you, I can prepare something very special" **Sanchos**

In Sanchos' restaurant in the South American town of San Martino, a guitarist plays as the crew Crablogger One order dinner.

Terror in New York City

34. World Exclusive Foiled (1:52)
35. Ned Cook in Trouble (1:22)
36. Thunderbird 4 (1:49)

"There is a very real danger that the entire building could collapse at any moment... she's coming down right on top of us" **Ned Cook**

NTBS news reporter New Cook will do anything for a story, whether it be attempting to get an exclusive on an International Rescue operation or stood in the shadow of the Empire State Building as it is slowly moved to a new location. Disaster strikes when the ground the aging skyscraper sits upon starts to give way...

37. Thunderbirds End Titles (1:22)

List of Musicians

The following musicians performed the music composed specifically for ***Thunderbirds****.*

Bass: Tim Bell, Dennis Bowden, Joe Mudele

Bass Guitar: Dave Perkins, Ron Prentice

Bassoon: Norman Fawcett

Cello: Fred Alexander, Bill Demont, Vivien French, Jack Holmes, Reg Kilbey, Brian Martin

Clarinet: Ken Dryden, Bob Efford, Peter Hughes, Gordon Lewin, Cyril Reuben, Bill Skeat, Roy Willox

Cordovox: Jack Emblow, Henry Krein

Flute: Bob Efford, Gordon Heard, Bill Hudson, Roy Willox

Guitar: Billy Bell, Barry Fox, Roland Harker, Ike Isaacs, Alan Parker, Judd Proctor, Jim Sullivan

Harp: Michael Jeffries, Tryphena Partridge, David Snell

Horn: Jim Buck Snr, Jim Buck Jnr, Peter Civil, Jan Harper, Frank Rycroft, Neil Saunders

Oboe: Michael Dobson

Percussion: Eric Allen, Stan Barrett, Alan Hakin, Bobbie Kevin, Dennis Lopez, Barry Morgan, Derek Price, Ron Verrall

Piano/Celeste: Henry Krein

Saxophone: Bob Efford

Transicord: Jack Emblow

Trombone: Jock Bain, Jack Irving, Maurice Pratt, Wally Smith, Jack Thirwell

Trumpet: Fred Clayton, Ron Hunt, Tom McQuater, Bobbie Pratt, George Taylor

Tuba: Lou Farrar, Alf Reece

Viola: Dave Bellman, John Dyer, Ken Essex, Herb Powell, Steve Shingler, John Underwood

Violin: Fred Alexander, Percy Coates, Ralph Elman, George French, Julian Gallard, Jack Greenstone, Brian Hill, Joe Hitchenor, Derek Jacobs, John Jezard, Charles Katz, David Katz, Reg Leopold, Syd Margo, Harry Martell, David McCallum, Dennis McConnell, Nick Mernick, Reg Pursglove, Bill Reid, Michael Rennie, Lou Stevens, Lou Whiteson, David Wolfsthal

All music composed and conducted by BARRY GRAY

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