

A PLACE FOR JAZZ

November 2009

Editor: Tim Coakley

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

Wrappin' It Up



by Tim Coakley

The Steve Lambert Sextet will provide a swinging and joyous finale to the 2009 season of A Place for Jazz on Friday, Nov. 6. Joining Steve for the concert will be Keith Pray, alto sax; Brian Patneaude, tenor sax; Dave Solazzo, piano; Mike DelPrete, bass; and Joe Barna, drums. This is the personnel on Steve's new CD, "May," and the evening will serve as a CD-release party for the group.

Born and raised in Schenectady, Lambert has been playing trumpet professionally in the Capital Region for over 10 years. Early in his career he performed with and learned from some of the best musicians in the area, including Nick Brignola, Mike Canonic, Rennie Crain, Mike Wicks, George Muscatello and Brian Patneaude.

Steve moved to New York in 1999 to pursue a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Columbia University, after which he worked in the office of Second Floor Music for two years as assistant to jazz trumpet player/arranger/producer Don Sickler. While there, he in-

teracted with such legends as Jim Hall, Renee Rosnes, Charli Persip, Ray Bryant and Rudy Van Gelder, and worked on many publications including "The Thelonious Monk Fake Book," "Sing Jazz!" and Charli Persip's "How Not To Play Drums."



Steve Lambert (center) Sextet

He also freelanced around Manhattan at such jazz clubs as Kavehaz, Louis and The Garage, and honed his chops while frequenting jazz jams, including those at Smoke, The Lenox Lounge, Smalls and Cleopatra's Needle.

He returned to the Capital Region in 2003 and has since been hired to perform with The Temptations, The Four Tops, Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, Johnny

Mathis and Frankie Valli. He was on staff in the pit of The Cohoes Music Hall from 2004-2006 where he played second trumpet for "West Side Story," lead trumpet for "A Chorus Line," "Annie," "La Cage aux Folles" and "Ain't Misbehavin'."

He currently performs with: the Empire Jazz Orchestra, the Big Soul Ensemble, the Sensemaya Latin Jazz Band, the Ragtime Windjammers, City Rhythm, the Karen Lawrence Band, the George Muscatello Quartet, as well as many projects under his own name.



Check out our *monthly calendar* on our website at www.aplaceforjazz.org.

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

Tierney Sutton's Vocal Master Class at Union College

By Tom Pierce (with Photos by Beverly Elander)

Vocal Master Classes, such as the one given October, 2009 at Union College by acclaimed Jazz singer Tierney Sutton prior to her well-attended Whisper-dome concert are enjoyable and worthwhile on a number of levels. For the three actual participants, long-time professional singers Jody Shayne, Nancy Donnelly and Patti Melita, it represented an opportunity to present examples of their work and receive valuable feedback from a two-time Grammy nominee, who has performed at top venues world-wide and also been chair of vocal departments at USC and the Los Angeles Music Academy in Pasadena. And for the three non-singing observers, Tim Coakley, photographer Beverly Elander, and this observer, it provided fascinating insights into the vocal craft.



Tierney before the class

Ms Sutton's workshop approach included having each participant briefly described their musical background, areas of interest and specifically what they wanted out of the session. Each one would perform a number, accompanied by pianist Tim Olsen of Union College; and be queried as to what they liked about their performance and what they didn't like. Tierney would then give a critique on their pacing, pitch, harmony, etc; and ask then to re-do the song (in some cases multiple times), incorporating the feedback.



Class begins—Ms Sutton, Tim Olsen, accompanist

The event was also interesting in that although all three participants were similar in that they were mature individuals who have been performing live for many years, with at least one CD released, the differences in their styles, the material they favored (standards versus their own originals) and their vocal timbre made for engaging contrasts.

This observer was impressed with Ms. Sutton's very supportive, yet honest, straightforward evaluations. She emphasized her primary vocal "rules," the first of which was consistently shooting for the "center of each note"; or as she's known, being "the pitch Nazi." The second was projecting the song in a relaxed, comfortable manner ("in your shoes") that "doesn't make me nervous."



Apt pupil Patti Melita

With each singer, she first highlighted the positive qualities of their performance, before offering suggestions to make their treatment of the song clearer and more moving. It was obvious from several of her comments, like "sing it twice as slow, with twice as much space," "milk it like a yak" and "each note is a jewel" that pacing and clarity were cardinal virtues she treasured; and encouraged from participants.



Local 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

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

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

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

Quintessence, 11 New Scotland Ave, Albany, 434-8186

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

Wallabee's Jazz Bar, 190 Glen St, Glens Falls, NY, 518-792-8282

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 noon to 2 p.m. with a mix of the Essentials and the Contemporary. Hosted by Darrin Scott and Ted Moisesides.

