

A PLACE FOR JAZZ

June 2009

Editor: Tim Coakley

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

Ready, Get Set . . . Swing!



by Tim Coakley

Not to rush you through the summer, but plans are already in place for the 2009 fall season of A Place for Jazz. So, as you enjoy the sounds and warmth of June, July and August, be sure to mark your calendar for another series of diverse and entertaining concerts at the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady.

Kicking off our season on **Sept. 11** will be the dynamic tenor saxophonist **Eric Alexander** and his quintet, featuring trombonist **Steve Davis**, in an evening of straight-ahead yet adventurous music.

On **Sept. 25**, the Latin-jazz quartet of pianist **Otmaro Ruiz** will take the stage to engage us with some scintillating rhythms and original compositions.

The incomparable vocalist **Tierney Sutton** and her dynamic trio will cast their spell over the Whisperdome **on October 9**. They have made several appearances in the region over the

last few years and have always delighted their audiences.

On **Oct. 23**, organist **Gene Ludwig** will bring his big-sounding trio to our stage, featuring guitarist **Dave Stryker**, who played so well with Karrin Allyson last fall.

Rounding out the year on **Nov. 6** will be one of the Capital Region's outstanding group of young players, the **Steve Lambert Sextet**. Those who attended the Schenectady Musical Union's bash in April will attest to the skill and professionalism of these fine players.

All concerts are at 8 p.m. on Friday. Membership and ticket order forms are inside. Be sure to make your plans now to enjoy our 22nd season of the best in jazz.

Check out our monthly calendar on our website at www.aplaceforjazz.org.

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

The management of APFJ continually strives to find ways to better serve the jazz lovers of the Capital District. Wouldn't it be good if we could get this newsletter in front of your eyes quicker? And if we could reduce our printing and postage costs, we wouldn't have to raise our concert prices.

So we're going to start to distribute this newsletter by e-mail to as many of you as possible. We'll continue to mail it to the non-techies among you, but if you've got a computer, please give us your e-mail address. It's really quite simple: Just go to aplaceforjazz.org and complete the simple form that's right on the home page. Do it now, because we're going to start with the next issue in August. Thank you for your cooperation.



EMPIRE JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Symphonies In Riffs

By Tom Pierce

(reprinted with the permission of www.albanyjazz.com)

What's so special about big bands in jazz? Some younger music fans who became enamored with jazz long after the big band era, might ask this question, while pointing out the numerous extraordinary recordings and live performances in the post-swing years by many smaller groups. However, these lovers of the unique charm and intimacy possible in duos and trios, as well as the freedom and extended individual soloing opportunities in quartets and quintets, would do well to give a close listen to this latest (fourth) CD by the Empire Jazz Orchestra, for a fine example of the richly layered and dynamic possibilities unique to big bands.

Music director Bill Meckley chose a wide range of excellent material for the concert this live recording documents, encompassing the major styles of orchestral jazz from the 1920's to the finest contemporary artists. The opening title track is one of two works by the incredibly talented composer/arranger/trumpeter/saxophonist Benny Carter. His magnificent contributions spanned eight decades, from 1922 up to the dawn of the new millennium, before his passing at 95 in 2003. That sprightly syncopated title piece

written in 1933 and performed here with brief solos by five different band members, contrasts interestingly with the other Carter inclusion, "The Legend" from 1961. It features post be-bop influences, with exciting solos by Steve Lambert and Brian Patneaude.

The CD also includes compositions by two other important early Jazz innovators - Fletcher Henderson and Don Redman. Henderson, whose preeminent all-star orchestra started in 1923, actually predating Duke Ellington's 1927 initial recording, is represented with a jaunty romp of his "The Stampede" (1926), highlighted by Kevin Barcomb and Peter Bellino solos. Closely allied in the early 1920's with Henderson was his chief writer, reedman Don Redman, long considered the virtual inventor of big band arranging. The EJO ensemble offers a surrealistic, medium tempo version of Redman's hauntingly imaginative 1940 "Cupid's Nightmare".

The two most rousing, straight ahead swingers are the exuberant Louis Prima's rollicking 1933 standard, "Sing, Sing, Sing", sparked here by the virile drumming of Bob Halek; and the very popular "Time Check", a favorite of fans of the Buddy Rich orchestra. This tune, written by passionate saxophonist/

composer Don Menza, is now especially poignant with the intense guitar solo of the recently departed virtuoso, Jack Fragomeni.

