Swinging into Spring!

To begin April, Jazz Appreciation Month, A Place for Jazz announces its lineup for the fall season. While there is plenty of jazz coming up this spring and summer, it’s not too early to mark your calendars for what we are sure will be a dynamic and varied series this year.

All concerts take place at 7:30 on Friday nights at the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Ave.

On September 20, we open our series with a quintet led by two great soloists: trumpeter Joe Magnarelli and saxophonist Jerry Weldon. Both have appeared in the Capital Region as leaders in their own right, but for our concert they join their talents for some forceful straight-ahead playing.

One of the truly outstanding drummers in jazz, Jeff Hamilton, will bring his trio to our stage on October 4. With his longtime band-mates Tamir Hendelman on piano and Christoph Luty on bass, he is sure to light up the First Unitarian Society’s Great Hall with his prodigious technique and swing.

Continuing our tradition of featuring outstanding Latin jazz performances, we will present the seven-piece group of trombonist Conrad Herwig on October 18. Known for his Latin interpretations of music by Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea and Miles Davis, Herwig can be counted on to deliver an exciting evening of music.

November 1 will find vocalist Catherine Russell and her trio on stage. The daughter of famous bandleader Luis Russell, she carries on the swing tradition of her father when he led the band behind Louis Armstrong for so many years. Area fans will recall her delightful appearance at the Freihofer’s Jazz Festival last year.

Wrapping things up on November 15 will be guitarist Michael-Louis Smith’s quintet, featuring tenor saxophonist Stacy Dillard. A local hero, Michael-Louis has appeared with the Terry Gordon Quintet and has been making his mark in New York City. Michael-Louis’ quintet has just released a CD of original compositions titled “First Black Nation.”
Jackie Ryan’s “Listen Here”  
Review by Tom Pierce

The extraordinarily gifted San Francisco vocalist Jackie Ryan’s sixth CD “Listen Here” is truly a stunning accomplishment. She brings the “whole package,” which includes her rapturous, soaring, contralto that extends over 3½ octaves, a warmly natural delivery, enormous emotional depth and understanding, along with a lilting, rhythmic ease that exudes the swinging flow that is essential to Jazz.

Producer and bassist John Clayton (an accomplished, award-winning arranger) pulled together an impressive band to support her. The rhythm section, consisting of his son pianist Gerald Clayton (a fast-rising star), drummer Obed Calvaire, guitarist Graham Dechter and himself on bass, is superb throughout - whether soloing or accompanying with a solid groove and stimulating accents. The horns, who both have long been featured in his Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and other top West Coast bands, are the stylishly engaging trumpeter Gilbert Castellanos and the soulfully powerful saxophonist Rickey Woodard.

The song list covers a broad range, with virtually no overdone tunes. Some of the exciting uptempo selections that grabbed this listener included: “The Gypsy in my Soul,” more popular in the 40s - 70s but less so recently, that Ryan handles with a captivatingly relaxed blend of passion and pace; “Anytime, Anyday, Anywhere” a Lee Wiley hit delivered here with an urgent, sensual longing and an enchanting sax solo; and “How Little We Know,” an

A Hero of Our Own

Jazz historian and WAMC radio personality Tim Coakley is this year’s local recipient of the Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Hero award, which will be presented at Robb Alley as part of the Schenectady Musical Union’s Jazz Appreciation Month event on April 14, 3 - 6 pm.

He has been on the air (Saturday nights at 11 pm) for more than 25 years, all the while (and since 1978) having a career as copy editor of Schenectady’s Daily Gazette and sustained traditional jazz in New York’s Capital District as a drummer supporting a host of local and touring talents. Tim is also president of A Place for Jazz, a nonprofit, all-volunteer group founded by Butch Conn that presents a concert series each fall in Schenectady. It was this group that nominated him for this award. One of the APFJ board members, radio host Bill McCann, was the award recipient last year and will be this year’s presenter. Tim is also a board member of Swingtime Jazz Society.

Born in Utica, New York, Tim grew up listening to the best of the area’s musicians, including tenor saxophonist J.R. Monterose, trumpeter Sal Amico, bassist Sam Mancuso and drummer Ronnie Zito. Coakley listened especially raptly to the local drummers. Mostly self-taught, his first gig was at Utica College on a set of borrowed drums, and thereafter he began playing throughout Utica, often with tenor saxophonist Chick Esposito.