WCDB 90.9 FM Bill McCann, Saturday 8 am to 12 noon; Bill Goss, "TGIF Jazz Party", Friday, 4 - 6 pm; DJ MJ, "Beat Street Jazz," Monday, noon-2 p.m.; Adam, "So Live Jazz Show," Monday, 2-4 p.m.

WABY 1160 AM Chris Martin, "Make Believe Ballroom," Sat.-Sun. 11-4

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 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 Magic 100.9 FM Sundays Albany (Sunday Morning Jazz Brunch) 6am-8am Dave Koz Radio Show; 8 am.-10am; "Legends of Jazz" with Ramsey Lewis; 10am-12 noon.: "Swingin' with Sinatra" with Steve Jackson Vicario.



Outdoor Outreach Making Our Presence Known

By Tom Pierce

For the second year, APFJ manned a sponsor table at the Albany Jazz Festival. This time, the weather, although cloudy & threatening, cooperated so that it was held outdoors at the scenic Albany Riverfront Park on the Hudson for approximately 2,000 attendees.

In addition to the six fine acts, we representatives of APFJ thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity for eight hours to talk with a large number of Jazz fans, who stopped by our table. They picked up a large amount of the wide range of APFJ material available; 85

signed up with names and email addresses for our raffle of three sets of two tickets each, and many commented very positively on the various posters on display of dozens of past APFJ artists.

Although some of the attendees were familiar with, and had attended, APFJ concerts, far more were not aware of the organization and the 20-plus years of world-class music provided, which justified our expenditure in funds and effort to do this publicity.

My wife, Uta, was an enormous help in setting up and

later unloading the table, as was an invaluable, tireless volunteer John Goode, both of whom manned the table with me for most of the nine hours we were there.

We also appreciated the relief assistance of Mike Lategano and Joe Slomka, which enabled Uta, John and me to take occasional breaks and watch a bit of the performances. Bill McCann and Sharon Wesley also were very helpful in assisting carrying the extensive material & belongings to our car, at the end of a long, but very satisfying day.



Summer Music Series

APFJ was also pleased to sponsor the opening act for the **Jimmy Owens** group in Schenectady's Central Park, part of the Summer Music series at **Music Haven** presented by Mona Golub. The quartet we presented consisted

of Erica Lindsay, sax, Francesca Tanksley, piano, Otto Gardner, bass and Tani Tabal, drums. They provided a spirited opening set for the afternoon-evening event.

Despite the rain during the day, the sun came out at about

6 p.m., enabling the concert to go ahead. We made some new friends at the event as well, sold some tickets for the fall series, and acquired the names and email addresses of several jazz devotees for our mailing list.

Cairo Connection

A new concert series is being held in Cairo, N.Y., and the Next concert will be on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Gallagher's Banquet Hall at 513 Main St. across from the Cairo Library

featuring guitarist Mike Demicco and his group.

Advance tickets are \$20 and \$25 at the door. Doors will open at 8:00PM and music will start at 8:30. There will be two

sets. Light fair is included.

Mike's quintet will include Peter Tomlinson, Peter O'Brien, Larry Moses and Don Miller.



APFJ at the Summit

Three board members of A Place for Jazz attended the NYS Arts Summit in September at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady. The event was put on there for the second consecutive year by NYS Arts, a 33-year-old private, non-profit statewide organization. It is the largest service association in the state advancing the cause of community-based arts and cultural

organizations.

The two-day event drew over two hundred attendees from more than 100 different arts organizations and individual artists throughout New York State. APFJ board members Beverly Elander, Leslie Hyland and Tom Pierce attended. It consisted of over 30 sessions, including keynote addresses, specific topics and networking opportunities. There were

more than 35 individual speakers and discussion leaders, from the fields of government, arts organizations, consulting, technology, marketing and communications.

We got a lot of valuable information from the session, some of whose recommendations we will be implementing in the coming year.

Jazz Musician's Helpline



Welcome to the JAZZ MUSICIANS' HELPLINE.

