An Anniversary to Celebrate

By Tim Coakley

As A Place for Jazz begins its 20th year, the organization is taking on a new structure, while maintaining the tradition established by our founder, Butch Conn. We plan to continue Butch’s practice of presenting outstanding jazz performers in a congenial setting that makes musicians and audience alike feel comfortable.

The structure consists of a board of directors, all of whom have been involved with A Place for Jazz for much of its existence, some from the very beginning. They are dedicated to carrying on the mission that Butch set out upon back in 1987.

To prepare for our new status as an independent not-for-profit organization separate from The First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, the board has chosen a slate of officers for 2007. They are:

President: Tim Coakley
Vice-President: Tom Pierce
Secretary: Chris Waldron
Treasurer: Al Brooks

The tradition remains one of presenting the best of jazz in its many genres in the friendly atmosphere of the Great Hall (familiarly known as the Whisper-dome) of the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady. The venue has become known for its excellent acoustics, comfortable seating and great sight lines.

Our fall concerts this year will again be held on Friday nights at 8 p.m. This year's dates are September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26, and November 9.

We hope to announce the fall lineup of performers in the next issue of the newsletter, which will be published in early June.

Help us carry on
To help us on our mission, please consider renewing or taking out a membership in A Place for Jazz. On the page 10 of this newsletter you will find a list of the membership levels. There is sure to be one that is right for you, and we look forward to having you as a member for 2007.

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WAMC Presents Jazz at the Linda

The Lee Shaw Trio with Rich Syracuse and Jeff Siegel will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 2 at WAMC’s Linda Norris Auditorium, 339 Central Avenue, Albany, to celebrate the release of their new CD, "Lee Shaw Originals." Tickets are $18.

Lee has been the brightest star in the Capital region jazz scene for the past three decades. From her days playing with Oscar Peterson, to touring the world with her trio, she has dazzled fans with her mastery of the piano.

John and Bucky Pizzarelli will perform at the Linda at 3 and 7 p.m. on Sunday March 4.

Bucky, known for his timeless jazz guitar, plays everything from historic guitar compositions of the 1930s. to today’s jazz standards. Following in his father’s footsteps, John Pizzarelli, Jr., is known for his guitar playing and smooth vocals. This father and son duo is one of a kind. Tickets are $28.

Guitarist Roni Ben-Hur, winner of the JAZZIZ 2000 Reader’s Poll for Best New Talent, is one of the bright lights in today’s world of jazz. Born in Israel to a family who emigrated from Tunisia, he grew up with the exotic, seductive rhythms of North Africa and the soulfulness of Sephardic Jewish melodies.

He will perform at the Linda on March 31. Tickets are $18.

Saxophonist Brian Patneaude is one of the busiest musicians in the area. In addition to leading his own quartet, he performs with salsa/merengue favorites Alex Torres and his Latin Orchestra, and the Empire Jazz Orchestra. The Brian Patneaude Quartet was named "Best Jazz" by Metroland magazine in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Help celebrate the release of The Brian Patneaude Quartet + 1’s new CD, “As We Know It” at the Linda. on April 20. Tickets are $12.

For tickets and more information, call the Linda at (518) 465-5233 ext. 4.

Schenectady Musical Union to Kick Off Jazz Appreciation Month on April 1

The Schenectady Musicians Union Local 85-133 will hold an afternoon of music at the Holiday Inn, 100 Nott Terrace from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 1, in honor of Jazz Appreciation month.

Groups to be performing at this free event include the Mike Wicks Sextet, the Charlie Smith Blues Band, the Adirondack Saxophone Quartet, the Linda Brown Jazz Project, and a specially assembled 14-piece big band playing the arrangements of Rick Della Ratta, Schenectady pianist and vocalist.

Della Ratta, who will perform and lead the big band, will be honored for his Jazz for Peace presentations throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

The event will feature free hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. There will also be a jam session featuring musicians in attendance who are not part of the scheduled performances.

The Albany Musicians Union will hold not one but two galas this year, on the 15th other on 29th.

Performers for the public events will be announced.

