

# A PLACE FOR JAZZ

August 2006

Editor: Tim Coakley

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

## Here Comes the Fall Season

By Tim Coakley

### VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

*We need help:*

*Labeling newsletters (1 hour every 3 months...can be done at home)*

*Writing music reviews*

*Working on a young people's project at the Hamilton Hill Art Center*

*If you can help, please call Tim Coakley at*

*518-393-4011*

*or e-mail him at*

*[coakjazz@aol.com](mailto:coakjazz@aol.com)*

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**A Place for Jazz** is ready to go with another season of top-quality jazz for your listening enjoyment. We will kick off our 2006 season Friday, Sept. 15 with the Winard Harper Sextet. This top-notch drummer and his group have been appearing at festivals and cruises around the world to critical and popular acclaim. They should get our season off to a rousing start. You can find the rest of our outstanding lineup on pages 2 and 3 in this newsletter.



### **On our own**

In other news, in the process of continuing the tradition established by Butch Conn, our late founder, A Place for Jazz is in the process of establishing itself as a non-profit entity, with a board of directors and officers. This will not alter Butch's approach of presenting quality performances at affordable prices; indeed, it should enable us to better achieve those goals. The names of the board mem-

bers and officers will be posted on our Web site soon:

[www.aplaceforjazz.org](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org).

We will still rely on our board members and volunteers to outline and carry out the many tasks and duties that go with presenting a concert series like ours. With all the help we have received in the past, and in the hope that more jazz lovers with come on board, we invite you to help us keep outstanding jazz performers coming to our area for years to come.

### **Web Site News**

There's a new way to reach our web site! The old URL ([www.timesunion.com/communities/jazz](http://www.timesunion.com/communities/jazz)) will still work, so if you've already got it in your Favorites, you don't have to do anything. But otherwise, you can now get to our web site with [www.aplaceforjazz.org](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org). Much simpler and more professional, don't you think?

*Check out our updated-monthly calendar on our website at [www.aplaceforjazz.org](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org). or [www.timesunion.com/communities/jazz](http://www.timesunion.com/communities/jazz)*

*The calendar is updated daily and includes links to Jazz Festivals, clubs and concert series*



# A Place For Jazz – 2006 Concert Series

**At the Renowned *Whisperdome*  
Unmatched Acoustics – Intimate Space – World Class Musicians**

**Friday, September 15**



**Drummer**

**Winard Harper**

"This music is powerful. If people would spend some time each day listening to it, we would see many changes in the world."

So says drummer **Winard Harper** about jazz. Harper has been leading his dynamic, vibrant sextet for nearly a decade. His group of talented young players carries on the tradition forged by such giants as Clifford Brown, Art Blakey, Cannonball Adderley

and Max Roach.

Encouraged by his father to play the drums, Winard Harper honed his skills in clubs around his native Baltimore. Jazz Times has called him "as tasteful a drummer as one could ask for."

Winard Harper's buoyant, forceful sextet will get the 2006 season of A Place for Jazz off to a rousing start, setting the stage for a full slate of varied and creative concerts.

**Friday, September 29**



**Vocalist Giacomo Gates**

**Giacomo Gates** has been praised as one of the most impressive male Jazz singers for over 15 years. His 3 CD's have been highly acclaimed for his resonant, smoky baritone, sensitive lyric interpretation and swinging attack.

In addition to performing 3 times with Jon Hendricks, the Father of Vocalese & preeminent Jazz lyri-

cist, he was selected to sub for him in on a 2004 European tour with Mark Murphy and Kurt Elling in the "Four Brothers" group, considered the ultimate in Male Jazz singing. Gates' extensive Song repertoire ranging from Bop, Blues & Swing to the Great American Songbook, is sure to excite all APFJ tastes.

**Friday, October 13**



**Guitarist Chris Flory and  
Pianist John Bunch**

**Chris Flory** played his first gig at the age of 13. He took lessons from the legendary Tiny Grimes in Harlem, and began playing jazz in Providence, R.I., where he joined Scott Hamilton's quartet.

He was part of Benny Goodman's sextet from 1978 until 1983, as well as working with such artists as Roy Eldridge, Ruby Braff and Rose-

mary Clooney.

He cites guitarists Charlie Christian and Django Reinhardt as influences, and retains great respect for the blues guitarists who inspired him, such as Albert King and B.B. King.

Pianist **John Bunch** played in high school bands in Indians, while listening to Fats Waller and Count Basie records.

