

August 2017

APFJ Fall 2017 Concert Series Starts September 8 with the Larry Willis Trio!

Those who appreciate an invigorating, all-encompassing piano trio are in for a treat on Friday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. when APFJ opens its 31st season with a trio led by the enormously versatile and highly-respected New York pianist Larry Willis. His incredibly wide-ranging 50- year career on well more than 300 recordings (including over 25 as a leader) spans Fusion, Mainstream/Post-Bop and Avant-garde in Jazz, as well as a stint as a member of Blood, Sweat & Tears for 7 years in the 1970s.

Surprisingly, he entered music not as a pianist but as a voice major, first at New York's High School of Music and Art for gifted students, then at the Manhattan School of Music. His senior year in high school, at 17, he had his first recording date, a classical gig with the Music and Arts Choral Ensemble singing a Copland opera conducted by no less than Leonard Bernstein. He started playing the piano; and by the end of the winter, he was soon playing his first professional gigs in a jazz trio with two of his classmates, Al Foster on drums and Eddie Gomez on bass. He was quickly noticed and hired initially by Jazz luminaries like Hugh Masakela and Jackie Mclean. After his college graduation in 1965, he embarked on his extraordinary career, being called upon by dozens of the biggest stars like Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, Cannonball Adderley and others too numerous to list.

Following are just a few of the excellent recordings over the years that he's played key roles on in a wide variety of musical settings, whether he's served as the leader or as musical director in support of bands of others. He's always provided formidable swing, compositions, arrangements and support. Along with the high caliber of artists involved, they display his enormous talent, versatility and respect of his peers. Note that two of these very popular recordings he was chosen for were led by two outstanding vocalists (Carmen McRae and Freddy Cole), themselves also very capable pianists, who admired his unfailing rhythmic, melodic and harmonic support, in addition to innovative solos. — Tom Pierce

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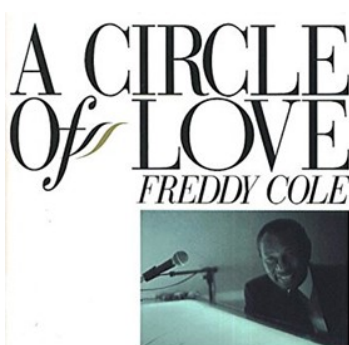
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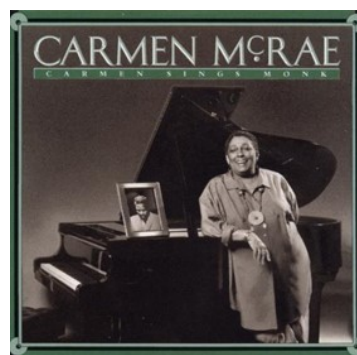
Alice Rudnick



2017 - Heads of State Super-group



1996 – Supporting Freddy Cole



1988 – Carmen McRae Classic



Dr. Bill Meckley of the SCCC School of Music to Retire

Dr. William Meckley, dean of the School of Music at Schenectady County Community College and longtime director of the Empire Jazz Orchestra at SCCC, will be retiring after the 2018 school year. He received his PhD from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied advanced jazz ensemble directing with Rayburn Wright.

The Empire Jazz Orchestra has been a mainstay of the Capital Region jazz scene for 25 years, and has presented a long string of memorable concerts featuring guest performances by major jazz artists. This year's fall concert will be on October 17. Meckley's last concert with the EJO will be on April 17.

The EJO was formed in 1992 at the request of Butch Conn, founder of a Place for Jazz. "He asked me to put together a group to play for a children's concert," Meckley said. "We put together an octet and we also did a concert for a Place for Jazz. The following year we became an orchestra in residence at SCCC."

That orchestra has kept the big band tradition alive in all its aspects, featuring arrangements by such pioneers as Fletcher Henderson, Don Redman and Duke Ellington as well as those of many modern composers and arrangers. Meckley's inspiration at the beginning was The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. "It was the model of American classical music for big band," he said. "All these Ellington arrangements became available ... We did a whole bunch of stuff from the Claude Thornhill Orchestra, including some really early Gerry Mulligan and Gil Evans."