The union is sending several musical groups into Capital Region schools to perform for the students. Booked so far are:

April 2 - Portobello Pete’s Dormitory Authority, Broadway, Albany -Sam Farkas, Pete Toigo, Peter White
April 3 - Sage College Albany- April Marie and Friends 11:30 am-1:30 pm
April 9 - Russell Sage College of Troy -Linda Brown and Bill Jensen
April 10 - Sage College Albany- Peg Delaney and Paul Couch Duo 11:30 am-1:30 pm
April 19 - Sage College Albany- Patti Melita and Tommy Shields 11:30 am-1:30 pm
A new series of Latin jazz concerts will take place in May at the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Avenue.

The Beyond Standards Ensemble will kick things off on Friday, May 11, with flutist Andrea Brachfeld, percussionist Wilson "Chembo" Corniel (who played with Hilton Ruiz at APFJ) and trombonist and conch shell player Steve Turre.

On Friday May, 18, it’s Vive Jazz! with Sonido Isleno.

Bobby Sanabria and Quarteto Ache will perform Afro-Cuban jazz on Friday, May 25.

All concerts start at 8 p.m. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Season tickets at $45 will be available through April 30. Student admission is $10, student season tickets $25. For tickets and further information, call (518) 466-9990 or email conga2@verizon.net.

Ahora, Latin/Jazz!
MARCH JAZZ CALENDAR

Visit Our Website at www.aplaceforjazz.org

Monday, March 12
9pm-midnight, Nate Buccheri, Justin's

Tuesday, March 13
7pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
5-8pm, Bob Sbuttoni, Four Corners Luncheonette
8-11pm, John Dworkin Band, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, Masters of Nostalgia, One Caroline Street
8pm, Jazz Jam hosted by New York Jazz Trio, Van Dyck Restaurant

Wednesday, March 14
6-9pm, Lincoln Mayorga (piano) and Otto Gardnner (bass), Blue Plate
7:30-10:30pm, Dr. G's Jazz Duo, Circus Café
11am-2:30pm, Rich Donnelly; 5-8pm, Rená Graf & Bob Sbuttoni, Four Corners Luncheonette
9pm-midnight, Mystery Piano Trio, Justin's
8pm, Dancing on the Air including guest Terry Blaine, Linda Norris Auditorium, (WAMC Performing Arts Studio)
8-11pm, Joe Barna Trio, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, Sarah Pedinotti Band, One Caroline Street
6:30-9:30pm, Provence Restaurant

Thursday, March 15
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
7:30-10:30pm, Sensemaya, Chameleon on the Lake
9pm-midnight, Adrian Cohen Group, Justin's
8-11pm, Keith Pray's Soul Jazz Revival, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, Peg Delaney, One Caroline Street
6-8pm, Ed Wool, Parker Inn
6:30-9:30pm, Provence Restaurant
7-10pm, George Muscatello Duo, Stockade Inn

Friday, March 16
8:30pm, Dan Goitien and George Plouffe, The Basement
7pm, Randy Loren, Brandon's
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
9-12pm, Walter Donnaruma Trio, Cafe Capriccio 8-11pm, Castle Street Café
7:30-11:30pm, Richie and Sara, Chameleon on the Lake
7:30pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
5-8pm, Bob Sbuttoni, Four Corners Luncheonette
9:30pm, Justin's
9pm, Bakriges/Daggs/Pelletier, Mo' Jazz Café
7-11pm, Mike Benedict Quartet, 9 Maple Ave
7:30-10:30pm, Sarah Pedinotti Band, One Caroline Street
9pm-12midnight, Prime 677
7-10pm, Provence Restaurant
8pm-midnight, Tony Jenkins Jazz Trip , Wallabee's Jazz Bar

Saturday, March 17
8:30pm, Dan Goitien and George Plouffe, The Basement
7pm, Randy Loren, Brandon's
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
9-12pm, Walter Donnaruma Trio, Cafe Capriccio 8-11pm, Castle Street Café
7:30-11:30pm, Richie and Sara, Chameleon on the Lake
7:30pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
9:30pm-12:30am, Lee Shaw Trio, Justin's
9pm, Bakriges/Daggs/Pelletier, Mo' Jazz Café
9pm-1am, Walter Donnaruma Group, 9 Maple Ave
7:30-10:30pm, 'Azzaam Hameed & Judy Wyle, One Caroline Street
7-10pm, Provence Restaurant
7-10pm, Ruth Hellkamp, Srinshaw Restaurant
8pm-midnight, Wallabee's Jazz Bar

