

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

Volume 23, Number 2

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Summer 2012



Sunday, June 10:
Al Haugen Quartet
at Appletini's.

See Pages 4 and 5.

*Free Jazz Party!
See Page 11.*

Saturday, June 23:
Luca Ciarla Quartet
at Van Dyck.
See Pages 8 and 9.



The Night Owl



Ye Olde Puzzler
And Ye New

Terry Gibbs was the fellow who led the Dream Band. Three of our readers had it right and all are already lifetime subscribers. Maybe you can win with the new mystery guest. Sign in please:

I was only 19 years old when I joined the Duke Ellington Orchestra. I played with him for two years, until 1941. An authority said I "...transformed the bass. It had been used for quarter notes. (I) improvised as if it were a horn, phrasing fluently with frequent eighth- and sixteenth-note runs, using harmonic and melodic ideas unheard of on the bass. (My) definition and timing made earlier exponents seem like amateurs. Almost all top bassists consider (me) the pioneer and first true

master (of bass)." I died of tuberculosis in 1942.

The first postmarked correct reply wins a lifetime subscription. Correct personal replies win 10 issues.

Rand Reeves Retires
The **Burnt Hills Oratorio Society** gave its last concert under **Rand Reeves** May 20. During his 22 years the choir grew from 60 to 105 members, a majority of them music professionals singing for the love of it. I sang with him part of one season. The love and respect between Rand and his company was obvious. He will be succeeded by associate director Susan Hermance Fedak.

Enjoyed **Dr. R. David Kissinger's** Oasis classes on Duke Ellington. Learned Duke Ellington's first record as the Washingtonians in 1924 featured Bubber Miley on muted trumpet, Sonny

Greer on drums and Tricky Sam Nanton on trombone.

Quarter Notes

Rich Syracuse handcrafted a bass for a left-handed player. Think about it. . . Lee Shaw's dynamics and swirling flourishes, as heard on a recent "Skylark," are without peer .. . Her original "Crazyology" is a wonderful romp. . . Remember Rocky Palmer and the Ritz?

The original Act III, predecessors of Act IV, comprised Frank Mastan, organ; Pat Andre, drums; Georgie Wonders, saxes, flute and bass ! ! ! They played six nights a week at Rudy's Uptown Club.

Frank's 18-year duo with bassist Doug Harris still playing Wednesdays and Thursdays at Grappa 72, Central Avenue in Albany.

—C. ROBIE BOOTH

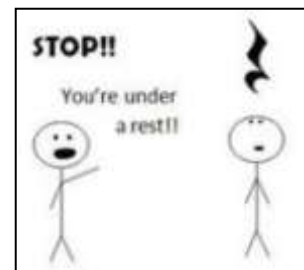
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Stay on the Beat

Catch us at
SwingtimeJazz.org

Cats and Jammers



The Albany Musicians' Association did a bang-up job on their Jazz Appreciation Month celebration at Colonie Elks Club in Latham.

The officers should be credited: Neil Brown, president; Jon Van Voris, vice president; Nat Fossner, VP for symphonic services; Patti Melita, secretary-treasurer; Dianne Geddes, recording secretary; Linda Brown, Quency Rene, David Bournazian, Peter White and Michael Benedict, executive committee.

The musicians were in fine fettle; kudos to **Rob Aronstein, Charlie Smith, Mike Lawrence, Andy Hearn, Nat Phipps, Pete Toigo, Rena Graf, Colleen Pratt, Mo Rancourt, Steve Lambert, Keith Pray, Brian Patneude, Dave Gleason, Lou Smaldone, Bob Halek, Linda Ellen Brown, Lee Shaw, Patti Melita, Leo Russo, Lee Russo (his son), Mike Novakowski and Lou Pappas.** And a young lady trumpeter, **Olivia Canavan.**

The Daytona Beach jazz scene continues to deteriorate. Three restaurants have dropped their jazz policy; two have no music, one switched to folk and rock.

The good news is about the youth movement. Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange has 480 teens active in jazz bands, a symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, marching band and several combos. The jazz bands directed by Andrew Kidd include the 10 O'clock Band, largely 8th through 10th grades; 11 O'clock Band, largely upperclassmen; the elite 12 O'clock Band, seniors and extremely talented players as young as 8th grade.

