As A Place for Jazz enters its next 25 years, we have lined up a 2012 season that reflects our continuing effort to present the many and diverse faces of jazz, from its early styles through present-day variations. See page three for details of what will be an exciting and engaging series of concerts.

From the beginning, our founder, Butch Conn, sought to recognize and support the younger musicians who were coming along to keep the jazz flame burning.

We continue that effort with an annual scholarship donation to a deserving music student at Schenectady County Community College, whose music department has sent a number of excellent players out into the professional world.

We also arrange for professional musicians to provide clinics at our local schools, as well as supporting the Summer Jazz Camp conducted by saxophonist/teacher Keith Pray at Proctors Theatre.

We also contribute to the worthy organization called Musical Tools for Schenectady Schools, which collects and refurbishes instruments for student musicians in city schools that don’t have enough instruments for students who want to learn to play.

And for the past few concert seasons, we have been pleased to have students from our local middle schools performing during the intermissions of some of our fall concerts. They have made such a great impression on our audiences, and had such a great time playing, that we intend to keep doing it again this year.

Through our newsletters and website, www.aplaceforjazz.org, we keep the jazz community posted on concerts and club dates in the area, as well as telling you where you can hear jazz on the radio.

In all these ways, we carry on the tradition established by Butch, and we plan to keep bringing quality jazz performances to the Capital Region for many years to come.
Musicians Unions Celebrate Jazz

April is Jazz Appreciation Month, and the musicians unions of Schenectady and Albany are planning to celebrate with stellar events. The music is free. Food and beverage may be purchased on a cash basis.

Sunday, April 15, the Schenectady Musical Union will present A Saxophone Tribute from 3 to 7 p.m. Robb Alley at Proctors Theatre, 432 State Street, Schenectady.

Union President Mark Anthony suggests that people use the free parking garage on Broadway rather than the $5 parking lot behind Proctors.

Enjoy the music of: The Adirondack Saxophone Quartet Plus Two; Keith Pray’s new and unusual group Songs from Home; Brian Patneaude’s Quartet; Lee Russo’s Tribute to Hank Mobley.

The afternoon will conclude with a saxophone ensemble in which Lee Russo, Keith Pray and Brian Patneaude will be joined by Lee’s father, the great Leo Russo.

Sunday, April 29, the Albany Musicians Union will host an event from 3 until 7 pm at the Colonie Elks Club on Rt. 155 (East of Latham), near North Colonie Schools.

Neil Brown, President of Local 14, the Albany Musicians’ Association, has announced a special presentation to honor Tim Coakley, President of A Place for Jazz, for his tireless efforts and strong leadership for many years.


APFJ is More Than Just Great Jazz!

Dear Mr. Coakley,

I’d like to thank you for the “A Place for Jazz” Scholarship this semester. Yesterday I received the financial award in the mail, and it will be a huge help towards my new bass that I’m having built! I thoroughly enjoyed every performance this fall at A Place for Jazz, and I’m so excited to be stepping into the capital area jazz scene. Doctor (William) Meckley and I discussed how impressive this scholarship will look on my resume, and I am very grateful to have won this award especially as I look to transfer to a four year college. I’ve applied and auditioned at SUNY Potsdam, Ithaca College, and William Paterson where I’ll be focusing in Jazz/Music Education. I hope to see you at other jazz shows in the area!

Thanks again,
Jarod Grieco
SCCC music student and 2011 APFJ scholarship recipient
Our series opens with Tom Harrell, one of the most acclaimed trumpeters since the early 1980s. Woody Herman, Horace Silver and Phil Woods have employed him and he’s led his own outstanding quintets since the 1990s. Displaying the improvising power of Clifford Brown, the lyricism of Chet Baker, and his own creative composing, he’s received multiple industry awards and released over 20 well-regarded CDs as a leader.

This year’s exciting vocal performer, Mary Stallings, is a celebrated veteran of 50 years. She distinctively merges the complementary influences of jazz, gospel, blues and the Great American Songbook. Her career has included stints with Cal Tjader, Billy Eckstine and Dizzy Gillespie. Her thrilling performance at the Village Vanguard led the NY Times to write “Perhaps the best jazz singer alive today is a woman almost everybody seems to have missed.”

