

A PLACE FOR JAZZ

March 2010

Editor: Tim Coakley

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



It Might as Well be Swing

by *Tim Coakley*

Although spring is almost upon us, A Place for Jazz is looking ahead to fall, and has prepared an outstanding concert series for 2010. We hope that this year's concerts will be as successful and well-received as last year's. Here is what we have in store for you this fall.

On **Sept. 10**, one of the legends of jazz, alto saxophonist **Lou Donaldson** will kick off our season. From his early recordings with Milt Jackson and Thelonious Monk, and the famous "A Night at Birdland" with Art Blakey and Clifford Brown, Lou Donaldson has had a long and distinguished career.

His latest quartet is sure to get our season off to a brilliant start.

On **Sept. 24**, guitarist **Mike Moreno** and his quartet will bring a mixture of standards and originals to our stage. He has played with Joshua

Redman, Terence Blanchard, Wynton Marsalis and others. His debut CD was "Between the Lines," with a follow-up CD on Criss Cross. He also plays on Capitol Region saxophonist Brian Patneude's CD "River View."

Capital Region favorites **Nat Phipps**, piano (see Page 4) and **Jeanne O'Connor**, vocals, are two of our local heroes. On **Oct. 8**, they will bring their swinging stylings to the First Unitarian Society, backed by an outstanding bassist and drummer.

On **Oct. 22**, we have **A Pair of Threes**; two unique trios. Pianist **Bruce Barth** will play the first half of the concert with Gregg August, bass, and Rudy Royston, drums. Barth has made three solo piano tours of Japan, and has also performed with his trio throughout the United States and Europe. All About Jazz has described his trio as

"marked by keen empathy, sensitivity, and power."

The brilliant young saxophonist **J.D. Allen** will take the stage for the second half with the same fiery rhythm section. His first CD, "In Search Of," won him the Best New Artist in Italy that year. His follow-up release, "Pharaohs Children," was one of Jazziz magazine's Critics Picks Top 10 Albums of 2001.

Finally, in the centennial year of the great guitarist Django Reinhardt, we close out our season on **Nov. 5** with **The Hot Club of Detroit**. The group specializes in performing the repertoire of Reinhardt, and a whole lot more. The group includes the amazing Julian Labro on button accordion, and is a four-time winner of Detroit Music Awards: Best Traditional Jazz Group.

Ahora, Latin/Jazz! 2010 Season

A Place for Jazz is proud to join Dr. Jose Cruz as a co-sponsor as he continues his Latin jazz concert series for 2010 as part of Jazz Appreciation Month. This important series gives listeners new insights into this influential tributary into the great river of jazz.

The schedule:

April 16: The Jazz/Latino All Stars (several of whom have performed at A Place for Jazz): Ray Vega, trumpet; Chris Washburne, trombone; Hilary Noble, sax; Nicki Denner, piano; Jennifer Vincent, bass; Wilson

"Chembo" Corniel, congas; Willie Martinez, drums. At the Whisperdome, First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Ave. 8 p.m. Tickets \$20; \$10 for students

April 23: "The role of the flute in Afro-Cuban music." lecture and musical performance by **Andrea Brachfeld**. Humanities 354, University at Albany. 7:30 pm, \$15; \$5 students

May 1: "Secrets of the Latin bass." Lecture by **David Ambrosio** and musical performance by **Grupo Los Santos**. Assembly Hall, University at Al-

bany 7:30 pm, \$15; \$5 students

May 14: "Doc Cheatham, A portrait in jazz and Latin," multimedia presentation with commentary and musical performance by **Ray Vega** with Ray Alexander, piano; Erik Johnson, bass; and Pete Sweeney, drums. Emerson Auditorium, Union College, 7:30pm, \$15; \$5 students and Union College faculty

Season tickets are \$50; \$15 students. For tickets, information, and updates visit www.jazzlatino.org, e-mail info@jazzlatino.org, or call 518-466-9990

She's Ba-a-a-ck!

Barbara Kaiser, creator and host of "Jazz & ..." on WRPI, is back now on the Internet. Barbara is broadcasting on

www.live365.com/stations/jazzand. "It is a new venture and it's very interesting", says Bar-

bara. "The program plays in a 3-hour loop 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. So, if you wake up at 3 a.m. and want to play it, it's there." Barbara's eclectic programming integrates classic jazz artists such as John Coltrane, Louis

Armstrong, Dave Brubeck and Ella Fitzgerald as well as new artists such as Tierney Sutton and Stacey Kent. However you never know when you will hear Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits or Bob Dylan as well.

Words on Music

Some excellent books on jazz have come out recently, a couple of which shed new insights on two jazz icons.

"**Pops**" by Terry Teachout, published by Houghton Mifflin, tells the story of Louis Armstrong, from his boyhood in New Orleans to his great days in the 1920s and leading his big band to the days of Ambassador Satch, when he brought American jazz around the world.

Teachout has a clear, uncluttered writing style, and he tells us some things we might not have known before about this beloved American figure.

