

OUR 25TH YEAR WAS A PLEASURE!

Secretary Jerry Gordon

The 25th season of A Place for Jazz was a success on several levels. First, we were able to pay tribute to our founder Butch Conn, who got it all started back in 1987 and nearly singlehandedly created and ran the concert series in its early days.

Norm Ainslie

We celebrated with a spring concert featuring saxophonist Houston Person and were especially pleased and honored when the City and County of Schenectady issued a proclamation declaring April 15, the date of the concert, as Butch Conn Day. We were also able to offer A Place for Jazz members free admission to the concert, and allow ticket buyers to put their admission price toward a membership.

Al Brooks

Every concert in the fall season was very well attended, with well over 200 people

Beverly Elander

at each, and at the Kenny Barron concert, well over 300 (we brought out most of the extra chairs from the cafeteria!). That concert also provided the chance for a special reunion for one of our concert-goers (see article on page five).

Al Haugen

At two of our concerts, some of Rob Aronstein's students from Central Park Middle School performed during the intermissions, and drew lots of applause from the crowd (as well as from the concert musicians who stopped in to listen). In 2012, we plan to continue this tradition of offering young musicians a chance to be heard. Rob Aronstein also helped by providing the sound system for the Freddy Cole concert in the absence of David Wilkinson, who is on the mend from his auto accident. See page six for a review of the Freddy Cole concert.

Anita Haugen

Leslie Hyland

Mike Lategano

Bill McCann

Leesa Perazzo

Alice Rudnick

Joe Slomka

We were also able to showcase the work of some of the area's top jazz photographers. Albert Brooks, Rudy Lu, Don Mckever and Andrzej Pilarczyc kindly exhibited their photos at the back of the hall for our audiences to view before the concerts and during intermissions.

As we look forward to 2012, we plan to continue on the path that Butch blazed for us, and to bring you the best jazz instrumentalists and vocalists.

www.APLACEFORJAZZ.org

JAZZ ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATE TO PRESENT THE LEE SHAW TRIO

A Place for Jazz is joining forces with its sister organization, the Swingtime Jazz Society, to present a special concert by the Lee Shaw Trio at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady, which is offering the use of its main sanctuary for what should be a memorable event.

The remarkable pianist Lee Shaw, fresh off hip replacement surgery, has been back making her regular round of gigs at local clubs, playing both solo and with her longtime partners Rich Syracuse, bass, and Jeff Siegel, drums.

The Lee Shaw Trio has appeared all over New York State, in Washington D.C., Oklahoma and California. Lee has also appeared on Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz program, and NPR hailed her, along with McPartland, and the late Mary Lou Williams, as "one of jazz's premier pianists."

In 2007, the trio embarked on their three-country tour in Europe, where they performed concerts in Austria, Switzerland, and Germany. One of the Austrian concerts was recorded by the Austrian Broadcast Company and became the centerpiece of their 2008 release "Live in Graz" CD/DVD. The trio returned to Europe in May of 2009 playing concerts in Vienna, and various venues in Germany. They also recorded with three European musicians from their 2007 tour, and this was released as their newest CD in 2010.

A Place for Jazz is pleased to be joining with the Swingtime Jazz Society, which has been presenting the top local jazz performers for several years.



DUSTY INSTRUMENTS NEEDED!

Efforts are well underway by the MUSICAL TOOLS FOR SCHENECTADY SCHOOLS coalition to increase the number of musical instruments available to children in Schenectady's schools.

The Musical Tools for Schenectady Schools program originated two years ago to help encourage donations of pre-owned instruments for use by local music students. Last year's campaign resulted in more than 150 donated instruments.

"There are so many children in Schenectady with musical dreams," says Steve Weisse, president of Schenectady Friends of Music, "and the need for instruments continues to grow each year. We know there are good quality instruments tucked away in attics and storerooms that are just collecting dust, and we're hoping to put them to good use."

"We've got kids on waiting lists who can't afford to rent or own their own instruments." Weisse continues. "Give us an instrument today and someone will be playing it tomorrow."

For more information on the important MUSICAL TOOLS FOR SCHENECTADY SCHOOLS initiative, contact: Karen Johnson, Proctors, 382-3884 x 114. kjohnson@proctors,org or Steve Weisse, 346-4266, Schenectadyfriendsofmusic@gmail.com.

WINTER 2011

WINTER WITH SWINGTIME: TIM OLSEN QUINTET

The Swingtime Jazz Society will present the Tim Olsen Quintet in concert from 4 to 7 pm on Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Stockade Inn, 1 North Church Street, Schenectady. The group features Tim Olsen, piano; Eric Walentovicz, sax; Steve Lambert, trumpet; Rick Rosoff, trombone and drums; and Pete Toigo, bass, They will play from 4 to 6 pm, followed by an open jam session. Musicians who wish to play in the jam session are invited to bring their instruments. Food and drink will be for sale.

