

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Autumn 2011



Swingtime Jazz Society Presents Nina Sheldon Trio at Provence

"Nina Sheldon plays like a demon and sings like a living doll." The New Yorker
After a detour into the medical arts, Nina's returned to active performing. She and her rhythm section performed to a packed house at NYC's Kitano last August, as they did at Smalls last October. In July, she led a quartet at The Falcon in Marlboro and a few weeks later led a quartet at the Benicia Jazz Festival in California, the only performer asked back for a second time. She returned to Smalls on September 6th at 7:30 pm with bassist Otto Gardner, and in October, Albany's Swingtime Jazz Society will present her trio in concert.

(Continued on Page 5)

The Night Owl



Half-Notes

Sign in a Chicopee, Mass., bar-room: “Now excepting credit cards” . . . Singer Gail Pettis lists her influences as Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae and Nancy Wilson. Rene Olsted is a wonderful young singer and I think she listened a lot to Sarah and Ella Fitzgerald. . . **Perley Rousseau** highlighted in *The Record* (Troy) “Five Questions” feature. They didn’t ask her any real musical question, but it was a cute outing and a nice picture (which should have been credited) for a superb singer and entertainer.

Add Carmen’s Café to the list of clubs featuring class entertainment. Recent stars at the 198 First St., Troy, emporium were singer **Patti Melita** and pianist **Nat Phipps, Sonny & Perley** and **Doc Scanlon** . . . Grappa ‘72 at 828 Central Ave, Albany, to be commended on having many fine jazz groups including **Sonny & Perley Trio** (with excellent bassist **Lou Pappas**) and the **Peg Delaney Trio** . . . The Pasta Factory at 952 Troy-Schenectady Rd now has live music on Wednesdays.



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Jeanne O’Connor and Pete Toigo play Grappa ‘72 Dec. 16. She is one of the area’s best jazz vocalists.

Doc Scanlon at Stockade

The Doc Scanlon Trio will play tonight (23) at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady, from 7 to 10.

On Sept. 30, they’ll play from 6:30-8 at Barker Park in Troy. Lainie’s Café at Shaker Road and Osborne in Loudonville will present them from 9 -midnight Saturday Oct. 1.

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Photo by Ned Spain

Neil Brown Wins Swingtime LAA

Neil Brown receives the 13th annual **Swingtime** Lifetime Achievement Award at a recent ARM (Almost Retired Musicians) luncheon at the Central Steak House in Colonie. Presenting the award is C. Robie Booth, editor and publisher. Previous winners of the award were, in order: Lee Shaw, Peg Delaney, Colleen Pratt, Helen Pratt, Al Quaglieri, Tim Coakley, Rennie Crain, Tom Shields, Mike Canonico, Skip Parsons and Leo Russo.

*For the area's most up-to-date jazz calendar, visit
APlaceForJazz.org/calendar.htm*

A Place for Jazz Announces 2011 Concert Season

A Place for Jazz, a local nonprofit organization celebrating its 25th anniversary, began its 2011 season on Sept. 16 with a concert by the Terrell Stafford-Dick Oatts Quintet at the First Unitarian Society in Schenectady.

Its next presentation will take place on Sept. 30 with the Tia Fuller Quartet. Tia is the granddaughter of longtime Capital Region bassist Bill Fuller, whom readers will remember from his many gigs in the area, his occasional presence on radio and his good-humored, hummed bass solos, ala Slam Stewart. He was immensely proud of his granddaughter, who has been touring with the all-female band of vocalist Beyoncé, and reveals that jazz side of her persona on three CDs, the latest of which is titled "Decisive Steps."

She was featured on the cover of Jazz Times magazine in 2010. Tia has both a fiery and a lyrical side, both of which will be on display in her concert for A Place for Jazz.

The next concert will feature the great pianist Kenny Barron fronting a trio on Oct. 14. He first gained recognition with the Dizzy Gillespie Quartet, and recorded several albums with Stan Getz. He has been nominated nine times for Grammy Awards. Local fans will remember his outstanding series of performances with Nick Brignola at the Van Dyck Restaurant in Schenectady.



Tia Fuller



Kenny Barron

Freddy Cole



A Place for Jazz features one of the outstanding local groups each year, and this year it will be the superb Latin group Sensemaya, led by pianist and Schenectady High School music teacher Dave Gleason. The group presents the rich sound and rhythms of Cuban and Puerto Rican music. They have played many festivals and concert venues in the region, including the Albany Riverfront Jazz festival, Alive at Five, and Jazz on Jay. Their first CD is titled "Shake It!" and they have a new one in the works. They hope their concert on Oct. 28 will serve as the CD release party for this new effort.

