A PLACE FOR JATZ

August 2008 Editor: Tim Coakley

WEBSITE: HTTP://WWW.APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG-UPDATED DAILY



Dynamite Trio to Open 2008 Season

by Tim Coakley

A Place for Jazz always tries to open its season with a bang, and this year will be no exception. **The Bill Charlap Trio** will present our first concert at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12 at the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady.

Pianist Bill Charlap comes from a musical family. His father, Moose Charlap, was a Broadway composer and songwriter whose credits included the scores to Peter Pan. The Conquering Hero, Whoop-up, Alice Through the Looking Glass and Kelly. His mother, Sandy Stewart, is a popular song singer who performed with Benny Goodman, co-starred on TV's Perry Como Show and scored a Grammy nomination for her hit single, "My Coloring Book.

After stints with saxophonists Gerry Mulligan and Phil Woods, **Bill Charlap** formed a trio that has been delighting audiences for ten--plus years. His crisp, inventive playing has made him a favorite among jazz audiences, and the rapport he establishes with bassist **Peter Washington** and drummer **Kenny Washington** is just phenomenal.

Peter Washington was born in Los Angeles in 1964. He began playing classical bass in his Junior High School orchestra, and played a season with the Westchester Community Symphony at age 14.

In 1986, he joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and moved to New York City. He performed with the Messengers through September of 1988, and then started a career as a freelance musician.



Since coming onto the New York jazz scene with Lee Konitz's Nonet in the late seventies, **Kenny Washington** has been a favorite of veteran beboppers like Betty Carter, Johnny Griffin and Milt Jackson, who appreciate his unerring sense of time and ability to drive bands of various sizes. He is one of the most frequently recorded drummers of the last twenty-five years.

The trio has recorded numerous CDs, including ones devoted to the music of Hoagy Carmichael, George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein. Working their way through the Great American Songbook, as well as some of the classic jazz compositions, the trio is sure to get our 2008 series off to a great start.

This publication is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



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Esperanza Spalding at the Music Haven

By Tom Pierce

Mona Golub, with her Music Haven series, gave hundreds of music lovers that special feeling the first time one witnesses a uniquely gifted artist. Live performances by truly accomplished musicians obviously provide additional dimensions beyond listening to recordings.

Bassist-vocalist Esperanza Spalding demonstrated this pleasurable difference in a variety of ways on Sunday August 3. One of these was the interesting ways she artfully and naturally embodied some of the "old" (the time-honored traditions of instrumental Jazz and the Great American Songbook) as well as some of the "new" (her own unique talent and affinity for both free & contemporary jazz, Brazilian & other Latin music, and superior Pop). Her fluidly natural ease in singing in English, Spanish and Portuguese was clearly a huge asset.



Another difference with the concert was her choosing a number of classic songs that in addition to not being on either of her two CD's, distinguished themselves from earlier unforgettable versions by legendary artists, with her very personal interpretation.

The first of these was her set opener, a spirited reading of bassist Norman Mapp's composition "Jazz Ain't Nothing But Soul", indelibly etched in this reviewer's mind from the outstanding 1960 release, "The Modern Sound of Betty Carter". Esperanza's swinging version was at a slightly slower medium tempo. Two other selections not on her CD's that she did exceptional versions of were two exquisitely haunting songs - "Wild is the Wind" (memorably recorded by both Johnny Mathis and Nina Simone) and as a delightfully sensitive closing encore, accompanying herself solo on bass, "The Midnight Sun", which some associate primarily with Ella Fitzgerald, from her 40th Birthday concert LP in Rome in 1958.

The concert did include however three songs from her latest CD, "Esperanza", each with very different styles. The classic "Body & Soul" was done in 5/4 time, with some very different phrasing. Her own composition, "Precious" was closer to contemporary (but not exactly "Smooth") Jazz. And "Ponta de Areia" was a lilting Brazilian tune by Milton Nascimento.

Her touring band of three very capable, young Boston-based musicians, Leo Genovese on piano, Richard Vogt on guitar and Otis Brown III on drums were very adept at handling the intricate rhythms which are a huge part of her appeal. Her own bass work, with great ease in playing imaginatively stimulating lines, was outstanding, as one would expect from someone who's played with artists like Joe Lovano and Pat Metheny, among others.