For much of the band's history, the college has funded a guest artist for the spring concert. "The first guest soloist was Benny Golson," Meckley said. He was followed by such luminaries as Jimmy Heath, Slide Hampton, Dave Holland, Randy Brecker and Wycliffe Gordon, often bringing their own arrangements. "I tried as often as I could to have writers," Meckley said. "And then we commissioned some music."

As director of the music department at SCCC, Meckley has seen some talented musicians perform at the college and go on to their own careers in music. "If you look at the local public schools, a lot of the graduates are teaching here," he said. "Some music students have gone on to music school, to get doctorates. One of our students, a guitar player, couldn't even read music; he got hooked on classical guitar, then got a doctorate at Eastman [School of Music] and ended up at the Peabody Conservatory."

The college's music program was small at the start. "At the time there were only two full-time faculty," he said. "But there was a commitment to high standards. ... Now we have about 200 majors, a new state of the art studio, and we have an amazing faculty. What's great about this area is the part-time faculty: Cliff [Brucker], Brian [Patneau] and all these great classical musicians. We're so rich in musicians."

Meckley usually conducts the band's performances, but had an epiphany during a concert of Claire Fischer's music. "Brent [Fischer's son] was conducting and I went out in the audience to listen; and that's a different experience. It was then that I realized: These guys are great! This band is really great!"

For his final season, "We will be revisiting some of our favorites this year as well as some things we have not played before," he said. "Also, because of budget restraints, we will not have a guest artist in spring as usual. I may invite some of the EJO alumni to come and play, however."

This fall's concert will include a piece by Billy Strayhorn, "Pentonsilic." "Strayhorn wrote it in 1941; Duke never recorded it but a little bit of it ended up in The Perfume Suite. It's a lengthy work with a lot of counterpoint. ... a lot of piano solo space. Dave Gleason will be soloing with us on it."

And finally, the big question: What is the future of the Empire Jazz Orchestra? "I don't have an answer," he said. "I suspect it might not continue. There might be a couple of people around who might want it to continue, and I would hope to have a voice in that decision."

Whatever that decision is, Bill Meckley will leave behind some luminous memories of great music, and a legacy of having had a major impact on the cultural life of the Capital Region. A Place for Jazz wishes him a long and happy retirement -- filled, of course, with music. — Tim Coakley



Upcoming Jazz Events!

A Place for Jazz

Unitarian Universalist Society
1221 Wendell Ave., Schenectady
All concerts at 7:30 p.m. (see ticket order form on p.7)

Sept. 8: Larry Willis Trio

Sept. 22: Chembo Corniel Quintet

Oct. 6: Jackie Ryan-Shelly Berg Duo

Oct. 20: Jeff Siegel Sextet

Nov. 3: Don Byron Quartet

www.aplaceforjazz.org

Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival

Sept. 9: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jennings Landing

Rain site: Corning Preserve Boat Launch

Free

Performers:

1:00 p.m. The JECCO Trio

2:30 p.m. The Piggly Wiggles

4:00 p.m. Michael Benedict and Bopitude

5:30 p.m. Vocalist SOMI

7:00 p.m. Trumpeter Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah

Empire Jazz Orchestra

Schenectady County Community College

Oct. 17, 8 p.m.

(518) 381-1231

Lake George Jazz Weekend

Shepard Park, Lake George

Free

Sept. 16:

1:00 p.m. Lyric Fury

2:45 p.m. Ola Onabule

4:30 p.m. The Cookers

Special Saturday evening performance at 7:30 PM:

Dave Liebman Tribute to Coltrane

Sept. 17:

1 p.m. Camille Thurman & The Darrell Green Trio

2:45 p.m. Orrin Evans

4:30 p.m. Emilio Solla

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center

14 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA

(413) 528-0100

Dec. 23, 8 p.m.: John Pizzarelli Quartet with

Catherine Russell

"Billie and Blue Eyes"

Pittsfield City Jazz Festival

(413) 442-7718

Oct. 6-8: Jazz About Town (annual jazz crawl, in venues throughout the Pittsfield Upstreet Cultural District)

Oct. 11: Jazz Prodigy Concert (performer TBA), Berkshire Athenaeum, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13: rising vocalist Veronica Swift (Flavours of Maylasia, 8 p.m.)