A Place for Jazz wraps up the season on Nov. 11 with the song stylings of vocalist and pianist Freddy Cole. He is the younger brother of Nat King Cole, but has his own style of playing and singing. His CD "Freddy Cole Sings Mr. B" was nominated for a Grammy this year in the Best Vocal Jazz Album category. His quartet should be a highlight of the season.

A Place for Jazz was founded by Butch Conn and has presented an array of great musicians and singers over the years. The website aplaceforjazz.org has a list of the many artists who have graced the stage, as well as a calendar of jazz events in the region. Tickets for the concerts are available by visiting their website, aplaceforjazz.org, or by calling (518) 393-4011.

(Continued from Page 1)

Her CD, "Harvest", was named one of the top ten 2009 vocal jazz albums by *Songbirds*, a prestigious online vocal jazz newsletter; was listed among the top ten 2009 regional (Hudson Valley) CDs; and made jazz critic Owen Cordle's top ten list as well.

"Harvest" features Ray Charles' great tenor man, David 'Fathead' Newman, with John Menegon (Dewey Redman, 'Fathead' Newman) on bass and Bob Meyer (John Abercrombie) on drums. Quotes from reviews of "Harvest":

"... effortless scatting that seems to float out of her keyboard. One is reminded of those golden times when the ladies June Christy, Anita O'Day and the just-passed Chris Connor seemed incapable of a cliched delivery." Andrew Velez, *All About Jazz*

"Thrilling, indeed." Owen Cordle, *Raleigh News & Observer*

"She features her own piano playing as well here, and it's a truly breathtaking conclusion to a grand CD." Dan Singer, *In Tune International*

"Sheldon is truly someone to hear and admire." Michael Steinman, *Cadence*

In June '09, Nina backed alto player and former Mingus sideman John Handy at the Healdsburg (CA) Jazz Festival, led a quartet at the '08 Benicia Jazz Festival (CA), and opened the '06 Russian River Jazz Festival.

Marian McPartland featured her on NPR's "Piano Jazz" in '04, and last March, on NPR's "What Is a Jazz Singer?" Bobby McFerrin called her a

singer with "attitude and authenticity." Lately, she's led trios at NY state jazz havens Justin's in Albany, the Stockade in Schenectady, Jake and Luna's in Woodstock with tenorman Ed Xiques (Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ray Charles) and regularly features outstanding horn players in duos at La Duchesse Anne in Mt. Tremper.

During the '70s and '80s, Nina led bands at the Newport Jazz Festival and the Kool Jazz Festival. She powered the Village Gate's house band for 4 years, opening for Dizzy Gillespie, Charles Mingus, Art Blakey, and Stan Getz. Credits include the Montauk Jazz Festival, Kansas City Jazz festival, and Guadeloupe Jazz Festival with Clifford Jordan and Joe Chambers. At the Blue Note in Paris, she led a quartet opposite bop innovator Kenny Clarke.

She toured with Johnny Hartman, has backed up Sonny Stitt, George Coleman, Jane Ira Bloom, Bobby Shew, Gerry Niewood and Nick Brignola, and led duos and trios at New York City's Sweet Basil, Bradley's, Knickerbocker, and Zinno's with sidemen Al Foster, Eddie Gomez, Cecil McBee, and Buster Williams.

Her album, "Secret Places," which featured Dave Liebman and Eddie Gomez, was named one of the top 20 jazz releases of 1987 by Dr. Herb Wong, president of Concord Records. John S. Wilson of *The New York Times* called her playing "brilliantly swinging" and remarked on her "strong presence as pianist, singer and writer of lyrics that are funny, outrageous and even wistful." "Brilliant application of lyrics to the bop tradition . . . a strong first album," said *Jazz Times*.

See Page 10 for concert details.

Swingtime Snapshots

PHOTOS BY C



Marsha Lamere cuts the cake for husband, singer Ray Lamere, at Almost Retired Musicians lunch. Cake message says, "Happy 82nd Birthday Ray Lamere. Still Swinging." So true!



Frank Loscavo, sax; Mike Solazzo, bass; Dave Solazzo, piano, his son, at Aperitivo Bistro in Schenectady



Josh Greenberg and leader Kathy Olson sing at Cook Park in Colonie concert.

Time shots

. ROBIE BOOTH



Doc Scanlon Trio at Provence: Scott Black, Don Dworkin and Graham Tichy



a duet at



Dianne Geddes with Mixed Company



Colleen Pratt with Swingtime

Musical Feast for Many Appetites

There is good music aplenty hereabouts this autumn. While we'll try to cover the highlights, we can't cover the field nearly as completely as **A Place for Jazz**, so kindly check their splendid comprehensive schedule at aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm.

