

A not-for-profit that is dedicated to presenting the very best in Jazz in a beautiful listening space.

A PLACE FOR JAZZ

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUMMER 2012

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BILL MCCANN NAMED JAZZ HERO

A Place for Jazz and Swingtime Jazz Society are proud to be hosting a Jazz Hero Award Party, as a satellite of the Jazz Journalist's Association's Annual Awards. William (Bill) McCann will be honored as the Capital District's 2012 Jazz Hero. JJA "Jazz Heroes" are activists, advocates, altruists, aiders and abettors of jazz who have had significant impact in their local communities. Drummer/Composer Joe Barna will present the award. The party is open to all who have an interest in jazz.

Bill McCann has graced the airwaves, mixing mainstream and classic jazz with new releases as host of "The Saturday Morning Edition of Jazz" since April, 1985. His weekly four-hour program, 8 am to noon, issues from the studios of WCDB-FM, the station at the University at Albany, State University of New York, and is heard on-line at WCDBFM.com. An attorney by day, Bill is also member of the board of directors of A Place for Jazz, a not-for-profit corporation based in Schenectady, New York, which has presented concert series for more than 25 years, as well as providing scholarships and clinics to students in local schools and colleges.

The 2012 "Jazz Hero" awards will be presented in conjunction with the 2012 Jazz Journalists Association's Jazz Awards honoring significant achievements in jazz music and journalism. Locally, the JJA Jazz Awards Satellite Party will be held at the Van Dyck, 237 Union Street in Schenectady, on June 23 at 5:30 pm. It is co-sponsored by A Place for Jazz and the Swingtime Jazz Society. The event is free and open to the public.

A strong believer in supporting his local scene, McCann invites area musicians and promoters to showcase their projects in an oft-featured segment of his "Saturday Morning Edition" called "the Jazz Corner"; several times a year he invites local fans and players to sit in as guest DJs, picking featured music. He's instituted special programs including an annual Duke Ellington Birthday Bash (just prior to Ellington's birthday, April 29), and an Annual Jazz Christmas Show -- nine hours long on the Saturday before Christmas (and Bill's favorite show of the year; he likes to say it is "All of your favorite holiday music done in a jazzy way.")

(con't on page 2)



BILL MCCANN
JAZZ HERO
(con't from page 1)

Bill grew up in a Rockland County suburb of New York City. His father was a jazz fan and his major influence, introducing him to the music via recordings, jazz performances in clubs and at concerts throughout the metropolitan area. He regularly attended meetings with his father of the Jazz Record Masters of Northern New Jersey, a group that still meets most Tuesday nights to hang out for listening parties, and he tagged along when his father made regular guest appearances on Steve Possell's "Good Old Jazz" radio show on local WRKL-FM.

For his jazz support efforts, Bill has been named "Best Jazz DJ" by Metroland, a weekly alternative news and arts publication in New York's Capital District, and has received official appreciation from the Albany Musicians Association, Local 14 of the American Federation of Musicians. In April of 2010, he marked the 25th Anniversary of his Saturday morning radio program with a day of jazz at the University at Albany, featuring seven bands constituted with the who's who of area jazz musicians. As Tom Bellino, president of the Catskill-based non-profit jazz promotion group Planet Arts says, "Bill's a real community guy when it comes to supporting music. If it wasn't for guys like Bill and shows like his, I think there'd be a real void. Plus, his articulation - the way he speaks - is coming from the jazz vernacular."

Bellino calls Bill a resource for the region; McCann himself describes his program as his weekly therapy session. "I play what I love. That way, my excitement gets carried over the airwaves, and when I get excited, it just gets other people excited." McCann often gets so excited that he comes back on air after a segment of music saying breathlessly, "Man, if that didn't get you going, you need to seek immediate, and I do mean immediate medical attention, 'cause you just might be dead." Bill McCann is a real live Jazz Hero.

PROCTORS JAZZ INSTITUTE

Students will be swinging in July at the Proctors Jazz Institute in downtown Schenectady, which returns this year for its eighth season.

Saxophonist and teacher Keith Pray has assembled a group of fellow musicians to work with young players on their jazz performing skills, including listening, communication and teamwork. Keith's approach is unique in that he doesn't use written music, preferring to teach the kids everything they need to know by ear. Students of all ages and levels of experience are eligible.