Your call is important to us so please use the following menu system to shorten your wait:

If you are a bandleader wishing to know your opinion of yourself, press 1

If you are a tuba/sousaphone player in a 'classic' jazz band enquiring which beats you will be expected to play on, press 1 and 3

If you are a drummer wanting to know on which beats to press your hi-hat pedal, press 2 and 4 - regularly spaced if you can manage it

If you are a banjo player en-

quiring about how many strings to buy for a complete re-stringing of your instrument, press 4

If you are old enough to remember Dave Brubeck press 5 then 4

If you are an agent wanting to know how much commission to charge, press 15. Or 20. Or 25. Or whatever number you fancy

If you want to know the REAL length in minutes of a jazz musician's '15-minute interval' enter any number in excess of 45

If you are at a cultural crossroads between jazz and rhythm & blues and can't decide which Route to take, press 66

If you are over 60 and always

forget to play the coda, press RECALL

If you wish to express your opinion of what your band-leader makes of gig arrangements, press HASH

If you are a bebop tenor player press as many keys as fast as you can for 20 minutes or more or until the room is empty, whichever comes first

If you want to know how much you THINK the bandleader is paying the other sidemen, press SECRET (if you have that facility. If not, think of the amount of pay you got for the last gig and add 10).

(offered tongue-in-cheek by Swingtime Jazz Society President Jerry Gordon)

Remembering Helen Pratt



By Tim Coakley

One of the Capital Region's most endearing figures passed away when vocalist **Helen Pratt** died on Oct. 2. Known professionally as Helen Lynn, she had a long and distinguished career as a singer, both with big bands and small groups, and as a longtime member of Skip Parsons' Riverboat jazz band with her husband, Norm, who was the trombonist in the band.

She was featured for many years on WGY radio with Earl Pudney, and then on Channel Six with Garry Stevens' band. In recent years, she had sung in public rarely, but was often present when her daughter Colleen sang with the Empire Jazz Orchestra and with the vocal group Jazz Voices. She would often join Colleen for a duet, and they sang together on Colleen's CD.



Helen Pratt sings a last duet with daughter Colleen Pratt

Skip Parsons, who played so beautifully at the service for Helen, had this to say about her:

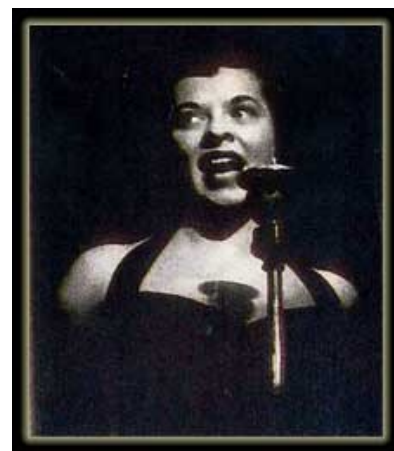
"Helen came along as a wife and fan of Norm's in the early '70s. Norm mentioned, about 6 months into his long stay with us, that Helen was along and would like to sing a song. At the time I didn't connect Helen Pratt with Helen Lynn, and said well..... OK. She sang and it was magic. I asked for more and more. It was immediately a success for us. She joined us on as many gigs almost immediately and pretty soon my clients were requesting her. Although she was really not a Red Hot Mama, her style and beautiful voice became a fixture with us until Norm's death in '95. She had no driver's license, so after that she decided to stay at home. Also there was no longer a Norm to be with.

"Her musicianship was super. I remember times with us in a smoky room back in those days, when she would get into a coughing spree. All of a sudden she would lean over to me right in the middle of a song and say; "This song is too high pitched for this place. Can you take it down to A Flat" (or any other key at the moment).

Hoping we all could cope with that surprise, I would call the move and my guys responded terrifically. Sometimes surprisingly terrifically! Then she would move into the key change just like we arranged it. She knew music like the rest of us, or better. Sure separated her from all the vocalists I'd known. Once our pianist had some car trouble and came in pretty late. She said "Play some easy stuff and I'll chord it." She sat at keyboard and laid it down!

"She was gifted with a pencil, too. Draw like a pro.....

"I could go on with more of the same, but the respect and love we had for her is endless. God bless."



Vocalist Helen Lynn



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 2011)	\$1,000

***** Special Thanks *****

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

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.

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Board of Directors

Norm Ainslie, Al Brooks, Tim Coakley, Beverly Elander, Jerry Gordon, Al Haugen, Anita Haugen, Leslie Hyland, Mike Lategano, Bill McCann, Tom Pierce, Andrzej Pilarczyk, Alice Rudnick, Joe Slomka, Chris Waldron

Calendar can be found at www.aplaceforjazz.org

Going Digital

APFJ continually strives to find ways to better serve the jazz lovers of the Capital District. Wouldn't it be good if we could get this newsletter in front of your eyes quicker? And if we could reduce our printing and postage costs, we wouldn't have to raise our concert prices.

So we're going to distribute this newsletter by e-mail to as many of you as possible. We'll continue to mail to the non-techies among you, but if you've got a computer, please give us your e-mail address. It's really quite simple: Just go to **aplaceforjazz.org** and complete the simple form that's right on the home page. Do it now, because we've already started our e-distribution. Thank you for your cooperation.



A Place for Jazz

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