

# In Tune

Official Publication of Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.

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October—November 2019

October 14, 2019



Clarinetist Allen Vaché will make his fourth appearance here with a five-piece group.

Best known for his work with the Jim Cullum Jazz Band, which performed regularly on National Public Radio, Vaché is now a featured performer at a wide array of international jazz festivals and venues. Vaché played with the Jim Cullum Jazz Band of San Antonio, Texas for 17 years, moved to the Orlando, Florida area in 1993, has recorded many albums as leader, and traveled extensively through Germany, Austria, England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy, Poland, France and Israel.

He continues to work as a freelance artist in concerts and festivals in the U.S. and around the world.

**BIG NAMES COMING  
WITH LOTS OF  
GREAT JAZZ**

November 11, 2019



Johnny Varro has performed with a veritable Who's Who of Swing Era greats including Bobby Hackett, Eddie Condon, Roy Eldridge, Coleman Hawkins, Jonah Jones, Yank Lawson, the Jim Cullum Jazz Band and Pee Wee Russell.

For several years he was the pianist for the Jackie Gleason show and has toured with The Dukes of Dixie. The Swing Seven is a recording project that has continued over many years. Appearing with him in November will be his Florida version of the band doing arrangements from these recordings.

**2019-2020 Season Preview  
continues on page 4**



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](http://www.theculturalcenter.com)

Theater management contact (941) 625-4175 X 240

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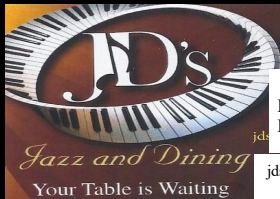
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DAVID DUNLAP



**Long Time CCJS Board Member and Historian Passes Away**



Gerald Renirie, our friend and former colleague on the Charlotte County Jazz Society Board of Directors, passed away at home under hospice care on July 27, 2019. Jerry, with wife Mabel who predeceased him in 2008, retired to

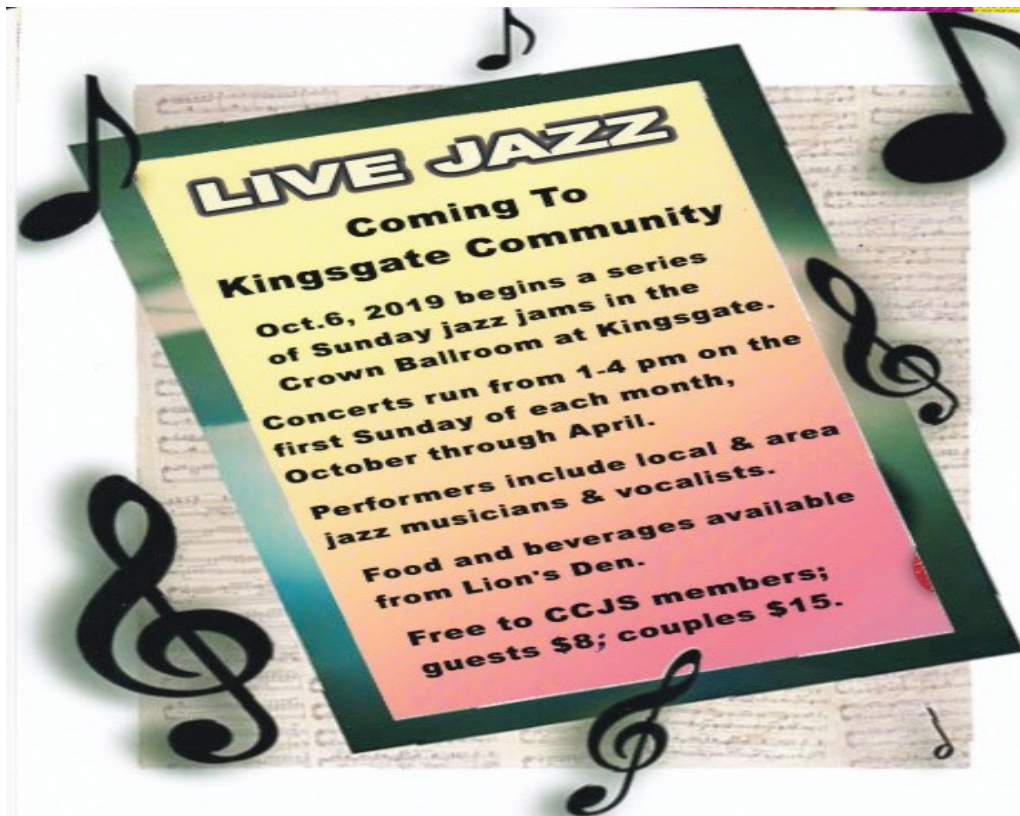
Port Charlotte in 1989. Jerry joined the jazz society at its founding in 1990, and became a board director in 1996. With his resignation from our board in September of 2016, Jerry ended a twenty-year period of service with CCJS serving as historian, officer, and ticket manager for concerts and jams. His many contributions to the jazz society loom large in our collective memories. CCJS has lost a great friend and loyal supporter.

