

# In Tune

Official Publication of Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.

Volume 30, Issue 4

December 2019 - January 2020

## BIG NAMES COMING WITH LOTS OF GREAT JAZZ

December 9, 2019



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.

Craig Christman plays soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and bass saxes; flute, alto flute, & piccolo. He attended the University of Miami as a double major in Music Business and Studio Business, studying under Gary Keller and Gary Campbell.

January 13, 2020



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.



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

All That's Jazz

Community Partners



Trust Your Team of Local Professionals



10361 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda FL 33950  
941-639-6500—www.thefiorentina.com  
Live Jazz 6-9 Monday & Tuesday



REXFORD R. KOCH, CPA  
rex@kocheapas.com  
www.kocheapas.com  
252 West Olympia Ave Tel: 941-637-0544

Car, Homeowners & Life Insurance Quotes

Graddy Insurance

Mick Graddy

2825 Tamiami Trail

Punta Gorda FL 33950

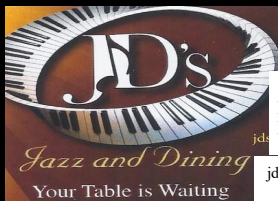


Printed by :  
2320 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte,  
941-624-3713

GRAPHICS, INC.



Sonja Ray  
Soja@tropicalwebworks.com  
Voice: 941-916-5671  
http://www.tropicalwebworks.com



Dawn Verdeschi  
General Manager

1951 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
Restaurant: 941.255.0994

jdsbistroandgrill@outlook.com  
www.jdsbistroandgrille.com

Your Table is Waiting



Theresa Stevens, HAS, BC-HIS  
Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences  
3052 Harbor Blvd Unit 1  
P: 941-255-0038  
Theresa\_Stevens@aah.net

2019-2020 CCJS Supporters

DIAMOND: (\$500 - \$10,000)

JERRY & LYNDA PLATT

PLATINUM: (\$250-\$499)

GOLD: (\$100-\$249)

BOBBIE & PAUL BANKSON

SALLY SCHOLZ & JIM HOWARTH

BARBARA HOWE MCPHERSON & GENE MCPHERSON

LUCILLE & GENE MURPHY

SILVER: (\$50-\$99)

ALICE & GEORGE CLATTENBURG

PATRICIA & GAR DUBEY

CAROLE BURETT & HERB LEVIN

JAN & JACK LUCEY

DENNIS LUMBURG

LYNNORE FEINBERG & ROBERT MUNSON

JERRY RENIRIE

BRONZE: (\$15-\$49)

MARILYN BURYSZ

DAVID DUNLAP



LIVE JAZZ AT  
KINGSGATE COMMUNITY

Concerts in the Crown Ballroom at  
Kingsgate from 1 - 4 pm on the first  
Sunday of each month through April.

Performers include local & area jazz musicians & vocal-  
ists.

Food and beverages available from Lion's Den  
FREE to CCJS members: guests \$8; couples \$15

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.

# New Members

DIANE & HENNING ANDERSON  
BILL CHISHOLM & SUSIE ANDERSON  
JACK BARGHAUSEN  
RICHARD TOISON & BARBARA BERMAN  
NANCY & JOHN BIGGINS  
RENETTA & TERRY COCHRAN  
KAREN & MIKE CORLISS  
BARBARA DEEBLE  
GLORIA DIEDRICH  
ELIZABETH DUNLAP  
RONNIE EDMANDSEN  
PETER DURHAM  
PATRICIA & ROBERT GIRARD  
MARY ANN FARNQUIST & JAMES DEGOOD  
JOYCE GOTHMAN  
HERITAGE OAKS ASSISTED LIVING  
PATTI & THAD HETHERINGTON  
BERENICE & JOHN HOOTON  
MARY ILCYN  
BERRY JERHUNE

