

In Tune

Official Publication of Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.

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December 2017 – January 2018

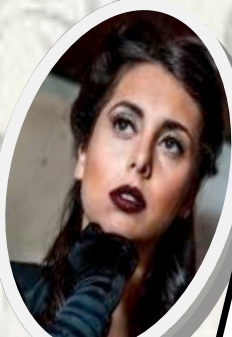
December
Greg Abate Saxophonist



January
LATIN JAZZ NIGHT Joe
Delaney & Friends



February
Jeff Rupert Quartet
with
Veronica Swift



March
BIG BAND JAZZ NIGHT
Dave Pruyn and Legacy Big



April
DIXIELAND JAZZ NIGHT
Herb Bruce & Herbicide Jazz Band



Concerts begin at 7 pm, at the William H Wakeman III Theater
Cultural Center of Charlotte County, 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Cultural Center Theater, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte.

Admission is **FREE** for CCJS members; \$20 for non-members.

Tickets are available at the box office starting at 6:30 pm on concert night or in advance through the box office at 625-4175 X 221. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Anna Julian

In honor of my husband Al, former board member of CCJS.



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In Tune is published four times a year (Oct., Dec., Feb., and April). We welcome pertinent articles, letters and news items space permitting. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the CCJS.

Don't forget to take advantage of our CCJS email list. We try to send out reminders for events by email. Please send your name and email address to Connie at

intunejazz@gmail.com

Membership questions call Connie 941-235-9482



YOU CAN BECOME A LEGACY SUPPORTER

Charlotte County Jazz Society is deeply grateful to former members Marjorie Jean Biermann, Helen Langdon, and Donatella and Ken Neumann. Their generous bequests now play a major role in helping fund the outstanding jazz artists brought to our community by CCJS. They have also been instrumental in supporting our commitment to pass on our love of jazz with the awarding of annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors. We invite you to join us in our mission to preserve, promote and present live jazz by including CCJS in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy, or with a donation to CCJS in honor or memory of a fellow jazz lover. For more detailed information, please contact any CCJS officer or director as listed on the last page.

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Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS



Swingin' Jazz Jams!

Our **jazz jams** will be on the last Sunday of each month at the **Kingsway Golf Course**, 13625 SW Kingsway Cir, Lake Suzy, FL 34269 from 1-4 pm. We're all about jazz. Come sit in or just sit and enjoy.

Tickets are **FREE** for members, and \$5 for non-members. Food and drinks are available for purchase.

JAM DATES:
Dec 17, 2017

Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 29, 2018





Swinging jazz in two different contexts

The Charlotte County Jazz Society opened its 2017-18 concert season on Monday, October 9 with a robust evening featuring two Sarasota-based bands that covered a lot of musical territory in different contexts.

Trombonist Dick Hamilton's sextet and pianist Mike Markaverich's trio performed an hour apiece - and 10 songs apiece as it turned out - at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County's newly renamed William H. Wakeman III Theater. The early season event drew a crowd estimated at more than 225 attendees.

Hamilton's main instrument is trombone but one could argue that his main instruments are pen and paper. His peerless skill as an arranger dominated the opening set, as the band dug deep into his complex charts.

Hamilton spent about 45 years as a studio musician and arranger in Los Angeles before returning to Florida four years ago. He now writes and arranges principally for his swinging sextet, which includes Jim Martin on trumpet and flugelhorn, Tony Swain on alto and tenor sax, pianist Matt Bokulic, bassist John DeWitt and drummer Johnny Moore.



Dick Hamilton

His arrangements feature crisp unison horn lines as well as unexpected moments where the other horns add complementing or contrasting textures behind the soloist. The material included Hamilton's arrangements of jazz and Great American Songbook standards plus two originals. Those latter tunes were things he wrote to the chord changes of classic tunes. "Dive/Jump" was based on Irving Berlin's "How Deep is the Ocean (How High is the Sky)" and "Getting Sentimental All Over You" was based on Ned Washington's "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You."



Matt Bokulic

New Hampshire native Markaverich, blind since birth, moved to Florida 29 years ago after playing jazz piano on Cape Cod for a decade. He quickly became a mainstay on the Sarasota jazz scene.

In the evening's closing set, his music covered a wide stylistic range - jazz classics, few standards from the Great American Songbook, and a few things you don't often hear in a mainstream jazz context.

On an ultra-slow version of "Blue Monk," all three horns riffed beautifully behind Bokulic's piano solo on this Thelonious Monk classic. Moore's mallet-work set the exotic tone for Hamilton's arrangement of "Delilah's Theme" from the 1949 movie "Samson and Delilah." Other material included Miles Davis's "Walkin," "Someday My Prince Will Come," "Prelude to a Kiss," "Love for Sale," "Just Squeeze Me" and the newest chart he'd written for the band, "Falling in Love With Love."



Markaverich, Mopsick, Moore



Mike Markaverich

Right from the opening tune, "All God's Chillun Got Rhythm," it was clear that the set would be all about musical conversation between Markaverich, bassist Don Mopsick and drummer Johnny Moore. Throughout the evening, Markaverich reacted with glee to the other players' solos.

The trio performed two Oscar Pettiford tunes, "Tricotism" and "Laverne Walk," as well as trumpeter Freddie Hubbard's chestnut "Up Jumped Spring" and Horace Silver's "Nica's Dream."

