

Arthur Schutt, 61, Pianist With Jazz Groups In 1920's

Arthur Schutt, a pianist who was prominent in the New York jazz world in the nineteen-twenties, died Friday in San Francisco after a long illness. He was 61 years old. His doctor was Benny Zeitlin, also well known as a jazz pianist.

Mr. Schutt, who was born in Reading, Pa., began playing with Paul Specht's dance orchestra when he was 16. He remained with Mr. Specht until the middle nineteen-twenties and later played with Roger Wolfe Kahn, Vincent Lopez and other bands.

He made many records with small jazz groups led by Red Nichols, Bix Beiderbecke, Joe Venuti, Miff Mole, the Dorsey brothers and Benny Goodman. His solo chorus on Paul Specht's recording of "All Muddled Up" in 1922 is thought to be the first improvised piano solo ever recorded.

In 1934 Mr. Schutt moved to California and, until 1949, was a staff musician at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Since then he had free-lanced in Los Angeles and in San Francisco.

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