At only 23, her voice should continue to develop and deepen; but her basic vocal attributes - range, intonation, breath control, etc - are already beyond that of the average

instrumentalist who also happens to sing. And most find her ability to sing and play rhythmically intricate lines simultaneously truly exceptional. However, while her phrasing & delivery in singing *lyrics* was both imaginative and pleasing, her vocal quality that some of us found most compelling and extraordinary was her wordless vocalizing/scatting.

It'll be interesting to see which way she and her management decide to take her career, in terms of the degree to become more or less commercial, versus more artistically abstract and Jazz & World music oriented. She alluded to this dilemma in introducing "Precious" that she wrote for her second CD, trying to get a "Pop hit". The song apparently wound up being too complex for mass appeal, but was certainly enjoyed by the jazz audience at the Music Haven. A possible hint at the direction she may be leaning toward, now that she's recording on a major label (Concord), is the absence on the new CD of most of the wordless vocalizing/ scatting that dominated the first CD, "Junjo", in place of more lyricdriven songs.

But regardless of which career direction she chooses, the depth and scope of her talents, in conjunction with the very attractive, joyful, confidently expressive persona she exudes will surely take her far. A number in the audience were heard to comment on her "star quality".

But above all else, this observer was most struck by how her unique total package makes her impossible to easily compare to any other performer. She's truly an original.

Reprinted through courtesy of Albanyjazz.com



Jazz Venues (Listed Alphabetically)

9 Maple Ave, Saratoga Springs, 518-587-7759

The Bar at 74 State, 74 State St, Albany, 518-434-7410

The Basement, 21 Center St, Northampton, MA, 413-586-9030

Brandon's, 1725 Van Vranken Ave, Schenectady, 518-347-1329

Blue Plate, 1 Kinderhook St, Chatham, NY, 518-392-7711

Cabernet Café, 1814 Western Ave, Albany, 518-452-5670

Café Capriccio, 49 Grand St, Albany, 518-65-0439

Castle Street Café, 10 Castle St, Great Barrington, MA, 413-528-5244

Chameleon on the Lake, 251 County Rt. 67, Saratoga Springs, 581-3928

Chez Sophie Bistro, 534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518-583-3538

Circus Café, 392 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518-583-1106

Comfort Inn, 37 Rte 9W, Glenmont, 518-465-8811

The Fountain Restaurant, 283 New Scotland Ave, Albany, 518-482-9898

Four Corners Luncheonette, 2 Grove St, Delmar, 518-439-0172

Freedom Park, Schonowee Ave, Scotia, 370-0662 (summer only)

Jazz on Jay, in front of City Center (across from Proctor's), Schenectady, 518-372-5656 (summer only)

Justin's, 301 Lark St, Albany, 518-436-7008

Lark Tavern, 453 Madison Ave. Albany, 518-463-9779

Linda Norris Aud., WAMC, 339 Central Ave., Albany, 518-465-5233

Mo' Jazz Café, 7 South Main St Wilmington, VT 802-464-2280

Moon & River Café, 115 S. Ferry St., Schenectady, 518-382-1938

Muddy Cup, 1038 Madison Ave, Albany, 518-459-2022

One Caroline Street Bistro, Saratoga Springs, 518-587-2026

Panza's Restaurant, Route 9P Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Spgs, 518-584-6882

Parker Inn, 434 State St, Schenectady, 518-688-1001

Prime 677, 677 Broadway Albany, 518-427-7463

Proctor's, 432 State St, Schenectady, 518-382-3884

Provence Restaurant, Stuyvesant Plaza-Western Ave at Fuller Rd, Albany, 518-689-7777

Quarter Moon Café, 53 Main Street, Delhi, NY, 607-746-8886

Red Onion Restaurant, Route 212, Woodstock, NY 845-679-1223

Saratoga Gaming & Raceway, Saratoga Springs, 518-584-2110

Sarazen Student Union, Siena College, 518-783-4117

Sargo's, Saratoga National Golf Club, 458 Union Ave, Saratoga Springs, 518-583-4653

Scrimshaw Tavern, Desmond Hotel, Colonie, 518-869-8100

Spillin' the Beans, 13 3rd St, Troy, 518-268-1028

Stella's Lounge, 7 Main St, Catskill, 518-943-3173

Stockade Inn, 1 N. Church St, Schenectady, 518-346-3400

Falls, NY, 518-792-8282

Wallabee's Jazz Bar, 190 Glen St, Glens

The Winedown, 613 Union St., Schenectady NY 518-344-7086

The Wine Bar, 417 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 518-584-8777

Zaika, 54 Clifton Country Rd, Clifton Park, 518-688-1548

RADIO JAZZ

WVCR 88.3 FM "The Crossroads of Jazz." Saturday from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. with a mix of the Essentials and the Contemporary. Hosted by Darrin Scott and Ted Moisides.