Reservations and further information are available at (518) 584-3548 or swingtimejazz.org

Tickets are \$15, \$5 for students

And...mark your calendar for Mar 11, Nina Sheldon, 4-7 pm at Provence.



Olsen joined the faculty of Union College in Schenectady in 1994, where he is currently associate professor of music. He teaches courses in the music and culture of the United States, Latin America, and Africa; music theory; and jazz improvisation. He is also director of the Union College Jazz Ensemble.

Eric Walentovicz started playing professionally at age 13 and won several scholarships to attend the famed Interlochen Arts summer programs in Michigan. He has played with Laurel Massé (Manhattan Transfer), The Dallas Jazz Orchestra, Rick DellaRatta's Jazz For Peace, and several Miamibased Latin bands. He has performed locally with the New Regime, Troika, Dave Calarco's Jazz Conclave, the Terry Gordon Quintet, Body & Soul, Jill Hughes Band, and with his own EW Trio/Quartet.

Born and raised in Schenectady, Steve Lambert has been playing trumpet professionally in the Capital Region for over a decade. He 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 world-renowned jazz trumpet player/arranger/producer Don Sickler. He returned to the Capital Region in 2003. He recently released his first album as a leader, "May," on the Planet Arts label.

Trombonist/drummer Rick Rosoff grew up in Syracuse, where his father, a trumpet player, introduced him to classical and jazz music. After playing in his high school jazz band, Rosoff attended SUNY-Binghamton before heading to Miami. After graduating, he began freelancing, which took him to Boston, New Jersey and New York City. In addition to playing with Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble, Rosoff leads his own quartet.

Bassist Pete Toigo has been a mainstay on the Capital Region music scene for several decades and can be heard almost nightly working with a wide variety of jazz and pop artists.

MUSICAL TOOLS FOR SCHENECTADY SCHOOLS AT WORK!



Music Students from Central Park Middle School entertain with improvisation at the Sensemaya concert at A Place for Jazz.



www.APLACEFORJAZZ.org

LOCAL JAZZ VENUES

A FULL PERFORMANCE AND VENUE CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND AT APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG

9 MAPLE AVE Saratoga Springs. 518.587.7759

APERITIVO 426 State Street Schenectady, 518.579.3371

ATHOS RESTAURANT 1814 Western PANZA'S RESTAURANT Route 9P Avenue, Albany, 518.608.6400

THE BAR AT 74 STATE 74 State Street, Albany, 518.434.7410

BLU STONE BISTRO 661 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie, 518.869.9976

BREAD ALONE, 45 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY, 845.876.3108

BULL AND BUDDHA, 319 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, 845.337.4848

CAFÉ CAPRICCIO 49 Grand Street. Albany, 518.465.0439

CARMEN'S CAFÉ 198 First Street (corner of Adams), Troy, 518.326.2064

CASTLE STREET CAFÉ 10 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA, 413.528.5244

CENTURY HOUSE 997 New Loudon Road (Rt 9), Latham, 518.785.0834

THE DESMOND Albany Shaker Road, Colonie, 518.869.8100

THE FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT 283 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, 518.482.9898

THE FALCON 1348 Rte 9W. Marlboro, NY (85 miles south)

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY 8 N. Church Street, Schenectady, 518.377.2201

GRAPPA '72 RISTORANTE 818 Central Ave, ALbany, 518.482.7200

JUSTIN'S 301 Lark Street, Albany, 518.436.7008

MAX LONDON'S 466 Broadway. Saratoga Springs, 518.587.3535

ONE CAROLINE STREET BISTRO Saratoga Springs, 518.587.2026

Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Springs, 518.584.6882

PRIME 677 677 Broadway Albany. 518.427.7463

Provence Restaurant Stuyvesant Plaza- Western Avenue at Fuller Road, Albany, 518.689.7777

PRIME AT SARATOGA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB 458 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, 518.583.4653

PUB AT COOPER'S CAVE 2 Sagamore Street, Glens Falls, 518.792.0007

STOCKADE INN 1 No. Church Street, Schenectady, 518.346.3400

VAN DYCK 237 Union Street, Shenectady, 518.346.7999

VERMONT JAZZ CENTER 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Studio 222, Brattleboro, VT, 802.254.9088

WISHING WELL RESTAURANT 745 Saratoga Road, Wilton, 518.584.7640

RADIO JAZZ SHOWS

WVCR 88.3 FM "The Crossroads of Jazz," Darrin Scott and Ted Moisides, Saturday 12-2 pm. A mix of the essentials and the contemporary.