After serving in World War II, he played in the bands of Woody Herman and Benny Goodman. More recently, he has been a part of the group New York Swing with Bucky Pizzarelli. His many recordings on Concord and Arbors are treasured by collectors.

Joined by bass and drums, Chris and John will give us a swinging evening of standards

**David Fathead Newman** is a native of Texas. One of his early jobs was with saxophonist Buster Smith, Charlie Parker's mentor.

In 1954, David began a 12-year association with Ray Charles, starting as a baritone player but soon becoming the band's tenor saxophone star. He recorded his first album as a leader in 1959.

He recorded many albums for Atlantic Records. After moving to New York City,

he performed with many other jazz greats of the time, including Lee Morgan, Billy Higgins and Kenny Dorham. He also became busy in studio work, recording with Herbie Mann, Aretha Franklin and Aaron Neville.

In 1980, he began to focus on his own musical identity, recording with Cedar Walton, Louis Hayes, Buster Williams and others.

In the late '90s, he began recording for High Note,

producing six successful CDs. The most recent, "I Remember Brother Ray," was a tribute to Ray Charles and became the most played jazz album nationwide.

His robust, authoritative and blues-influenced style, a virtual summary of the history of the tenor sax in jazz, is sure to make his concert at APFJ one of the highlights of the season.

**Friday October 27**



**David "Fathead" Newman**

**Friday November 10**



**Pianist  
Lee Shaw**



**Guitarist  
Jack Fragomeni**

Pianist **Lee Shaw** has offered a variety of courses and clinics on jazz improvisation, theory, history and appreciation since 1972.

She received her bachelor of music from Oklahoma College For Women, her master's degree from the American Conservatory of Music (Chicago, Illinois), and completed further graduate studies at the Conservatory of Music (Puerto Rico). Lee also studied privately with Oscar Peterson.

Lee has been an adjunct faculty member of The College of Saint Rose, Albany, from 1982 to the present. She has also taught courses at Broward Community

College North (Coconut Creek, FL), Holy Names Art Center (Albany) and at Empire State College (Saratoga Springs).

Lee was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in 1993, joining Dizzy Gillespie, Chet Baker, Charlie Christian, Barney Kessel, Cecil McBee, Ruth Brown and a host of other talented jazz musicians. She was invited to appear on Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz syndicated radio program. NPR hailed her, along with McPartland and the late Mary Lou Williams, as "one of jazz's premier pianists."

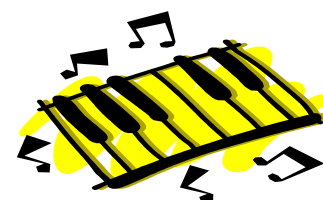
Her most recent CD is "Little Friend," featuring Rich Syracuse, bass, and Jeff Siegel, drums. A new CD is due out shortly.

Guitarist **Jack Fragomeni's** resume includes: Featured soloist/ensemble member with: Sal Amico, Nick Brignola, Ted Curson, Eddie Daniels, J.R. Monterose, George Mraz, Sal Nistico, Rufus Reid, Eliot Zigmund, Attila Zoller and other recording artists, in New York City and throughout the United States.

Concert Performances as featured soloist/ensemble member: Albany Symphony Orchestra - Skitch Henderson, Conductor; Saratoga Pops Orchestra - George Shiravo, Director; Woody Herman Band, Dianne Carroll and Bob McGrath - I Love New York Concert Series; Jazz in the Square Concerts- Syracuse, NY; Westport Jazz Festival; JVC Jazz Festival; Vermont Jazz Center Concerts; Havre de Grace Outdoor Concerts (MD); Garden State Arts Center; CUNY Jazz Concert Series and the Washington Park Open Air Concerts w/the Albany Big Jazz Band.

Jack also teaches at the College of Saint Rose and Schenectady County Community College.

He will join Lee, Rich and Jeff for a swinging end to our concert season.





