The 2013 season of A Place for Jazz will get off to a dynamic start on September 20 with a fiery quintet co-led by trumpeter Joe Magnarelli and tenor saxophonist Jerry Weldon. These two have performed on their own several times in the Capital Region but this time they will join forces for an evening of hard-hitting and lyrical music.

A Syracuse native, Joe Magnarelli moved to New York City in 1986 and soon became a regular participant in the New York and international jazz scene. From 1987, he toured and recorded with Lionel Hampton and Brother Jack McDuff. He currently has nine records out as a leader, and has played on numerous jazz labels as a sideman. In 1990, he was a semifinalist at the Thelonious Monk International Trumpet Competition in Washington, D.C. He made his debut as a leader with 1994’s “Why Not” (Criss Cross). He followed that with three other CDs on the Criss Cross label: “Always There” (1997), “Mr. Mags” (2000) and “Hoop Dreams” (2005).

He subsequently released “Persistence” (2007) and “My Old Flame” (2010), his first big band recording as a leader. He also made two albums co-leading a sextet with the legendary Philadelphia trumpeter John Swana: “Philly-New York Junction” (1998), and “New York-Philly Junction” (2003). In 2003-2006, he performed with the great Latin jazz conguero Ray Barretto’s New Sextet, recording on Barretto’s “Time Was, Time Is” (O+ Music), which was nominated for a Grammy.

See Page 6 for Tom Pierce’s review of Magnerelli’s CD “Persistence.”

After graduating from the Rutgers University Jazz Program, saxophonist Jerry Weldon began a long association with vibraphonist Lionel Hampton. Next came a long and rewarding tour as a member of master organist Jack McDuff’s “Heatin’ System,” resulting in many recordings on the Concord label.

In 1990, he became a charter member of and featured soloist with Harry Connick Jr.’s newly formed Big Band. Jerry has toured the U.S., Europe, Asia and Australia, and has also performed on many television shows worldwide with the Connick Orchestra.

He has worked and recorded with organists Jimmy McGriff, Joey DeFrancesco, Bobby Forrester, Dr. Lonnie Smith, trombone great Al Grey, piano giants George Cables and Cedar Walton, drum legends Roy Haynes and Jimmy Cobb as well as guitarist/singer George Benson, guitarist Earl Klugh, bassist Keter Betts and singer Mel Tormé.

con’t on page 2
In 2003 he was involved in a very special musical project: "Jazz @ Lincoln Center Plays the Music of Dexter Gordon." Along with fellow tenorists Jimmy Greene and Wayne Escoffery and the George Cables Trio, the sextet performed at New York’s Kaplan Penthouse and also toured the U.S.

Weldon is a bandleader in his own right, leading ensembles at many of New York’s jazz clubs and at jazz festivals around the U.S. He has recorded several albums under his own name, among them, “Head To Head,” a swinging two-tenor date with Michael Karn on the Criss Cross Jazz label “Midtown Blues,” a rousing quintet with long time collaborator Magnarelli recorded live at Fat Tuesdays in NYC, and two hard-swinging dates with the late, great organist, Jerry’s long-time pal, Bobby Forrester.

In his 1998 book, "Why Sinatra Matters," Pete Hamill writes about a little late-night debate that took place in 1970 at a bar in New York City. Frank Sinatra and some pals, including newspaper types like Hamill, had gathered to socialize over drinks, and the talk turned to authors. Inevitably, the question came up as to who was the better writer — Hemingway or Fitzgerald? According to Hamill, saloonkeeper Jilly Russo said, "Hey, no question. Ella all the way."

The reference to the jazz icon Ella Fitzgerald made me laugh more than it might have a few years ago because lately I’ve come to know people like that, people whose life seems to be possessed and defined by jazz.

I’d never been a big fan of that most American of music genres. I grew up in the era of rock and roll and folk music, and also embraced classical music, including opera, as well as contemporary and Broadway classics. Jazz was more the music of my parents, and we hardly ever embrace the music of our parents, not with any enthusiasm at least.

But I do consider my musical tastes eclectic, and I like contemporary jazz artists like Diana Krall, Harry Connick Jr. and Michael Buble. The jazz of the purists, however, like the music of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington, did not engage me much. I preferred the Beatles. Things change, however.

Since moving to Schenectady, for years a city known for its jazz offerings, I’ve become friendly with people who love jazz and who, by including me in their outings, are broadening my musical background. (I’m still not really clear on what scatting is all about, but I’m new enough that they forgive me when I ask dumb questions.)
SEPTEMBER 20
Season 27 starts swinging with an exciting quintet headed by trumpeter Joe Magnarelli & saxophonist Jerry Weldon.

OCTOBER 4
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.

OCTOBER 18
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.

NOVEMBER 1
This year’s vocalist, Catherine Russell, is a proven crowd-pleaser who joyously shows the swing & blues roots of her accomplished musician-parents.

NOVEMBER 15
Dynamic guitarist Michael-Louis Smith (shown with Stacy Dillard) is very popular as both creative bandleader & sideman in the Capital District & the leading NYC venues.

