

# A PLACE FOR JAZZ

September 2009

Editor: Tim Coakley

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



## Off and Running

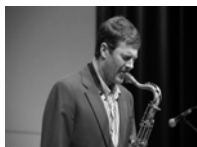
by Norm Ainslie

**A Place for Jazz** announces its **2009 Concert Series**, which begins on Friday, September 11, and continues every other Friday through November 6. All concerts are at 8 p.m. at the Whisperdome, in the First Unitarian Society at 1221 Wendell Ave. in Schenectady. For ticket details, see Page 7. To become a member or to order tickets, call 518-393-4011, email [coak-jazz@aol.com](mailto:coak-jazz@aol.com), print an order form from [www.aplaceforjazz.org](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org), or write to PO Box 1059, Schenectady 12301.

Started in 1987 by Butch Conn, *A Place for Jazz* has brought hundreds of nationally known jazz musicians to the area for concerts, workshops and clinics.

### The 2009 Schedule:

#### **Eric Alexander Quintet - Friday, Sept. 11, 8 pm**



Dynamic tenor saxophonist Alexander will be joined by trombonist Steve Davis to round out a quintet, which is sure to deliver an evening of straight-

ahead yet adventurous music Influenced by Dizzy, Sonny Stitt, Clifford Brown, Sonny Rollins and others, Alexander has been critically acclaimed by all sides of the jazz community.

#### **Otmaro Ruiz Quartet - Friday, Sept. 25, 8 pm**



Latin-jazz pianist Otmaro Ruiz will front a quartet that features versatility. He has a wide-ranging style, which includes classical and Latin influences, with solos that run the gamut, from Monk and Peterson to Chopin and Piazzolla, with South American rhythms.

#### **Tierney Sutton Trio - Friday, Oct. 9, 8 pm**

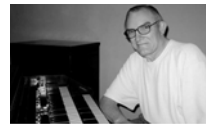
Tierney Sutton possesses one of the loveliest, most supple voices in jazz and her trio specializes in refreshing new arrangements of songs from the jazz canon. In 2005, she was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Jazz Vocal Album and won



JazzWeek's Vocalist of the Year Award.

#### **Gene Ludwig Trio - Friday, Oct. 23, 8 pm**

As Downbeat Magazine says, "Gene Ludwig is one of jazz's premier Hammond B-3 organists. His music comes clean and straight, mad with swing and pure logic." He will appear with guitarist Dave Stryker, who played so well with Karrin Allyson last fall at A Place for Jazz.



#### **Steve Lambert Sextet - Friday, Nov. 6, 8 pm**

Steve Lambert, born and raised in Schenectady, has been playing trumpet professionally in the capital region for over 10 years. His sextet features some of the top jazz players in the Capital District and their sets always create musical excitement, from bebop to the beyond.



## CD Review: Eric Alexander — “Dead Center”

By Tom Pierce

On Sept 11, jazz fans will be able to catch live at the Whispardome one the most acclaimed & popular saxophonists of his generation. His 18<sup>th</sup> CD (of 30 as a leader), the 2004 “Dead Center” on High Note Records demonstrates why many feel he embodies the best of the “Old” (seminal artists such as Coleman Hawkins & Ben Webster) and the “New” (modern harmony players like John Coltrane & George Coleman). The song choices reflect an interest-

ing mix of composers, tempos, and moods. Four of the tunes are seldom heard, but very engaging compositions by superior instrumentalists: Herbie Hancock’s buoyant “Sonrisa”, a waltz “Search for Peace” by McCoy Tyner, guitarist Pat Martino’s driving, straight ahead “Dead Center” and pianist Mabe Bern’s funky but melodic reference to his hometown, “A Few Miles From Memphis”.

Two standards by the memorable songwriting team, Lerner & Lowe, “Almost Like Being in Love” and “I Could Have Danced all Night” are both taken at delightfully lilting tempos; while the Sammy Cahn-Jule Styne gem, “I’s Magic” is a rendered as an hypnotic ballad. Alexander’s own, bluesy “One for Steve” is presumably dedicated to his frequent recording partner, trombonist Steve Davis, a featured member of his band on Sept 11.

