



SARASOTA JAZZ *Sounds*

Spring 2018

*I*nside

*Highlights from the 38th Jazz Festival
Jeff Hamilton honored
Scholarship News
and much more!*

Jeff Hamilton
receives 2018 SATCHMO



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The Jazz Club of Sarasota
Sounds is sponsored by



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Dear Members of the Jazz Club of Sarasota, I wish to say thank you to all who attended our Festival in March as it was spectacular and very successful! I wish to thank Ed Linehan, our Vice-President, for all he did to bring us one of the best Festivals we have had in years. Also the Board of Directors for hiring Ken Peplowski, as our Music Director, as he selected a group of fantastic musicians. The entertainment was superb to say the least.

I also want to thank our wonderful Jazz Club volunteers, as they worked extremely long hours. Sandy Livon has recently resigned as Chair of the volunteers, to spend more time traveling and spending precious time with family. Our new Chair is Lenore Walsh, who has been an active volunteer for many years. Welcome Lenore! Another special person is Susan Leavis, the Editor of the "Sounds" who created a fabulous program for the Festival, thank you Susan.....

There is someone else who spends endless hours assisting the board of directors and is my right and left arm and that is Carline Ash. She is a jewel of an office manager and a shining star as she does so much for all of us. Thank you so much Carline for all you do and the countless hours of your time.

The Board of Directors is hosting a planning session on May 5th to discuss the 2019 Festival. The Music committee is working hard to finalize all the details and you will soon have the list of performers. We hope to expand the number of events within the 4 day festival weekend and to once again have Ken Peplowski as our Music Director. Ed Linehan will be the Managing Director, so mark your calendar's now: March 7 - 10, 2019

It is now the time of the year to award scholarships to local young musicians and we have a long list this year. The committee headed by Bob and Vern Weitz have been busy. It is not too late to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund. Please feel free to contact Bob & Vern at vernweitz@comcast.net or Carline Ash, our office manager, at admin@jazzclubsarasota.com or call Carline at 941-366-1552 W-F. Donations are needed and much appreciated.

Thank you all again for your support in making this year's festival such a success!

Regards,

Peg Pluto, President

Scholarship UPDATE

By Bob & Vern Weitz, Co-Chairs

During the 2017/2018 school year, at colleges across Florida, nine students are studying jazz music because of the financial help from our Jazz Club scholarships.

Jazz has a future with today's youth and young adults. For the 2018/2019 academic year, fourteen students will receive scholarships from *The Jazz Club of Sarasota*. These students are from Sarasota and surrounding counties and almost all of them will be attending colleges in Florida.

The students play all the instruments normally found in jazz combos and bands. We have the rhythm section of piano, bass, and drums. Also, there are the brasses: trumpet and trombone; and reeds with two who play alto sax. Additionally, these saxophone players also make good use of the tenor sax, flute, and clarinet.

The co-chairs of this committee travel to various high schools and local colleges looking for talent. We want to be sure we are encouraging the best among them to stay with this music as their major while getting a college education.

We thank you ALL for helping us out with your donations throughout the year. Some mail a check to the jazz office and others put a few dollars in the buckets that are posted outside at our musical events. In all the arts, not just jazz, there is an ongoing struggle to obtain funding. So, thanks for pitching in!

In the September issue of *Jazz Sounds*, we will have a detailed listing of the new and returning scholars who have been awarded scholarships this year. There will be photographs and short biographies for each student.

This year, we added one student who will attend Jazz Band Camp, which is designed for high-school students in the summer between their junior and senior years. So much is learned in a concentrated amount of time and so often it is the deciding factor for their plans for the future.

Lil & Louis, A NEW PLAY

ABOUT THE ARMSTRONGS, under development



Brian L. Boyd and Ashley D. Brooks of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe portray Louis and Lil Hardin Armstrong in Jo Morello's *Hot Miss Lil & Little Louis*. (Photo: Ed Linehan)

Jo Morello, longtime Jazz Club publicist, experienced producer, and award-winning playwright, is writing *Lil & Louis*, a play with music, about Lil Hardin Armstrong and Louis Armstrong, "first couple of jazz," with a focus on Lil and her forgotten achievements. It will be presented as a staged reading at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, the play's artistic home, in Spring 2019. The director is Chuck Smith, WBTT director and 25-year director at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. James Suggs is trumpeter for the play.