The 12 O'clock Band has won international awards and is better than most college bands and all but the very top national professional bands. Many of its graduates become music majors in college. This summer the jazz band and symphony are playing at the International Music Festival in Dublin, Ireland.

Half-Notes

Three graduates of my alma mater Empire State College were recently honored at Brooklyn Black History month: **Kenny Barron** ('78,

my year), **Marcus McLaurine**, '09, and **Man-soor Sabree**, '00.

For the first time since **James Allen** joined *The Record* in Troy (he's now with the *Times Union*), we have two bright lights on the sports reporting scene. **Laura Amato** is a cub at *The Record* who writes very well, does a good, interesting interview, organizes her stories professionally and seems objective. She is 22 and a graduate of St. John's University. **M a r i s a Jacques** on YNN Channel 9 covers all sports and seems particularly well-versed in basketball. She is attractive, well-spoken and objective, with an understandable leaning to the home teams. I predict they both will go far.

In Memoriam: Sal Alberico

Sal Alberico Sr. died Feb. 27 in Florida at age 82. He was a dear friend from my formative jazz years in Utica. He was the dean of musicians there in recent years and had played reed instruments in the halcyon years with such prominent musicians as bassist Sam Mancuso, the boss; wife Delores Mancuso, singer extraordinaire; drummers Ronnie Zito, Jimmie Wormworth, senior and junior; saxophonist Vic Circh; trumpeter Sal Amico; composer-saxophonist Chick Esposito; pianist Rick Montalbano (and probably Lou Palmer); organist Milt Munn; and saxophonists J. R. Monterose and Sal Nistico (a Rochesterian but frequent visitor, as was pianist Frank Stagnitta).

He began on clarinet at age 11, encouraged by his father, a drummer (Sal's younger brother Ray was also a drummer). By age 12, he was playing professionally and never stopped. In high school he switched to saxophones. During his career he led big bands and combos and played behind Nat Cole, Sammy Davis Jr, Tony Bennett, Danny Thomas and Bob Hope

Sal was named a Living Legend by the Oneida County Historical Society in 2009. May he rest in peace.

Continued on Page 10

SWINGTIME

Jazz Society

swingtimejazz.org



Proudly Presents



The Anita Haugen Quartet



Lou Pappas, bass



Don Egry, Piano



Bob Halek, drums

4-6 p.m. Sunday, June 10, 2012

Followed by open jam session from 6 to 7 p.m.

Appletini's, 1118 Central Ave, Albany

Pub menu and beverages available for purchase

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

Due to limited seating, reservations are required.

Call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548

Swingtime Jazz Society Presents the Al Haugen Quartet

On Sunday, June 10, Swingtime Jazz Society's quarterly concert will feature the **Al Haugen Quartet**. They play from 4-6 p.m. Then, from 6-7 p.m., an open jam session provides an opportunity for any musician in the place to perform. The event will be at Appletini's Café, 1118 Central Ave, Albany. Admission is \$15 (\$5 for students). To make reservations, call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548.

Prior to relocating to the Capital Region in 1972, accordionist **Al Haugen** was a much sought-after member of the club and jazz scene in the Hudson Valley, New York City, and New Jersey. He played his first professional gigs at age 14 and later auditioned for the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, where he served for three years as accordionist and chief music copyist on the band's arranging staff.

After completing military service, Al gigged in New York City and was staff music copyist at Radio City Music Hall and various music writing and recording agencies. While earning BS and MS degrees in geology at Alfred University and State University College at New Paltz, he minored in music and subsequently taught science at secondary and post-secondary levels and taught private lessons on accordion.

Al and his inspiration and close friend of nearly 50 years, Art Van Damme (who died last year and was considered father of the jazz accordion), travelled together nationally in efforts to bolster the image of the accordion as a jazz instrument. Al continues to perform with his groups (trio, quartet, quintet) in the local jazz scene including the Stockade Inn, the Van Dyck Restaurant, Aperitivo and others.

Don Egry, a classically-trained jazz pianist, began his music career in Schenectady, NY, at age seven with lessons on piano. In high school, at age 14, he headed his own dance band.

His classical training in music continued at Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY, where, for the senior concerto program, he was the first Crane student to perform the 1st movement of the Khachaturian Concerto for Piano and Orchestra.