WAMC 90.3 FM Tim Coakley, Saturday 11 pm - 12 am;

WAMC 90.3 FM Jim Wilke, "Jazz After Hours," Friday and Saturday 1-5 am; Marian McPartland, Sunday 9 pm; Afro-Pop Worldwide 8 pm Sunday; John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey's "Radio Deluxe", Saturday 2-4 pm & Tuesday 8-10 pm

WCDB 90.9 FM Bill McCann, Saturday 8 am-12 pm; Bill Goss, "TGIF Jazz Party," Friday 4-6 pm; DJ MJ's "Beat Street Jazz", Monday 12-2 pm; Adam, "So Live Jazz Show", Monday 2-4 pm; "Maiden Voyage" Thursday 6-8 pm

WSPN 91.1 FM Howie Kaplan, Friday 12-3 pm

WRPI 91.5 FM Rich Berkley's "Dusty Corners" heavy with, but not exclusively jazz, Tuesday 8-10 pm; Kevin Roberts, Thursday 8-10 pm, varied theme shows.

WVPR 94.3 FM (Vermont Public Radio) George Thomas, Tuesday-Thursday, 8-10 pm, Friday til 12 am

96.7FM WPTR Mix of old pop with big band and "jazzy" vocalists, 24/7

WKLI MAGIC 100.9 FM "Legends of Jazz" with Ramsey Lewis, Sunday 8-10 am; "Swingin' with Sinatra" with Steve Jackson Vicario, Sunday 12-2 pm; "Big Band Jump" with Don Kennedy, Sunday 10 pm-12 am

WQAR 101.3.FM Smooth jazz and jazzy vocals with Walt Adams, Sunday 10 am-1 pm

WABY 1160 AM Chris Martin's "Radio Archives" Sat 10 am-4 pm "Make Believe Ballroom" Sunday 11 am- 3 pm; Dick Wood's Jazz Tracks Sun 4-5 pm: Sid Mark's Sounds of Sinatra Sun 5-7 pm

WINTER JAZZ PREVIEW

While waiting for spring to arrive, here are some 2012 jazz concerts to keep you in the groove.

THE EGG, EMPIRE STATE PLAZA, Albany 518.473.1845 | www.theegg.org

Feb 12, 7:30 pm Anat Cohen Quartet, Gerald

Clayton Trio

Mar 4, 7:30 pm SF Jazz Collective, music of

Stevie Wonder

Apr 15, 7:30 pm James Carter Organ Trio

SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY

COLLEGE, Taylor Auditorium

518.381.1231

Apr 17, 8 pm Empire Jazz Orchestra -

music of pianist and composer Clare Fischer, conducted by his son Brent.

TROY SAVINGS BANK MUSIC HALL,

Second and State Streets

518.273.0038 | www.troymusichall.org

Jan 14, 8 pm

Dee Dee Bridgewater: To Billie with Love Jazz at Lincoln Center

Mar 19, 7:30 pm

Orchestra w/Wynton Marsalis

JAZZ LATINO INC.

Apr 27, 8 pm The Steven Kroon Sextet,

Emerson Auditorium, Union

College.

Date & Time TBA The Jazz/Latino Review:

Video Highlights of the Ahora, Latin/Jazz! concert series

Date & Time TBA Africa and Spain in the New

World: Ensemble Congeros Meets Mundo Nuevo, a musical performance illustrates how musical traditions from Spain and

Africa came together in the Caribbean & the United States.

COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE, Albany

Mar 15, 7:30 pm Ravi Coltrane Quartet April 4, 7:30 pm Chick Corea, solo piano

PROCTORS, Schenectady 518.346.6204 | proctors.org

Feb 3, 8 pm Branford Marsalis Quartet, Joey

Calderazzo Duo

HAPPY REUNION!

By Tim Coakley

The 2011 season of A Place for Jazz provided a happy reunion for one local jazz lover.

Sunitha Bellino, who works for the Daily Gazette in Schenectady, is originally from India. Growing up, she enjoyed singing, and was part of a scholastic group that was invited to sing on All India Radio. Later, she began singing regularly on radio, TV and some commercials. While studying English at the University of Madras, she was a member of a rock group. One day, she chose to sing some songs from Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Duke Ellington. "My band guys were saying, 'Hey, that's jazz. You can't sing that.' "But she continued to do so.

Enter pianist Kenny Barron, who was performing in India with a group led by Chico Freeman. Sunitha was invited to sing with them at a workshop, and Kenny was impressed enough to tell her that she should come to the United States. When he got back to his teaching job at Rutgers University, he sent her some information and catalogs from the University at Miami's music program.