## New Members

GEORGE FALLENBECK & BEVERLY BRADY	NANCY KELLY
JOAN & ROBERT BRADLEY	DIANA KIRSCH
KAREN BOOTH	MEDA & MARK LANGENFELD
CAROLYN COOK	PATRICIA FERRARI & JIMMY MASON
PAULA EMMONS	GAYLE & CLAUDE MATHE'
TRISH & PAUL FINDLAY	MARIANNE & ROBERT OINES
MARY ELLEN & RICHARD HOAGLAND	JULIA SCHADE
PATRICIA & GEORGE JACKSON	KATHY & ROGER STRUBE
JEAN KRANICK	JOANNA WATERMAN

We want to **THANK** all Renewing Members for your continuing support.

**YOU'RE THE BEST**



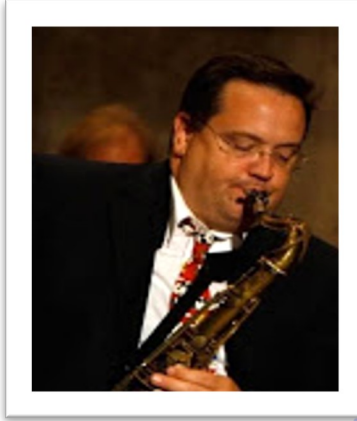
Certain conditions have led us to move jazz jams to Kingsgate Golf Club, 24000 Rampart Blvd, Port Charlotte, 33890 this season. Our **FIRST** jam will occur on **Sunday OCTOBER 6, 2019** from 1 - 4 pm. Subsequent jams will occur November through April on the first Sunday of each of these months. Entrance to Kingsgate should be made from Rampart Blvd through the far right lane entrance gate of the booth which will open automatically. Ample parking is available and entrance is through the front door of the building. Our jam site is on the first floor to the left of the lobby in the Crown Ballroom. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. We're all about jazz.

Admission is **FREE** for CCJS members, and **\$8** for a guest and \$15 for a couple. We'll be looking for you!



# 2019-2020 SEASON PREVIEW

December 9, 2019  
Craig Christman with  
the Stardust Memories



The Stardust Memories Big Band is the culmination of a life-long dream for **Craig Christman**. His earliest musical influences came from his father, who frequently played big band records. He is versatile in all styles of music.

January 13, 2020  
Eddie Metz Jr. & the  
International Trio



With over 30 years experience as a professional musician, **Eddie Metz Jr.** is well versed in many styles including Big Band, Show Band, Dixieland, Swing, Rock and Roll, Rhythm & Blues, Top 40 and Circus. He continues to expand his career with Studio recordings, Jazz Festivals, Jazz Parties and Cruises, as well as many private events throughout the year. His band features bassist & singer Nicki Parrott and pianist Rossano Sportiello.