"Hot Miss Lil" was already an established Chicago pianist and bandleader before pudgy young Louis arrived from New Orleans with his cornet. Lil became the architect of his early career—and his second wife. They played together in King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band and elsewhere and were a driving force in creating jazz. Although Lil watched Louis move on to international fame and two more wives, they remained friends until their deaths, just weeks apart in 1971.

Because Florida's legislature cut previously awarded funding, the project must now raise funds. To help introduce the work Jo has written a short "sample," *Hot Miss Lil & Little Louis*. WBTT's Travis Ray directed actors Brian L. Boyd and Ashley D. Brooks in a reading and Jazz Club VP Ed Linehan made a video. For a link to the video or to learn more, email jo@jomorello.com.

The 38th Annual Sarasota Jazz Festival.....

A tasty and filling jazz smorgasbord

by Ken Franckling

The Sarasota Jazz Festival took on a jazz party flavor at its 38th annual event, March 8-10, which, under this year's "A World of Jazz" theme, featured 15 musicians from seven countries.

Its four major concerts blended festival first-timers and familiar faces in a format that changed combinations of on-stage musicians frequently in creative ways. In his first year as the festival's music director, reedman Ken Peplowski kept things vibrant and at times surprising and joined in as a player several times per show. He also used his self-deprecating sense of humor to great effect.

Danish drummer Kristian Leth's Scandinavian Jazztrio with Swedish bassist Hans Backenroth and Danish pianist Ole Hansen, was the featured rhythm section for most of the concert sets.

Here were some highlight moments:

Danish singer Sinne Eeg's performance of Lionel Hampton's "Evil Man Blues" in a duet with Backenroth during her Thursday night performance with the trio. The talented vocalist added gender-bending twists to the original Leonard Feather lyrics to turn the song into a teasing ode about "an evil girl."

Thursday's second set featured tenor saxophonist Jimmy Greene and trumpeter Jeremy Pelt with the trio. The two horn players are frequent collaborators whose boppish sounds work well together. Pelt stepped away from the microphone and delivered a stunning acoustic solo feature on "Little Girl Blue" - showcasing his beautiful translucent tone and melodic invention. Audience members rose from their seats after this mid-set moment.



Jeremy Pelt

Brazilian guitarist Diego Figueiredo performed Friday night with Greene and Italian singer Chiara Izzi, and in several combinations at Saturday afternoon's jam-style concert, including a guitar duo with Los Angeles-based Graham Dechter. At the end of Friday set, Figueiredo and Peplowski invited 91-year-old pianist Dick Hyman to come up from the audience. He joined them for a trio version of Luis Bonfa's "Samba de Orpheus."

Tenor saxophonist Houston Person and guitarist Dechter performed with the Scandinavian trio in



Sinne Eeg



Jimmy Greene



Chiara Izzi

Friday's closing set. Person showed again and again how he is a soulful balladeer on the horn, then brought out Peplowski for a two-tenor take on Bobby Hebb's pop hit "Sunny."

The Saturday jam closed with an all-hands on deck version of "Perdido" that featured two drummers - Leth and Jeff Hamilton, who was this year's recipient of the festival's Satchmo Award for his career contributions to jazz.



Hyman, Peplowski, Figueiredo



Ole Kock Hansen

Two fine piano moments stood out at Saturday night's opening set, which featured Peplowski, Israeli-born pianist Ehud Asherie, Leth and Backenroth. To start the show, Peplowski asked Ole Kock Hansen to perform one number with Backenroth and Leth.

The Danish pianist, composer and bandleader's feature moment, quite appropriately, was a jazz version of the traditional Swedish folk song "O, Tysta Ensamhet," which translates as Oh, Silent Loneliness.



Ehud Asherie

Later in the set, Asherie delivered an impressionistic solo piano take on Fats Waller's classical-tinged "Clothes Line Ballet."

Japanese organist Akiko Tsuruga performed a rousing final set on Saturday in a trio with drummer Hamilton and guitarist Dechter. This rising star in jazz has been part of saxophonist Lou Donaldson's organ quartet for a decade. The three trio members were fueled by each other's energy and ideas throughout the set. They were joined at mid-set by Person, whose spotlight on "My Romance" drew out Tsuruga's subtle side as an accompanist.



Akiko Tsuruga

With 10 fresh faces and five SJF veterans - Figueiredo, Hamilton, Hyman, Peplowski and Person - this festival had much to offer.