Sunday, March 18
10:30am, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
Live Jazz Jam hosted by Pamela Pentony and John Esposito, Chow Hound
8pm, Howard Fishman, Club Helsinki
10am-1pm, Rich Donnelly, Four Corners Luncheonette
11:30am-2:30pm, Jazz Brunch with , Justin's
9pm-midnight, Brian Patneaude Quartet, Justin's
8-11pm, jazz jam session hosted by Three Play Jazz, Muddy Cup
6-9pm, Peter Einhorn, Malcolm Cecil & George Deleon, Red Onion Restaurant
10am-2pm, Jazz Brunch with Joe Sorrentino Band, Sargo's

Monday, March 19
9pm-midnight, Nate Buccheri, Justin's

Tuesday, March 20
7pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
5-8pm, Bob Sbuttoni, Four Corners Luncheonette
8-11pm, John Dworkin Band, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, Masters of Nostalgia, One Caroline Street
8pm, Jazz Jam hosted by New York Jazz Trio, Van Dyck Restaurant

Wednesday, March 21
8-10:30pm, Jazzmin, Arthur's Market
6-9pm, Lincoln Mayorga (piano) and Otto Gardnner (bass), Blue Plate
7:30-10:30pm, Dr. G's Jazz Duo, Circus Café
11am-2:30pm, Rich Donnelly; 5-8pm, Rená Graf & Bob Sbuttoni, Four Corners Luncheonette
9pm-midnight, Mystery Piano Trio, Justin's
8-11pm, Joe Barna Trio, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, Sarah Pedinotti Band, One Caroline Street
6:30-9:30pm, Provence Restaurant

Thursday, March 22
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
7-10pm, Ruth Hellkamp, Srinshaw Restaurant
9pm-midnight, Adrian Cohen Group, Justin's
8-11pm, Keith Pray's Soul Jazz Revival, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, 'Azzaam Hameed, One Caroline Street
6-8pm, Ed Wool, Parker Inn
6:30-9:30pm, Provence Restaurant
7-10pm, Nina Sheldon Duo, Stockade Inn
Friday, March 23
8:30pm, Dan Goitien and George Plouffe, The Basement
7pm, Randy Loren, Brandon's
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
9-12pm, Walter Donnaruma Trio, Cafe Capriccio
8-11pm, Castle Street Café
7:30-11:30pm, Richie and Sara, Chameleon on the Lake
7:30pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
9pm, Elana James & Her Continental Two, Club Helsinki
8-11pm, John Dworkin Band, Muddy Cup
10pm, Lew Soloff and the Empire Jazz Orchestra, Schenectady County Community College

Saturday, March 24
8:30pm, Dan Goitien and George Plouffe, The Basement
7pm, Randy Loren, Brandon's
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
9-12pm, Walter Donnaruma Trio, Cafe Capriccio
8-11pm, Castle Street Café
7:30-11:30pm, Richie and Sara, Chameleon on the Lake
7:30pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
9:30pm-12am, Justin's
9pm, Bakriges/Daggs/Pelletier, Mo' Jazz Café
6-8pm, Ed Wool, Parker Inn
6:30-9:30pm, Provence Restaurant
7-10pm, Jeanne O'Connor Duo, Stockade Inn
Friday, March 30
8:30pm, Dan Goitien and George Plouffe, The Basement
7pm, Randy Loren, Brandon's
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
9-12pm, Walter Donnaruma Trio, Cafe Capriccio
8-11pm, Castle Street Café
7:30-11:30pm, Richie and Sara, Chameleon on the Lake
7:30pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
5-8pm, Bob Sbuttoni, Four Corners Luncheonette
9pm, Bakriges/Daggs/Pelletier, Mo' Jazz Café
9pm-1am, Jonathan Lorentz Quartet, 9 Maple Ave
7-10pm, Joe Gitto, One Caroline Street
6-8pm, John Esposito, Chow Hound
10am-1pm, Rich Donnelly, Four Corners Luncheonette
11:30am-2:30pm, Jazz Brunch with Justin's
9pm-midnight, Brian Patneaude Quartet, Justin's
11:30pm, Three Play Jazz, Muddy Cup
7-11pm, Presents, 9 Maple Ave
9pm-12midnight, Prime 677
7-10pm, Provence Restaurant
7-10pm, Rich Donnelly, Four Corners Luncheonette
8pm-midnight, Tony Jenkins Jazz Trip, Wallabee's Jazz Bar