February 10, 2020  
The Roy Gerson  
Swingtet



**Roy Gerson** has brought a refreshing 1940s bite of the Big Apple to Southwest Florida. The jazz pianist and bandleader has appeared in over a dozen movies.

March 9, 2020  
Brazilian guitarist  
Diego Figueiredo & Trio



**Diego Figueiredo** is an extraordinary star among the world's greatest jazz guitarists. His superb technique, timing and imagination have made him one of the hottest international names right now. He has unique skills and his concerts have been a great success in more than 60 countries around the world.

April 13, 2020  
**DOUBLE CONCERT**



Rick Howard Quartet

**Rick Howard's** fifty plus years of guitar playing and vocalizing have put him into every situation and every musical genre.



Dick Hamilton - Jim Martin Quartet

Both **Hamilton & Martin** are composers, arrangers, orchestra leaders and musicians who play a wide variety of instruments.

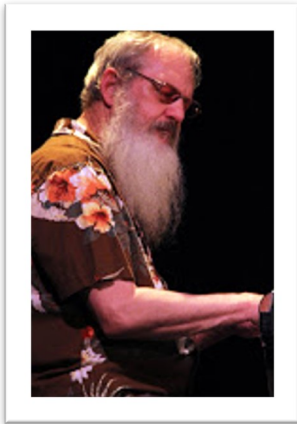
## The Other Side of Marty Morell

Tampa-based Marty Morell is best known for his seven-year tenure as pianist Bill Evans' longest-serving drummer, from 1968 to 1975. He was in the house last season as the drummer in saxophonist Jeff Rupert's ensemble featuring singer Veronica Swift, but the Charlotte County Jazz Society's 2018-19 season finale on Monday, April 8 was the first local opportunity to hear him on vibes - and with a decidedly Latin flair.

Morell came to Port Charlotte with the M&M Latin Jazz Ensemble, a septet that he co-leads with his wife, Michiko, a talented Japanese-born percussionist who also sings. On this night, she didn't sing nearly enough.

The percussion-rich ensemble also featured Rupert on tenor sax and flute, Richard Drexler on piano, Cuban-born Mauricio Rodriguez on bass, Omar Perdomo on congas and Dimas Sanchez on drums, the latter pair originally from Puerto Rico. Michiko played bongos and a gourd-like güiro, a Latin percussion staple that has exterior notches that when rubbed by a stick creates a ratchet sound.

The band for the most part presented the cooler side of Latin jazz, with Morell's resonating and shimmering vibes riding over a poly-rhythmic cushion on tunes mostly from the Great American Songbook - or the mainstream jazz canon. They included "Night and Day," John Lewis's "Django" (from the Modern Jazz Quartet repertoire), "Midnight Sun," Mal Waldron's ballad "Soul Eyes" and Victor Young's "Delilah" from the movie score to "Samson and Delilah."



Richard Drexler



Marty Morell



Omar Perdomo, Mauricio Rodriguez



Jeff Rupert, Michiko Morell

Highlights included:

- Morell's take on a Bill Evans arrangement of "Goodbye," a poignant Gordon Jenkins tune that became Benny Goodman's closing theme for his big band broadcasts.
- The band heating up on "The Day After Yesterday," one of two Morell originals shared this night with Rupert shifting to flute.
- The band's Latin take on Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood." Rupert turned in a superb tenor sax solo here as the band transformed this classic into something exotic
- Michiko's passionate vocals and güiro playing on the lone Latin tune in the program, the Cuban band Orquesta Aragon's classic "Son al Son." This gem also featured Rupert on flute.

Vocals were featured only "Son al Son," which would have been far more effective had it been performed in the first set rather than after the intermission. The enthusiastic crowd response it drew also showed that there should have been more vocal numbers.



The ensemble only performed five tunes in each of the lengthy sets. As superb as the playing was, the extended solos given to each player in every arrangement slowed the evening considerably.

Drexler, Rupert, Perdomo, Rodriguez, Michiko, Marty Morell, Sanchez

The concert drew a crowd of more than 300 to the Cultural Center of Charlotte County's William H. Wakeman III Theater.