WCDB 90.9 FM Bill McCann, Saturday 8 am to 12 noon; O.J., "Maiden Voyage", Thursday, 2 - 4 PM; Bill Goss, "TGIF Jazz Party", Friday, 4 - 6 PM; Mark Stevenson, "The Contemporary Jazz Cafe`", Saturday, 6 - 8 AM

WAMC 90.3 FM 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; Afro-Pop Worldwide, 8 pm Sunday

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

WVPR 94.3 FM (Vermont Public Radio) George Thomas Tuesday-Thursday from 8-10 pm, Friday until midnight

WKLI 100.9 FM Sundays 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 & Blues; 10 pm-midnight: Big Band Jump

Tales from the Trenches (Anecdotes from the Jazz World of Johnny Morris)

by Jan Egry

This is the second in a series by Jan Egry about her friend, the famed **Johnny Morris**.

When **Johnny Morris** and I graduated from Crane School of Music in 1958, I went on to teach music. Johnny didn't. Though classically trained, his talent as a jazz pianist was such that he immediately immersed himself in the professional world of music in New York City.

My friend Johnny has not retired. He currently divides his time between two venues in Connecticut/New York and in Palm Springs, California. Several of his piano arrangements have appeared in *Piano Today*.

I asked him to recall some of the more memorable moments during his years of association with people whose names are on the tip of every jazz aficionado's tongue. He recounted to me the following anecdote, which I've transcribed in his own words:

With Buddy Rich in Rio de Janeiro:

Another funny story was in Rio de Janeiro. There was an energetic piano player who was really thrilled to have Buddy Rich's band in town, and he was going to make the most of it. He wanted to meet Buddy. He wanted Buddy to hear him play. I'm sure he would have been very happy to take my job. (He would have been number three).

He befriended me and actually he became a pest because he kept calling me at nine o'clock in the morning and say, "C'mon, I want to show you Rio. I want you to meet some friends. I want to take you to hear a session and

hear some of my other musicians."

He was really energetic and very motivated. I admired his energy. So, I finally went to the club where he was doing a solo (gig). He wanted me to get Buddy Rich to come to the club, so I asked Buddy, but Buddy said no. I don't think Buddy was all that interested, but I went to hear the guy play, and he didn't play very well. To be perfectly honest, he was trying to play jazz and he was not making it. But he played a couple of Latin things that sounded pretty good.

He was picking my brains constantly. "What do you think I should do?" "How can I meet Buddy Rich?"

I said, "Well, you know, that's pretty difficult. I'll tell Buddy I came to hear you."

He said, "No, I wanna get a group together. I want to have singers and I want to have a whole bunch of rhythm instruments."

I said, "You know, that's really hard, because it's a hard to sell a bunch of musicians – when you have five or six musicians. Why don't you get a bass player? Work out something and get a job at a nice little club. Maybe somewhere along you'll be able to do a trio, but, gee, with all those singers and instruments, and so on --."

And then he said, "What do you think of the jazz samba?" This was 1960. They hadn't even named it the bossa nova, yet. Every club we went into, they were doing the "One Note Samba",

which is kind of a nice song, but I mean it's really the verse to "Night and Day". If you listened to "Night and Day", it's the same thing. And you know, he was so enthusiastic, he insisted, "What do you think?"

I said, "Gee, I love rhythms, I love style, I love the relaxed feeling. But I think if you're judging it by this song that everybody's playing, the melody's too repetitious. It's got to go somewhere. It can't just be like "Johnny One-Note".

I saw his face drop. But you know, because of all this wonderful advice I gave him, when I left, he gave me a notebook and said, "Anytime you want to come..." He wanted me to go to Ipanema — he wanted to show me Ipanema — he wanted me to stay there and visit him for a couple of weeks. But I was anxious to get home.

So I had forgotten all about the guy and about ten years later I was in a record store and I saw this face jump out at me on the front of a record jacket, and it said, "Sergio! Sergio Mendez!"

Johnny Morris is just one of many professional jazz musicians that have career experiences to relate. There are hundreds of stories out there, just waiting to be told.



FESTIVALS GALORE

Tanglewood Jazz Festival, August 29-30-31.