A Hero of Our Own continued on page 6
Season 27 starts swinging with an exciting quintet headed by trumpeter Joe Magnarelli & saxophonist Jerry Weldon.

Celebrated drummer Jeff Hamilton has led a globally popular trio for more than 15 years, in addition to 40 years supporting Jazz legends in combos & Big Bands.

Trombonist Conrad Herwig is highly acclaimed for his Grammy-nominated Latin Jazz interpretations of the work of Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock & Wayne Shorter.

This year’s vocalist, Catherine Russell, is a proven crowd-pleaser who joyously shows the Swing & Blues roots of her accomplished musician-parents.

Dynamic guitarist Michael-Louis Smith is very popular lately as both creative bandleader & sideman in the Capital District and the leading NYC venues.
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

DRUTHERS BREWING COMPANY 381 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518.306.5275

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 SCHOENECATDY 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

MORE BREAD AND JAM CAFÉ 130 Remsen St, Cohoes, 518.874.4272

ONE CAROLINE STREET BISTRO Saratoga Springs, 518.587.2026

PANZA’S RESTAURANT Route 9P Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Springs, 518.584.6882

PORTOFINO’S ITALIAN RISTORANTE 831 New Loudon Rd (in the Travelodge at Latham Circle), Latham, 518.608.4675

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

WVCR 88.3 FM “The Crossroads of Jazz,” Darrin Scott and Ted Moi-sides, Saturday 12-2 pm. A mix of the essentials and the contemporary.

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 4 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”, “Jazz South of the Border,” Monday 10 am - 12 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 show

WVPR 94.3 FM (Vermont Public Radio) George Thomas, Tuesday-Thursday, 8-10 pm, Friday til 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
**Spring Jazz Preview - April is Jazz Appreciation Month**

For other festivals within about a day’s drive, see aplceforjazz.org/festivals.htm

April is set aside to honor the music we all love. Here are some of the events scheduled in the Capital Region for the month.

**April 7:**
- Terri Roiger sings Billie Holiday on Billie’s birthday at 7 pm, Backstage Productions, 232 Wall St. Kingston
- Pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba and guitarist Al Di Meola at 7:30 pm, The Egg, Albany

**April 14:**
- The Schenectady Musical Union presents its annual event in Robb Alley at Proctors, 3 - 6 pm. Dylan Canterbury Quintet and Keith Pray’s Soul Jazz Revival. Jam session after each group. The Jazz Journalists Association will also present its Jazz Hero award.

**April 16:**
- The Empire Jazz Orchestra will give its spring concert at Schenectady County Community College, 8 pm. The guest soloist will be the brilliant trumpeter Claudio Roditi.

**April 18:**
- Ninety Miles with Stefon Harris, Nicholas Payton & David Sanchez. College of St. Rose, 7:30 pm

**April 19:**
- All-Star Sax Summit: Leo Russo, Lee Russo, Brian Patneaude and Keith Pray with Dave Payette (piano), Otto Gardner (bass), Jeff Siegel (drums), 7:30 pm, Van Dyck,237 Union St., Schenectady

**April 21:**
- The Albany Musicians Union will hold its event at the Colonie Elks Club 2 - 6 pm. This is a free event that is open to the public. The gala will feature four very popular and varied Capital District ensembles including: Mike Lampkin Organ Trio, Jeanne O’Connor Quartet, Ten 27, Michael Benedict & BOPITUDE with special guest pianist Bruce Barth.

The union will also be honoring four individuals for their contribution to jazz in the Capital Region. The honorees will be Brian Patneaude for his work on the website www.albanyjazz.com, Rudy Lu and Andrzej Pilarczyk for their wonderful jazz photography and Wren Panzella for her insightful jazz artwork. The Colonie Elks Club is located at 11 Elks Lane, Latham. The club will be offering food and drink for sale.

**April 26:**
- The Williams College Jazz Ensemble will perform at Williams College in Williamstown, MA, 8 pm with guest soloist guitarist Lionel Loueke.