### Half Notes

#### EJO Presents Ol’ Blue-Eyes

The **Empire Jazz Orchestra**, the outstanding big band based at the Schenectady County Community College, will present its fall concert on Tuesday, Oct. 20. This year’s performance is titled “Sinatra, a Legacy in Song” and will feature the band playing tunes associated with him, along with vocals by Colleen Pratt and Bobbie Van Detta. Tickets are \$15, \$6 for students. Ticket information is available at (518) 381-1231.

#### DIVA and (much) more

The all-woman big band **DIVA** will appear at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, in the Massry Center for the Arts at the College of Saint Rose in Albany. They will be playing music by the great Johnny Mandel, who

wrote such wonderful songs as “The Shadow of your Smile,” “Emily” and the “Theme from M\*A\*S\*H.”

Not only that, **Mandel** will be there in person! And, as if that weren’t enough, singing his great songs with **DIVA** will be **Ann Hampton Calloway!** Tickets are \$25 and may be reserved online at [www.strose.edu](http://www.strose.edu) or by calling (518) 458-5391. Also, Dave Brubeck is slated for Oct. 14 at Saint Rose.

#### CDS by local artists

**Lee Shaw** and her trio, with Rich Syracuse, bass, and Jeff Siegel, drums, recently released their latest CD, “Blossom,” recorded last year during their successful European tour. Saxophonist **Keith Pray** and his Big Soul Ensemble, which plays

every month at Tess’ Lark Tavern in Albany, is finishing recording a CD in September, which should be available in late fall.

And trumpeter **Steve Lambert** is also wrapping up a recording, which should be out this fall as well. It will be called “May” and will feature the band he’ll be leading at our Nov. 6 concert (Brian Patneude, Keith Pray, Mike Delprete, Dave Solazzo and Joe Barna). In fact, our last concert this year will be Steve’s CD release party!

Other CDs this year included ones by Michael Benedict’s “The Next Phase,” Patricia Dalton’s “Frim Fram Sauce,” The Empire Jazz Orchestra’s “Symphonies in Riffs,” Mitch Kessler’s “Erratica,” Rob Lindquist’s “Old Roads...New Paths” and Brian Patneude’s “Riverview.”



# 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

**WABY 1160 AM** Chris Martin, Make Believe Ballroom, Sat.-Sun. 11-4

**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** 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.

**Swingtime presents**  
***A String of Pearls***



The Swingtime Jazz Society will present *A String of Pearls* in concert at the Stockade Inn, 1 North Church St. in Schenectady, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 18. The concert will be followed by a jam session from 6 to 7 p.m. Musicians are invited to bring their instruments. A food and drink menu will be available. Admission is \$15. Reservations and further information are available at 346-3400.

*A String of Pearls* is a female jazz vocal trio that performs vintage "girl group" music and modern vocal jazz with swing, style, and superb musicality.

Sue Halloran, Jeanne O'Connor and Holli Ross were all working as professional solo singers in New York when they were brought together to perform at a

nostalgia-oriented concert. Since then the group has created a sophisticated repertoire that ranges from authentic recreations of Boswell Sisters songs from the 1930s to adventurous original jazz vocal arrangements. The Pearls' charming show can move from Andrews Sisters to Sinatra, Basie, Brazilian, bebop, and pop.

Holli, Jeanne, and Sue have brought their harmonies to festivals, concerts, and clubs in the U.S. and abroad. The group has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. as part of the Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival. In its New York home region, the group has appeared in the JVC Jazz Festival, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, The Manhattan Center, and the Battleship Intrepid.

The "Pearls" have recently been on the bill at Sweet Rhythm,

Shanghai Jazz, and the Blue Note. *String of Pearls* has taken part in the well-known "Lyrics and Lyricists" program at the 92nd Street Y, the annual Jazz Nativity, the New York Cabaret Convention, and the Millbrook and Mohonk Jazz Festivals. Recently the group has appeared at the Cape Cod Jazz Festival, and the Provincetown Cabaret Festival.