All Concerts: Friday 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Ave.
Tickets: $15. One child under 12 admitted for free when accompanied by an adult.
Series ticket: $60 until September 13. To purchase tickets or become a member:
aplaceforjazz.org  |  518.393.4011 | coakjazz@aol.com
Local Jazz Venues

A full performance and venue calendar can be found at aplaceforjazz.org

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,” 4 pm Sunday; John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molasky’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

WSPN 91.1 FM J Hunter’s "Jazz2K: America’s Music in the 21st Century" Tuesday 6-8 pm

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
Fall Jazz Preview
For other festivals within about a day’s drive, see aplaceforjazz.org/festivals.htm

Wall Street Jazz Festival, Kingston
Old Dutch Church, Wall Street & Main Street  www.wallstreetjazzfestival.com
Aug 30  The art of the Duo with Dena deRose Francesca Tanksley, Nina Sheldon, Peggy Stern.
Aug 31  Outdoor concert. Claire Daly, Ingrid Jensen, Jay Clayton, Sue Terry, Teri Roiger and others.
        Followed by Estrella! Salsa -- dancing in the streets.

Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival
Sep 7  Talent contest winner; Sensemaya; Arch Stanton Quartet; Charlie Hunter; Oleta Adams

The Egg, Albany
Nov 7, 8 pm  Joshua Redman Quartet
Dec 27, 8 pm  John Pizzarelli Quartet

College of Saint Rose, Albany
Sep 15, 7:30 pm  The John Scofield Überjam Band featuring Andy Hess, Avi Bortnick, Tony Mason
Sep 24, 7:30 pm  Gary Burton Quartet w/ special guest Bopitude featuring Gary Smulyan
Dec 6, 6 pm  It’s a Jazzy Christmas
Dec 7, 7:30 pm  An Evening with John Medeski

Lake George Jazz Weekend.
Shepard Park, Free
Sep 14  Brian Patneaude Quartet; Joel Harrison-Anupam Shobhakar Quintet;
        Michele Rosewoman New Yor-Uba Project
        Evening: New Gary Burton Quartet
Sep 15  Christian Howes Southern Exposure; Ben Williams Sound Effect; Dave Liebman Big Band

Schenectady County Community College
Oct 15  Empire Jazz Orchestra

Proctors
Schenectady
Oct 1, 8 pm  Diana Krall
Oct 13, 2 pm  Ken Peplowski’s Benny Goodman Tribute
Nov 16, 8 pm  Chris Botti

Swingtime Jazz Society
The Railyard (formerly Appletini’s), 1118 Central Ave, Albany
Oct 13, 4 pm  Jody Shayne Quartet
JOE MAGNARELLI - “PERSISTENCE”  
Review by Tom Pierce

Lovers of passionately surging and accessibly lyrical straight-ahead Jazz will understand the excitement of this observer for this spirited 2008 release (his 6th of 8 total CDs) by Syracuse native & NYC first-call trumpeter Joe Magnarelli (“Mags”).

He’s warmly accompanied by master baritone saxophonist Gary Smulyan, who provides wonderfully deep tonal balance to Mags’ dynamic trumpet. The enormously accomplished and responsively tight rhythm section of Dave Hazeltine on piano, Peter Washington on bass and Kenny Washington (no relation) on drums delivers all the buoyant support & creative stimulation needed.

The song list is an engagingly diverse mix of three standards and five originals by the leader. One way to look at how he covers the bases is to highlight examples of the sometimes dubbed “Four B’s” of Jazz: Bop, Blues, Ballads & Bossas (Latin).

The rousing title track opener is representative of the enduring category of driving Bop/Post-Bop with all the free-wheeling swing and excitement one expects. The funky groove of “D Train Boogaloo” would probably be associated with the Blues origins of “Soul Jazz,” so popular in the 1960’s & 70’s. The Ballad surprisingly would NOT be one of the standards (“I Had the Craziest Dream,” “Haunted Heart” or “You & the Night & the Music”), which are all interestingly taken at a medium or “up” tempo; but rather his “Ballad for Barretto,” an intimately touching, warm remembrance of NEA Jazz Master percussionist Ray Barretto, who sadly and unexpectedly passed the previous year. And the “Bossa” track (my personal favorite) would be the seductively entrancing “The Village.” Here the understated, but engrossing melody, intoxicating rhythmic base and relaxed solos by all involved were so well executed they quickly captured and held my attention.

Listening to this invigorating recording brought back exciting memories of my initial exposure to Mags’ electrifying playing with Joe Barna’s 2010 joyful “Sketches of Influence.” It also sharpened my keen anticipation of his Sept 20 APFJ season opener with his quintet, featuring Jerry Weldon on tenor sax.

PAYING IT FORWARD - APFJ SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, A Place for Jazz makes a donation to the music program at Schenectady County Community College. Under the direction of Professor William Meckley, the program provides an excellent music curriculum that has produced a number of fine jazz players.

The scholarship recipient for 2013-14 is Joshua Nelson. He performs on alto saxophone. Prior to SCCC, he attended Hofstra University. He currently resides in Schenectady. He is in the performance program at SCCC, where he studies with saxophonist Brian Patneaude.

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
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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.

Editor: Tim Coakley
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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