His happy exterior was only part of the story.

"**Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original**," by Robin D. G. Kelley (Simon and Schuster), is a really

thorough account of the unique pianist and composer, who was often written about as much for his seeming eccentric behavior as for his music. Kelley reveals that Monk was probably bipolar, which was a diagnosis unknown in his day.

There's also much information about the whole jazz scene in New York during the 1940s and '50s. This is a superior read.



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

The Linda, 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

The Van Dyck, 237 Union St, Schenectady, 348-7999

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

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



R A D I O J A Z Z

WVCR 88.3 FM "The Crossroads of Jazz." Saturday from noon. to 2 p.m. with a mix of the Essentials and the Contemporary . Hosted by Darrin Scott and Ted Moises.

WCDB 90.9 FM Bill McCann, Saturday 8 am to 12 noon; 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 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.

Pianist-Educator Nat Phipps

Local Treasure with a National Reputation

By Tom Pierce

One of the artists slated to perform at the 2010 A Place for Jazz concert series is pianist Nat Phipps. Capitol District Jazz lovers have long been very familiar with his excellent playing at countless venues in the area, and can vouch for the swinging, talented, classy presence he projects.

But most are unaware of the extent of his highly respected NATIONAL career, in Newark N.J. and elsewhere dating back to the 1950s leading acclaimed bands with many well-known players.

Phipps is a member of Newark New Jersey's "First Family of Jazz," with at least six accomplished musicians (including his twin brother, saxophonist Bill Phipps), extending from the 1930s up to today. In addition

to being popular performers in Newark, they were key members of bands led by famous Jazz players touring extensively in this country.

Nat, an extraordinary pianist who also is an effective vocalist, led a renowned local big band in the 1950s that over time included such well-known players as Wayne Shorter,



Grachan Moncur III, Chris White, Bobby Thomas, Reggie Workman, Tom McIntosh and others. Noted saxophonist

Wayne Shorter's recent biography describes Nat's big band in very positive terms, as it was quite influential to his development.

In addition, Nat has accompanied Al Hibbler, Betty Carter and Moms Mabley, among others. He also spent an extended period of time with internationally acclaimed vocalist Little Jimmy Scott, as well as scores of locally talented singers.

He has recorded on the Cool and Savoy record labels. In the Capitol District, where he's raised a family, he's been a well-known, respected educator at several universities and colleges, in addition to an active playing career in his own bands and a wide variety of others.

McCann Marks 25 Years on the Air

Bill McCann, a board member of A Place for Jazz, has been hosting The Saturday Morning Edition Of Jazz for the past 25 years on WCDB 90.9 in Albany. In addition to his entertaining and informative style, he plays some great jazz and interviews members of the local jazz community.

On **Saturday, April 17**, he will

host an all-day music bash at the University at Albany campus, starting at noon .

Playing during the day at times to be announced will be the Peg Delaney Quintet, Brian Patneude Quartet, Colleen Pratt and Friends, the Troika Trio, the Lee Shaw Trio and Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble.

The event is free, and those who stop by will have a chance to enjoy some music and maybe pick up a T-shirt to mark the occasion.



Jazz Appreciation Month

Several events are on tap for April to observe Jazz Appreciation Month, as we celebrate the music and performers of this dynamic art form. Here are a few of them; other April events are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

On **Sunday, April 11**, the Schenectady Musical Union, Local 85-133, will present some of the area's top musicians in a free after-noon of music at The Muddy Cup, in the Proctors Arcade, Schenectady. The afternoon will be dedicated to the late guitarist Jack Fragomeni.

Scheduled to perform are bassist Steve LaSpina and guitarist Mitch Seidman, pianist Yuko Kishimoto, Mike Benedict's Jazz Vibes, the new Joe Barna Quartet, and others. Check our Web site,

www.aplaceforjazz.org, for further performers as the date approaches. Information will also be available at www.albanyjazz.com, the daily newspapers, and the jazz radio shows listed elsewhere in this newsletter.



On **Tuesday, April 13**, The Empire Jazz Orchestra, directed by Bill Meckley, will give its spring concert at Schenectady County

Community College. The guest soloist will be trumpeter Vince DiMartino. Call 318-1231 for information and tickets.

On **Friday, April 16**, saxophonist Joshua Redman and pianist Brad Mehldau will perform in the brand-new Zankel Music Center auditorium at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs.



One County, One Book Selection Has Jazz Theme

The Schenectady County Public Library's One County, One Book group read for this year is "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet," by Jamie Ford. In it, a young Chinese-American meets a jazz saxophonist in the

1940s and forms a lifelong friendship and love of jazz.

The author will appear at the Schenectady County Community College on **Saturday, March 27**. His appearance will be accompanied by the Al

Haugen Quartet. In addition, as part of the programs being built around the book, local jazz pianist Yuko Kishimoto will play in the library's McChesney Room on the evening of **Friday, April 16**.