# AUGUST JAZZ CALENDAR

Visit Our Website at [www.aplaceforjazz.org](http://www.aplaceforjazz.org)

## Tuesday, August 1

7pm, Cole Broderick, [Chez Sophie bistro](#)  
 11am, Jac Kelle; 5pm, Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)  
 8-11pm, John Dworkin Band, [Muddy Cup](#)  
 7-9pm, Dennis McCafferty, Jazz in Riverside Park, Schenectady's Stockade section  
 5:30-9pm, Reggie's Red Hot Feetwarmers, [Saratoga Polo Grounds](#)  
 8pm, Bob Connors Sextet, [Seven Hills Inn](#)  
 8pm, Jazz Jam hosted by New York Jazz Trio, [Van Dyck Restaurant](#)

## Wednesday, August 2

6-9pm, Lincoln Mayorga (piano) and Otto Gardner (bass), [Blue Plate](#)  
 7:30-10:30pm, Joan Taub and Michael Lamkin, [Circus Café](#)  
 11am, Himer Morgan; 5pm, Rena Graf & Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)  
 8-11pm, Joe Barna Trio, [Muddy Cup](#)  
 7-10pm, Masters of Nostalgia, [One Caroline Street](#)  
 6:30-9:30pm, Sonny Daye, [Provence Restaurant](#)

## Thursday, August 3

7-10pm, April Marie, [Arlington House](#)  
 6pm, Birdland Duo, [Cabernet Café](#)  
 7:30-10:30pm, Sensemaya, [Chameleon on the Lake](#)  
 7-11pm, Swing night, [Danceland/Boomers](#)  
 9pm-12am, Los Mofos (Jason Ennis, Jon Suters, Nick Halley), [Dué Enoteca](#)  
 5pm, Shirley Nasner, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)  
 Noon-1:30pm, Terry Gordon, [Jazz on Jay](#)  
 9pm-midnight, Adrian Cohen Group, [Justin's](#)  
 8-11pm, Keith Pray's Soul Jazz Revival, [Muddy Cup](#)  
 7-10pm, , [One Caroline Street](#)  
 6:30-9:30pm, Noreen Pratt (piano/vocals), [Panza's Restaurant](#)

6-8pm, Ed Wool, [Parker Inn](#)  
 6:30-9:30pm, George Giroux, [Provence Restaurant](#)  
 7-10pm, Tommy Verrigni Trio, [Stockade Inn](#)

## Friday, August 4

7pm, Randy Loren, [Brandon's](#)  
 6pm, Birdland Duo, [Cabernet Café](#)  
 9-12pm, Walter Donnaruma Trio, [Cafe Capriccio](#)  
 8-11pm, Lee Shaw Trio, [Castle Street Café](#)  
 7:30-11:30pm, Lovin' Life, [Chameleon on the Lake](#)

7:30pm, Cole Broderick, [Chez Sophie bistro](#)

7-10pm, Sonny & Perley, [Conkling Hall](#)

5pm, Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

7pm, 32 Short Films about Glenn Gould, [Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center](#)

8pm, Bill Frisell, [MASS MoCA](#)

9pm-1am, New Regime, [9 Maple Ave](#)

7-10pm, Sarah Pedinotti, [One Caroline Street](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Paul Mastriani (piano), [Panza's Restaurant](#)

7-10pm, Michael Lamkin, [Provence Restaurant](#)

9pm, Vic Bell Combo, [Roadhouse 29](#)

8pm, Either/Orchestra, [Sanctuary For Independent Media](#), 3361 6th Ave, Troy, 272-2390

7-10pm, Ruth Hellkamp, [Scrimshaw Restaurant](#)

7:30pm, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, [Southern Vermont Arts Center](#)

7-10pm, April Marie Trio, [Stockade Inn](#)

8pm-midnight, Tony Jenkins Jazz Trio, [Wallabee's Jazz Bar](#)

## Saturday, August 5

7pm, Randy Loren, [Brandon's](#)

8-11pm, Skip Parsons Quartet, [Castle Street Café](#)

5pm, Lisa Jacobs & Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

9pm, Christopher Bakriges Trio, [Mo' Jazz Café](#)

8pm, Sarah Pedinotti, [Mouzon House](#)

9pm-1am, Keith Pray Group, [9 Maple Ave](#)

7-10pm, , [One Caroline Street](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Peter Van Keuren (piano/vocals), [Panza's Restaurant](#)

7-10pm, Scott Bassinson, [Provence Restaurant](#)

7-10pm, Ruth Hellkamp, [Scrimshaw Restaurant](#)

8pm-midnight, , [Wallabee's Jazz Bar](#)

## Sunday, August 6

Noon-3pm, Jason Ennis, [Café Latino](#)

10:30am, Cole Broderick, [Chez Sophie bistro](#)

Live Jazz Jam hosted by Pamela Pen-tony and John Esposito, [Chow Hound](#)