CYNTHIA KATZ  
LADONNA & HANS-JOACHIM KRENZ  
LORI & GERALD LARSON  
JULIA & DANIEL LILLER  
ALYCE MARTIN  
JUDITH MARTIN  
BETSY & SCOTT MITCHELL  
VALERIE PETERSON  
NORMA JOCK & MARTI ROSENBERGER  
CAMILLE RODRIGUEZ  
PEGGY SCHENK  
BARBARA & ROGER SIPSON  
YVONNE WATSON-SMITH  
HARLEY SOMMERFELD  
BETTY TERHUNE  
GURIO VINCENTI  
ELIZABETH WALTON  
JUDITH WATERMAN  
LINA WEEKS  
BILL WHITNEY



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

**YOU'RE THE BEST**

## A season warm-up for Charlotte County jazz fans



Billy Marcus

While its formal 2019-20 concert season didn't start until October 14, the Charlotte County Jazz Society whetted the appetites of about 90 members and prospective members on Wednesday, September 25.

Pianist Billy Marcus and bassist Don Mopsick performed for CCJS at the matinee event at JD's Bistro and Jazz Club in Port Charlotte, FL. The pair are frequent collaborators, although this was Marcus' first CCJS appearance.

Marcus, a South Florida jazz powerhouse for decades, cut his jazz teeth in Massachusetts. His mother, Marie Marcus, was a renowned stride pianist. She was considered the Queen of Cape Cod Jazz.

Marcus worked extensively in Miami for three decades before relocating to St. Petersburg about 10 years ago.

Mopsick, a New Jersey native, is one of the busiest bass players in the region (have Prius, will travel). He played in the Texas-based Jim Cullum Jazz Band for 19 years before relocating to Cape Coral.



Billy Marcus, Don Mopsick

## Swinging effortlessly into a new concert season

It was most appropriate that clarinetist Allan Vaché began the Charlotte County Jazz Society's 2019-2020 concert season opener with the chestnut "Just Friends." He was back for his fourth CCJS appearance, and his first Port Charlotte visit since 2014. And he brought four close musical friends: his current Orlando-based rhythm section plus ace trumpeter Charlie Bertini.



Allan Vaché

The Monday, October 14 event teamed the Jim Cullum Jazz Band alumnus with Bertini, pianist Mark McKee, bassist Charlie Silva and drummer Walt Hubbard. While Bertini and Silva are no strangers to the CCJS stage, this was the first local appearance for Hubbard and McKee.



Mark McKee

The evening featured several Vaché concert staples with other jazz and Great American Songbook fare. It included material from the Duke Ellington repertoire, a bit of movie music, some Gershwin and Hoagy Carmichael, and a brief foray into vintage New Orleans. One concert staple, also performed in Vaché's Port Charlotte appearances in 2011 and 2014, was Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Look to the Sky." Because it is heard so infrequently, these days, Vaché does a great service by sharing this gentle bossa nova.



Charrrlie Bertini



Charlie Silva

Vaché's lively, wide-ranging clarinet artistry was featured on Rodgers and Hammerstein's "It Might as Well Be Spring" from the 1945 film "State Fair," which made sense. It's included on his latest recording, *It Might as Well Be Swing* (Arbors Jazz, 2018), teamed him with the same rhythm section.

On "Tangerine" and "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans" Bertini and Vaché showed what terrific musical foils they are. They played exquisite unison melodies but also delivered solos that built on each other's ideas.

It was clear this night that for Vaché, every tune is a musical adventure unto itself. That spirit lets him spotlight each member of the band several times during a concert. In that regard, he is a most democratic bandleader.

Shifting to flugelhorn, Bertini shared a stunning version of the Carmichael ballad "The Nearness of You." Silva took spotlight honors on the early standard "Comes Love" before he and Vaché traded bass and clarinet



Walt Hubbard



McKee, Vaché, Bertini, Silva, Hubbard

phrases to close it out. The rhythm section dug into "Some Day My Prince Will Come." Hubbard was featured on two Ellington-associated tunes, Juan Tizol's "Perdido" and "Caravan," the concert closer.

Together, Vaché's quintet delivered a fine evening of effortless swing.

The concert drew an early season crowd of more than 250 to the Cultural Center of Charlotte County's William H. Wakeman III Theater in Port Charlotte, FL.



