

# A PLACE FOR JAZZ

February 2009

Editor: Tim Coakley

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org)—UPDATED DAILY

## Looking Back, Forging Ahead



by Tim Coakley

- ◆ The 2008 season of A Place for Jazz was a rousing success, especially in the variety of styles and sounds we were able to present.
- We began with the sparkling trio of pianist Bill Charlap, who gave us a great opening concert.
- Saxophonist Lee Russo helped us to continue showcasing the wealth of musical talent in the Capital Region.
- Bassist Ben Allison and vibraphonist Joe Locke each offered their own very individual takes on the jazz idiom, and each of them gave an inspirational master class for Nat Phipps' music students at Schenectady County Community College.
- Finally, vocalist Karrin Allyson wrapped things up with a warm, winning performance. She also gave a fine master class for several of our top local singers.
- Our advisory committee met in January to begin selecting the artists for what we hope will be another stellar year.

### Support Needed

As always, and especially in these difficult economic times, we rely greatly on your support to continue presenting first-rate jazz concerts for your enjoyment.

Please take a look at the membership form inside and decide which level of support is comfortable for you.

Every contribution we get goes directly toward continuing the legacy of Butch Conn, who founded A Place for Jazz in order to present the music in a congenial, warm setting that is conducive to listening and enjoying this great American art form.

*Check out our monthly calendar on our website at [www.aplaceforjazz.org](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org).*

*The calendar is updated daily and includes links to Jazz Festivals, clubs and concert series*

### VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

*We need help:*

*With publicity: distributing fliers and posters*

*Writing music reviews for the newsletter*

*Greeting people and handing out programs at the concerts*

*If you can help, please call Tim Coakley at*

*518-393-4011*

*or e-mail him at*

*[coakjazz@aol.com](mailto:coakjazz@aol.com)*

*Inside  
this  
Issue*



Karrin Allyson Master Class	Page 2
Tales from the Trenches	Page 4
Jazz Preview	Page 5
APFJ Membership Form	Page 7

## Karrin Allyson Master Class at Union College

By Tom Pierce

No doubt, many of us have favorite activities that almost border on *fantasies*. For this passionate fan of Jazz vocals, who has a deep curiosity and fascination with listening to Jazz singers discussing their craft, high on the list is attending a Jazz vocal master class. Not being a singer myself, I've only had one previous opportunity (singer Carmen Bradford at the 2002 Syracuse Jazz festival) to attend one, which was very enjoyable.

But on Friday November 7 at Union College, my eager anticipation was heightened, as this one was being given (through the auspices of A Place For Jazz President Tim Coakley, who I work closely with) by one of my favorite living vocalists, Karrin Allyson, prior to her concert at the Whisperdome, whom I had recommended to the APFJ Advisory Committee. As if this weren't enough, the attendees were four of my singer-friends in this: Jody Shayne, Perley Rousseau, Patti Melita and Nancy Donnelly, all of whom I enjoy being around for *any* occasion. I confess to feeling like the proverbial "kid locked overnight in the candy store".

The other attendees were jazz pianist Tim Olsen, Tim Coakley, Perley's husband and musical partner pianist Sonny Daye, and Karrin's close friend Bill McGlaughlin, a classical conductor, composer, and nationally known radio host, as

well as co-producer of several of Karrin's CD's.

After very briefly outlining her musical background and vocal approach, which she described as *conversational*, Karrin asked each of the four vocalists (all of whom have years of professional experience, as well as their own recordings available on cdbaby.com) to do a song of their choosing, accompanied by Tim Olsen. Nancy Donnelly started things off with an energetic version of "Just Friends".

Jody Shayne followed with an interesting take on "A Slow Boat to China", including some of her own interesting lyrics that Karrin complimented. Patti Melita did a



Photo By Andrezej Pilarczyk

fluid "I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart". And after a bit of coaxing, Perley did an engaging duet with Karrin of "Autumn Leaves," which featured both English and French lyrics.

After each of their initial renditions, Karrin, in addition to expressing her enjoyment in hearing each of their personal interpretations of these standards, offered very constructive ideas for their consideration. These included suggestions on consistency of tone, simplicity (but va-

riety) of hand and body movements, use of rhythmic motifs to grab the listener, opening up more on vowel sounds, focusing on melodic storytelling in a chorus, versus improvisational soloing choruses and possible variations in the tempo utilized. She also gave them an opportunity to re-do the song to apply (in their own unique way), some of these thoughts. This was followed by very enjoyable duets/scats by her and a number of them.