The widely-acclaimed **Empire Jazz Orchestra** will give a concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18 in the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium at Schenectady County Community College. Conductor **William Meckley** will be featuring the music of Tadd Dameron, Johnny Richards, Slide Hampton, Oliver Nelson, Mary Lou Williams, our own **Jim Corigliano**, Buddy Rich and Jimmy Lunceford. Supersinger **Colleen Pratt** will sing Harold Arlen and others.

The **University at Albany Jazz Ensemble** is in concert Nov. 21 and April 2, 2012 (our first mention so far of next year!) at the Performing Arts Center. The **Oswego Jazz Project** will perform Feb. 22. There will be a solo jazz piano concert, artist TBA, April 24.

The Best To Come

The rest of the best, we hope, is covered in the following schedule. There may be repetitions of other stories in this issue, but this is in calendar sequence for easy looking forward.

Sept. 30: **Tia Fuller Quartet**. 8. A Place for Jazz. First Unitarian Society, Schenectady.

Oct. 2: **Madeleine Peyroux** (vocalist/

guitarist), **Nellie McKay**. 8. The Egg

Oct. 9: **Nina Sheldon Trio**. 4. Jam session at 6. Swingtime Jazz Society. Provence Restaurant. Stuyvesant Plaza, Guilderland. See Page 10.

Oct. 14: **Empire State Youth Orchestra Youth Jazz Ensemble** and **The College of Saint Rose Jazz Ensemble**. 7:30. Massry Center, Saint Rose, Albany.

Oct. 14: **Kenny Barron Trio**. 8. APFJ. Schenectady.

Oct. 22: Golden Oldies with the Fleetwoods, **Bobby Rydell** and Jay and the Americans. Will this be our own Jay Trainor? You may laugh, but when I saw Bobby Rydell at the State Fair, he was swinging like hell. 7:30. Proctors Theatre, Schenectady.

Oct. 22: **Brian D** and the **Georgie Wonders Orchestra** performing Rat-Pack favorites. "Come Dance with Me at the Bubble Room" 7. 3 Marion Ave, Glens Falls.

Oct. 22: **David Sanborn Trio** with **Joey DeFrancesco**. 8. The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany.

Oct. 24: **Benny Goodman**: A Carnegie Hall Tribute. 7:30. Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

Oct. 24: **Aruan Ortiz**. Lecture and demonstration by Aruan Ortiz, Cuban-American jazz pianist. 2:45. TSB Music Hall.

Oct. 25: Jazz Improvisation Master Class with Ortiz and **Bob Gluck**. 1:15. TSB Music Hall. That same evening and

(Continued on Page 9)

Grappa '72: Jazz Three Nights a Week

Grappa '72 restaurant is presenting jazz in a big way three nights a week. It is becoming a major destination for music lovers with the best adult music hereabouts. The schedule:

Wednesdays and Thursdays, **Frank Mastan Trio** with **Doug Harris**, bass. The drummer is often **Lennie Tobler**.

Fridays' stars: Oct. 7, **Jeff Dawson**, piano, with **Bill Delaney**, bass. Oct. 14, **Fresh**. Oct. 21, **Peg Delaney Trio**; Peg

on piano, **Bill Delaney** on bass and **Earl Davis**, vocals and drums. Oct. 28, **Sonny & Perley** with bassist **Lou Pappas**.

Nov. 4, **Dino Cimino Band**. Nov. 11, **Mike Lampkin**, piano. Nov. 18, **Franklin Micare**, piano, vocals. Dec. 2, **Fresh**. Dec. 9 and 23, **Bobby Vandetta**, a very engaging singer and instrumentalist. Dec. 16, **Jeanne O'Connor**, supersinger. Pianist will likely be **Nat Phipps** or Peg.

Looking Forward (Continued from Page 8)

place at 7 they will present a two-piano jazz concert.

Oct. 28: **Sensemaya**. Latin jazz. 8. APFJ. Schenectady.

Nov. 11: **Freddy Cole**. Piano and vocals. 8. APF. Schenectady.

Nov. 12: **Empire State Youth Orchestra**. 7:30. TSB Music Hall.

Nov. 12: Christopher O'Riley, "Out of My Hands." 8. Colonial Theater, Pittsfield.

Nov. 19: **Betty Lavette, Les McCann and Javonn Jackson**. 7:30. The Egg.

Nov. 21: **The University Jazz Ensemble**. 7. TSB Music Hall.