Legendary Dick Hyman, who will perform solo, is one of those very few pianists who can capture & express the entire history of Jazz, from early New Orleans, Ragtime, Swing, Be-Bop up through modern innovations. His 65-year career as composer, songwriter, conductor, pianist, organist and arranger has encompassed a “Who’s Who” of Jazz & other music, with unmatched versatility, energy and talent.

This year’s “local” group, Bopitude, is a stirring sextet headed by drummer-vibist Michael Benedict. They were a big hit at the 2011 Albany Jazz Festival, performing their nationally ranked “Bopitude” CD. Fans of vibrant post-bop are eagerly anticipating their Whisperdome debut, following their just-released second CD, “Five and One.” Both of these feature the world’s #1 ranked baritonist Gary Smulyan, the extraordinary pianist Bruce Barth, electrifying trumpeter Chris Pasin, as well as Capital District heroes Brian Patneaude & Mike Lawrence.

World-class Cuban Conga player & singer Pedrito Martinez has been chosen by many of the biggest names in music to appear on over 100 CD’s. He brings an especially uplifting and infectious Latin Jazz quartet to close out our season. Their joyously applauded appearances last year at SPAC and other national venues guarantee this will be a memorable and fun concert.
Local Jazz Venues

A FULL PERFORMANCE AND VENUE CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND AT APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG

9 MAPLE AVE Saratoga Springs, 518.587.7759
APERITIVO 426 State Street Schenectady, 518.579.3371
ATHOS RESTAURANT 1814 Western Avenue, Albany, 518.608.6400
THE BAR AT 74 STATE 74 State Street, Albany, 518.434.7410
BLU STONE BISTRO 661 Albany-Shaker Road, Colonie, 518.869.9976
BREAD ALONE, 45 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY , 845.876.3108
BULL AND BUDDHA, 319 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, 845.337.4848
CAFÉ CAPRICCIO 49 Grand Street, Albany, 518.465.0439
CARMEN’S CAFÉ 198 First Street (corner of Adams), Troy, 518.326.2064
CASTLE STREET CAFÉ 10 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA, 413.528.5244
CENTURY HOUSE 997 New Loudon Road (Rt 9), Latham, 518.785.0834
THE DESMOND Albany Shaker Road, Colonie, 518.869.8100
THE FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT 283 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, 518.482.9898
THE FALCON 1348 Rte 9W, Marlboro, NY (85 miles south)
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY 8 N. Church Street, Schenectady, 518.377.2201
GRAPPA ‘72 RISTORANTE 818 Central Ave, Albany, 518.482.7200
JUSTIN’S 301 Lark Street, Albany, 518.436.7008
MAX LONDON’S 466 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518.587.3535
ONE CAROLINE STREET BISTRO Saratoga Springs, 518.587.2026
PANZA’S RESTAURANT Route 9P Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Springs, 518.584.6882
PRIME 677 677 Broadway Albany, 518.427.7463
PROVENCE RESTAURANT Stuyvesant Plaza- Western Avenue at Fuller Road, Albany, 518.689.7777
PRIME AT SARATOGA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB 458 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, 518.583.4653
PUB AT COOPER’S CAVE 2 Sagamore Street, Glens Falls, 518.792.0007
STOCKADE INN 1 No. Church Street, Schenectady, 518.346.3400
VAN DYCK 237 Union Street, Schenectady, 518.346.7999
VERMONT JAZZ CENTER 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Studio 222, Brattleboro, VT, 802.254.9088
WISHING WELL RESTAURANT 745 Saratoga Road, Wilton, 518.584.7640