This year's special guest will be trumpeter Ray Vega, who performed at A Place for Jazz in 2004. He will teach master classes and perform with the students in their final and public performance on July 27 in Proctors GE Theatre.

Week One: July 16 - 20, 9 am-3 pm

Week Two: July 23 - 27, 9 am-3 pm

Tuition: First week: \$200, Second week: \$250,
both weeks: \$430

More information is available from Jessica Gelarden, Education Program Manager,
518.382.3884 x 150 or jgelarden@proctors.org



APFJ FALL 2012 SERIES

SEPTEMBER 14

Our series opens with **Tom Harrell**, one of the most acclaimed trumpeters since the early 1980s. Woody Herman, Horace Silver and Phil Woods have employed him and he's led his own outstanding quintets since the 1990s. Displaying the improvising power of Clifford Brown, the lyricism of Chet Baker, and his own creative composing, he's received multiple industry awards and released over 20 well-regarded CDs as a leader.

SEPTEMBER 28

This year's exciting vocal performer, **Mary Stallings**, is a celebrated veteran of 50 years. She distinctively merges the complementary influences of jazz, gospel, blues and the Great American Songbook. Her career has included stints with Cal Tjader, Billy Eckstine and Dizzy Gillespie. Her thrilling performance at the Village Vanguard led the NY Times to write "Perhaps the best jazz singer alive today is a woman almost everybody seems to have missed."

OCTOBER 12

Legendary **Dick Hyman**, who will perform solo, is one of those very few pianists who can capture & express the entire history of Jazz, from early New Orleans, Ragtime, Swing, Be-Bop up through modern innovations. His 65-year career as composer, songwriter, conductor, pianist, organist and arranger has encompassed a "Who's Who" of Jazz & other music, with unmatched versatility, energy and talent.

OCTOBER 26

This year's "local" group, **Bopitude**, is a stirring sextet headed by drummer-vibist Michael Benedict. They were a big hit at the 2011 Albany Jazz Festival, performing their nationally ranked "Bopitude" CD. Fans of vibrant post-bop are eagerly anticipating their Whisperdome debut, following their just-released second CD, "Five and One." Both of these feature the world's #1 ranked baritonist Gary Smulyan, the extraordinary pianist Bruce Barth, electrifying trumpeter Chris Pasin, as well as Capital District heroes Brian Patneau & Mike Lawrence.

NOVEMBER 9

World-class Cuban Conga player & singer **Pedrito Martinez** has been chosen by many of the biggest names in music to appear on over 100 CD's. He brings an especially uplifting and infectious Latin Jazz quartet to close out our season. Their joyously applauded appearances last year at SPAC and other national venues guarantee this will be a memorable and fun concert.

NEW!!
CONCERTS START
AT 7:30 PM



SATURDAY, JUNE 23 7:30 PM ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY!

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ITALIAN JAZZ VIOLINIST

LUCA CIARLA & HIS QUARTET



Ciarla will be in North America to perform at the prestigious Montreal Jazz Festival, as well as festivals in Ottawa, Grand River, Rochester, Dayton and St. Paul, among many other performances.

Ever since its debut in Asia and the United States, the Luca Ciarla Quartet has been appreciated by audiences and critics for their highly original tunes and arrangements, in which contemporary jazz and ethnic music happily blend together, creating an irresistible Mediterranean jazz sound with a gypsy touch. "Open your mind to a musical journey and get on board on Luca Carla's gypsy express train to the discovery of a wonderful world of interesting sounds and new melodies." Elretha Britz, Volksblad.

Presented by

A PLACE FOR JAZZ & SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY

Reserve Tickets (\$15) by Calling THE VAN DYCK 237 Union Street, Schenectady 348.7999

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PRESENTS THE AL HAUGEN QUARTET

The Swingtime Jazz Society will present the Al Haugen-Don Egry Quartet in concert at Appletini's Restaurant, 1118 Central Ave., Albany, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 10. The concert will be followed by a jam session from 6 to 7 p.m. Musicians who wish to play in the jam session are invited to bring their instruments. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for students. For further information and to make reservations, call Doc Salvatore at 584-3548.