Tanglewood, Lenox MA
Call 617-638-9289 or go to
www.tanglewood.org

Friday, Aug. 29. 8 p.m. Ozawa Hall

Edmar Casteneda Trio with special guest Joe Locke

Eliane Elias in A Tribute to Bill Evans

Saturday, Aug. 30. 2 p.m.

Ozawa Hall

A celebration of Marian McPartland's 90th birthday with a taping of "Piano Jazz" for NPR

8 p.m. Ozawa Hall

Donal Fox: Scarlatti Jazz Suite

Dianne Reeves

Sunday, Aug. 31. 2 p.m. Ozawa Hall

Eddie Daniels Quartet

Mark O'Connor's Hot Swing with special guest Jane Monheit

8 p.m. Ozawa Hall

Terrence Blanchard's "A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)"

M&T Bank's Albany

Saturday, Sept. 6. 12 to 7:30 p.m.

At the Corning Preserve. Free

Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble
David Sanborn
Ernestine Anderson
The Doc Gibbs Band



The Brubeck Brothers

Lake George Jazz Weekend Sept. 13 & 14, 1 to 6 p.m.

Free.

Shepard Park, Canada Street, Lake George

Rain site: Lake George High School auditorium

Sat., Sept., 13.

Tedd Firth trio with vocalist Marilyn Maye

Roswell Rudd and Shout
Pucho and the Latin Soul Brothers

Sun., Sept. 14.

The Lee Shaw Trio
Cindy Blackman Quartet
The Either/Orchestra

Jazz Twice on Sunday

By Beverly Elander

Is it the "Devil's Music" on the Sabbath—or making a joyful noise unto the Lord?" Regardless of your take on the phenomenon, there seems to be an increase in the last year or so with great jazz offerings on Sunday. Here are just a few in no special order:

- ◆ Lee Shaw continues to solo at Justin's brunch, 11:30-2:30 the third Sunday of each month. If you are fortunate enough to sit near the small stage, Lee will ask you for requests, and play them in her inimitable style. Justin's is located on Lark Street in Albany.
- Jazz Vespers is a relatively new offering, 5-6pm every other Sunday in the beautiful sanctuary

of the First Reformed Church in the Historic Stockade neighborhood of Schenectady, corner of North Church and Union Streets. Organized by drummer Tom D'Andrea, the series gained enough popularity to increase from once to twice a month. Musicians featured recently were Peg and Bill Delaney (bass), Mike Cononico (trumpet), and Nat Phipps (keyboard). For more information, go to http://www.1streformed.com/

◆ The Riverstone Jazz Brunch, held at Riverstone Manor in Scotia and lovingly organized by Anita Haugen, takes place 3-4 times a year at the lovely Riverstone Manor, featuring fine food and a great location on the Mohawk River.

- ◆ Swingtime Jazz Society sessions alternate four Sunday afternoons a year between the Historic Stockade Inn, corner of Union Street and North Church Street in Schenectady, and Appletini's on Central Avenue in Colonie. The incredible Jazz Voices (Jody Shayne, Colleen Pratt, Theresa Broadwell, Peg Delaney) have packed the house more than once.
- Siena College, under the leadership of C Robie Booth, offers "Jazz at the Sarazen" in the Maloney Great Room, Student Union several times a year.

911°	APFJ	Membership Form
Date		
Name		
Address		
Phone		
E-Mail		
Membersl	nip Levels (Circle One)***	
	No Bread (But Want to Help)	\$20
	Individual	\$30
	Family	\$50
	Supporter (+1 Series)	\$100
	Patron (+2 Series)	\$250
	Underwriter (+4 series)	\$500
	Jazz Hero (5 Year membership	\$1,000
	+2 series tickets for 5 years)	
<u> </u>		

Bill Charlap September 12



Ben Allison

October 10

2008 TICKET ORDER FORM

CONCERT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Bill Charlap		\$15	
September 12			
Lee Russo			
September 26		\$15	



Lee Russo September 26





Karrin Allyson November 7

	September 26	\$15	
	Ben Allison October 10	\$15	
	Joe Locke October 24	\$15	
	Karrin Allyson November 7	\$15	
ecili .	Complete Series (offer good until Sept. 8)	\$60	



Joe Locke October 24

***APFJ is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Memberships and donations in excess of the ticket price are tax-deductible. Please send check to: A Place for Jazz PO Box 1059 Schenectady, NY 12301

M&M'S

(Members and Musicians)

And the winner is: This year's APFJ scholarship recipient is Director Bill Meckley says that Sam Detweiler of Broadalbin, who begins his college career in the music department at Schenectady County Community College this fall. He plays tenor saxophone and has been home schooled. He has studied jazz with pianist Dan Dobek.