Sunday, March 25
10:30am, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
Live Jazz Jam hosted by Pamela Pentyony and John Esposito, Chow Hound
10am-1pm, Rich Donnelly, Four Corners Luncheonette
11:30am-2:30pm, Jazz Brunch with Justin's
9pm-midnight, Brian Patneaude Quartet, Justin's
8-11pm, John Dworkin Band, Muddy Cup
6-9pm, Peter Einhorn, Malcolm Cecil & George Deleon, Red Onion Restaurant
10am-2pm, Jazz Brunch with Joe Sorrentino Band, Sargo's

Monday, March 26
9pm-midnight, Nate Bucciarelli, Justin's

Tuesday, March 27
7pm, Cole Broderick, Chez Sophie bistro
5-8pm, Bob Sbuttoni, Four Corners Luncheonette
8-11pm, Masters of Nostalgia, One Caroline Street
8pm, Lew Soloff and the Empire Jazz Orchestra, Schenectady County Community College
8pm, Jazz Jam hosted by New York Jazz Trio, Van Dyck Restaurant

Wednesday, March 28
6-9pm, Lincoln Mayorga (piano) and Otto Gardiner (bass), Blue Plate
7-10pm, John Dworkin Band, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, Masters of Nostalgia, One Caroline Street
8pm, Lew Soloff and the Empire Jazz Orchestra, Schenectady County Community College
8pm, Jazz Jam hosted by New York Jazz Trio, Van Dyck Restaurant

Thursday, March 29
7:30-11pm, Cafe Jazzbo's, Cabernet Café
9pm-midnight, Adrian Cohen Group, Justin's
8-11pm, Keith Pray's Soul Jazz Revival, Muddy Cup
7-10pm, Joe Gitto, One Caroline Street
6-8pm, Roni Ben-Hur, Linda Norris Auditorium, (WAMC Performing Arts Studio)
“I grew up listening to Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, Lee Morgan and John Coltrane.” So says Greg Henderson who was born into a musical family in New York City. His father had his own band with which his mother used to sing. His two brothers and two sisters are also musicians. His aunt owned a private school after graduating from Columbia University in the 1920s.

So it was natural for young Greg to pick up a trumpet at age twelve. During college he supported himself by playing Latin music in the Frank Nieves Orchestra. The band exposed him to the flavor of salsa music and the New York club scene. Greg then started his own all black R & B Funk band called Obsidian, named after the black glass formed by volcanoes. Obsidian played all over New York City, which led to Greg’s next big break.

In 1974 Greg was hired by the Jackson Five to play trumpet with them in a string of shows including one at Madison Square Garden; certainly a high point in an already exciting career. More was yet to come. After reading about the jazz scene in Europe, Greg invited his band to fly to Copenhagen with him. Only his guitarist accepted. They stayed for over a year, formed a band in Amsterdam, hiring seven Dutch musicians, and toured all over Europe. But homesick for his family and his beloved New York City, he returned. In the late 1970s Greg was invited on another foreign tour, this time to Iran to play top 40 hits for a three-month stint. (This was when the Shah was in power before the Islamic Revolution).

Back in New York, Greg started Rain Records in 1982. He wrote a single, “Dreamin”, pressed on his own label and released in England where it made the pop charts. He still receives royalties for it. “It was kind of a disco hit,” he laughs. But music is a tough business. Necessity forced Greg to try something else. He started his own recruiting agency, placing promising young African Americans in business schools around the city. This was quite lucrative for a number of years. “I was a success in business, but I was not happy,” he said. “Music was calling me.”

So in 1993 Greg called his younger brother David, a percussionist who had moved to Schenectady, to see how he would feel about starting a jazz band. Dave was glad to hear that Greg wanted to play again, and invited him to move to Schenectady. And so, “Street Jazz” was invented. “It comes from the streets of New York City: a little funk, a little hip hop, some Latin, and mix with jazz. It’s like gumbo!” Greg smiles.