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ELLA'S @ CAPITAL REPERTORY THEATRE

Starring Tina Fabrique

July 24-August 12, 2012 Previews start on July 20, 2012

It's 1966 and the first lady of song ELLA FITZGERALD, performed by the incomparable Broadway veteran Tina Fabrique, is preparing for one of the most important concerts of her career. Before the night is over she will jam with Louis Armstrong, reflect on her life and love of music and bring the house down with soulful song, swinging scat and scintillating hits like "A Tisket, A Tasket," "How High the Moon," "That Old Black Magic" and "They Can't Take That Away From Me". Come see the show that Variety calls A MUST SEE PERFORMANCE!



SUMMER JAZZ PREVIEW 2012

For other festivals within about a day's drive, see aplaceforjazz.org/festivals.htm

JAZZ ON JAY Jay Street Pedestrian Mall,
Schenectady Noon to 1:30 pm Free

June 7: April Marie & The Michael Lamkin Trio
June 14: Al Haugen & Friends
June 21: Alex Slomka Quartet
June 28: Dave Fisk Quintet
July 5: Sunnyside of the Street Band
July 12: Gals Who Play Jazz
July 19: Keith Pray Quartet
July 26: Nat Phipps All-Stars
Aug. 2: Sensemaya
Aug. 9: New Regime
Aug. 16: Brian Patneau Quartet
Aug. 23: John Hines and Friends
Aug. 30: Bobbie Van Detta

SKIDMORE SUMMER JAZZ INSTITUTE Skidmore
College Zankel Music Center 8 pm Free

June 26: Terence Blanchard Quintet featuring Brice Winston (tenor saxophone), Fabian Almazan (piano), Joshua Crumbly (bass), and Kendrick Scott (drums).
June 28: Skidmore Faculty Sextet Featuring Bill Cunliffe, Todd Coolman, Dennis Mackrel, Pat LaBarbera, Bobby Shew and Curtis Fuller.
July 3: Joe Lovano and Dave Douglas Quintet: Sound Prints featuring Lawrence Fields (piano), Linda Oh (bass) and Joey Baron (drums).
July 5: Skidmore Faculty Sextet

JAZZ ONE 2 ONE Athens Cultural Center, Athens. NY
518.945.2669

June 2: Tom Dempsey/Tim Ferguson Quartet
Tom Dempsey, guitar; Tim Ferguson, bass; Joel Frahm, saxophones; Eliot Zigmund, drums

FREIHOFFER JAZZ FESTIVAL Saratoga
Performing Arts Center

Saturday, June 30, starting at noon
In the Amphitheater: Trumpeter Chris Botti;
Pianist & vocalist Diana Krall; Bassist, vocalist & composer Esperanza Spalding; Bassist & composer

FREIHOFFER JAZZ FESTIVAL con't
Christian McBride and Inside Straight; Funk saxophonist Maceo Parker; Pianist & composer Michel Camilo;
The jazz orchestra Mingus Big Band; Trumpeter Mario Abney's The Abney Effect; Pianist and composer Arturo O'Farrill Grammy-winning Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra

On the Gazebo Stage:
Pedrito Martinez Group; Jeremy Pelt Quintet; Sarah Morrow Elektrik Air; Mario Abney & The Abney Effect; Catherine Russell

Sunday, July 1, starting at noon
In the Amphitheater: Trombonist Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews & his band; Orleans Avenue; Trio Oz, featuring drummer Omar Hakim & pianist Rachel Z; Yellowjackets; Japanese pianist & composer Hiromi; Sachal Vasandani

On the Gazebo Stage: Trio of Oz featuring Omar Hakim & Rachel Z; Brian Mitchell Band; Edmar Castaneda; Steve Kroon Sextet

BURLINGTON (VT) DISCOVER JAZZ FESTIVAL
802.863.5966 discoverjazz.com

June 1-10: Bela Fleck; Marcus Roberts Trio; Stefon Harris; Nicholas Payton & David Sanchez; Bonnie Raitt; Christian McBride; Dianne Reeves; Vijay Iyer; Donny McCaslin Group; Mary Halvorsen Quintet; Lee Konitz Quartet

LITCHFIELD (CT) JAZZ FESTIVAL
Goshen fairgrounds, Goshen, CT
litchfieldjazzfest.com

Aug 10-12: Friday evening Gala: Four Freshmen; Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks
Saturday: Helen Sung Trio; Sojourner Truth Project-Avery Sharpe; Ambrose Akinmusire Quintet; George Coleman salute with Eric Alexander & Gary Smulyan; Benny Green Quartet; Dirty Dozen Brass Band
Sunday: Gregoire Maret Quartet; Donny McCaslin Group; Hubert Laws Quartet; Miguel Zenon Quartet; Kevin Mahogany & Dave Stryker's Kansas City Swing



MARY STALLINGS' "DREAM" A MUSICAL FANTASY INDEED!

