

In Tune

Official Publication of Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.

Volume 30, Issue 1

February — March 2019

A LOOK AHEAD



On February 11, the Charlotte County Jazz Society will present the Peter and Will Anderson Trio. Born and raised in Washington D.C., the identical twins are virtuoso performers on woodwind instruments and specialize in classic jazz. The Juilliard School graduates have performed with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Village Vanguard Orchestra, Wycliffe Gordon, Cecile McLorin Salvant, Paquito D'Rivera, Wynton Marsalis and can be heard on the 2014 Grammy-winning soundtrack of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* with Vince Giordano's Night Hawks. The Andersons have performed in over 40 U.S. states, throughout Brazil, Japan and six times in NYC's famed *Highlights in Jazz* series, alongside Lou Donaldson, Jimmy Heath, Ken Peplowski, Steve Turre, Warren Vache, and Jimmy Cobb.

On March 11, the Charlotte County Jazz Society will present the unique sound of the Jim Roberts Saxtet. Throughout his formative years in the business he lived and performed in New York City. While there he worked with prominent artists like Dizzy Gillespie, Howard McGhee, Thad Jones, Illinois Jacquet, Ron Carter and Charlie Rouse. He has appeared on the "Today Show" and "Good Morning America" as well as the Newport Jazz Festival, the Kool Jazz Festival and the Greenwich Village Jazz Festival.



On April 8, a cool evening of hot Latin Jazz with some of the world's top artists when the M&M Latin Jazz Ensemble performs original music and some classic jazz standards with International Latin Jazz sensation Michiko Morell (Japan's Michiquita), vocals and percussion; Marty Morell (Bill Evans Trio), vibraphone; Richard Drexler (Jeff Berlin Trio; The Jazz Professors) piano; Jeff Rupert (Maynard Ferguson, Sam Rivers), tenor sax; Ben Kramer bass, Carlito Garcia, congas.



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

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 (941) 625-4175 X 221. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cultural Center website - www.theculturalcenter.com

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Jazz at the Library concert: March 13

On March 13 at 6 p.m. Jazz at the Library will present a free concert co-sponsored by the Jazz Society and the Charlotte County Library system. The 70 minute concert will be held at the large meeting room of the Mid County Regional Library, 2050 Forest Nelson Blvd. Appearing will be a half dozen musicians from around South Florida, including Chris Brown, Johnny Moore, Mike Parmelee, and Matt Bokulic. The Jazz at the Library Series began more than a dozen years ago, and has featured a long list of South Florida's better known performers.



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Honoring the creativity and spirit of a key jazz era

The late 1950s and the 1960s were fertile years in the development of the hard-bop style. That incubation was so dominated by the players of one jazz record label that it has become known as The Blue Note Era because the Blue Note label's bands and future bandleaders had an indelible impact on modern jazz.

Trumpeter Dan Miller and tenor saxophonist Lew Del Gatto celebrated that style and spirit on Monday, December 10, performing with their rock-solid quintet for the Charlotte County Jazz Society. While Miller has performed at CCJS concerts in the past, this was the first appearance by Del Gatto, pianist John O'Leary, bassist Brandon Robertson and drummer Paul Gavin. Del Gatto spent 25 years in NBC's "Saturday Night Live" Band and was a first-call New York studio musician for many years.



Lew Del Gatto, Dan Miller

With finesse and firepower, they dug into the music that mostly originated in the bands of drummer Art Blakey and pianist Horace Silver, but also

touched on saxophonists Tina Brooks and Wayne Shorter, and trumpeter Kenny Dorham before ending the generous evening with three classics composed by pianist Herbie Hancock.



John O'Leary

The material included Benny Golson's "Blues March" and "Are You Real?," and pianist Bobby Timmons' classic "Moanin'," first recorded when they were in Blakey's Jazz Messengers band; Silver's "Song for My Father," "Strollin'" and "Peace"; Brooks' exotic "Gypsy Blue", which first appeared on trumpeter Freddie Hubbard's *Open Sesame* album; and Dorham's "Blue Bossa."

Miller—a high-octane veteran of the Harry Connick Jr., Woody Herman and Maynard Ferguson bands and the Wynton Marsalis-led Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra – used keen and sometimes humorous anecdotes to put each song and its composer into context. He described Silver's "Peace" as one of the most beautiful ballads in jazz, adding that "its message is as important today as when he wrote it." Del Gatto underscored that notion with a probing and sweet tenor solo.



Brandon Robertson



Paul Gavin

The band also dug into "Lester Left Town," which Shorter wrote in the wee hours after learning that saxophonist Lester Young had died. The evening closed with Hancock's "Watermelon Man," which was a mega-hit for Mongo Santamaria, "Maiden Voyage" and "Cantaloupe Island."