11:30am-2:30pm, Jazz Brunch with , [Justin's](#)

9pm-midnight, Brian Patneau Quintet, [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, August 7

7-10pm, Sarah Pedinotti, [One Caroline Street](#)

## Tuesday, August 8

7pm, Cole Broderick, [Chez Sophie bistro](#)

7-8:30pm, Reggie's Red Hot Feetwarmers, [Concert on the Green](#), Castleton, VT, 802-273-2911

6:30pm, 2 Broads with Alotta Sound + Ron Cremisio & Friends, Cook Park, Lincoln Ave, Colonie, 218-7782 or 218-7438

5pm, Diane Russo & Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

8-11pm, John Dworkin Band, [Muddy Cup](#)

7pm, Nitro Jive, Round Lake Auditorium, Round Lake, NY 899-2130

8pm, Henry Francis Sextet The Swing





# AUGUST JAZZ CALENDAR

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Legacy, [Seven Hills Inn](#)

8pm, Jazz Jam hosted by New York Jazz Trio, [Van Dyck Restaurant](#)

## Wednesday, August 9

6-9pm, Lincoln Mayorga (piano) and Otto Gardner (bass), [Blue Plate](#)

7:30-10:30pm, Jeanne O'Connor and Michael Lamkin, [Circus Café](#)

11am, Himer Morgan; 5pm, Rena Graf & Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

8-11pm, Joe Barna Trio, [Muddy Cup](#)

7-10pm, Masters of Nostalgia, [One Caroline Street](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Arvid Alle, [Provence Restaurant](#)

7-9pm, Doc Scanlon with Colleen Pratt, [Pruyn House](#)

6-8pm, Skip Parsons' Riverboat Dixieland Quartet, Riverfront Gazebo, Green Island, 271-6965

## Thursday, August 10

7-10pm, April Marie, [Arlington House](#)

6pm, Birdland Duo, [Cabernet Café](#)

7:30-10:30pm, Sensemaya, [Chameleon on the Lake](#)

7-11pm, Swing night, [Danceland/Boomers](#)

9pm-12am, Los Mofos (Jason Ennis, Jon Suters, Nick Halley), [Dué Enoteca](#)

5pm, Shirley Nasner, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

Noon-1:30pm, Brian Patneaude Quartet, [Jazz on Jay](#)

9pm-midnight, Adrian Cohen Group, [Justin's](#)

8-11pm, Keith Pray's Soul Jazz Revival, [Muddy Cup](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Noreen Pratt (piano/vocals), [Panza's Restaurant](#)

6-8pm, Ed Wool, [Parker Inn](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Paul Mastrianni, [Provence Restaurant](#)

5pm, Tito Puente Jr Orchestra, Riverfront Park, Albany

7-10pm, Bobby Massaro Trio, [Stockade Inn](#)

## Friday, August 11

8pm, Pete Malinverni Trio, [Belleayre Music Festival](#)

7pm, Randy Loren, [Brandon's](#)

6pm, Birdland Duo, [Cabernet Café](#)

9-12pm, Walter Donnaruma Trio, [Cafe Capriccio](#)

8-11pm, Charlie Tokarz Group, [Castle Street Café](#)

7:30-11:30pm, Lovin' Life, [Chameleon on the Lake](#)

7:30pm, Cole Broderick, [Chez Sophie bistro](#)

10pm-1am, Skip Parsons' Riverboat Jazz Band, [The Fountain](#)

5pm, Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

9pm-1am, John Blood Band, [9 Maple Ave](#)

7-10pm, Sarah Pedinotti, [One Caroline Street](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Peg Delaney (piano), [Panza's Restaurant](#)

7-10pm, Rennie Crain, [Provence Restaurant](#)

9pm, Vic Bell Combo, [Roadhouse 29](#)

7pm, SKP and the Shaggy Rollers, Tang Museum Rooftop, [Skidmore College](#)

7-10pm, Ruth Hellkamp, [Scrimshaw Restaurant](#)

7-10pm, Lee Shaw Trio, [Stockade Inn](#)

8pm, Dom Minasi, [Van Dyck Restaurant](#)

8pm-midnight, Tony Jenkins Jazz Trip, [Wallabee's Jazz Bar](#)

## Saturday, August 12

8pm, Branford Marsalis, [Belleayre Music Festival](#)

7pm, Randy Loren, [Brandon's](#)

8-11pm, Howard Brofsky Quartet, [Castle Street Café](#)