By Tom Pierce

I openly confess to long being smitten with the warmth & style of veteran San Francisco vocalist Mary Stallings. She's a quintessential mainstream female jazz singer, fully embodying the wonderful legacy of passed esteemed artists like Carmen McRae & Etta Jones.

All of her last 4 CD's are very impressive (including the latest "Don't Look Back" in 2012), since the riveting 2001 "Live at the Village Vanguard". That live recording provided her perhaps the most national publicity in a vastly under-celebrated 50 year career, despite her associations with artists like Cal Tjader, Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Eckstine & Count Basie.

But this 2010 gem, "Dream", struck this observer as the most moving & polished, in the way her drive & soulfulness is so magnificently balanced with her melodic timbre, phrasing and interpretation. Swinging numbers like the inviting opener, "Close

Enough For Love", with its captivating tempo changes, the vibrant Victor Young classic "Weaver of Dreams", long favored by sophisticated instrumentalists & vocalists, and the uplifting "Dream Dancing" were all engagingly projected. This was with the essential support of pianist-arranger Eric Reed & his trio, as he did on 3 of her last 4 CD's (Geri Allen performed that role on the 2005 "Remember Love").

The ballads, such as the torchy "Old Black Magic" and the serene "Moon Ray" were passionately rendered with conviction, clarity and a command that consistently captures one's attention. But oddly enough, of the 11 excellent tracks, the one I found most indelibly memorable was the obscure, intensely intimate ballad "Hey Now", where her simple, but heart-wrenching reading compelled me to play it repeatedly.

Lovers of superior singing are strongly advised to catch her on Sept 28 at the Whisperdome.

Jazz trombonist John Fedchock recently spent four days working and performing with students at Shenendehowa High School in Clifton Park.

He arrived on April 25, before the start of the Shenendehowa Jazz Festival, and worked with the school's Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band on several pieces, including his own arrangement titled "Skylight."

The festival featured Shenendehowa district jazz groups. The closing day of the festival was an invitational event and featured high school jazz bands from around the region.

Fedchock, 54, studied at Ohio State University and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester and worked for several years in the Woody Herman Orchestra.

FEDCHOCK TEACHES SHEN STUDENTS



Shen music teacher Brian Carucci (with back to camera) is shown leading the Shen Jazz Ensemble, with guest trombonist John Fedchock at far left. Photo taken April 28 at Shen H.S.

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.

Send to A Place for Jazz, PO Box 1059, Schenectady NY 12301 or coakjazz@aol.com

**SEND US
STUFF**

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

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____ Email _____

Today's date _____

☐ Yes, you may include my name in your member-recognition materials.

🎵 ☐ <\$50

🎵🎵 ☐ \$50-99 Two free concert tickets

🎵🎵🎵 ☐ \$100-199 Five free tickets (one series ticket or five admissions to one concert)

🎵🎵🎵🎵 ☐ \$200-499 Ten free tickets

🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵 ☐ \$500-999 Fifteen free tickets + Meet & Greet at concert of your choice + Free autographed CD+ Designation as "Concert Underwriter" for one concert or educational program

🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵 ☐ \$1000+ Twenty free tickets + Meet & Greet at concert of your choice + Free autographed CD + Designation as "Concert Underwriter" for one concert or educational program + Lifetime membership

Please check with your employer for possible matching grant programs.

Please enclose a check or money order payable to A Place for Jazz, and mail it with this form to:

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



A Place for Jazz is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties.



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.



**William Gundry Broughton
Charitable Private Foundation Inc.**

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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.

Editor: Tim Coakley
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CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND AT
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A Place for Jazz, PO Box 1059,
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: DON'T FORGET...CONCERTS AT APFJ WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 PM THIS FALL!!! :
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