The 2018 festival had been scheduled for the new Art Ovation Hotel in downtown Sarasota. Because of a delay in the venue's opening, the performances were moved to Riverview Performing Arts Center, which was the festival's home for the past three years.



38th Annual Sarasota Jazz Festival

A World of Jazz.....

March 7-10, 2018



Dick Hyman, Ken Peplowski, Diego Figueiredo

Whitney James - MC

Bob Seymour - MC

Ken Peplowski

Sinne Eeg

Ed Linehan, Festival Manager

Chiara Izzi

Jimmy Greene

Jeremy Pelt

Dick Hyman, Ken Peplowski, Diego Figueiredo

Peg Pluto, President

Chiara Izzi

Mike Cornette - MC

Vern & Bob Weitz - scholarships

Hans Backenroth

Diego Figueiredo

Ehud Asherie

Houston Person

Sinne Eeg



Nancy Roucher - Jazzlinks

Jimmy Greene

Jeff Hamilton

Ole Kock Hansen

Graham Dechter

Akiko Tsuruga

Kristian Leth

Photos courtesy of Carol Loritto & Stephen Splane

Satchmo Award Winner

Jeff Hamilton

By Sanford Josephson

W

hen he was five years old, Jeff Hamilton saw Gene Krupa perform live on television. From that point on, he knew he wanted to play the drums. "He's the one who inspired me to play," says Hamilton, who began drum lessons when he was eight. Influences after Krupa were Buddy Rich, Louis Bellson, Philly Joe Jones, and Mel Lewis. But his personal mentor was Shelly Manne. "He took me under his wing. I had met Shelly when I was on the road with [pianist] Monty Alexander and [bassist] John Clayton."



Peg Pluto, Jeff Hamilton, Ed Linehan

Hamilton returned to the Sarasota Jazz Festival this past March after an absence of 15 years. He was presented with the Sarasota Jazz Club's *Satchmo Award*, which recognizes those who have made a "unique and enduring contribution to the living history of jazz." All jazz musicians are indebted to *Satchmo*, says Hamilton. "We wouldn't be doing what we are doing if not for Louis Armstrong." The award, he says, sort of completes a full circle because "I received a Louis Armstrong scholarship award when I was a senior in high school."

At this year's Sarasota festival, Hamilton played in mix-and-match sets with a variety of American and international artists. Two of those artists -- American guitarist Graham Dechter and Japanese organist Akiko Tsuruga -- play regularly with Hamilton as members of Tsuruga's organ trio. Dechter is also part of the Clayton-Hamilton

Orchestra, the big band led by Hamilton, bassist John Clayton, and alto saxophonist Jeff Clayton. Hamilton's third regular gig is his own trio, with pianist Tamir Hendelman and bassist Christoph Luty. The trio's new album, *Live From San Pedro* on the Capri label, spent three weeks at #1 on the *jazzweek.com* charts. Jazz Times's Jeff Tamarkin described it as "an unsullied concert recording captured during a single gig . . . the trio offers a lesson in democracy, spreading solo spots around evenly while never losing sight of the unit's singularity of purpose."

Hamilton says it was "nice to revisit Sarasota and see some familiar faces. I had met just about



Jeff Hamilton was inspired by Gene Krupa and mentored by Shelly Manne.

everyone previously but had not played with all of them. I had played with Diego (Brazilian guitarist Diego Figueredo), and Kristian Leth (drummer in the *Scandinavian Jazztrio*) who is also a booking agent and had booked our trio in Scandinavian countries."

In 1978, Hamilton was performing with the Woody Herman Band in Disneyland when he was contacted by bassist Ray Brown. Recalls Hamilton, "He said, 'We've got this little group (*The L.A. Four*), and our drummer just left.'" The drummer who left was Shelly Manne. "I didn't

replace Shelly Manne," Hamilton emphasizes. "I was just asked to play in the chair he vacated. Ray said, 'We hired you for you. Don't try to do what Shelly did.'" Hamilton stayed with the *L.A. Four* for five years. After that, he accompanied vocalists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Rosemary Clooney and played with the Count Basie Orchestra before joining Ray Brown's trio in 1988. He stayed with Brown until 1995 when he decided to concentrate on his own trio.

Sanford Josephson, a resident of Manchester, NJ, is the author of *Jeru's Journey: The Life and Music of Gerry Mulligan* (Hal Leonard Books: 2015) and *Jazz Notes: Interviews Across the Generations* (Praeger/ABC-CLIO: 2009). He is vice president, publicity, for the New Jersey Jazz Society and a contributing editor to *Jersey Jazz Magazine*.