10pm-1am, Skip Parsons' Riverboat Jazz Band, [The Fountain](#)

11am 3pm, 5pm, 8pm, Another evening of Bach, Tango & Ragtime with Joshua Rifkin, Maverick Concerts, Woodstock, NY 845-338-5254

9pm, Christopher Bakriges Trio, [Mo' Jazz Café](#)

8pm, Sarah Pedinotti, [Mouzon House](#)

8pm, Elite Syncopation, [Music Mountain](#)

9pm-1am, Jazz Factor, [9 Maple Ave](#)

7-10pm, [One Caroline Street](#)

6:30-9:30pm, Peg Delaney (piano), [Panza's Restaurant](#)

7-10pm, Ruth Hellkamp, [Scrimshaw Restaurant](#)

## Sunday, August 13

11:30 am & 1pm, "A Tribute to Doc Cheatham" with Theo Crocker, Catherine Russell and the Chuck Folds Trio, [Belleayre Music Festival](#)

Noon-3pm, Jason Ennis, [Café Latino](#)

7pm, Sonny & Perley, [Caffe Lena](#)

10:30am, Cole Broderick, [Chez Sophie bistro](#)

Live Jazz Jam hosted by Pamela Pentony and John Esposito, [Chow Hound](#)

7pm, Brian Melick Spotlights..., [Collar City Live!](#)

11am, Rich Donnelly, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

9pm-midnight, Brian Patneaude Quintet, [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, August 14

7-10pm, Sarah Pedinotti, [One Caroline Street](#)

## Tuesday, August 15

7pm, Cole Broderick, [Chez Sophie bistro](#)

5pm, Bob Sbuttoni, [Four Corners Luncheonette](#)

8-11pm, John Dworkin Band, [Muddy Cup](#)

7pm, Nitro Jive, Round Lake Auditorium, Round Lake, NY 899-2130

8pm, Bob Connors Sextet, [Seven Hills Inn](#)

8pm, Jazz Jam hosted by New York Jazz Trio, [Van Dyck Restaurant](#)

# Jazz Voices In Concert,

Jazz Voices is the stellar vocal jazz group that debuted in the capital district in 1993. Over the past several years the group members each took time off to pursue their multifaceted careers and after a long hiatus they have reunited to bring their unique sound and swinging harmonies back to the stage where they have been charming their faithful fans from previous years, and winning over many new audiences. They will perform for the Columbia City Historic Society on Sept. 3, 2006 from 5 - 7 pm on the Great Lawn of the Historic James Vanderpoel House in Kinderhook, NY. "Right in the center of town"

Ticket prices are \$15 (or \$18 if paying by credit card.) **For tickets or info: 518-758-9265**

The voices are Teresa Broadwell, Colleen Pratt and Jody Shayne. Peg Delaney, on piano, Otto Gardner on bass and Mark Foster on drums round out the group. Each of these vocalists has refined her ability to scat, swing and inhabit a song. Their individual styles are unique. Each singer brings a distinctive freshness to the repertoire which is drawn from the Hi-Los, Lambert Hendricks and Ross, and Duke Ellington. The arrangements are by Delaney and Broadwell with many lyrics by Shayne.

Take three uniquely talented vocal soloists, add one gifted pianist with enough creative foresight to envision the possibilities, and you have Jazz Voices- a dynamic group that blends diverse styles and influences into an exciting musical montage.

**Teresa Broadwell** spent the first part of her career arranging for and performing in groups featuring three

and four part harmony singing. She has contributed greatly to Jazz Voices' repertoire with this writing and arranging talent. Her very successful solo career, including a widely released CD, has her fronting her group called THRIVIN' ON A RIFF. "I find inspiration in a solid groove whether I'm stating the melody, harmonizing or scatting. I like to feel free to improvise."

**Colleen Pratt** was raised in a home full of love of music. Having musical parents provided her with many listening experiences and opportunities to sing with a variety of musicians. With two CDs to her name and on many with Schenectady's Empire Jazz Orchestra, she is soon to release a new recording featuring EJO. "I feel very fortunate to have worked with so many talented musicians in the area and excited to be part of yet another musical experience. Singing with Jazz Voices is musically challenging and extremely rewarding. I'm just having fun doing what I love to do!"

**Jody Shayne** began her professional singing career in Boston, where she attended Berklee College of Music. After working in Boston and NYC for a few years, she returned to the Capital District to perform in settings ranging from single to big bands. Her gift of writing lyrics can be heard in many of the songs Jazz Voices performs. "Everything I listen to contributes to the way I interpret a song, from Billy Holiday to Bill Evans, but one thing I always try to do is tell a story."

