

Times-Picayune Obituary, August 22, 2004.

Brian Ogilvie, a well known saxophonist and clarinetist, died of multiple organ failure in a hospital in Inverness, Scotland after collapsing during a jazz festival performance. He was 50.

Mr. Ogilvie, a native of Vancouver, Canada, had lived in New Orleans since 1995 and played aboard the Mississippi Queen and Natchez riverboats. He was known for his interpretation of early jazz forms and played leading roles at numerous international jazz festivals in cities including Edinburgh, Scotland; Brecon, Wales; and Toronto.

He played in San Antonio with the Jim Cullum Jazz Band and on the Riverwalk radio series. He recorded his own CDs as well as recording with jazz singers such as Banu Gibson.

"His soloing ability was so extraordinary," Gibson said. His saxophone sound was "big and lush," she said. "And people were impressed by how lyrical he was in his playing."

Mr. Ogilvie also was "a sweetheart of a guy," Gibson said. "It was hard to get him to say anything bad about anybody." He "had his own style," said Duke Heitger, who played trumpet with Mr. Ogilvie with the Steamboat Stompers band on the Natchez.

Mr. Ogilvie was "a world class player," said musician and band leader Conrad "Connie" Jones. "He never did anything that wasn't excellent."

Mr. Ogilvie's widow, Kersin, said she met her husband in New Orleans in 1997 and they were married in 2001.

"It was love at first sight," Kerstin Ogilvie said. "When he played a ballad, it was as though he were playing it just for you."

Survivors include his wife; two sisters, Joanne Ogilvie of Vancouver and Elaine Ogilvie of Ottawa; and four brothers, Don, Ken and Bobby Ogilvie of Vancouver and John Ogilvie of Toronto.

A memorial service will be held in Vancouver Aug. 29.