Greg and Dave started the five-member Jazz Street Ensemble in ’93 and have been playing clubs and festivals and winning awards ever since. Their first CD, Songs from the Street features compositions by Greg, who is also a keyboardist. One song, “Miracle on Wednesday” is about the birth of his son which happened in a Schenectady bank in the middle of a snowstorm. Their latest CD, Last Tango in the New World, is twelve cool cuts of instrumental jazz, easy to listen to yet bright, fresh and never dull. It is available at Arthur’s Market and Moon and River Café for $15.

Music critic Don Wilcox wrote in the Troy Record, “Greg’s repertoire is all original cool jazz in the Herbie Hancock tradition… I saw him perform on trumpet and keyboards with his band two weeks ago, and he was nothing short of brilliant…”

Greg and Dave Henderson often play at Arthur’s Market, 35 North Ferry St, Schenectady. Come check ‘em out! (Greg Henderson can be reached for bookings, interviews and music instructions at (518) 377-5267.)

The Empire Jazz Orchestra Welcomes Lew Soloff

The Empire Jazz Orchestra will welcome guest trumpeter Lew Soloff at its spring concert at 8 p.m on Tuesday, March 27, at the Carl Taylor Auditorium at Schenectady County Community College.

Soloff, a former member of Blood, Sweat and Tears, has performed at jazz festivals and clinics around the world. He has previously been a guest soloist with the EJO, performing a program of Gil Evans-Miles Davis compositions.

This year, Soloff will be featured in the second half of the concert, playing an arrangement of Duke Ellington compositions, the Gil Evans’ arrangement of Jelly Roll Morton’s "King Porter Stomp," and another Gil Evans piece titled "Orgone."

The first half of the concert will feature the orchestra in a variety of big band numbers. The group will be joined by vocalist Colleen Pratt.

Tickets are $15, $6 for students. Tickets and further information are available at 381-1231.
I didn’t know what to expect when I arrived at the Hilton Hotel on East 53rd Street on January 10th. Butch Conn had once told me that the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference (IAJE) was pure fun and a learning experience. He was right, but for me it was an intoxicating experience as well with four days of panel discussions, clinics, workshops, master classes, interviews and music, music, music.

The place was jumping with a continuous flow of musicians coming and going. There were performances by so many top musicians and groups but space limits me to mention only a few like the Moody, Antonio Hart, Matt Wilson’s Arts and Crafts, and an unbelievable Latin Pro Jam Session with Luis Perdomo. There were jam sessions until the wee hours of the morning that included Philadelphia musicians Tony Williams and his brother Tom Williams led by Doc Hampton on a four valve flugel horn, Giacomo Gates, Jimmy Heath, James Moody, Antonio Hart, Matt Wilson’s Arts and Crafts, and an unbelievable Latin Pro Jam Session with Luis Perdomo.

I noticed that musicians who perform before their peers play at a very high level of excellence that you don’t necessarily hear from the concert stage or in the clubs.

I was thrilled to see so many young musicians who performed at the sessions. I met two who were 9 and 11 years of age. Stefon Harris performed with the Western Michigan University Jazz Octet. Jazz is alive and well in many school music classes. I can only hope that some of these students will continue the legacy of the artists who came before them. Among the numerous clinics and workshops that were given was a study of “tension release” techniques with Tom Harrell and a clinic on good vibration techniques for jazz sax by Jerry Bergonzi.

The Jazz Journalists Association held a mentoring workshop for aspiring journalists writing jazz reviews for print media or radio.

The interview sessions were informative and fun. Nat Hentoff interviewed Joe Lovano and Phil Woods. Roy Haynes was interviewed by Christian McBride, and journalist Willard Jenkins discussed African rhythms and music with Randy Weston.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Jazz Masters Award was presented to Frank Wess, Toshiko Akyoshi, Jimmy Scott, Curtis Fuller, Ramsey Lewis, and Phil Woods. This year, archivist, author, editor, and educator Dan Morgenstern received the NEA Jazz Masters Advocate of the Year Award.