Fans of the celebrated modern composer/band leader Maria Schneider will no doubt enjoy her sophisticated 1994 "Wrygrly", inspired by her unusual fascination with monsters. Its ensemble complexity is warmly complemented by bracing solos from Brian Patneaude, Gary Barrow and Jack Fragomeni. Despite the inclusion of all these engaging pieces by the aforementioned renowned composers (plus one by the provocative genius, Charles Mingus), this observer found himself most repeatedly drawn to the highly moving, extended saga "The Gate: A Portrait of the Mohawk", by the talented local young composer/bandleader Keith Pray.

Lastly, for Jazz vocal lovers, no performance by this remarkable professional repertory ensemble based at Schenectady County Community College, would be complete without Colleen Pratt. Her poise, precision and power is a delightful match for the orchestra's swinging backing on "Too Close For Comfort" (evoking Joe Williams' joyous 1955 version with Count Basie) and Irving Berlin's classic, "Cheek to Cheek".



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

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, Colonie, 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 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.

Sad Losses in the Jazz Community

JACK FRAGOMENI

One of the Capital Region's outstanding musicians, guitarist Jack Fragomeni, passed away on April 4. He was only 57, and leaves an enormous musical legacy.

Jack was a graduate of Mont Pleasant High School and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the College of St. Rose, where he taught, as well as teaching at Schenectady County Community College.



Jack Fragomeni

Over the years, Jack learned from and played with jazz greats like Nick Brignola, Atilla Zoller and Bucky Pizzarelli. We heard him in so many venues, including the Van Dyck, the Grog Shoppe and the Stockade Inn. He was part of several memorable concerts by the Empire Jazz

Orchestra and teamed up with pianist Lee Shaw for a rousing conclusion to the 2006 season of A Place for Jazz.

Besides his mother, Jack is survived by his wife of 18 years, Roswita (Apkarian) Fragomeni; his brothers, Mark L. Fragomeni of Malta and Father Richard Fragomeni of Chicago; his nephews, Michael and Jason Fragomeni and Jacob Apkarian; and nieces, Nicole Fragomeni and Sophie Apkarian.

JERRY PORTER

Longtime jazz fan and singer Jerry Porter died this year at the age of 80.



Jerry Porter

Jerry was among the fourth generation of six historic generations of Albany residents. He retired from the NYS Division of

Professional Licensing after 30 years service in the State Education Dept. Many people saw his image on the television spots for St. Peter's Hospital.

After his retirement, Jerry spent a year touring with the Spots and was an enthusiastic participant at jazz festivals and jazz cruises. We can remember him telling us with enthusiasm about the Philadelphia Jazz festival, and what a good time he had there.

He was also one of the founding members of the Swingtime Jazz Society, which is dedicated to promoting concerts by Capital Region performers. Jerry was often in the audience at A Place for Jazz concerts, and he will surely be missed on the jazz scene.

Jerry is survived by his wife, K. Sue Updike- Porter; his children, Gerald L. Porter III, Patricia Porter, Joseph B. Porter, Esq., Julia Porter, and by his brother, Anthony Gooding. Jerry is also survived by grandsons, David Bering- Porter, Alexander Montalbano and Benjamin Montalbano.

It's Deductible!

In 2008, APFJ became a not-for-profit 501C-3 organization. What this means to you, our patrons, is important in the fact that all direct contributions

are now tax deductible. Memberships to APFJ are partially included, that is, the level of membership minus the value of the tickets, is deductible. For

example, a \$100 Supporter Level minus the \$60 Series Ticket value leaves \$40 as a tax deductible contribution.



Summertime Jazz

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

55 Fenn St., Pittsfield, Mass.
(413) 442-7718.

July 7. 7:30pm. American Jazz
Repertory Orchestra
\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
(\$15 for students)

FREEDOM PARK, SCOTIA

All concerts 7 p.m. Free.

July 9 — April Marie

July 11 — Brian Patneau
Quintet

July 22 — The Joey Thomas Big
Band

July 30 — Keith Pray

Aug. 1 — Sensemaya-Latin
Jazz

Aug. 19 — Doc Spring's Dixie-
land Band

Aug. 20 — Signature Brass
FREIHOFFER'S JAZZ FESTIVAL

Saratoga Performing Arts Cen-
ter, Saratoga Springs

Saturday, June 27, noon — Patti
LaBelle, Pat Metheny, Steve

Swallow, Antonio Sanchez,
Jimmy Cobb's So What Band ,

Dred Scott Trio, Wallace
Roney Quintet, John Ellis Quar-
tet. \$62.50, \$52, \$41.50, \$5.

Sunday, June 28, noon —
George Benson, Dave Brubeck

Quartet, Bonerama, Aaron
Parks, Julian Lage. \$56, \$49,

\$41.50, \$5.