The trio has made appearances in Munich nightclubs, summer festivals in France, and nightclubs and concert halls throughout Japan. *String of Pearls* has released Cds in the U.S. and abroad, including "Gems," a swinging collection of jazz classics, and "Brazilian Jewels." The group's bossa nova version of "Sukiyaki" reached the top 100 on the Tokyo FM radio charts. *String of Pearls* is currently working on a live recording.

## Renowned Jazz Critic to Speak at SCCC



On Thursday, Oct. 22, **Gary Giddins**, acclaimed music critic and biographer will present *An Evening with Gary Giddins* in the Taylor Auditorium at the Schenectady County Community College. The event will start at 7:30 p.m. and is free.

Giddins, a longtime contributor to the *Village Voice*, received the National Book Critics Circle Award for his book "Visions of

Jazz" (1998).

His most recent work is "Jazz" (with Scott DeVeaux, 2009), a vivid history of the musical form over the last 100 years. Giddins is also the author of noteworthy books on Bing Crosby, Charlie Parker, and Louis Armstrong.

Giddins was kind enough to contribute his tribute to the late Nick Brignola for our own Peg

Delaney's book "Solo Transcriptions by Nick Brignola," which is used by professionals, colleges and high schools. Peg feels it helps complete Nick's history and gives the readers a few perspectives on the man and player. She says, "Giddins' history with Nick goes as far back as when he was in college. You get a strong sense of the admiration he had for Nick."



# Jazz Festivals

## Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival

**Sat. Sept. 12** --- The Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival is held along the banks of the Hudson River in downtown Albany. This free public concert is at the Riverfront Park Amphitheater in the Corning Preserve. In case of rain, the performance is held a few blocks away at the Palace Theater on the corner of Clinton Ave. and N. Pearl St. Look for the **A Place for Jazz** booth, with information on our group and this year's concert series.

- **Lee Shaw Trio** –  
12:30-1:15 p.m.
- **Dan Loomis Quartet** –  
1:45-2:45 p.m.
- The **Dirty Dozen Brass Band** – 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- **Lizz Wright** –  
4:45-5:45 p.m.
- ♦ **Joe Lovano** Us Five –  
6:15-7:30 p.m.

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*

## 2009 Tanglewood Jazz Festival

Tickets are available through Tanglewood's website, [www.tanglewood.org](http://www.tanglewood.org) and through SymphonyCharge at 888-266-1200.

**Friday, September 4**, 8 p.m.  
An Evening with **Paquito d'Rivera**  
\$41/\$48/\$59/lawn \$17

**Saturday, September 5**, 2 p.m.  
"Radio Deluxe" with **John Pizzarelli** and **Jessica Molaskey**  
Live taping for national radio broadcast with special guests TBA  
\$32/\$40/\$55/lawn \$18

**Saturday, September 5**, 8 p.m.  
**Regina Carter Quartet**  
"Reverse Thread"  
"Dreaming the Duke" with **Nnenna Freelon**, Harolyn Blackwell, and Mike Garson  
\$45/\$60/\$75/lawn \$19

**Sunday, September 6**, 2 p.m.  
Piano Duet with **Kenny Barron** and **Mulgrew Miller**  
Vanguard Jazz Orchestra  
\$32/\$40/\$55/lawn \$18

**Sunday, September 6**, 8 p.m.  
"A Triumph of Trumpets" with the **Jon Faddis Quartet** and special guests TBA  
**Dave Holland**  
\$41/\$48/\$59/lawn \$17

## Lake George Jazz Weekend

**Sat.-Sun., Sept. 19-20** --- The Lake George Jazz Weekend is a free event in Shepard Park on Canada Street in the village. The rain site is the Lake George High School Auditorium.