All five players were in synch all night long, whether soloing themselves or comping behind the other soloists. The ensemble playing – and the unexpected accents that Gavin, O'Leary and Robertson added at various moments – added much to this splendid night. It underscored that this hard-bop sound remains vibrant 60 or so years after its incubation.

The concert drew a crowd of nearly 300 to the William H. Wakeman III Theater at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County in Port Charlotte.



O'Leary, Del Gatto, Robertson, Miller, Gavin

Frost Band heats things up

The Mike Frost Band was a pleasant surprise at the Charlotte County Jazz Society's January 14 concert in Port Charlotte, stepping boldly into more contemporary genres while also digging deep into the mainstream jazz canon.



Mike Frost

This was the Aiken, South Carolina-based group's first appearance in Port Charlotte – and in Florida, for that matter. The unit featured leader Mike Frost on 4- and 5-string electric basses; Lauren Meccia on alto and saxophones, wind synthesizer and vocals; Shannon Pinckney on piano and electric keyboard; and Ron Green on drums.

The quartet skillfully blended jazz and the jazz sensibility with a bit of Latin, some pop classics and even a taste of rhythm & blues. The result underscored that fact that jazz is a musical process, not a specific repertoire. It's not what you play, it's how you play it. Their polished blend of contemporary jazz and updates of some familiar classics worked well – because the players delivered the goods.



Lauren Meccia

The standards scattered throughout their two sets included "That Old Black Magic," "You Don't Know What Love Is," "How High the Moon," "Night and Day" and Paul Desmond's "Take Five," dropping in a few bars of the "Theme from Mission Impossible" to add a novel twist to the Dave Brubeck quartet's signature tune. There were a few more-modern jazz pieces: Chick Corea's exotic "Spain" and a Herbie Hancock medley featuring "Cantaloupe Island" and "Watermelon Man."

The other material, equally strong, brought more surprises in this concert setting. Here are some examples:

- Their take on Michel LeGrand's "The Windmills of Your Mind," inspired by a David Sanborn-Randy Crawford collaboration, featured Meccia on soprano sax and vocals. Her instrumental tone and soulfulness on this song and most others, revealed a deep influence by the late saxophonist Grover Washington Jr. That is not a bad thing.
- The band's version of "Come Away With Me," a mega-hit for Norah Jones, showcased Frost's serious chops on his electric basses. His soloing, and his cushion beneath Meccia's vocals, became conversational bass lines.
- Frost had much the same impact on the Beatles hit "Blackbird," his bass almost singing along behind Meccia's vocals and her solo on her EWI (Electronic Wind Instrument), a saxophone-like synthesizer that the late Michael Brecker brought into jazz in 1987.
- Meccia's vocals on "Songbird," written by Fleetwood Mac's Christine McVie but popularized through an Eva Cassidy posthumous release, were both soaring and beautiful.



Meccia, Frost



Ron Green

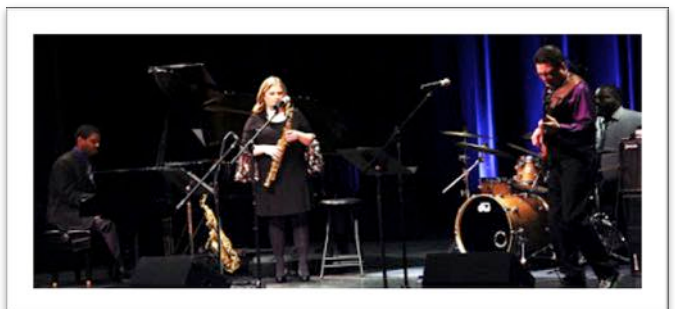
The band also dug into the 1960s Bobby Hebb pop hit, "Sunny," Bill Withers' "Ain't No Sunshine," Dave Stewart's "Lily Was Here" (which he recorded in 1990 with contemporary jazz saxophonist Candy Dulfer), and Earth Wind & Fire's "Getaway."

The crowd dug the night's fusion with enthusiasm, clamoring for more at the end, and then entreating the band members to come back soon.



Shannon Pinckney

The concert, drawing a crowd of nearly 300, was at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County's William H. Wakeman III Theater.



Pinckney, Meccia, Frost, Green

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Our **jazz jams** are on the **FIRST** 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 (cash or check). Food and drinks are available for purchase with **CREDIT CARD** only.

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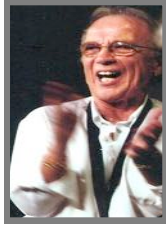
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Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS

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

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December 10 DAN MILLER/LOU DEL GATTO
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January 14 MIKE FROST BAND

February 11 PETER & WILL ANDERSON

March 11 JIM ROBERTS SAXTET

April 8 M&M LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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