Markaverich featured pleasant lyric and scat vocals on the Lambert, Hendricks & Ross classic "Centerpiece," "What is This Thing Called Love?" and "The Bare Necessities" from the Disney film "The Jungle Book." He played Rodger's and Hart's "Lover" in 5/4 time rather than the standard 4/4 rhythm, and added some ragtime twists along the way.



Johnny Moore

The trio closed the evening with an instrumental take on Michael Franks' "Popsicle Toes." This mid-1970s jazz-pop hit isn't heard often without its clever, saucy lyrics, This version relished its beautiful jazz underpinning, from which the pianist revealed glimmering new facets. The evening's big bonus: a double helping of Johnny Moore's drumming. You'll never hear flash or bombast from this man. His playing is all about finesse,

Reprinted with permission from writer-photographer Ken Franckling's Jazz

Tapping into the lingering love for swing

Johnny Varro played with the elder statesmen of classic swing jazz in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, working with Eddie Condon, Bobby Hackett, Roy Eldridge and Pee Wee Russell to name but a few. Now at 87, he is one of the elder statesmen.



Johnny Varro

Pianist Varro returned to Port Charlotte with the Florida edition of his Swing Seven band on Monday, November 13. It was the band's third appearance in five years in the Charlotte County Jazz Society's concert series.

The band included saxophonists Terry Myers (alto and clarinet) and Rodney Rojas (tenor), trumpeter Charlie Bertini, trombonist Jeff Lego, bassist Mark Neuenschwander and drummer Eddie Metz Jr. The roster was identical to Varro's October 2012 visit. A couple of subs were aboard in the band's November 2014 concert.

Varro is the master of genteel swing, both as a player and arranger of classic jazz standards. This time, he also shared two originals, the lovely ballad "Afterglow" and "Hag's Blues," an intricate and spirited piece that he wrote in honor of Bob Haggart. Neuenschwander's bass artistry was featured on this tip-of-the-hat to the bassist, arranger and composer who rose to prominence as a member of Bob Crosby's Bobcats.



Mark Neuenschwander

The evening's repertoire leaned heavily on material from the 1930s Duke Ellington Orchestra and the 1940s and '50s Count Basie band book. The Ellington-related material included Duke's "Just Squeeze Me," "Ring Dem Bells," "Black and Tan Fantasy" and "Stomp Jones," which he wrote as a feature for alto saxophonist Johnny Hodges, plus Hodges' own "You Need to Rock." The Basie-associated material included Benny Moten's "Moten Swing," rhythm guitarist Freddie Green's "Corner Pocket" and Frank Foster's "Shiny Stockings."



Rodney Rojas

Varro's arrangements feature crisp yet intricate horn lines. He is one of the most generous bandleaders around when it comes to giving sidemen a lot of space to explore the music. That resulted in more than a few stunning solos, including a couple by Bertini with ultra-high notes that turned his face beet red.

The Brooklyn native's easy-going banter served him well when memory failed as he introduced a couple of song titles or mixed up some composers during the generous 19-song program. There were more than a few chuckles when he introduced the 1926 Artie Shaw hit "Cross Your Heart" as "Cross My Heart" and said it was written by "somebody." (Lewis Gensler wrote it). In another senior moment, mixing up his Ben-nys, the pianist attributed "Pom Pom" to trombonist Benny Morton. It was composed by Benny Carter.



Charlie Bertini

Concert highlights included Myers' alto sax feature on "On the Sunny Side of the Street," Rojas' biting and intense playing on "Stomp Jones," Lego on trombonist Vic Dickenson's "Constantly" and Metz's drum feature on "It's a Wonderful World." Everyone in the band was featured in Varro's extended exploration of Duke's exotic "Black and Tan Fantasy."

A two-saxophone feature, reminiscent of Al Cohn and Zoot Sims, had Myers and Rojas going head-to-head on Cohn's "Brandy and Beer." Their shared intensity, as they handed the melody back-and-forth and doubled at times, made this one a rousing concert closer.



Eddie Metz Jr

About 250 people turned out for this event at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County's William H Wake-man III Theater.

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SOME OF THE GREAT ARTISTS THAT WE ENJOYED LAST SEASON



Dave Morgan, Mark Neuenschwander



Patricia Dean



Ira Sullivan



Dante Luciani



Lisa Kelly, Charlie Silva, J.B. Scott



Herb Bruce



Bill E. Peterson



Dick Hyman



Jim Roberts



Eddie Metz & David MacKenzie



Mark Feinman



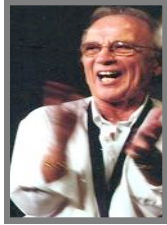
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Wednesday



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Wednesdays & Saturdays (Artists TBA) 6 to 9 pm

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All directors, middle school, high school and
college students will be given a FREE pass to
get into any CCJS concert. Please stop by the
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All That's Jazz



2017-2018
 Concert Season



- October 9** **DOUBLE CONCERT**
DICK HAMILTON Sextet /
MIKE MARKAVERICH Trio
- November 13** **JOHNNY VARRO & his**
SWING SEVEN
- December 11** **GREG ABATE** Saxophonist
- January 8** **LATIN JAZZ NIGHT**
JOE DELANEY & friends
- February 12** **JEFF RUPERT** Quartet with
VERONICA SWIFT
- March 12** **BIG BAND JAZZ NIGHT**
DAVE PRUYN & THE JAZZ
LEGACY BIG BAND
- April 9** **DIXIELAND JAZZ NIGHT**
HERB BRUCE & HERBICIDE
JAZZ BAND

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