She also provided additional information and insight to the group as a whole in responding to specific questions, especially those from Perley, who came with a very relevant list. These included queries on vocal warm-up techniques, rest, determining song set lists and the possible value of learning the piano, among others.

Karrin's singing together and trading choruses with them was one of several ways she showed her obviously genuine support of them and understanding of the difficult world of Jazz singing.

I personally found her warm physical affection (hugging each of them both before and after each performance) very moving, as it showed her empathy for them as fellow members in this extremely demanding profession; as well as her enjoyment and appreciation, as a fan of the music, for the chance to hear their approach.



## Local Jazz Venues

*(Listed Alphabetically)*

**9 Maple Ave**, Saratoga Springs, 518-587-7759

**The Bar at 74 State**, 74 State St, Albany, 518-434-7410

**The Basement**, 21 Center St, Northampton, MA, 413-586-9030

**Brandon's**, 1725 Van Vranken Ave, Schenectady, 518-347-1329

**Blue Plate**, 1 Kinderhook St, Chatham, NY, 518-392-7711

**Cabernet Café**, 1814 Western Ave, Albany, 518-452-5670

**Café Capriccio**, 49 Grand St, Albany, 518-65-0439

**Castle Street Café**, 10 Castle St, Great Barrington, MA, 413-528-5244

**Chameleon on the Lake**, 251 County Rt. 67, Saratoga Springs, 581-3928

**Chez Sophie Bistro**, 534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518-583-3538

**Circus Café**, 392 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518-583-1106

**Comfort Inn**, 37 Rte 9W, Glenmont, 518-465-8811

**The Fountain Restaurant**, 283 New Scotland Ave, Albany, 518-482-9898

**Four Corners Luncheonette**, 2 Grove St, Delmar, 518-439-0172

**Freedom Park**, Schonowee Ave, Scotia, 370-0662 (summer only)

**Jazz on Jay**, in front of City Center (across from Proctor's), Schenectady, 518-372-5656 (summer only)

**Justin's**, 301 Lark St, Albany, 518-436-7008

**Lark Tavern**, 453 Madison Ave. Albany, 518-463-9779

**Linda Norris Aud.**, WAMC, 339 Central Ave., Albany, 518-465-5233

**Mo' Jazz Café**, 7 South Main St Wilmington, VT 802-464-2280

**Moon & River Café**, 115 S. Ferry St., Schenectady, 518-382-1938

**Muddy Cup**, 1038 Madison Ave, Albany, 518-459-2022

**One Caroline Street Bistro**, Saratoga Springs, 518-587-2026

**Panza's Restaurant**, Route 9P Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Spgs, 518-584-6882

**Parker Inn**, 434 State St, Schenectady, 518-688-1001

**Prime 677**, 677 Broadway Albany, 518-427-7463

**Proctor's**, 432 State St, Schenectady, 518-382-3884

**Provence Restaurant**, Stuyvesant Plaza-Western Ave at Fuller Rd, Albany, 518-689-7777

**Quarter Moon Café**, 53 Main Street, Delhi, NY, 607-746-8886

**Red Onion Restaurant**, Route 212, Woodstock, NY 845-679-1223

**Saratoga Gaming & Raceway**, Saratoga Springs, 518-584-2110

**Sarazen Student Union**, Siena College, 518-783-4117

**Sargo's**, Saratoga National Golf Club, 458 Union Ave, Saratoga Springs, 518-583-4653

**Scrimshaw Tavern**, Desmond Hotel, Coltonie, 518-869-8100

**Spillin' the Beans**, 13 3rd St, Troy, 518-268-1028

**Stella's Lounge**, 7 Main St, Catskill, 518-943-3173

**Stockade Inn**, 1 N. Church St, Schenectady, 518-346-3400

**Wallabee's Jazz Bar**, 190 Glen St, Glens Falls, NY, 518-792-8282

**The Winedown**, 613 Union St., Schenectady NY 518-344-7086

**The Wine Bar**, 417 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518-584-8777

**Zaika**, 54 Clifton Country Rd, Clifton Park, 518-688-1548



## R A D I O J A Z Z

**WVCR 88.3 FM** "The Crossroads of Jazz." Saturday from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. with a mix of the Essentials and the Contemporary . Hosted by Darrin Scott and Ted Moisesides.