Later, Don served for three years in the United

States Military Academy Band at West Point where he performed with the group now known as The Jazz Knights. Following his army discharge, Mr. Egry continued his education with advanced piano lessons from Alton Jones, a Juilliard professor, in New York City.

He then moved to Dutchess County and formed his own professional group, the Don Egry Trio. Don continues to work as jazz pianist—solo, and with groups—in the Hudson Valley, the Mohawk Valley, Westchester and Connecticut. He has worked with accomplished bassists Frank Tate, Lou Pappas, Lew Scott, Bill Crow, Jerry Bruno and Malcolm Cecil.

After bassist **Lou Pappas** obtained his masters degree in double bass performance from Colorado State University, he began his career with the Colorado Springs Symphony, at the same time performing with such visiting jazz artists as Jay McShann, Bill Watrous, Tom Scott and composer Patrick Williams. After three years with the Oklahoma City Symphony, he moved to New York to accept the position as bassist with the United States Military Academy Band, West Point, NY. As a member of the Jazz Knights, he performed at jazz festivals throughout the United States along with such guest artists as David Liebman, Byron Stripling, James Williams, Clare Fischer, Randy Brecker, Billy Cobham, Steve Turre and fellow bassist John Clayton. He performed regularly with the "West Point Chamber Winds," and gave the world premiere performance of Robert Baksa's Sonata for Contrabass and Piano. Mr. Pappas retired from the Army during the summer of 2006.

Lou regularly conducts workshops and master classes, including appearances at the 1996 IAJE convention, the International Society of Bassists conventions in 2001- 2011, the New York State Music Teachers Convention, and many high school, college and public school districts teacher's workshops. He has performed with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra, Westchester Philharmonic, the Chappaqua Chamber Orchestra, and the Newburgh Symphony Orchestra. He is presently Instructor of double bass *Continued on Page 10*

Albany Musicians' Jazz Jamboree



The Gals Who Play Jazz: Patti Melita, Lee Shaw, Linda Brown



Mo' Rancourt

Photos taken by Jerry Gordon at the Albany Musicians' Association event on April 29.



Colleen Pratt



Lee Russo, Leo Russo, Lou Pappas, Mike Novakow

am



Nat Phipps, Pete Toigo, Rena Graf



ski



Front Line: Keith Pray, Steve Lambert, Brian Patneude
Rhythm Section: Dave Gleason, Lou Smaldone, Bob Halek



Proudly present

The Luca Ciarla Quartet

LUCA CIARLA violin, VINCE ABBRACCIANTE accordion,
NICOLA DI CAMILLO double bass, FRANCESCO SAVORETTI percussion



Saturday, June 23, 2012, at 7:30 PM

Van Dyck Restaurant & Lounge
237 Union St, Schenectady, NY

Admission \$15 ~ Reservations: (518) 348-7999

APlaceForJazz.org

LucaCiarla.com

SwingtimeJazz.org

Swingtime Jazz Society + A Place for Jazz Present the Luca Ciarla Quartet



A Place for Jazz and the *Swingtime Jazz Society* present internationally acclaimed Italian violinist **Luca Ciarla** and his quartet

for a special concert at 7:30 PM on Saturday, June 23, at the Van Dyck Restaurant, 237 Union St, Schenectady. 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. Admission is \$15. Make reservations by calling (518) 348-7999.

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 (South Africa)**

Luca Ciarla is simply one of the most creative and surprising violinists nowadays. His music easily transcends the boundaries among genres to trace an innovative musical path, a magical acoustic seduction in perfect balance between written compositions and improvisation, traditional and contemporary sounds. His unique style has led him to successfully perform in countless festivals and concert series of jazz, classical and world music festivals in more than thirty countries on every continent; from the *National Arts Festival* in South Africa to the *Java Jazz Festival* in Indonesia, from the Esplanade in Singapore to the Italian Institute of Culture in New York, from the Academy for Performing Arts of Hong Kong to the Perth Jazz Society in Aus-

tralia, from the *Al Bustan Festival* in Lebanon to the *Adriatico Mediterraneo Festival* in Ancona (Italy), from *Jazz in Bayreuth* in Germany to the 55th edition of the *Split Summer Festival* in Croatia. *“Luca Ciarla has wooed the classical, jazz and folk crowds with his originality.”* **Cover Magazine (Hong Kong)**