Radio Jazz Shows

WAMC 90.3 FM Tim Coakley, Saturday 11 pm - 12 am;
WAMC 90.3 FM Jim Wilke, ”Jazz After Hours,” Friday and Saturday 1-5 am; Afro-Pop Worldwide 8 pm Sunday; John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey’s ”Radio Deluxe”, Saturday 2-4 pm & Tuesday 8-10 pm
WCDB 90.9 FM Bill McCann, Saturday 8 am-12 pm; Bill Goss, ”TGIF Jazz Party,” Friday 4-6 pm; DJ MJ’s ”Beat Street Jazz”, Monday 12-2 pm; Adam, ”So Live Jazz Show”, Monday 2-4 pm; ”Maiden Voyage” Thursday 6-8 pm
WSPN 91.1 FM Howie Kaplan, Friday 12-3 pm
WRPI 91.5 FM Rich Berkley’s ”Dusty Corners” heavy with, but not exclusively jazz, Tuesday 8-10 pm; Kevin Roberts, Thursday 8-10 pm, varied theme shows.
WVPR 94.3 FM (Vermont Public Radio) George Thomas, Tuesday-Thursday, 8-10 pm, Friday til 12 am
96.7FM WPTR Mix of old pop with big band and ”jazzy” vocalists, 24/7
WKLL MAGIC 100.9 FM “Legends of Jazz” with Ramsey Lewis, Sunday 8-10 am; ”Swingin’ with Sinatra” with Steve Jackson Vicario, Sunday 12-2 pm; ”Big Band Jump” with Don Kennedy, Sunday 10 pm-12 am
WQAR 101.3 FM Smooth jazz and jazzy vocals with Walt Adams, Sunday 10 am-1 pm
WABY 1160 AM Chris Martin’s ”Radio Archives” Sat 10 am-4 pm ”Make Believe Ballroom” Sunday 11 am- 3 pm; Dick Wood’s Jazz Tracks Sun 4-5 pm; Sid Mark’s Sounds of Sinatra Sun 5-7 pm

www.APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG
EJO PAYS TRIBUTE TO CLARE FISCHER

The Empire Jazz Orchestra, resident big band at Schenectady County Community College, will pay tribute to the late pianist and composer Clare Fischer at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17 in the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium at the college, 78 Washington Ave., Schenectady.

Fischer passed away earlier this year. He was a Grammy-winning composer and arranger, as well as recording more than 50 albums as a pianist and bandleader. His compositions include “Pensativa” and “Morning.”

Fischer’s son Brent, a composer, arranger and performer in his own right, will be on hand to conduct the EJO in his father’s compositions and arrangements.

The other half of the concert will feature music by Dizy Gillespie, Benny Carter, Pete Rugolo, Jim Corigliano, Oliver Nelson and others.

Tickets are $20, $6 for non-SCCC students. Reservations can be made by calling 381-1232.

DON’T FORGET...CONCERTS AT APFJ WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 PM THIS FALL!!!

NEW CDs FROM LOCAL MUSICIANS

Three Capital Region musicians have produced new CDs.

Saxophonist Brian Patneaude held a CD release party at the College of Saint Rose on March 3, performing tunes from his latest recording, “All Around Us.” Performing with him were David Caldwell-Mason, piano; Mike Del Prete, bass; and Danny Whelchel, drums. There is a review of the CD by APFJ Vice President Tom Pierce at www.albanyjazz.com

Saxophonist Keith Pray also has a new CD, titled “Confluence,” on the ARC label. It features Chuck D’Aloia, guitar; Peter Tomlinson, piano; Lou Pappas, bass; and Jeff “Siege” Siegel, drums. Keith will hold a CD release party on Saturday, March 31 at the Van Dyck, 237 Union St., Schenectady. Doors open at 6 p.m., the concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 and are available online at www.vandycklounge.com or by phone at 518-348-7999. In order to accommodate as many people as possible (seating is limited), purchase your tickets in advance. If the room is sold out in advance, another show will be added at 9 pm. If you would like to hear a preview of the cd, feel free to visit www.reverbnation.com/keithpray