**Peg Delaney** gained experience on piano by leading her own combos, performing in a variety of settings from solo piano to twenty piece big

bands, and accompanying many jazz vocalists. Starting the group Jazz Voices has enabled her to explore arranging and develop the musical sensitivity needed to accompany three terrific singers. "Working with some of the area's best singers not only challenges me musically but also has made me aware of a whole spectrum of vocal music that longs to be shared with listeners. We're glad to be together again and look forward to our upcoming concerts."



The Jazz Voices :L-R: Peg Delaney, Jody Shayne, Teresa Broadwell, Colleen Pratt

*"Jazz Voices captivates audiences...It began as a one-time experience but has become one of the brightest musical groups in the Capital Region... Although they work hard preparing for a performance the dominant impression the audience gets is one of sheer exuberance." —Tim Coakley, Daily Gazette*



# REMEMBERING BUTCH



*This article was originally run in our issue last October. As we remember Butch's passing, we are re-running this touching tribute to our founder and friend.*

Butch Conn was the best friend jazz ever had in the Capital Region," said one of his friends.

Butch, who founded A Place for Jazz in 1987, passed away in August, 2005. Most of us will remember him greeting people as they arrived for the concerts, introducing the performers and telling us how much we were going

to enjoy them. But this was only part of the job.

While his first idea was to present musicians in a respectful, intimate and professional concert space, he developed a vision of making the large and loosely knit jazz community into more of a "family."

Collecting and writing articles for the newsletter, getting it to the printer, as well as labeling, stamping and mailing them, kept that connection intact between concerts.

He distributed posters and fliers, and kept everyone informed of upcoming concerts by articles in the local papers, interviews on the radio and notices on the Website.

Butch was determined that tickets be affordable, so fund raising became one of his continuing goals, through grant writing, APFJ memberships, and special events. For Butch, APFJ was also meant to inspire, nurture and

support the talents of music students. So the day of each concert included classes and performances for young people in colleges, public schools, and after-school venues. He also created a scholarship fund that helps support the efforts of talented and dedicated young jazz musicians.

Amazingly, while balancing all this, Butch made sure that performers were treated with respect from the initial contact through escorting them to the programs, assisting with setups and serving them homestyle meals, he was guided by the principle of treating every musician as an honored guest.

We hope to run a further tribute to Butch in our November issue. Anyone with memories or stories about Butch is invited to submit them by October 15 to Tim Coakley at 1040 Morningside Ave., Schenectady NY 12309 or coakjazz@aol.com.

## R A D I O J A Z Z

**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

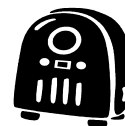
**WAMC 90.3 FM** Great mix. Jazz or jazz related music every evening including: **Tim Coakley**, Saturday 10:30 pm-12 midnight; **Jim Wilke**- Jazz After Hours 1 am to 5 am Friday and Saturday; **Marian McPartland**, Sunday 9pm, Jazz Profiles Tuesday 10 pm; Afro-Pop Worldwide, 8 pm Sunday

**WSPN 91.1 FM Dave Casner's** show, Wednesday. 12 to 3 pm; **Howie Kaplan** on Fridays 12 to 3 pm

**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





## Lake George Jazz Festival

By Paul Pines



In April, 1984 I arrived in Glens Falls for a writer-in-residence position at the Crandall Library following the publication of my novel "The Tin Angel," based on my experience as the owner of a Bowery jazz club, the Tin Palace, during the '70s.

Shortly thereafter I received a call from John Strong at the Lake George Arts Project, asking me if I could help him put together a jazz festival. I told him I'd be returning to Belize in the fall, but thought it would be fun to help him launch the series.

Twenty-three years later, having met my wife, married and raised a daughter in the area, the turquoise skies and barrier reef off Placencia is a memory that pales beside the prospect of John Faddis, Bobby Floyd with Huston Person,

Sheila Jordan w/ Steve Kuhn, and the 3 Davids: Gonzalez, Sanchez and Valentin at Shepherd Park on the 16th and 17th of September 2006.

What remains every bit as vibrant as the tropical seascape is the venue itself. I learned from running my own club, and watching others bloom and disappear like wildflowers from the streets of Manhattan, that jazz not only shapes, but is shaped by the space it occupies.