A native of Termoli, Italy, Luca began playing violin and piano at the age of eight. By twelve he was studying at the conservatory and few years later began exploring jazz and improvisation. He received the *“Diploma di Violino”* in 1993 and then studied at the Fiesole School of Music and the European Union Music School of Saluzzo. In 1996 Luca moved to the United States to pursue a master’s at Indiana University and to study jazz with David Baker. Subsequently he completed a *Doctor of Musical Arts* degree at the University of Arizona where he has taught violin and improvisation for several years. He has won several competitions in Italy and abroad. *“Luca Ciarla is considered one of today’s most creative and surprising violinists, offering a mesmerizing mix of familiar sounds in a fascinating new sonic landscape.”* **Today (Singapore)**

Completing the quartet are accordionist **Vince Abbracciante**, double-bass player **Nicola Di Camillo**, and the versatile percussionist **Francesco Savoretti**. All have many years of experience on the international jazz circuit.





Looking Forward

“Ella” starring **Tim Fabrique** is a “special summer engagement” according to Capital Repertory (managed by Proctors). It will run from July 24 to Aug. 17 at the 11 N. Pearl St. theater in Albany.

The new musical, according to publicity: “It’s 1966 and Ella is preparing for one of the most important concerts of her career. . . . She will jam with Louis Armstrong, reflect on her life and swing on ‘A Tisket, A Tasket,’ ‘How High the Moon’ and ‘They Can’t Take That Away from Me.’” Previews start July 20.

Cats & Jammers

Continued from Page 3

You can tell where *The Record’s* taste is. A recent poll gave these choices for “your favorite MUSIC genre.” Rock, Rap, Country, R&B. Rap is not music. It is the worst of two possible worlds, neither music nor poetry. What happened to Jazz, Classical and Popular???

Ella and Other Goodies

“A Chorus Line” will grace Proctors’ main stage in Schenectady Dec. 14-16. **Albany Symphony Orchestra** opens its season Sept. 22 at the Palace Theater in Albany with a program of Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky featuring pianist Valentina Lisitsa.

A Place for Jazz at the Whisperdome in Schenectady opens its series with trumpeter **Tom Harrell** and his quintet on Sept. 14. Our Labor Day issue will have full particulars on this fine series, but if you can’t wait, visit aplaceforjazz.org.

Thanks to **George and Joyce Ehrmann** for the clippings (*Utica Observer-Dispatch*, another of my alma maters) on Sal Alberico . . . You can find a couple of videos of the late singer Ray Lamere on YouTube . . . For fun, look up the Ross Sisters.

For the area’s most up-to-date jazz calendar, visit aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm

Swingtime Jazz Society Presents the Al Haugen Quartet

Continued from Page 5 at Vassar College and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Teacher and percussionist **Bob Halek** is a native of upstate NY. Bob has been playing professionally since the age of 13. He has recorded and performed with artists from multiple disciplines including Big Band, Jazz, Latin, Funk, Country, Classical and R&B. He keeps a very active schedule as a musician. He has performed on the Food Network, Newport Jazz Festival, Albany’s Tulip Festival, Lark Festival and A Place for Jazz, as well as concerts and clubs throughout the northeast. He is currently performing with The Empire Jazz Orchestra, Keith

Pray’s Big Soul Ensemble, Colleen Pratt, The Capitol Region Wind Ensemble, City Rhythm and various club bands.

Along with teaching instrumental music in the East Greenbush School District, he is also on the faculty of The Skidmore College Summer Jazz Program and The Proctors Summer Jazz Program.

Bob has been a guest conductor for various concert bands, jazz bands and percussion ensembles. He is a composer, arranger and has performed numerous jazz and percussion clinics and workshops. Bob has been awarded the 2012 District-wide Teacher of the Year for the

Journalists Name Bill McCann a "Jazz Hero"

The Jazz Journalists Association has named **Bill McCann** a 2012 "Jazz Hero." JJA "Jazz Heroes" are activists, advocates, altruists, aiders and abettors of jazz who have had significant impact in their local communities.

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 St in Schenectady, NY, 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.

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, which has presented concert series for more than 25 years, as well as providing scholarships and clinics to students in local schools and colleges.

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.")



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.

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 55. 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 once-only fee of \$100 for joining.

See Pages 4 and 5 for our June 10 attraction, the Al Haugen Quartet.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer
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Troy, NY 12181-0232

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