**WCDB 90.9 FM** Bill McCann, Saturday 8 am to 12 noon; O.J., "Maiden Voyage", Thursday, 6 - 10 pm; Bill Goss, "TGIF Jazz Party", Friday, 4 - 6 pm; Mark Stevenson, "The Contemporary Jazz Cafe", Saturday, 6 - 8 am

**WAMC 90.3 FM** Tim Coakley, Saturday 10:30 pm-12 midnight; Jim Wilke, Jazz After Hours 1 am to 5 am Friday and Saturday; Marian McPartland, Sunday 9pm; Afro-Pop Worldwide, 8 pm Sunday

**WRPI 91.5 FM** Barbara Kaiser 10 am to noon on Tuesday. with a wonderfully eclectic mixture of Jazz+; Kevin Roberts, Thursday. 8-10 pm with his exciting and varied theme shows

**WVPR 94.3 FM** (Vermont Public Radio) George Thomas Tuesday-Thursday from 8-10 pm, Friday until midnight

**WKLI Magic 100.9 FM** Sundays Albany (Sunday Morning Jazz Brunch) 6am-8am Dave Koz Radio Show; 8 am.-10.am; Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis; 10am-12 noon.: Swingin' with Sinatra with Steve Jackson Vicario.

# Tales from the Trenches

## (Anecdotes from the Jazz World of Johnny Morris)

by Jan Egry

This is the final in a series by Jan Egry about her friend, the famed **Johnny Morris**.

### Birdland

There was this little guy who worked at Birdland. He was the master of ceremonies and he was about this tall (indicated under five feet) and they called him Pee Wee Marquette. He was a real character. Matter of fact, some people thought he was a lady dressed as a man. They could never figure it out.

Anyway, Pee Wee was a real operator. Pee Wee used to introduce the different groups, and as soon as I started working with Buddy Rich at Birdland, Pee Wee approached me and said, "You know I ...I...I study person's names and I make sure I pronounce them properly and I really work on understanding how to pronounce names and to give you a big build-up, you see, and that's got to be worth something, you know. All the cats give me a little taste at

the end of the week."

So, I said, "Well how much do you want, Pee Wee?"

"Two dollars a week."

"Okay, Pee Wee," I said. I gave him two dollars a week.

What was funny, on Monday nights a lot of the black musicians used to come in and they'd play and they wouldn't have to pay for anything. One of them, I think it was Eddie "Cleanhead" Vincent -- I'm trying to remember who this was -- saw this transaction with me giving Pee Wee two dollars and he said, "How much is he charging you? How much is that little (expletive) charging you?"

I said, "I give him two dollars a week."

He said, "You know that little (expletive) is prejudiced, man. He's prejudiced 'cause you're faded. He only charges us black cats a dollar!"

But, anyway, Pee Wee

was at Birdland all those years. Birdland closed in the late sixties, and I was walking down Broadway, going past Hawaii Kai, and there's Pee Wee Marquette of Birdland fame in a doorman's outfit, standing in front of the Hawaii Kai. I said, "Pee Wee! Hello!"

"Hi", he said.

"Pee Wee", I said, "don't you remember me?"

"Eh, you look familiar."

"Hey, Pee Wee. I used to pay you two dollars a week to pronounce my name properly at Birdland!"

So he thought for a minute. Then he said, "Well, give me two dollars and maybe I'll remember!"

*Johnny Morris is just one of many professional jazz musicians that have career experiences to relate. There are hundreds of stories out there, just waiting to be told.*

## Musical Tools for Schenectady Schools

Schenectady schools are seeking musical instruments for students who want to learn. Donations of used instruments are being accepted, and tax deductible receipts will be given to donors. For further information, or to donate instruments, con-

tact Karen Johnson at 382-3884 Ext. 114 or Steve Weisse at 346-4266.

"We know that many people have instruments around the house that are no longer being used. Dusting them off and put-

ting them in the hands of a young student would be an inspiring gift to the community and to a future musician."

—Mark Anthony, president of Musical union 85-133.