The 2008 IAJE conference will be held in Toronto, Canada from January 9-12th. The 2009 conference is scheduled for January 7-10 in Seattle, Washington. I look forward to 2010 when the conference will once again be held in New York City.

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**Radio Jazz**

WVCR 88.3 FM  Cutting edge Afro-Am Pop w/ occasional Jazz/Latin flavor

WCDB 90.9 FM  Bill McCann on Saturday mornings from 8 am to 12 noon

WAMC 90.3 FM  Great mix. Jazz or jazz related music every evening including: Tim Coakley, Saturday 10:30 pm-12 midnight; Jim Wilke - Jazz After Hours 1 am to 5 am Friday and Saturday; Marian McPartland, Sunday 9 pm; Afro Pop Worldwide, 8 pm Sunday

WRPI 91.5  Barbara Kaiser 10 am to noon on Tuesday. with a wonderfully eclectic mixture of Jazz and; Keven Roberts, Thursday. 8-10 pm with his exciting and varied theme shows

WVPR 94.3 (Vermont Public Radio) George Thomas is the daily Jazz host (Tuesday–Thursday from 8-10 pm, Friday until midnight)

WKLI 100.9 Sundays on Magic 100.9 FM, Albany 8 am. -10 am.: Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis 12 noon -2 pm.: Swingin’ with Sinatra 7 pm. -10 pm.: Big Bands, Ballads and Blues 10 pm -midnight: Big Band Jump
Saxophonist **Ravi Coltrane** and his quartet will headline this year’s Williamstown Jazz Festival on Saturday, April 21 at the ’62 Center on the Williams College campus in Williamstown, Mass.

The second son of John and Alice Coltrane, he was named after Indian sitar legend Ravi Shankar. He has fronted a variety of jazz lineups, worked as a sideman for many well-known jazz players and founded an independent record label.

Pianist **Luis Perdomo**, bassist **Drew Gress**, and drummer **E.J. Strickland** will join him at the festival. Tickets are $10, $3 with valid student ID, and are available by contacting the box office at (413) 597-2425.

The first concert will occur at the Clark Art Institute on Wednesday, April 18, featuring **Freddie Bryant and Trio del Sol**. Bryant works with **Ben Riley’s Monk Legacy Septet** and the **Mingus Orchestra**. His most recent CD is with the Trio del Sol, led collectively with pianist **Misha Piatigorsky** and percussionist **Gilad**. Tickets are $10 ($3 with student ID) and are available by contacting the MASS MoCA box office at (413) 662-2111.

A soul-jazz-blues dance party with **Hipmotism** is set for Friday, April 20 at Mass MoCA, featuring trumpeter **Steven Bernstein**, saxophonist **Erik Lawrence**, bassist **Rene Hart** and percussionist **Allison Miller**.

A lecture demonstration by **Erik Lawrence** will be held in Bernhard Music Center’s Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall at 4:30 p.m. on the 20th. Tickets are $14 in advance, $18 day of the show at (413) 662-2111.

**Avery Sharpe and Ted Pease** will be adjudicating jazz ensembles from various colleges in Chapin Hall on Friday, April 20th (noon – 4 pm) and Saturday, April 21st (9:30 am – 6:30 pm). An excellent bassist, Avery Sharpe is best known for his longtime association with McCoy Tyner’s trio. Ted Pease is the winner of two grants in jazz composition from the National Endowment for the Arts. There is no admission charge.

**Other highlights:**

A concert by the **Williams Gospel Choir** with guest conductor Walter Robinson at 6:30 pm on the 20th at St. John’s Episcopal. Robinson was the subject of a national PBS special titled "Walter Robinson and His Music" produced by WGBH Boston.

There will be free dance classes, a New England Jazz Hall of Fame photo exhibit, a jazz-related film, and jam sessions at Café Latino at MASS MoCA and Spice Root on Spring St. in Williamstown.

The dates for the entire festival are April 12-22. Go online at [www.williamstownjazz.com](http://www.williamstownjazz.com) for the complete schedule. Call (413) 597-2736 for general information or e-mail eclark@williams.edu.
Black Vocal Groups -
the Mills Brothers to Doo Wop

By Beverly Elander

On June 9, A Place for Jazz Vice President Tom Pierce will present a musical offering on early Black Vocal groups and later R&B/Doo Wop groups, including the seminal groups, the Mills Brothers and the Inkspots who were eventually followed by such well-known groups as the Platters, Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers, and Little Anthony and the Imperials.