THE SATCHMO AWARD

The Jazz Club of Sarasota established the Satchmo Award, its most prestigious honor, in 1987 to honor those who have made a "Unique and Enduring Contribution to the Living History of Jazz... Our Original Art Form."

The Harold and Evelyn R. Davis Memorial Foundation sponsors the Satchmo Award created by Hal Davis, founder of the Jazz Club of Sarasota.

The Satchmo commemorates the contributions of jazz great Louis Armstrong, nicknamed "Satchel Mouth" or "Satchmo."

The award was designed by Frank Eliscu, a sculptor and art teacher who also designed the Heisman Memorial Football Trophy.

VOLUNTEERS

WOW !! What a great Jazz week we had, starting with the Pub Crawl followed by our wonderful evening concerts performed by such talented International Musicians.

I would like to thank the many special volunteers for their time and effort.

Rick and Sue Banks
Louise Brassard
Vincent and Mary Ann Cirigliano
Jay and Leslie Cohen
Carolyn Curry
Rose Dickherber
Frank and Ellie Gooch
Judy Grossman

Mike Halliday
Debbie Silver/Heller
Jan Jung
Susan Leavis
Irwin and Sandy Livon
Stephen and Barbara London
David and Liz Martin
Sharon Mashanic

George McLain
Alvan and Susy Morris
Sharon Newman
Mae Noll
Joyce Rosenthal
Sharon Semmer
Saretta Sparer
Bob and Vern Weitz

A special thanks to Carline Ash for her invaluable administrative support and Sandy Livon for her many years over-seeing the volunteers.

Thank you again,

Lenore Walsh

Thank you for your support of **The Jazz Club of Sarasota!**



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- I would like to volunteer for the Jazz Club of Sarasota
Please also list any special expertise (i.e., tech, speaking, etc.).
- _____ Membership
 - _____ Jazz at Two
 - _____ Jazz Festival or Outdoor Concerts
 - _____ Office Help

The Jazz Club of Sarasota, official registration SC-03656, meets all requirements specified by the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act. The Jazz Club of Sarasota does not contract professional solicitors and 100% of funds received go directly to programs of the organization. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free, (800-435-7351), within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

Jazzlinks.....

By Nancy Roucher



Photo courtesy of Vutti Photography

A new version of Jazzlinks is helping Sarasota County high school students learn about the struggle for Civil Rights and its impact on U.S. history through theatre and music.

This is the third year for the collaboration between the Jazz Club of Sarasota, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe(WBTT) and Sarasota County Schools.

The curriculum was developed by experts in social studies and language arts to guide teachers through Civil Rights primary and secondary sources focusing on school segregation and integration, marches, protests, church bombings in Birmingham and the leaders of this important movement. History is brought to life through music and performers of jazz, soul and gospel that tells the story of this stirring time. Some of the music featured is Black & Blue (Louis Armstrong), Change Gonna Come (Sam Cooke), We Shall Overcome (Spiritual), Alabama (John Coltrane), and I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free (Billy Taylor, Dick Dallas). The Flag Is Bleeding, an artwork by contemporary artist Faith Ringgold, added another dimension to the curriculum.

Twenty-one Social Studies and Language Arts teachers attended workshops on Nov. 29 and Dec. 7, 2017, to review the curriculum and preview a sample of classroom experience and musical performance.

In January eight actors from WBTT presented a

short musical play, We Shall Overcome, in classroom sessions at each high school. Written by Joey James, WBTT company manager, the play was about a person profiled in a grocery store. His friends were disbelieving: "That doesn't happen now..." but the actor vividly told of being followed as he was suspected of stealing. The plot continues to recount historical incidents of discrimination in a style that completely related to today's students. After the performance, teachers posed questions to students probing their knowledge of events their parents and grandparents experienced as well as local history, concerning examples like the segregation of Lido Beach. They shared their own experiences with injustice and racism.

A culminating performance featuring music of the Civil Rights was held in each high school auditorium in February and March.

Student and teacher reaction was positive. Evaluation surveys are being completed now to document the success of the integrated arts project on student learning. According to James, "It was incredibly heartwarming to know that these students desire change and not only recognize, but speak out against injustice. It gives me hope for the future."

Jazzlinks is funded through a \$25,000 grant from the Florida Arts Council, Division of Cultural Affairs, and other donations.

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