



A Few Words from our President

In the spring of 2020 Tim Coakley, esteemed president and venerable leader for 15 years, decided to pass on the reins of A Place For Jazz to Yours Truly. Having continued the legacy of APFJ's founder, Butch Conn, with deftness and aplomb, Tim will be a most difficult act to follow. We, along with all of you and others in the jazz community, can acknowledge what a depth of knowledge, competence and grace Tim brought to this job. We extend our deep gratitude to him for his dedicated service. Thankfully, Tim will remain on the APFJ board and be available to assist us in continuing to bring the finest in jazz entertainment and education to the Capital Region.



Of course, since 2020 the availability of jazz entertainment has been and continues to be severely impacted by the Covid pandemic; and certainly APFJ has not been immune to its effects. After a run of 33 consecutive years, APFJ was forced by the pandemic to cancel its fall concert series each of the last two years. Nevertheless, the APFJ board has remained steadfast and continued to work over this timeframe to return its jazz programming to the area. Covid may temporarily stymie us but will not defeat us in our determination to bring great jazz performance here for our loyal members and audience.

In this regard, we have two important announcements. The first is that APFJ has agreed to partner with the SUNY Schenectady School of Music and its dean, Dr. Christopher Brellochs, to host the fall concert series at the school's Carl B. Taylor Auditorium. The Auditorium gives us a larger facility in which to accommodate any social distancing and has ample off-street parking. We therefore believe that this collaboration will give us greater flexibility to deal with the challenges of Covid and will prove to be a very fruitful one in other respects. We are very excited about this partnership with the School of Music.

The second announcement is that APFJ will present a spring concert this year featuring the preeminent vocalist Ann Hampton Callaway. The concert, scheduled for April 29, will also be held at the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium.

In moving forward, we want to assure you that APFJ is mindful of the enduring risks of the Covid virus. We will take all steps recommended by the appropriate health authorities to minimize these risks to the greatest extent possible in presenting our concerts. We want to thank you for your continuing support of our organization and for supporting the great art form that is jazz music.

I look ahead with eagerness to seeing you at one of our concerts, and wish that each of you will remain safe and healthy in the coming year.

Very best,
Albert Brooks

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*A Place for Jazz and SUNY Schenectady School of Music
present a special spring concert!*

Friday, April 29, 2022, at 7:30 PM

**Carl B. Taylor Auditorium at SUNY Schenectady Community College
78 Washington Ave, Schenectady, NY**



Ann Hampton Callaway is one America's most gifted and prolific artists. A leading champion of the great American Songbook, she's made her mark as a singer, pianist, composer, lyricist, arranger, actress, educator, TV host and producer. Voted by Broadwayworld.com as "Performer of the Year" and two years in a row as "Best Jazz Vocalist," Ann is born entertainer. Her unique singing style that blends jazz and traditional pop, making her a mainstay in concert halls, theaters and jazz clubs as well as in the recording studio, on television, and in film. She is best known for Tony-nominated performance in the hit Broadway musical "Swing!" and for writing and singing the theme song to the hit TV series "The Nanny."

Callaway's songs are featured on seven of Barbra Streisand's recent CD's. The only composer to have collaborated with Cole Porter, she has also written songs with Carole King, Rolf Lovland, Amanda

McBroom and Shelby Lynn to name a few.

Callaway's live performances showcase her warmth, spontaneous wit and passionate delivery of standards, jazz classics and originals. She is one of America's most gifted improvisers, taking words and phrases from her audiences and creating songs on the spot, whether alone at a piano or with a symphony orchestra.

Ann's new CD, *Jazz Goes to the Movies*, featuring the Ted Rosenthal Trio with special guest Jimmy Greene, debuted at #12 on the Billboard Jazz Chart and has been in high rotation across the country, notably on Siriusly Sinatra. Her other recent recordings have also met great critical acclaim - *The Sarah Vaughan Project: Live at Dizzy's*, *The Hope of Christmas*, *At Last*, *Blues in the Night*, *Slow and Signature*. She has recorded two popular holiday CD's - *Holiday Pops!* With Peter Nero and the Philly Pops, and her solo CD, *This Christmas*. Ann's other recordings include *Easy Living*, *To Ella with Love*, *After Ours*, *Bring Back Romance*, *Ann Hampton Callaway*, and the award-winning live recording *Sibling Revelry*. Callaway has also been a guest performer on more than forty CD's including Kenny Barron's CD *The Traveler*.

Ann will be accompanied by Ted Rosenthal, one of the leading jazz pianist/composers of his generation. Winner of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition, Rosenthal has released fifteen CDs as a leader. Ted actively tours worldwide with his trio, as a soloist, and has performed with many jazz greats, including Gerry Mulligan, Art Farmer, Phil Woods, Bob Brookmeyer, and James Moody.

Tickets are \$20 (cash or check) at the door or online at m.bpt.me/event/5384529 for \$21.99 (credit card).