## Jazz Preview

**Feb. 7** Brian Patneaude CD release party. 8 p.m. Picotte Recital Hall, Massry Center for the Arts, College of Saint Rose, 1002 Madison Ave., Albany. \$10 (students with St. Rose ID admitted free). Call 434-6756 or go online at [www.brianpatneaude.com](http://www.brianpatneaude.com).

**Feb. 8.** Cassandra Wilson, The Egg, Albany 7:30 p.m. \$34.50. (518) 473-1845

**Feb. 14.** Jane Monheit. The Egg, Albany 8 p.m. \$28. (518) 473-1845

**Feb. 24.** (Mardi Gras) New Orleans Night with Skip Parsons' Riverboat Jazz Band. 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Best Western Motel, 1228 Western Ave. Albany. Fine Food. Cash bar. \$35. Call 618-1125 or email [crobinson@soverignhotels.com](mailto:crobinson@soverignhotels.com)

**March 6.** Madeleine Peyroux, The Egg, Albany 8 p.m. \$29.50 (518) 473-1845

**March 8.** Swingtime Jazz Society presents The Jazz Factor Stockade Inn. From 4-6 pm., with jam session to follow from 6 to 7 p.m. \$15. 346-3400.

**March 8.** The San Francisco Jazz Collective. The Egg 7 p.m. Joe Lovano, saxophones; Dave Douglas, Trumpet; Miguel

Zenón, alto saxophone, flute; Robin Eubanks, trombone; Renee Rosnes, piano; Matt Penman, bass; Eric Harland, drums. \$28 (518) 473-1845

**March 22 .** Cassandra Wilson, The Egg, Albany 7:30 p.m. \$34.50. (518) 473-1845

**April 3.** Terence Blanchard. Skidmore College. Time and site TBA

**April 9.** Proctors Theatre, Schenectady. Blue Note Records 70th Anniversary Tour. 8 PM. Bill Charlap, piano; Peter Bernstein, guitar; Ravi Coltrane, sax; Lewis Nash, drums; Nicholas Payton, trumpet; Peter Washington, bass; Steve Wilson, sax. \$20, \$32, \$36, \$40. (518) 346-6204

**April 21.** Empire Jazz Orchestra with guest soloist Curtis Fuller 8 p.m. Schenectady County Community College. \$15. (518) 381-1231

**April 25** Mark O'Connor. The Egg, Albany. 7:30 p.m. \$28. (518) 473-1845

**April 30-May 6.** Williamstown Jazz Festival. Williamstown, Mass. April 30. Film "Ben Hur" with live big band. '62 Center for Theatre and

Dance, Williams College. (413) 597-2425.

**May 1.** Gospel concert. 6:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church. Free.

**May 1.** Salsa dance party. Mass MOCA. North Adams. (413) 662-2111.

**May 1-2.** Intercollegiate Jazz Festival. '62 Center for Theatre and Dance.

**May 2.** Miguel Zenon Quartet. '62 Center for Theatre and Dance.

**May 6.** Vijay Ayer Trio. Clark Art Institute. (413) 662-2111.

### Keep An Eye Out for This Future Event

A Place for Jazz is planning a concert this summer at Music Haven in Schenectady's Central Park. It will be a free event to kick off next fall's concert series. To do it, we need both financial and physical help. If you can provide either or both, please contact Tim Coakley at 393-4011.

## Photos By Andrzej From the 2008 Season



Lee Russo



Ben Allison



Bill Charlap



Michael Blake and Steve Cardenas



Rodney Green and Ricardo Rodriguez

Andrzej "Andre" Pilarczyk (pilarphotog@yahoo.com) is a regional photographer who specializes in music related subjects and has photographed APFJ performances as a member of the press in the past and then later as our house photographer (since 2000) for over 20 years.



Kenny Washington



## Half Notes

### News About Members and Musicians



#### Jazz Cruisin'

APFJ members **Beverly Elander, Patti Melita, Tom and Uta Pierce, and Ruth and Al Sabo** recently spent a week on the high seas, on their annual Jazz Cruise. For seven sparkling days, they enjoyed the likes of **Wycliffe Gordon, Ken Peploski** and numerous other fine musicians. Ports of call were Key West, Cozumel and Belize. Contact any of these JazzCruise veterans for information about the Nov 2009 cruise.