She filled out an application, made a demo recording and sent them along. She was accepted, awarded a scholarship and enrolled as a senior. While at Miami, she met trumpet student Peter Bellino. They were married and Peter went off to study for a master's degree, while Sunitha took a day job with Nimbus records in New York.

con't on pg.6



www.APLACEFORJAZZ.org

FREDDY COLE QUARTET A GRAND FINALE TO A GRAND SEASON By Tom Pierce

A full house of 278 appreciative attendees saw APFJ's very successful 25th anniversary season brought to a wonderfully elegant, but stirring close, with this long sought-after internationally acclaimed artist. For someone who had just turned 80 on Oct 15, he displayed the vigor and enthusiasm (vocally & instrumentally) of a performer many decades younger.

The same energy would describe his fluidly skillful and musically well-integrated band, which consisted of young, former child prodigies Randy Napoleon on guitar & Elias Bailey on bass, plus the veteran stalwart Curtis Boyd on drums, all of whom supplied swinging support & compelling solos.

But Mr Cole's most appealing personal touchstone was a gentle warmth, superb taste & natural ease that caused most to unfailingly describe him as "CHARMING". With this in combination with excellent pacing that precluded excess "chatter & patter", it was easy to see how he was able to effortlessly include 26 songs in the two sets.

These numbers encompassed a wide variety of tempos. But above all else, they demonstrated how jazz, can (and should) always have that naturally buoyant rhythmic groove we refer to as "Swinging".

His ballads included "There I've Said It Again"; "A Cottage For Sale"; "Manha de Carnival" (celebrating Rio, one of his favorite places); "A Blossom Fell"; and "Easy Living." Picking up the tempo was "Them There Eyes"; "Let There Be Love"; "Little Girl" and "You're Sensational," followed by "Wild is Love"; "Sometimes I'm Happy"; "Jelly, Jelly" (Billy Eckstine); and "South Side of Chicago." A tribute to his brother was made up of "Straighten Up & Fly Right"; "Sweet Lorraine"; "Mona Lisa"; "Nature Boy"; "L-O-V-E'; "Unforgettable." (His voice fraternally evokes his brother; but is clearly

unique.) "I'm Not My Brother, I'm Me," his own compelling composition & signature song roused the audience into a standing ovation.



Photo courtesy of Al Brooks

The core of his appeal to the ultra-attentive audience was an effectively convincing & intimate phrasing that once led another fine singer (Ruth Brown) to declare: "If you quiet your thoughts and really listen, Freddy Cole will open the door to your heart with a key that you did not even know existed".

HAPPY REUNION! con't from pg. 5

Today, Sunitha works at the Gazette, while Peter is a member of the Empire Jazz Orchestra and teaches music in area schools. Their son Anthony is a talented trumpeter who is studying at Northwestern University. When Sunitha heard that Kenny Barron was part of the Place for Jazz series, she immediately contacted him and made plans to get together with him once more. They met in the dressing room at the First Unitarian Society, where Peter took the photo that accompanies this article.

They later shared food and drink at the Stockade Inn after the concert while reminiscing and catching up. And who knows - now that her son is away at college, maybe Sunitha will start honing her singing skills again.

SEND US **STUFF**

We're looking for brief items from our readers. If you have a jazz item, a CD you have enjoyed, a jazz book you've read, a concert or performance you heard, an upcoming musical engagement, anything, tell us about it. We reserve the right to edit contributions and cannot guarantee their inclusion, but will welcome them all.

BEING A MEMBER IS WHERE IT'S AT!

Love Jazz? Here's how you can help make it happen: Join a wonderful, positive group of people working to make our community *A Place for Jazz*!

Here's what you get for your annual membership dues:

- » A tax deduction for donations in excess of ticket value (1 series or 5 general tickets valued at \$60) as we are a 501(c)(3) organization
- » Your name listed in programs, on our website and on an entry "Thank You" poster
- » An invitation to "members only" events
- » The opportunity (for members with a ticket) to bring two children under 12-years old for free to any concert where seats are available. Please call to check on reservations
- » Good vibes from knowing you are a part of an organization that:
 - brings great music to our community at an affordable price
 - funds community education programs and scholarships
 - helps support other musicians and presenters in our area
 - educates the next generation of fans
- » The benefits described below for each membership level

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	e series ticket or fi	ve admissions to c	ne concert)
♪♪♪♪ □\$200-499 Ten free tickets			
♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ □ \$500-999 Fifteen free tickets + Designation as "Concert Under			
Designation as "Concert Under Lifetime membership"		-	
Please check with your employer for possib			t with this form to:

A Place for Jazz, P.O. Box 1059, Schenectady, NY 12301

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A Place for Jazz is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting the best in jazz. In addition to grant funding, revenue is generated through ticket sales and membership contributions.

Programs include concerts, student scholarships, public workshops, school-based clinics, a web site and general support of Jazz and its musicians. We welcome announcements and comments.

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