Empire Jazz Orchestra: Speaking of SCCC, the great Empire Jazz Orchestra will present its fall concert on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. Titled Swing, Swing, Swing: the Evolution of an American Art Form. the concert will trace the development of swing from the Jelly Roll Morton era through the Swing Era, bebop and cool to contemporary writers like Maria Schneider.

The concert will feature music of Morton, Fletcher Henderson, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Maria Schneider and Gordin Goodwin, among others. Vocalist Colleen Pratt will sing "Minnie the Moocher," Come Fly with Me" and "Beyond the Sea" in the original arrangements of Cab Calloway, Frank Sinatra and Bobby Darin.

As if that weren't enough, Music saxophonist David Fathead Newman enjoyed his recent appearance with the EJO so much that he wants to make a recording with the band. Plans to do so are in the works.

Saxes for Swingtime: The Swingtime Jazz Society will present its next concert on Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Stockade Inn, 1 North Church St., Schenectady featuring the Adirondack Saxophone Quartet. From 4 to 6 p.m., this outstanding group of area saxophonists will present a program of arrangements by Lennie Niehaus and others. Further information and reservations are available at 346-3400.

Lee Shaw Trio CD Release Party:

The Lee Shaw Trio will release a CD/DVD of their recent European Tour. Release Date is Wednesdav.Oct.15 at a Trio Concert at the new \$2 000,000 Massry Center for the Arts on campus at the College Of Saint Rose, where Lee has been adjunct faculty since '83.

Chill out and dance: The Albany Chill organization will present a weekend of music and dance on

the weekend of Sept. 5-6-7. On Friday, Sept. 5, there will be a dance featuring the great vocalist Ernestine Anderson at The Albany Elks Lodge, 25 South Allen St, Albany Dance lesson: 7:30 p.m., dance: 8:30 p.m.-midnight. \$20 for Dance Flurry members, students and seniors. General admission \$25.

On Saturday, Sept. 5, the great Count Basie trombonist **Benny** Powell will be joined by vocalist Catherine Russell for another dance. Same time and place. \$20 for Dance Flurry members, students and seniors. General admission \$25.

Then, on Sunday afternoon, Skip **Parsons' Riverboat Jazz Band** will play for listening and dancing from 1 p.m.-6 p.m. on Peebles Island, 1 Delaware Ave. Cohoes. \$12 for Dance Flurry members, students and seniors. General admission \$15.

The price for the full weekend of events is \$80 for Dance Flurry members, students and seniors.

Weekend general admission \$85.

Contact: http://www.albanychill.com

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Norm Ainslie; Rob Aronstein; Ed August; C. Robie Booth; Joe Bowman; Al Brooks; Jody Shayne and Russ Brooks; Tim Coakley; College of St. Rose; Bob Cudmore; Evvie and Bob Currie; James & Margaret Cunningham; Peg Delaney; Jan Egry; Beverly Elander; The Goldberg Clan; Jerry Gordon; The Hamilton Hill Arts Center; The Hart Clan; Anita and Al Haugen; The Hyland Clan; Pete Jacobs; 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; 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**

A Place for Jazz is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to presenting the best in jazz. We receive funding from the Schenectady County Initiative Program 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.

Editor: Tim Coakley

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Board of Directors

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Calendar can be found at www.aplaceforjazz.org

Laving 'Siege' to Grammys

Drummer Jeff "Siege"
Siegel's CD "Live in Europe"
on the Artists Recording Collective label has been selected as an entry for the
51st Grammy Award process. Record companies submit their entries, which are then screened for eligibility and category placement.

The Recording Academy's voting members, all involved in the creative and technical processes of recording, then participate in (1) the nominating process that determines the five finalists in each category; and (2) the final voting process, which determines the Grammy winners.

A member of the Lee Shaw Trio, Jeff is a veteran of the New York Jazz Scene and has worked with a virtual "who's who" of artists. A member of the Sir Roland Hanna Trio from 1994-'99, he has also performed and/ or recorded with legends such as Ron Carter, Kenny Burrell, Benny Golson, Frank Foster, Sheila Jordan, Mose Allison and many more.

Giacomo Gates

Vocalist Giacomo Gates, who gave such a terrific concert for APFJ a couple of years ago, suffered burn injuries this summer while working in his garden. After treatment, he is OK and recovering nicely, and was able to perform at the Hartford (Conn.) Jazz festival. We send him our best wishes.