## Johnny Varro's Classic Swing Admiration Society

Pianist Johnny Varro cut his musical teeth on the classic swing side of jazz in the late 1940s, working over the next few decades with some of its masters. They included Eddie Condon, Wild Bill Davison, Bobby Hackett, Coleman Hawkins and Pee Wee Russell, among many others.



Johnny Varro

At age 89, Varro remains one of the sub-genre's most fervent ambassadors. He brought his take on the music back to Port Charlotte FL on Monday, November 11, sneaking a few lesser-heard gems into a familiar repertoire for the Florida edition of his Swing 7 band. This was the band's fourth Charlotte County Jazz Society appearance in eight years, and it include a couple of notable personnel changes.

Long-time sidemen Jeff Lego (trombone), Eddie Metz Jr. (drums), Mark Neuenschwander (bass) and Rodney Rojas (tenor sax) were joined by Randy Sandke on trumpet and Pete BarenBregge on alto sax and clarinet. Sandke, a fixture in Varro's New York-based Swing 7 unit, moved to Venice last year. BarenBregge, longtime reed player and former musical director of the Washington DC-based Airmen of Note, also calls Venice home now. He was subbing for the night and fit in seamlessly, sight-reading Varro's book for the first time and adding fine solos on both alto and clarinet.

Varro is a fine pianist, but his greatest gift is his skill as an arranger. His intricate, swinging charts freshened vintage compositions from the Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman band books, as well as material from Benny Carter, Gerry Mulligan, Benny Moten and Al Jolson. The music sparkled and swung mightily as the band dug deep into Varro's unison horn lines that featured subtle variations and modulations for various instruments.

The night's 18-composition repertoire included Mulligan's "Disc Jockey Jump," which the baritone saxophonist wrote for the Gene Krupa band, Duke Ellington's "What Am I Here For?," "Moten Swing" and one Varro original, "Hag's Blues," which he wrote to honor late bassist Bob Haggart.

Other staples included Carter's "Pom Pom," "On the Sunny Side of the Street, the Artie Shaw hit "Cross Your Heart," penned by Lewis Gensler, trombonist Vic Dickenson's "Constantly," and two Basie Band classics, tenor saxophonist Frank Foster's "Shiny Stockings" and rhythm guitarist Freddie Green's "Corner Pocket."



Pete BarenBregge

Material that Varro brought to Port Charlotte for the first time or hadn't performed here in recent years included W.C. Handy's 1917 composition "Beale Street Blues," which was one of several clarinet features for BarenBregge, "One, Two, Button Your Shoe," a 1930s tune that had been recorded by Bing Crosby and Billie Holiday, Jimmy Hamilton's "Big Shoe," Jolson's "Avalon," and "Coquette" from the John Kirby band book.

The inspired players turned in one superb solo after another throughout the night. Varro & Co. closed things out with a feverish take on Al Cohn's "Brandy and Beer." BarenBregge and Rojas went head to head in an alto and tenor saxophone duel reminiscent of Cohn's classic tenor summits with longtime musical partner Zoot Sims. The audience responded with a standing ovation for the night's performance.



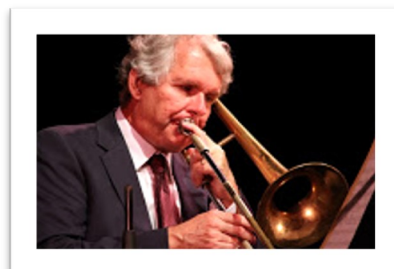
BarenBregge, Rojas

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

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



Randy Sandke



Jeff Lego



Johnny Varro's Swing 7

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

## A SPECIAL JAZZ EVENT AT JD'S

Three jazz greats - pianist **Roy Gerson**, bassist **Don Mopsick** and singer **Corrine Manning** - will be featured at a Charlotte County Jazz Society matinee jazz event at JD's Bistro on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 from 2-4 pm. The special event is co-hosted by our CCJS community partner JD's. Food and beverages will be available from 12:30 to 3 pm.