Nov. 26 and 27: **Tony Desare**. Star singer and Hudson Falls native. 8. Charles R. Wood Theater, Glens Falls.

Nov. 30: **Natalie MacMaster**. Balladeer. Fiddler, dancer. 7:30. Massry Center, Saint Rose.

Nov. 27: **Andre Rieu Orchestra**. 6. Times Union Center.

Dec. 2: "It's a Jazz Christmas with

Vince Guaraldi." 7. Massry Center, Saint Rose.

Dec. 6: **The 5 Browns**. Five pianos holiday show. 8. Proctor's.

Dec. 10: Frank Sinatra Birthday Celebration. Featuring **Georgie Wonders Orchestra** with **Brian D, Kit Pettit and Friends** and surprise guest performer. Michael's Banquet House, Latham.

Dec. 10: **Dar Williams**. 8. Proctor's.

Jan. 14: **Dee Dee Bridgewater**: To Billie (Holiday) with Love. 8. TSB Music Hall.

Jan. 14: **Bebe Neuwirth**. Broadway superstar, Tony Award winner for best actress. Stories with piano. 8. Proctors.

Feb. 3: **Branford Marsalis**. 8. Proctor's.

March 19: **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**. 7:30. TSB Music Hall.

April 21: **The Hot Club of San Francisco**. Gypsy Jazz. 8. TSB Music Hall.

May 4: **Gabriela Montero**. Pianist. 8. TSB Music Hall.

May 5: **Lea Salongo from Broadway**. 8. TSB Music Hall.



Proudly Presents

Nina Sheldon Trio

featuring pianist and vocalist Nina Sheldon



Otto Gardner



Nina Sheldon



Peter O'Brien

4 p.m. Sunday, October 9, 2011

(open jam session to follow from 6 to 7 p.m.)

**Provence Restaurant, Stuyvesant Plaza,
Western Avenue, Albany**

Pub menu and beverages available for purchase

\$15/person (\$5 for students)

Due to limited seating at Provence, reservations are required.

Call (518) 429-6634 or email maggiemacd@nycap.rr.com

Cats and Jammers



Random Reviews

Branford Marsalis at Saratoga Performing Arts Center with the Philadelphia Orchestra was a wonderful evening of modern music.

“Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun” was beautifully played but the camera work for the big screen was awful. Two trumpet solos on Bizet’s Suites from Carmen were missed entirely as were the French horns. On John Williams’ “Escapades,” the cameraperson missed a rare tuba solo (the artist could not be seen from middle seats).

Branford had a wondrous and beautiful solo on alto saxophone. The Ravel pieces —“Bolero” and “Rhapsodie Espagnole”— were as fine as I’ve ever heard them. Marsalis’ melodic lines on Milhaud’s “Scaramouche” Opus 165c were astounding. He won terrific applause. The colorful, animated conductor Giancarlo Guerrero was splendid throughout. Camera work improved vastly in the second half.

Steve Ross Plays Astaire

The cabaret stylist (the main entertainer at the famed Algonquin piano bar in NYC) had three programs at the Spa Little Theater. While we were fretting about missing an all-Cole Porter show, we were amply rewarded by hearing a good deal of Cole in the “Puttin’ on the Ritz” salute to Fred Astaire. Ross’ “Dancing in the Dark” was the best piano and vocal version I’ve ever heard. His solo work, instrumental and voice, on “Night and Day” reminded us that no one today writes like the masters of yesteryear.

Bassist **Brian Cassier**, who has played everything from the top symphony orchestras to pop and country superstars, was outstanding in every circumstance. His commentary was most entertaining. I would have liked to add to Ross’ entertaining commentary that Arthur Swartz wrote “I Guess I’ll Have to Dream the Rest” while at Brant Lake Camp.



Bassist Delaney Swings

Bill Delaney, the fine bassist, is playing several dates this autumn at Grappa ‘72 on Central Avenue in Albany. In background of photo are (from left) two members of Pete Pezzulo’s family and (far right) host C. Robie Booth at his annual jam session.

Photo by Norma Colasessano

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 50. You are encouraged to join us by using the coupon on this page.

The Society's mission is to promote quality jazz by employing the finest regional artists for four or five events every year. The format is two hours of concert-cabaret music by the featured artists followed by a one-hour jam session open to all cats.

All members have a full vote on future attractions and electing officers of the non-profit corporation. We also have a wonderful series of dinner meetings hosted by members. There is a one-only fee of \$100 for joining.

See Pages 1 and 10 for our October 9 attraction, the Nina Sheldon Trio.

I want to join the Swingtime Jazz Society.
Enclosed find my membership fee of \$100.

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