COVID protocols: All guests ages 3+ must wear a face mask throughout the duration of their time in SUNY Schenectady facilities. As per state guidelines, children 2 and under do not need to wear a mask. Patrons will be asked to maintain social distancing. Please note that no food or drink consumption will be allowed in the auditorium.

Anyone ages 5+ attending requires a ticket and must provide proof of full vaccination. Accepted vaccination proof includes: Original/copy/photo of front of the vaccination card (with valid final dose date), Excelsior pass or NYC COVID SAFE pass. Also requires ID with matching name for adults age 18+. These protocols are subject to change in accordance with the latest CDC and NYS recommendations.



Our 2022 Fall Concert Series—still on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. but now at Carl B. Taylor Auditorium at SUNY Schenectady Community College



Steve Davis Sextet (Sep. 9, 2022)

Steve Davis is widely regarded as one of today's leading voices on the trombone. His lyrical, hard-swinging style first gained him broad recognition. He has released 20 albums in addition to appearing on over 100 other recordings with names including Chick Corea, Freddie Hubbard, Horace Silver, Cedar Walton and Hank Jones. He previously appeared at A Place for Jazz in 2009 with Eric Alexander's One for All. His latest release with his sextet is "Correlations" on Smoke Sessions Records.

Geoffrey Keezer Trio featuring Gillian Margot (Sep. 23, 2022)

Geoff Keezer was only 17 when he became the last pianist in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers (1988-1990), a perfect gig for the talented hard bop musician who fit right in with the tradition of Horace Silver, Bobby Timmons, Cedar Walton, James Williams, and Benny Green.

He's been recording in recent years with the exquisite vocalist Gillian Margot, whose smoky contralto and personal interpretive talents perfectly match Geoffrey, bassist Hannah Marks and drummer Billy Kilson. This is a magical collaboration.



Joel Ross Quintet (Oct. 7, 2022)

For the past several years, **Joel Ross** has been refining an expression that's true to his sound and his generation. In 2019, the vibraphonist-composer released his anticipated Blue Note debut *KingMaker* to eruptive critical acclaim. He's topped the DownBeat Critics Poll Rising Star category for vibraphone and in 2017, he became one of the youngest artists to receive a coveted Residency Commission from The Jazz Gallery. With the release of *Who Are You?* (Blue Note, 2020), Ross shares the culmination of a year-long exercise in experimenting and risk-taking on and off the bandstand.

Inspired by mentor Stefon Harris' empathetic, whole-self approach to articulation, Ross has adopted an entire ethos dependent on truthful, ongoing communication. Honesty persists throughout his sets. And with each release, he reaffirms a commitment to authentic discourse, particularly among the members of his band Good Vibes: Jeremy Corren, Immanuel Wilkins, Kanoa Mendenhall and Jeremy Dutton.

Bobby Watson Quartet (Oct. 21, 2022)

Saxophonist, composer, arranger and educator **Bobby Watson** will bring his quartet to our bandstand. He grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, and trained formally at the University of Miami, a school with a distinguished and well-respected jazz program. After graduating, he proceeded to earn his "doctorate" — on the bandstand — as musical director of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers.

After completing a four-year-plus Jazz Messengers tenure (1977-1981), he became a much-sought after musician, working along the way with a potpourri of notables. Later, in association with bassist Curtis Lundy and drummer Victor Lewis, Watson launched the first edition of *Horizon*, an acoustic quintet modeled in many ways after the Jazz Messengers but one with its own distinct, slightly more modern twist.



The Peg Delaney Big Band (Nov. 4, 2022)

A special concert featuring an 18-piece big band assembled by renowned pianist Peg Delaney especially for this occasion. This will be a concert you do not want to miss!





A Tribute to Anita and Al Haugen by Mabel Leon

Anita and Al: lovers of life, lovers of jazz, lovers of people, lovers of animals, and in love with one another.

My grandchildren ages 5 and 7 were visiting me, and I wanted them to hear live jazz. I was not sure that I could bring them to the Stockade Inn cocktail lounge to hear music, so I dressed them up and we discussed listening and not talking when the musicians were playing. I did not ask permission, I just brought them. I had seen Al and Anita at a Place for Jazz and at the Stockade Inn, but I had never interacted with them. Anita and Al embraced me and my grandchildren with enthusiasm. Anita pronounced, "Children are the future of jazz." Their warmth and approval welcomed my grandchildren to jazz.



Another time I brought my grandchildren, and there were very few seats because a crowd had come to hear Al play his accordion in a trio of jazz musicians. Anita reassigned seats moving people around, so my grandchildren were front and center to the music, pronouncing again that children are the future of jazz.

Anita had an exuberant personality and bubbled over with warmth and enjoyment of music. Al could seem stern when he was playing until he would catch Anita's eye. He would play to her and flirt, and Anita would break into laughter. I used to tease them that they were unaware of the rest of us in the room.

When Al attended West Point Military Academy, he was a member of the band and was a life member of the U.S. Military Band Alumni Association at West Point. He received a B.S. and a Master of Science from SUNY at New Paltz. He worked for the State Education Department, the NYS Association for Counties and the Training Institute for Rockefeller College.