Tickets at SPAC Web site at
www.spac.org or (518) 584-
9330.

JAZZ IN THE VALLEY

West Park, Ulster County, Aug.
14-16; Tickets: Before June 30,

\$35; After June 30, \$45; at the
door, \$50. (845) 384-6350 or

info@transartinc.org

Ron Carter Trio with Russell

Malone and Mulgrew Miller
Javon Jackson Band featuring
Les McCann, Eddie Palmieri,
Kevin Mahogany
JAZZ ON JAY

Thursdays, Noon to 1:30. Jay
Street, Schenectady. Free. Rain
location Robb Alley of Proctors.

June 4 — Colleen Pratt &
Friends

June 11 — Al Haugen & Friends

June 18 — Yuko Kishimoto Trio

June 25 — Dino Cimino

July 2 — Linda Brown & Air-
waves

July 9 — Patti Melita & the Hip
Hooligans

July 16 — Keith Pray Quintet

July 23 — Azzaam Hameed w/
Annette Harris & Ron Mayfield

July 30 — Troika

August 6 — Paul Mastriani &
Friends

August 13 — Terry Gordon
Quartet

August 20 — Tim Coakley Trio

August 27 — Tim Olsen Trio

LAKE GEORGE JAZZ WEEK- END

Shepard Park, Lake George Vil-
lage/Rain site: Lake George

High School Free

Sat., Sept. 19

1 p.m. - Bill Mays Inventions
Trio

2:45 p.m. - Ignacio Berroa Quar-
tet

4:30 p.m. - Giacomo Gates

8 p.m. - Christian Sciott Quintet

Sun., Sept. 20

1 p.m. - Roland Vasquez Quin-
tet

2:45 p.m. - Steve Turre Quintet

4:30 p.m. - Diane Moser's Com-
posers Big Band

SKIDMORE SUMMER JAZZ INSTITUTE

Skidmore College, Saratoga
Springs Free

June 30 - 8 p.m. Bernhard
Theater - Gerald Clayton Quin-
tet

July 2 - 8 p.m. Bernhard Theater
- Faculty Jazz Sextet

July 7 - 8 p.m. Bernhard Theater
- Jonathan Batiste Quintet

July 9 - 8 p.m. Bernhard Theater
- Faculty Jazz Sextet

July 3 and 10 - Filene Recital
Hall - Student concerts

TANGLEWOOD JAZZ WEEKEND

Lenox, Mass.

Sept. 4 - 8 p.m. -- An Evening
with Paquito d'Rivera

Sept. 5 - 2 p.m. - "Radio Deluxe"
with John Pizzarelli and Jessica
Molaskey

Sept. 5 - 8 p.m. - Regina Carter
Quartet with Nnenna Freelon,

Harolyn Blackwell and Mike
Garson

Sept. 6 - 2 p.m. - Kenny Barron
and Mulgrew Miller

The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra

Sept. 6 - 8 p.m. - John Faddis
and History of Jazz Trumpet

Dave Holland Sextet

Call (617) 266-1200 or (800)
266-1200 for tickets and further
information.



2009 Ticket Order Form



Concert	Quantity	Price	Total
September 11 Eric Alexander and his quintet, featuring trombonist Steve Davis ,		\$15	
September 25 Otmaro Ruiz		\$15	
October 9 Tierney Sutton		\$15	
October 23 Gene Ludwig Trio featuring guitarist Dave Stryker ,		\$15	
November 6 Steve Lambert Sextet		\$15	
Complete Concert Series (offer good until Sept. 1)		\$60	

NEA Announces 2010 Jazz Masters

The pianist **Kenny Barron**, below, the producer **George Avakian** and **Annie Ross**, of the vocal group Lambert, Hendricks & Ross, were among eight recipients announced in May of the National Endowment for the Arts 2010 Jazz Masters Awards.

The organization said it had also selected the composer and musician **Yusef Lateef**; the pianist **Muhai Richard Abrams**; the vibraphonist **Bobby Hutcherson**; the composer and arranger **Bill Holman**; and the pianist and composer **Cedar Walton** for the honor

Avakian, who has produced records by Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis, among others, will receive an award for jazz advocacy. Each winner will receive a grant of \$25,000 and will be honored at a ceremony on Jan. 12 at Jazz at Lincoln Center.



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 & Al Haugen; Leslie & Mark Hyland; Pete Jacobs; Barbara Kaiser; Mike & 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

Going Digital

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*

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Board of Directors


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Calendar can be found at www.aplaceforjazz.org

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