At its best, that space can connect the individual to the source of all music, a transpersonal reality that my old friend Eddie Jefferson called the real religious experience. At Shepard Park, light can turn the lake to stained glass, or wind dance across the amphitheater with the music. The

festival is also a rare opportunity to give voice to old masters, unsung heroes, all those deserving recognition for their energy and inventiveness, from Bud Shank to Sun Ra, young Turks like Don Byron and Matthias Lupri, composers like Ben Allison, soloists like Fred Hersch and national treasures like James Moody.

We have featured big bands and drawn heavily on the Afro-Cuban community that has stirred the idiom since Machito played the Palladium.

Through it all we have struggled to keep the event alive in a culture that marginalizes the deepest home-grown art, and built an audience that travels from Florida and Ottawa to hear our artists.

Some moments stay with

me: Richie Cole walking into the audience as he improvises, the hush when David Amram led the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra and T.S. Monk's ensemble in a version of "New York, New York"; the weekend after 9/11 when we decided to let the music do what it does best, heal in a time of loss.

I recall breakfast with Red Rodney at Giuseppe's, when he confided that as musical adviser on "Bird," he told Clint Eastwood to edit the script- that Charlie Parker never used the expression M-F or any other expletive. "He had too much class."

I'll never forget bassist Calvin Hill bumping into me back stage and calling out in spontaneous surprise, "Paul Pines, you survived!"

### APFJ Gets Grant from Schenectady County

A Place for Jazz is pleased to be able to thank the Schenectady County Initiative Program for its generous grant to help us put on the 2006 concert series. The SCIP makes funds available to nonprofit organizations that promote the arts and education in Schenectady County. Our concert series, along with the workshops and clinics conducted by our visiting artists, are all part of the vision of our founder, Butch Conn. We are pleased and proud to be able to carry on the work he began.



Shepard Park, Canada St., Lake George, NY

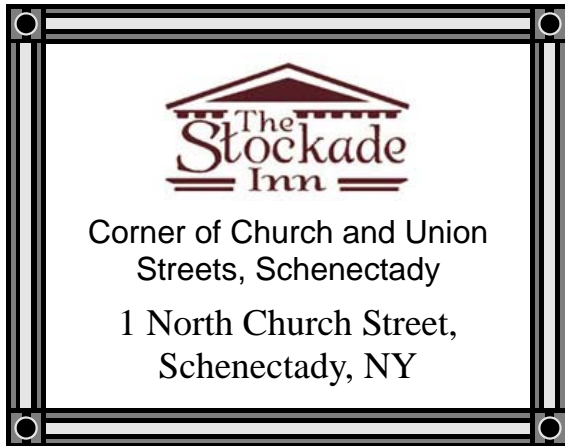
Free Admission

Saturday, September 16

1-2:15 PM: Bobby Floyd w/ Houston Pierce  
2:45- 4 PM: David Gonzalez and Poetic License  
4:30 PM: Jon Vadis

Sunday, September 17th  
1-2:15: David Sanchez  
2:45-4PM: Sheila Jordan  
4:30: Dave Valentin





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## Hilton Ruiz-World Class Musician

Many of our readers know about the tragic death earlier this year of Hilton Ruiz, who gave such a fine concert for us last October. We were shocked and saddened by his untimely death, the mysterious circumstances of which are still under investigation.

Hilton Ruiz was a favorite of several of APFJ members, and his concert last fall was one that they looked forward to with particular enthusiasm. He and his group did not disappoint us, with their blend of jazz standards and Latin music. Hilton was an engaging performer,



photo by Hans Pennink courtesy of the Daily Gazette

*Hilton Ruiz shows Shanley Rodriguez, center, and Linaisha Conklin some of the finer points of jazz piano at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, prior to his APFJ concert*

both playing and talking to the audience, and the evening was further enhanced by the fiery alto playing of Sue Terry and the dynamic drumming of Sylvia Cuenca.

Just as important as the concert

itself was the impression that Hilton made on the students he worked with during our Friday afternoon clinics prior to the concert.

The first group he visited was the class of young musicians that Nat Phipps, one of our talented area pianists, teaches at the Schenectady County Community College. After Hilton spoke to them for a few minutes, he started to give each player, saxophones, trumpets, etc., a phrase to play, and assigned the drummer a certain rhythmic pattern. In a short time, he had turned them into an ensemble, blending together using these simple phrases.