**Sept. 19:**

**Bill Mays Inventions Trio** --  
1 - 2:15 p.m.

**Ignacio Berroa Quartet** ---  
2:45 - 4 p.m.

**Giacomo Gates** ---  
4:30 p.m.

**Sept. 20:**

**Roland Vasquez Quintet** --  
1 - 2:15 p.m.

**Steve Turre Quintet** ---  
2:45 - 4 p.m.

**Diane Moser's Composer's Big Band** --- 4:30 p.m.





## Historic Van Dyck Reopens

by Beverly Elander

(Reprinted with alterations by permission)

In its heyday, Schenectady's Van Dyck was synonymous with fine jazz: Bucky Pizzarelli, Red Norvo, Lee Shaw, Earl Hines and my beloved Dave McKenna. I recall walking to the Van Dyck on a sweet-scented warm spring Tuesday evening, sidling up to the table nearest the piano, and swooning over McKenna's artistry. Sometimes, he would play my then favorite "Emily" without prompting.

Marvin Friedman opened the restaurant in 1947 and watched over it like a benevolent uncle. But when he died, the establishment changed hands at least twice, and despite renovations, eventually neglect brought the once grand jazz venue to its knees. Not even the new 65-foot mahogany bar (the club's original circular oak bar from the 1800s, which came from the historic Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga Springs, was moved up to the second floor, where it will continue to hold court), 18-foot skylight, and a brewery could save the Van Dyck from closing its doors.

Enter the McDonalds. With the successful renovation and re-establishment of both Pin-

head's and the Stockade Inn to their credit, the McDonald family purchased the forlorn Van Dyck with the intent of restoring it as a historical building in the Stockade, as well as returning the establishment to a place where fine food, service and music are presented in an equally fine neighborhood.

Before its grand opening Jeff McDonald invited me in for a look at the new roof, relocated restrooms, and the relocated staircase in the entryway, as well as the mostly cosmetic redesign (mosaic tiles in the entryway, glass tiles on the fireplace, new carpeting). Landscaping the patio was to follow, and Jeff expects the brewery will eventually be brought back to life.

The menu—which will include gourmet pizzas and panini—will be essentially the same regardless of where the customer dines, lounge area or one of the dining rooms, except for slightly lighter fare on the second floor, where most of the entertainment (both local and national jazz, blues, comedy) will be held.

According to Jeff, the Van Dyck promises to be "an historical building with a comfortable feel." He expects it to be "what people want," offering a little of the best of both already established venues. The McDonalds are aware that the Van Dyck is an entrance to the Historic Stockade, and they believe it will be worthy of this lovely neighborhood. Said Jeff: "The Van Dyck will make the Stockade an even more attractive place for residents."

The new black awning with gold lettering will be a fitting welcome for the "Early Hollywood" themed Soiree guests on September 13, as well as heralding the Van Dyck as the "gateway to the Stockade and a bridge from downtown."

*(Editor's note: While the entertainment at the Van Dyck will include more than jazz, three events so far have been promising: Sonny and Perley gave an excellent performance this summer, young violinist Jonathan Russell made a hit with Doc Scanlon's band, and vocalist Colleen Pratt launched the first of what are to be regular appearances on the third Thursday of each month.)*



**2009 Ticket Order Form**

Concert	Number	Price	Total
<i>September 11</i> <b>Eric Alexander</b> and his quintet, featuring trombonist <b>Steve Davis</b>		\$15	
<i>September 25</i> <b>Otmaro Ruiz</b>		\$15	
<i>October 9</i> <b>Tierney Sutton</b>		\$15	
<i>October 23</i> <b>Gene Ludwig Trio</b> featuring guitarist <b>Dave Stryker</b>		\$15	
<i>November 6</i> <b>Steve Lambert Sextet</b>		\$15	

**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)                 \$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; Media Well Done, Peg Miller; Bobbie Monterose; John & Donna Moroney; Yves Nazon; Brian Patneaud; Tom Pierce; Kevin Roberts; Alice Rudnick; Schenectady County Community College; Joe Slomka & Claudia White; The Stockade Inn, Randy Treece; Chris Waldron; Sharon Wesley; David Wilkinson

Thanks also to the **Schenectady County Initiative Program, the New York State Council on the Arts** and **National Grid** for their generous support.

*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, the NYS Council on the Arts, and National Grid, as well as 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.

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

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*A Place for Jazz*

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