**May 4:**
- Jazz one2one presents at the Athens Cultural Center; Paul Kogut, guitar; Francois Moutin, bass; Ari Hoening, drums. Jazz talk, 7 pm, Concert 8 pm $15. Call (518) 945-2669, or go to www.planetarts.org

**May 5:**
- Ben Lapidus and Herencia Judia (Jewish heritage). An Afro Latin rendition of Jewish liturgic songs. Cinco de Mayo in a new, innovative way. Presented by Jazz Latino Inc. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, University at Albany $15 ($10 for UAlbany faculty, staff, students and seniors. Call (518) 466-9990 or go to info@jazzlatino.org

**May 25:**
- Wilson “Chembo” Corniel’s Afro Blue Monk. Percussionist Corniel presents a tribute to Thelonious Monk and Mongo Santamaria, featuring Latin versions of their compositions. 8 p.m. Emerson Auditorium, Union College, Schenectady. $15 ($10 for Union College faculty, staff, students and seniors. Call (518) 466-9990 or go to info@jazzlatino.org
David Kissinger is a man who knows and loves jazz, and he communicates that through a non-credit class he calls the Jazz Heritage Series. It is offered through a program of the State University of New York at Albany called OASIS, and he teaches it at selected local venues.

He has been doing it for about ten years. The class is “geared to an audience that has a little interest in jazz and wants to hear more,” he said. There are three two-hour sessions, and the subjects are as varied as jazz itself. “I’ve done sessions on swing, I did clarinet players… the last one I did was on Duke Ellington,” Kissinger said during a comfortable chat at his home, seated in front of a well-stocked shelf of books on jazz.

Showing the class what the musicians look like is important, and he often uses videos to enhance the experience. “I select music that I use as a soundtrack for a video,” he said. “If there’s no video [there’s very little of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie together], I use still pictures with the music in the background.”

This all began during his days at the State University at Binghamton. “A colleague of mine was head of the jazz program at the university. We got a grant to study the Woody Herman Woodchoppers.” Meeting some of the musicians in that group led to an interview with vibraphonist Red Norvo and others. “I still have that interview,” he said, “and I plan to transcribe it and try to get published. Woody was a little more candid than what appeared in print.”

His childhood prepared him for his lifelong interest in jazz. “When I was in high school, I lived in New York and went to the Central Plazza and Styuvesant Casino and heard Wild Bill Davison and Edmond Hall and those guys,” he said.

Also, his father played bass in the Isham Jones band and was a studio musician at WNEW in New York. That led to an obscure recording session that Kissinger spent years tracking down. “There was a session that Coleman Hawkins did with the Esquire All Stars in 1944. There was a transcription made of that band with my dad on bass.” After years of frustration, Kissinger’s son suggested he try a source on eBay, and “By god, they had it. So I plunked down my money and I’ve got 15 minutes of my father playing with Coleman Hawkins.”

Kissinger also plays trumpet in a local band called the Pacemakers. “We’re kind of beginners in jazz. It’s a rehearsal band and I was looking for someplace where I could play jazz. It was a country- and-western band at first but gradually worked into jazz and swing.”

Summing up our talk, he said, “Jazz has all the qualities of an addiction: You can’t stop, musicians go on forever and the creative process is rewarding, like an addiction, except that there are no bad sides.”
**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*!

Here’s what you get for your annual membership dues:

» A tax deduction for donations in excess of ticket value (1 series or 5 general tickets valued at $60) as we are a 501(c)(3) organization

» Your name listed in programs, on our website and on an entry “Thank You” poster

» An invitation to “members only” events

» 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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♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ☐ $500-999 Fifteen free tickets + Meet & Greet at concert of your choice + Free autographed CD + Designation as “Concert Underwriter” for one concert or educational program
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Please check with your employer for possible matching grant programs.
Please enclose a check or money order payable to A Place for Jazz, and mail it with this form to: A Place for Jazz, P.O. Box 1059, Schenectady, NY 12301
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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 website and general support of Jazz and its musicians. We welcome announcements and comments.

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

Don’t forget... Concerts at APFJ will begin at 7:30 pm this fall!!!

Check us out at www.aplaceforjazz.org for Jazz in our community. Printed by Nott Street Office

Membership is where it’s at!