Anita graduated with a B.S. degree in nursing from SUNY Plattsburgh and worked as a critical care nurse at St. Clare's Hospital and then as a nursing instructor at Albany Medical Center. She had a second career as owner and operator of a real estate appraisal company.

Al discovered jazz accordion at the age of 14 and always played no matter his work career. He played in many bands including Al Haugen and Friends and the Al Haugen Trio and Anita was his most enthusiastic promoter. Al and Anita were both board members of A Place for Jazz, and Anita was a worker at the front table selling tickets for concerts and doing any tasks to support the concerts. Al was a member of Schenectady Musical Union Local 85-133, American Federation of Musicians, and the International Rotary.

Anita struggled with uterine cancer, fighting hard for life while keeping her and Al's spirits uplifted. She died on October 20, 2013, at age 67. Al's heart was broken; he stopped playing music and retreated from friends and life. He died at home on Sept 26, 2021.

Our jazz family at A Place for Jazz was very lucky to have them both and we miss them.



Remembering Nat Phipps

Well-known area pianist Nathaniel "Nat" Phipps died on January 14. He was known most recently as the pioneer performer in the series of jazz vespers held each Sunday at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady.

Growing up in a musical family in Newark, N.J., he began playing piano as a child, often with his brother and baritone saxophonist Billy. In the 1950s, the brothers formed a band that played the Newark and New York City circuit, whose members included Wayne Shorter and Chris White.

Nat held a B.A. and an M.A in music education. He started teaching at The Livingston School for Girls in Greenwich Village, where he found ways to engage and motivate his young students.

In the late 1980s Nat and his family moved to the Capital District. He taught music at the University at Albany and Schenectady County Community College. At SCCC his jazz performance class was held on Friday afternoons, which meant that A Place for Jazz was able to bring its performer for that evening's concert to Nat's class, where the students could play and receive some helpful criticism and advice.

When Bill Meckley, then head of the music department at the college, founded The Empire Jazz Orchestra, Nat was the pianist for the band for several years. Meckley recently sent the following message about Nat:

"I was so lucky to work closely with Nat as both performing and teaching colleague. His knowledge of music was both broad and deep, and he was an inspired teacher.

"When I first started the EJO, as an octet for Butch Conn and APFJ, Nat was the first pianist I thought of. He would play thrilling solos that always swept up the listeners. And when he played Ellington's ballad 'The Single Petal of a Rose,' everyone in the place was enraptured.

"Nat, above all, was a kind and caring human being. Would that we had more like him."

When Nat wasn't playing, he was helping his wife, Berta, mentoring his musician grandson Christopher or lending a helping hand to neighbors.

A memorial service was held on February 12 at the First Reformed Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to: Jazz Vespers at First Reformed Church, 8 N. Church St., Schenectady, NY, 12305.



Coming soon to a screen near you!

Our new and vastly improved web site should be on line around mid-March. Watch for our announcement. If you're not getting our announcements, visit aplaceforjazz.org and submit the form in the lower right corner of our home page.



Capital District pianist Rennie Crain died December 3, 2021

He was born in 1924 in upstate New York and graduated from Bethlehem Central High School in Delmar, N.Y. Although he studied piano at an early age, he later graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and became a chemist.

He moved to New York City, where he worked as a chemist and part-time pianist. While in New York City, he attended Juilliard School of Music, and his musical talents not only helped him shine as a pianist, but as an arranger as well.

He gained musical acclaim in the 1950s, arranging and performing with the traveling Bob Chester Band as well as the Glen Gray Orchestra. Eventually these talents took him to the Tex Benecke Orchestra and eventual work with Skitch Henderson.

After several years of road and arranging work, he settled again in New York City, where he appeared and recorded with Eydie Gormé, Rosemary Clooney, Sal Salvadore and Vincent Lopez. Rennie also appeared on several occasions at the famous Roseland Ballroom.

Later, he returned to the Capital District, where he accepted employment with Sterling Winthrop Laboratory. His musical chemistry was never to vanish, however, for he proceeded to other musical encores. These included appearances with Red Norvo, Bob Wilber, Flip Phillips, Doc Cheatham, George Wetling, Pee Wee Russell, George Masso, Ken Peplowski, Joe Muranyi, Spanky Davis, Alan Vache, Tom Saunders, Jack Maheu, and many more. Rennie became a somewhat regular performer with Skip Parsons' Riverboat Jazz Band, and was one of its most respected and talented members.



Rennie at The Fountain, June 10, 2011, with Skip Parsons' Riverboat Jazz Band. Photo by Cliff Lamere.



Rennie and Bobbie Crain enjoyed the capital area brunch on The Jazz Cruise in 2017. They are seated with Patti Melita, Tim Coakley, Peter Ryan and Susan Abrams.



Celebrating the music, the musicians and their audience

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!

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- ♦ Good vibes from knowing you are a part of an organization that:
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 - educates the next generation of fans

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Questions? Contact Al Brooks at 518-482-7537 or abrooks@nycap.rr.com

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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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