Later that day, he went to the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, where he was warmly received by a bunch of after-school kids (see photo), who enjoyed his demonstration of the different styles of jazz piano. Like Ray Vega a couple of years ago, Hilton really enjoyed talking to and playing for the youngsters, and showed them some things to play on the piano. It was a memorable afternoon for both him and the kids.

The concert itself was a rousing success, with Hilton mixing standards like "Satin Doll" and "St.

Louis Blues" with some fiery Latin tunes from his various CDs. He even got up from the keyboard while the rest of the band was playing and walked around the room, half dancing and digging the music, the crowd and the joyous feeling that pervaded the room.

These mental images, bringing back such positive memories, are tinged with sadness to think that Hilton Ruiz will no longer be able to entertain and uplift an audience as he did that night. But his spirit and music will live on, and perhaps some of the students he touched that day will be inspired by what he showed them to find a career in music.

Nat Phipps said recently that he was impressed by Hilton's ability to create on-the-spot arrangements. "He was able to explain some of the nuances of the different parts of an arrangement, as well as the solo aspect of playing," Nat said.

"He also gave us some personal vignettes about his life in the music business, which is always motivating." But most important, his relaxed attitude set the kids at ease about improvising, which can be intimidating. He took care of all that with them."

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## Singing Instrumentalists – A Vital Current in Jazz

by Tom Pierce

The rich river of Jazz, fed by the great musical streams of the Blues, Gospel, Marching Bands, Folk, Afro-Cuban, Classical, Rhythm & Blues and the Great American Songbook comprises many currents. One of the most vital and enduring of these consists of singing instrumentalists, whose work reflects all of the above tributaries.

Musicians have leveraged their unique advantages in adapting the American song form, which is the primary raw material of Jazz. Their rhythmic dexterity, compelling phrasing and sense of dynamics facilitate infusing vocals with the essential elements of instrumental Jazz – improvisation, blues feeling and swing. Although some have lacked outstandingly strong voices, their more meaningful ability to distinctively and convincingly tell a story has always fascinated and touched listeners.

From early New Orleans, countless musicians have added vocals to entertain, to provide lyrical expression to their compositions or to take a respite from their playing, without losing audience contact.

Trumpeter Louis Armstrong, the first important Jazz soloist, is also still acknowledged as arguably the

greatest influence on ALL American popular vocalizing. A colleague of his, trombonist Jack Teagarden, was also praised for his warm, inviting singing. Like Armstrong, he was also a pioneering innovator on his instrument. The popularity of these brass players, as well as several reedmen, such as alto saxophonist & clarinetist Woody Herman, also derived from the stylistic and phrasing similarities between the way they sang and the way they played.

However, as historically important and popular as these singing horn men were, *pianists* ultimately became the most prominent category of musicians who vocalized. This has included legends like Fats Waller, Nat "King" Cole and Ray Charles, up to today's best selling Jazz artist, Diana Krall.

Pianists had the advantage of typically knowing both the music and lyrics of far more songs than most instrumentalists, as well as having the invaluable experience of accompanying vocalists, either themselves or others. Some pianists, like Sarah Vaughan and Carmen McRae, became so much in demand as singers, that later fans were frequently unaware of their career beginnings

as instrumentalists.

Nevertheless, numerous excellent singers have arisen on all other instruments. Alto sax player Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, a commanding blues shouter from the 40's and "30-something" tenor saxophonist Curtis Stigers, who charmingly utilizes a diverse range of contemporary and classic songs, are but two reed examples.

Two extremely popular singers, doubling as virtuoso guitarists, are George Benson and John Pizzarelli. Additionally in the string family, bassists Jim Ferguson and Jay Leonhart express themselves vocally in highly personal, enchanting and witty fashion.

Lastly, drummers who sing fascinate this particular observer more than any other group. The extraordinary Buddy Rich's engagingly sensitive vocal style on the 1956 "Buddy Rich Sings Johnny Mercer" contrasts interestingly with his aggressive instrumental approach and outspoken personality. The warmly effective balladeer Grady Tate, a much sought after session drummer for over 40 years, has long been a personal favorite.

# APFJ Membership Form

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- Patron (+2 Series)\*\*\*\*\*                \$250
- Underwriter (+4 series)\*\*\*\*\*         \$500
- Jazz Hero (5 Year membership         \$1,000
- +2 series tickets until 2008)\*\*\*\*\*

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 JAZZ/FUSS and mailed to The First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308

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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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