Tom’s presentation will include a comparison of R&B/Doo Wop to Jazz, and will feature videos as well as audio music.

A Q&A session will be followed by a raffle of free CDs. It is hoped that this will be the first in a series of musical lectures offered by APFJ members.

The presentation will be held at APFJ member Richard Genest’s Arthur’s Market and World Village Cafe’, 35 N. Ferry Street in the Stockade from noon until 1:30. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The program is free of charge, but donations will be accepted to support the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, and A Place for Jazz.

John Pizzarelli Charms Audience at the Egg

By Beverly Elander

During the last 10+ years, I’ve attended 3 concerts in which Mr Pizzarelli has performed, but February 2 was the first time I really enjoyed him. John Pizzarelli opened for Frank Sinatra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga, NY in the late 80s. Unfortunately for Pizzarelli, he wasn't the skinny kid we had come to hear. We were impatient to see FRANK! Opening for a Sinatra audience could be brutal.

The second time I heard John Pizzarelli was at the Sinatra Extravaganza at Radio City Music Hall a few years back. Once again, Pizzarelli was upstaged by Frank and all the hoopla—and Frank wasn't even alive any more! My senses were assaulted to the point where JP’s talents went unnoticed (at least by this audience member) on the large and cluttered stage.

But finally, last month at the Egg in Albany, John Pizzarelli was the main attraction, and he captured the attention of this audience member.

The first act included a variety of songs, mostly standards from past albums, beginning with "Three Little Words." During the opening segment, Pizzarelli’s sense of humor sparked, his voice and playing were strong, and his band was sterling.
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 2010)****** $1,000

For information or suggestions, please call 393-4011, or e-mail coak-jazz@aol.com. Checks for membership and tickets should be made out to A Place for Jazz and mailed to PO box 1059, Schenectady, NY 12301

Special Thanks
Norm Ainslie; Rob Aronstein; Ed August; C. Robie Booth; Joe Bowman; Al Brooks; Jody Shayne and Russ Brooks; Joan Chiverton; Tim Coakley; College of St. Rose; Bob Cudmore; Evvie and Bob Currie; James & Margaret Cunningham; Peggy Delaney; Beverly Elander; Charles and Jenny Frank; The Goldberg Clan; Jerry Gordon; The Hamilton Hill Art Center; The Hart Clan; Anita and Al Haugen; The Hyland Clan; Barbara Kaiser; Mike and Rosemary Lategano; Peter Lesser; Eleanor Linberg; Chris Martin; Bill McCann; Gail and Bill Mattsson; Bill Meckley; Peg Miller; Bobbie Monterose; John and Donna Moroney; Yves Nazon; Brian Patneaude; Tom Pierce; Karen Rembert; Chuck Rembert; Kevin Roberts; Alice Rudnick; Schenectady County Community College; Joe Slomka and Claudia White; Randy Treece; Chris Waldron; Sharon Wesley; David Wilkinson

Special thanks also to the Daily Gazette for their promotion of APFJ
Dear Friend of A Place For Jazz,

This year marks 20 years of APFJ providing great performances and education by outstanding jazz musicians, building appreciation of jazz, and supporting the development of jazz musicians. You are an important part of our future and we welcome your becoming more involved in whatever way fits you best.

You can contribute to APFJ by:-
- attending concerts that bring world class jazz to our community by
- Being a member to help us plan for the coming season
- Serving as an APFJ volunteer to help:
  - usher and/or serve refreshments at concerts
  - create newsletters and distribute publicity
  - develop educational and performance programs
  - participate in fiscal management and fund development
  - take part in performance arrangements

If you would like more information about these opportunities please contact Alice Rudnick at 381-6620, medi8r@juno.com, or PO Box 9243, Niskayuna, NY 12309

(Please include contact information, name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address in your responses)

Looking forward to your joining us,

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A Place for Jazz is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to presenting the best in jazz. We receive our funding in the form of a grant from the Schenectady County Improvement programs as 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

Check out our website----http://www.aplaceforjazz.org----for Jazz in our community

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