#### Wishes and Prayers

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to local musician **Al Haugen**, as he recovers from heart surgery. We hope to hear his music, soon. Under the loving care of his wife, **Anita**, he is sure to be on the mend.

We regret the loss of APFJ supporter, and local photographer **Susan Rosenthal**. Her beautiful images will be etched in our hearts.

Also, we remember **David**

"**Fathead**" **Newman**, who lost a brave fight to pancreatic cancer. **Newman** played to a standing room only concert for APFJ, in 2007, and gave an unforgettable concert at SCCC, with the Empire Jazz Orchestra. He is best known as accompanying Ray Charles for many years.

#### New Music

Recent CD release parties were or will be held by **The Lee Shaw Trio** and **Brian Patneude**.



# APFJ Membership Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## *Membership Levels (Circle One)*

No Bread (But Want to Help)	\$20
Individual	\$30
Family	\$50
Supporter (+1 Series Ticket)	\$100
Patron (+2 Series Tickets)	\$250
Underwriter (+4 series Tickets)	\$500
Jazz Hero (5 Year membership +2 series tickets until 2011)	\$1,000

## \*\*\*\*\* Special Thanks \*\*\*\*\*

Norm Ainslie; Rob Aronstein; Ed August; C. Robie Booth; Joe Bowman; Al Brooks; Jody Shayne & Russ Brooks; Tim Coakley; College of St. Rose; Bob Cudmore; Evvie & Bob Currie; James & Margaret Cunningham; Peg & Bill Delaney; Jan Egry; Beverly Elander; The Goldberg Clan; Jerry Gordon; The Hamilton Hill Arts Center; The Hart Clan; Anita and Al Haugen; Leslie & Mark Hyland; Pete Jacobs; Barbara Kaiser; Mike and Rosemary Lategano; Peter Lesser; Eleanor Linberg; Chris Martin; Bill McCann; Gail & Bill Mattsson; Bill Meckley; Peg Miller; Bobbie Monterose; John & Donna Moroney; Yves Nazon; Brian Patneau; Tom Pierce; Kevin Roberts; Alice Rudnick; Schenectady County Community College; Joe Slomka & Claudia White; Randy Treece; Chris Waldron; Sharon Wesley; David Wilkinson

Thanks also to the *Daily Gazette* for their promotion of APFJ

*A Place for Jazz* is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to presenting the best in jazz. We receive funding from the Schenectady County Initiative Program well as from our ticket sales and membership contributions.

Programs include concerts, public workshops, school-based clinics, a Jazz website, and general support of Jazz and its musicians. We welcome announcements and comments.

Editor: *Tim Coakley*

Contributors: *Al Brooks, Tim Coakley, Jan Egry, Beverly Elander, Jerry Gordon, Tom Pierce*

Web Mensch: *Jerry Gordon*

Newsletter: *Chris Waldron*

*A Place for Jazz* PO Box 1059, Schenectady, NY 12301  
518 393-4011 [coakjazz@aol.com](mailto:coakjazz@aol.com)

Board of Directors

*Norm Ainslie, Al Brooks, Tim Coakley, Beverly Elander, Jerry Gordon, Al Haugen, Anita Haugen, Leslie Hyland, Mike Lategano, Bill McCann, Tom Pierce, Andrzej Pilarczyk, Alice Rudnick, Joe Slomka, Chris Waldron*

Calendar can be found at [www.aplaceforjazz.org](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org)

## Kudos Coakley and for APFJ

From *albanyjazz.com*:

**THE "LOCAL HERO" AWARD** (Concert Division) – **TIM COAKLEY** and his merry band at **A PLACE FOR JAZZ** gave the Capital Region yet another vibrant and diverse season, presenting **Bill**

**Charlap, the Lee Russo Quartet, Ben Allison & Man Size Safe, Joe Locke** (who got nosed out by Blanchard for the "Jazz Boomerang") and **Karrin Allyson**. Of all the venues jazz calls home in this area, APFJ remains in a class by itself


"Jazz is the only music in which the same note can be played night after night but differently each time."

Ornette Coleman

"Jazz is freedom. Now, you think about that."

Thelonious Monk



 *A Place for Jazz*  
PO Box 1059  
Schenectady, NY 12301

Funded in part by a grant from the Schenectady County Initiative Program



Check out our website <http://www.aplaceforjazz.org> for Jazz in our community Printed by Parcel Post Plus