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

Two Centennials in May

Mary Lou Williams May 8, 1910

Born Mary Elfrieda Scruggs in Atlanta, she grew up in Pittsburgh.

In 1924, age 14 she was taken on the Orpheum Circuit. In 1927 she married saxophonist John Williams and moved with him to Memphis. In 1929 John accepted an invitation to join Andy Kirk's outfit. When Kirk accepted a longstanding engagement in Kansas City, Williams joined her husband and began sitting in with the band, as well as serving as its arranger and composer. She provided Kirk with such songs as "Walkin' and Swingin'", "Twinklin'", "Cloudy'", "Little Joe from Chicago" and others.

The band's records sold briskly, catapulting Williams to national fame. She began working as a freelance arranger for such names as Earl Hines, Benny Goodman, and Tommy Dorsey. Goodman asked her to write a blues for his band. The result was "Roll 'Em", a boogie-woogie piece based on the blues, which followed her successful "Camel Hop", Goodman's theme song for his radio show sponsored by Camel cigarettes.

In 1942, Williams left the Kirk band, returning again to Pittsburgh. She was joined there by bandmate Harold "Shorty" Baker, with whom she formed a six-piece ensemble that included Art Blakey on drums. After a lengthy engagement in Cleveland, Baker left to join Duke Ellington's orchestra. Williams joined the band in New York, and then traveled to Baltimore, where she and Baker were married. She traveled with Ellington and arranged several tunes for him, including "Trumpet No End" (1946) and her version of Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies," but within a year had left Baker and the group and returned to New York.

She accepted a regular gig at the Café Society Downtown, started a weekly radio show called "Mary Lou Williams's Piano Workshop" on WNEW, and began mentoring and collaborating with many younger bebop musicians, most notably Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk. In 1945 Williams composed the bebop hit "In the Land of Oo-Bla-Dee" for Dizzy Gillespie..

She later took a hiatus from performing, dedicating herself to the Catholic faith. Two priests and Dizzy Gillespie persuaded her to return to playing, which she did at the 1957 Newport Jazz Festival with Dizzy's band. In addition to club work she played colleges, formed her own record label and publishing companies, founded the Pittsburgh Jazz Festival and made television appearances. Throughout the 1960s her composing focused on sacred music - hymns and masses. One of the masses was choreographed and performed by the Alvin Ailey dance troupe.

You can find out more about Mary Lou Williams in the excellent biography "Morning Glory" by Linda Dahl (Pantheon, 1999).

Artie Shaw May 23, 1910

Born Arthur Jacob Arshawsky in New York City, Shaw grew up in New Haven, Connecticut. He first gained critical acclaim with his "Interlude in B-flat" at a swing concert at the Imperial Theater in New York in 1935. During the swing era, his big band was popular with hits like "Begin the Beguine" (1938), "Stardust" (with a trumpet solo by Billy Butterfield), "Back Bay Shuffle", "Moonglow", "Rosalie" and "[Frenesi](#)".

During World War II, he enlisted in

the Navy later formed a band, which served in the Pacific. After 18 months playing for Navy personnel Shaw returned to the U.S. in a state of physical exhaustion, receiving a medical discharge.

Like Benny Goodman and other leaders of big bands, Shaw fashioned a small group from within the band. He named it the Gramercy Five after his home telephone exchange. Pianist Johnny Guarneri played a harpsichord on the quintet recordings and Al Hendrickson played an electric guitar, which was unusual in jazz recordings of the time. Trumpeter Roy Eldridge became part of the group, succeeding Butterfield. The Gramercy Five's biggest hit was "Summit Ridge Drive."

Throughout his career, Shaw would take sabbaticals, quitting the music business. He led an excellent band in 1949 that reflected the changes wrought by the bebop era. In 1954, he stopped playing the clarinet, citing his own perfectionism, which, he later said, would have killed him. He spent the rest of the 1950s living in Europe.

In 1981, he organized a new Artie Shaw Band with clarinetist Dick Johnson as bandleader and soloist. The band appeared at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and at Sherman's on Caroga Lake. Shaw himself guest conducted from time to time, ending his self-made appearances on *The Mike Douglas Show* and *The Tonight Show*.

Anyone interested in hearing the current Artie Shaw band, now being led by clarinetist Rich Chiaraluce after the recent death of Dick Johnson, can check them out at the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, Mass. on May 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 +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 and the New York State Council on the Arts, 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.

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Calendar can be found at www.aplaceforjazz.org

Swingtime Jazz Society

Presents

March 14, 2010 from 4-7 PM

Concert from 4-6 PM, followed by 1-hour open jam session

Teri Roiger Quartet

Teri Roiger, vocals

Pat McKearn, piano

John Menegon, bass

Danny Whelchel, drums

Stockade Inn

1 N. Church St (corner of Union St) Schenectady, NY

Reservations: (518) 346-3400

Admission \$15 adults, \$5 students

Swingtimejazz.org



A Place for Jazz

PO Box 1059

Schenectady, NY 12301

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