Oct. 14: 100th birthday tribute to Dizzy Gillespie, with the Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience (Colonial Theatre, 8 p.m.)

Oct. 15: jazz brunch

Swingtime Jazz Society

Oct. 8: Charles Cornell Quartet

4 to 6 p.m. followed by open jam session

Panza's Restaurant, 510 NY-9P Saratoga Lake

Reservations: Ralph Rosenthal (518) 423-9343 or rosenthalralph@verizon.net

The Rosendale Café

434 Main St., Rosendale NY

(845) 658-9048

Oct. 21, 8 p.m.: Sheila Jordan with Rob Scheps,

Cameron Brown and Tony Jefferson

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

Oct. 7: Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

Oct. 14: Glenn Miller Orchestra

Visit aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm for details on these and other events



LOCAL JAZZ VENUES

Check out our website for a full up-to-date performance and venue calendar!

9 Maple Ave
Saratoga Springs, 518.587.7759

Annarella Ristorante
276 Malden Turnpike, Saugerties
845.247.7289

Aperitivo
426 State Street, Schenectady
518.579.3371

Athos Restaurant
1814 Western Avenue
Albany, 518.608.6400

Blue Plate Restaurant
1 Kinderhook Street
Chatham, 518.392.7711

Bread Alone
45 East Market Street
Rhinebeck, 845.876.3108

Café Capriccio
49 Grand Street
Albany, 518.465.0439

Caffe Lena
47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs
518.583.0022

Carmen's Café
198 First Street, Troy
518.326.2064

Castle Street Café
10 Castle Street
Great Barrington, MA
413.528.5244

Duke's Chophouse
Rivers Casino, 1 Rush Street
Schenectady, 518.579.8850

The Falcon
1348 Rte 9W, Marlboro, NY
845.236.7970

The Fountain
283 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, 518.482.9898

**First Reformed Church
of Schenectady**
8 N. Church Street
Schenectady, 518.377.2201

Grappa '72 Ristorante
818 Central Avenue
Albany, 518.482.7200

Lark Tavern
453 Madison Avenue
Albany, 518.694.8490

Mouzon House
1 York Street
Saratoga Springs, 518.226.0014

New York Restaurant
353 Main Street, Catskill
518.943.5500

**One Caroline Street
Bistro**
Saratoga Springs, 518.587.2026

Panza's Restaurant
Route 9P Saratoga Lake
Saratoga Springs, 518.584.6882

**Prime at Saratoga
National Golf Club**
458 Union Avenue
Saratoga Springs 518.583.4653

Provence Restaurant
Stuyvesant Plaza
Western Avenue @ Fuller Road
Albany, 518.689.7777

Pub at Cooper's Cave
2 Sagamore Street
Glens Falls, 518.792.0007

Roux Restaurant
10-01 Vista Blvd.
Slingerlands, 518.487.4358

Savoy Taproom
301 Lark Street
Albany, 518.599-5140

Senate Garage
4 N. Front Street, Kingston
845.802.5900

Speakeasy 518
42 Howard Street
Albany, 518.449.2332

Spindles
241 Remsen Street
Cohoes, 518.237.3816

Stockade Inn
1 N. Church Street
Schenectady, 518.346.3400

Troy Kitchen
77 Congress Street
Troy, 518.268.0068

Twisted Vine
384 Kenwood Ave.
Delmar, 518.439.3241

Van Dyck
237 Union Street
Schenectady, 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

Yono's
25 Chapel Street
Albany, 518.436.7747



APFJ Scholarship

Each year, APFJ sends a scholarship donation to a music student at Schenectady County Community College. The money comes from the sale of refreshments and CDs at the fall concerts. We have also set up a scholarship account to which people can contribute, in hopes of increasing the amount of the scholarship each year.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the scholarship fund can send us a check, made out to *A Place for Jazz*, at PO Box 1059, Schenectady NY 12301. We will deposit it in the account and acknowledge your contribution. APFJ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so your contributions are tax-deductible.