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

## 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Pictured here is CCJS Scholarship Chairman Ennis Bisbano to assist with scholarships to those awarded to Allison Deal & Lorrie Konopasek of Lemon Bay High School. Kiara Rodrigues of Port Charlotte was unavailable for the picture.

Charlotte County Jazz Society is pleased to acknowledge a substantial bequest from the estate of **Mrs. Roberta (Bobbi) Gasparri**, who passed away on April 25, 2018 in Port Charlotte. Born in 1928, Roberta was an original charter member of CCJS in 1990, and served as secretary for the board of directors during its first three years of operation. Bobbi and husband Joe then became 50/50 ticket handlers at the concert desk over the years until 2010. The Gasparri's remained as board directors until Joe's passing in 2013. Roberta finally left the CCJS board in



Roberta Gasparri

2014 after a period of service totaling 24 years. She joins a group of legacy benefactors including **Marjorie Jean Biermann, Helen Langdon, and Donatella and Paul Neumann**. All were CCJS members for a number of years. Their thoughtful bequests allow the jazz society to bring in the highest levels of musicians on our concert stage. They also allow CCJS to help keep membership dues at our present modest level. Bequests also help to fund scholarships awarded to qualifying high school Seniors who plan to pursue music-related college degrees. We could not accomplish what we do without the help of these legacy benefactors.

### YOU CAN BECOME A LEGACY SUPPORTER

Charlotte County Jazz Society is deeply grateful to former members Marjorie Jean Biermann, Helen Langdon, Donatella and Ken Neumann and Roberta Gasparri. 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.

# Local Jazz Beat

## The Sarasota Jazz Project

William H Wakeman III Cultural Center Theater  
 box office (941) 625-4175 X 221.  
 website - www.theculturalcenter.com

October 25, 2019    November 25, 2019  
 December 16, 2019  
 January 6, 2020    February 24, 2020  
 March 23, 2020    April 6, 2020  
 All concerts start at 7:00pm  
 Several guest artists are scheduled

## Remembering Mike Markaverich



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Sarasota pianist Mike Markaverich earlier this year. For decades Mike was one of the Jazz Society's most beloved performers. Sightless since childhood, Markaverich attended the Per-

kings school for the blind in Nashua, New Hampshire where he took lessons in classical piano. While later enrolled at Dartmouth he fell in love with jazz after hearing his first Oscar Peterson album. As a result he switched his major from French to music. He went on to achieve a Bachelors in Music and later a Master's degree from the University of New Hampshire. For 10 years Mike performed on Cape Cod before moving to Sarasota where he spent the remainder of his career. He is survived by his wife Debbi.

## A REMINDER TO ALL SCHOOL BAND DIRECTORS

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 membership desk as you enter the theater with your ID for your free pass for the evening.

**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



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## **CCJS on the Web!**

**www.ccjazz.org**

- \* Check the concert schedule
- \* Join the jazz society
- \* Preview upcoming concerts and events
- \* Find out where your favorite jazz artists are playing

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Musician? \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to Volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

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All That's Jazz



2019-2020  
Concert Season



- October 14 ALLAN VACHE QUINTET
- November 11 JOHNNY VARRO & HIS SWING SEVEN
- December 9 CRAIG CHRISTMAN with the STARDUST MEMORIES BIG BAND
- January 13 EDDIE METZ & the INTERNATIONAL TRIO
- February 10 The ROY GERSON SWINGTET
- March 9 DIEGO FIGUEIREDO & TRIO
- April 13 **DOUBLE CONCERT**  
RICK HOWARD QUARTET & HAMILTON - MARTIN QUARTET

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- Jim Howarth Vice President . . . . . 941.505.2789
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- Mike Parmelee, Concert & Jam Coordinator . .
- Charlotte Quinn, Historian . . . . . 715.570.7593

CCJS HOTLINE: 941.766.9422

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