Drummer and vibraphonist Mike Benedict and his group Bopitude have a new CD featuring baritone saxophonist Gary Smulyan and pianist Bruce Barth along with trumpeter Chris Pasin, tenor saxophonist Brian Patneaude and bassist Mike Lawrence. They will hold a CD release party on Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenville High School auditorium. Tickets are $10 for students, $15 for adults. Call 518-966-5070 ext. 439 for tickets. And don’t forget, Bopitude will be appearing for A Place for Jazz on Oct. 26 with the same stellar lineup.
For the last five years, Dr. Jose Cruz of the University at Albany has been promoting the pulsating grooves of Latin jazz in the Capital Region through his non-profit organization Jazz/Latino Inc. He has presented at least two concerts each year by such luminaries as Bobby Sanabria, Chris Washburne, Willie Martinez and others.

His 2012 series has already started with a couple of his "salons," which are informal music and talk sessions at his home in which he explores the music and careers of such Latin jazz exponents as Candido Camero and Francisco Aguabella. He uses videos, recordings and occasionally live performances at these salons. The next salon will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 17 at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy and will feature video highlights of the last five seasons.

While his series of concerts has been successful, he would like to see more people attending and getting into Latin jazz. “Attendance has fluctuated between 60 and a hundred people over the years,” he said. “The fundamental problem is that this town really doesn’t know about Latin jazz. It’s almost a leap of faith for people to venture to a Latin jazz concert. It’s very difficult for them to step outside their comfort zone."

Yet Latin music has had a powerful influence on jazz from the very beginning, as reflected in Jelly Roll Morton’s “Spanish tinge,” which he gave to several of his classic compositions. Duke Ellington composed a number of Latin-influenced pieces, and the Dizzy

The Beat and Sound of Latin Jazz

Gillespie and Stan Kenton big bands were replete with such pieces and arrangements.

Dr. Cruz is at pains to point out the differences between salsa and Latin jazz: "In salsa, there is always singing. The beginning of the piece is always sung, whereas in Latin jazz it’s more instrumental; the setup is more like a jazz combo. You find such instruments as timbales in salsa, but never in Latin jazz.” And salsa bands are typically bigger, comprising seven or ten musicians, while Latin jazz groups “could be a duo or a trio.”

The first concert in this year’s series will feature percussionist Steven Kroon and his sextet at 8 p.m. on April 27 in the Emerson Auditorium at Union College in Schenectady. Kroon grew up in Spanish Harlem and studied with several master percussionists. He spent two decades performing with Luther Vandross.

The last concert on May 26, will also be held at 8 p.m. in the Emerson Auditorium at Union College and feature pianists Nicki Denner and Rebecca Cline, who last year gave an inspired and inspiring two-piano exploration of the music of Mongo Santamaria. This year, the two will explore the music of Thelonious Monk. Dr. Cruz said, “When I decided to do this, I said let’s do an encore, but with the work of a different pianist. They both wanted to do Monk, so I said OK but let’s Caribbean-ize Monk.”

Information and reservations for Jazz/Latino events are available at (518) 466-9990 by emailing info@jazzlatoino.org or by visiting www.jazzlatino.org

We’re looking for brief items from our readers. If you have a jazz item, a CD you have enjoyed, a jazz book you’ve read, a concert or performance you heard, an upcoming musical engagement, anything, tell us about it. We reserve the right to edit contributions and cannot guarantee their inclusion, but will welcome them all.

Send to A Place for Jazz, PO Box 1059, Schenectady NY 12301 or coakjazz@aol.com
BEING A MEMBER IS WHERE IT’S AT!

Love Jazz? Here’s how you can help make it happen: Join a wonderful, positive group of people working to make our community A Place for Jazz!

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» The opportunity (for members with a ticket) to bring two children under 12-years old for free to any concert where seats are available. Please call to check on reservations

» Good vibes from knowing you are a part of an organization that:
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A Place for Jazz, P.O. Box 1059, Schenectady, NY 12301

www.APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG
A Place for Jazz is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting the best in jazz. In addition to grant funding, revenue is generated through ticket sales and membership contributions.

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

Editor: Tim Coakley
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A full up-to-date performance and venue calendar can be found at www.aplaceforjazz.org

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