RADIO JAZZ SHOWS

WVCR 88.3 FM

The Crossroads of Jazz, Darrin Scott and Ted Moisesides, Saturday 12-2 pm, A mix of the essentials and the contemporary;
Jazz2K—the ever evolving state of jazz in the 21st Century, Jay Hunter, midnight Saturday to 2 am
Sunday

WAMC 90.3 FM

Tim Coakley, Saturday 11 pm-12 am;
Jazz After Hours, Jeff Hanley, Saturday & Sunday 1-5 am;
Afro-Pop Worldwide, Sunday 4 pm;
Radio Deluxe, John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey
Saturday 2-4 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*, *Jazz South of the Border*,
Monday 10 am - 12 pm

WRIP 97.9 FM

Tom Bellino and Dennis Jackson, *Jazz in the Catskills*,
Sunday 5-7 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 show

WVPR 94.3 FM (Vermont Public Radio)

Friday Night Jazz 8-11 pm

WQAR 101.3 FM

Smooth jazz and jazzy vocals with Walt Adams,
Sunday 10 am - 1 pm

WXGL 93.5 FM

Jazz Night in America with Christian McBride,
Saturday, 8-9 pm;
The Bridge with Joel Hurd, Saturday, 9-10 pm;
Jazz at the 10 Spot with Guy Berard,
Saturday, 11 pm -12 am

SWINGTIME

Jazz Society

swingtimejazz.org



Proudly Presents

The Charles Cornell Quartet featuring Nate Giroux



Steve Kirsty, Charles Cornell, Matt Niedbalski & Nate Giroux

Sunday, October 8, 2017, 4-7 p.m.

Including an open jam session



**Panza's Restaurant
510 NY-9P
Saratoga Lake, NY**

**Pub menu and beverages available for purchase
Open to the public - \$15/person (\$5 for students)**

**Reservations: Ralph Rosenthal at (518) 423-9343
or rosenthalralph@verizon.net**

Order Form 2017 APFJ Concert Series

All concerts are on Friday nights at **7:30 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Schenectady (1221 Wendell Ave.). Tickets are \$20 each. *For members:* Two children under 12 are free with member's full price ticket; ages 12-18, 1/2 price. Please give at least one week advance notice as seating is limited and we may be unable to accommodate you if the house is sold out.

<i>Concerts</i>		Quantity	Price	Total
Sept 8	Larry Willis Trio		\$20	
Sept 22	Chembo Corniel Quintet		\$20	
Oct 6	Jackie Ryan - Shelly Berg Duo		\$20	
Oct 20	Jeff Siegel Sextet		\$20	
Nov 3	Don Byron Quartet		\$20	
<i>Membership Benefits</i>		Quantity	Price	Total
♪ Thank you for your support			Under \$50	
♪ Two free concert tickets* Minimum donation for cabin rate discount on The Jazz Cruise 2018			\$50-124	
♪♪ Five free tickets*			\$125-249	
♪♪ Ten free tickets*			\$250-499	
♪♪♪ Twenty free tickets* + Designation as "Concert Underwriter" for one concert or educational program			\$500-999	
♪♪♪ Forty free tickets* + Designation as "Concert Underwriter" for one season's concerts or educational programs			\$1000+	
<i>Total</i>				

* Please send me _____ tickets. Each ticket is good for any 2017 concert. [For each \$125 in donations, I am entitled to 5 tickets. My allowable tax deduction equals my total donation minus \$20 for each ticket I receive.]

Make checks payable to **A Place for Jazz** and mail to **APFJ, PO Box 1059, Schenectady, NY 12301**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____ Email _____

Today's date _____

Questions? Contact Tim Coakley at (518) 393-4011 or coakjazz@aol.com.

For more information on The Jazz Cruise, please see <http://www.aplaceforjazz.org/JazzCruise18.pdf>



Council on the Arts

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.



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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 website and general support of Jazz and its musicians. We welcome announcements and comments.

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Membership is Where It's At!

Check us out at www.aplaceforjazz.org for Jazz in our community.
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