Nationally known jazz pianist **Roy Gerson**, who moved to Naples two years ago, has strong credentials as a player, bandleader and entertainer. The native New Yorker tells us there's no better feeling than when he sees people clapping, tapping their foot or moving to the music. In a *Chicago Tribune* feature, singer Tony Bennett had high praise for Roy, saying: "What I like best about him is that besides being a great musician, he truly loves to perform and finds great joy in entertaining people."

**Corrine Manning** has sung with many popular recording artists, including Harry Connick Jr., Gloria Gaynor and Darlene Love. She was a bandleader in New York City, performing for celebrity weddings and major corporate events across the country. Corrine enjoys replicating the sounds of jazz and blues vocal legends. She is also a songwriter/record producer.

**Don Mopsick** is a 19-year veteran of the Jim Cullum Classic Jazz Band. Moving to Ft. Myers in 1977 and then to Orlando in 1983, he began work at Walt Disney World and Rosie O'Grady's. As a busy freelance bassist, Don has played concert dates for, among others, CCJS, the Jazz Club of Sarasota, Treasure Coast Jazz Society (Vero Beach), Gainesville Friends of Jazz, and Central Florida Jazz Society.

Get your tickets early for available seating in this fine 100-seat venue, located at 1951 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. Don't miss your chance to hear these three outstanding artists.

Tickets are \$10 each, obtained by writing a check to CCJS and mailing it to Connie Gean, 447 Blossom St., Port Charlotte, FL 33952. Your tickets will be waiting at the door at JD's starting at 12:30 on the day of the performance.

For questions, contact Connie Gean at 941-661-0626, or Dave Nims at 941-743-9511.

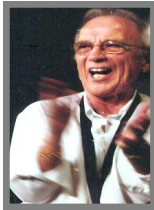
### YOU CAN BECOME A LEGACY SUPPORTER

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



CAPITELLI  
FRED



Swingin' on  
Wednesday



## INGROOV "THE LITTLE BIG BAND"

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY

Of every month through April

Expect for the 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY IN  
JAN 2020 ONLY

Held in the Music room of the Charlotte Cultural  
Center from 2 to 4 pm

For more information, Fred Capitelli 941-743-2157  
for more INGROOV events .

## 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 wel-  
come pertinent articles, letters and news  
items space permitting. Opinions ex-  
pressed 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 re-  
minders for events by email.

Please send your name and  
email address to Connie at

[intunejazz@gmail.com](mailto:intunejazz@gmail.com)



## CCJS on the Web!

[www.ccjazz.org](http://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

LIKE us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS

## The Sarasota Jazz Project

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

November 25, 2019      December 16, 2019

January 6, 2020      February 24, 2020

March 23, 2020      April 6, 2020

All concerts start at 7 pm

Several guest artists are scheduled

HAVE FUN - SAVE MONEY  
AND  
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL JAZZ SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE  
SINGLE \$50 - COUPLE \$100

1 CONCERT COSTS \$20  
for non-members

Members get 7 Concerts, 7 Jams  
and other activities

Membership card active for 1 year from the  
month that you join.

Hotline: 941-766-9422

## JAZZ Tuesdays thru Saturdays

at

JD'S JAZZ CLUB & FINE DINING

1951 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte

Tuesday Mickey Basil 6 to 9 pm

Wednesdays Bill Fredericks & Doug Cassens 6 to 9 pm

Thursdays Glen & Natalie 6 to 9 pm

Fridays Danny Sinoff Trio 7 to 10 pm

Saturdays Tony Boffa Quartet 7 to 10 pm

Call ahead for reservations 941-255-0994

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation / Special Skills:

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

Mail check made to CCJS : CCJS  
PO Box 495321, Port Charlotte, FL 33949  
Rolling membership available.  
Single \$50 - Couple \$100

Members get 7 Concerts, 7 Jams and other activities.  
Membership card active for 1 year from the month that  
you join.

Hotline: 941-766-9422  
Www.ccjazz.org  
Www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety  
intunejazz@gmail.com



P.O. Box 495321  
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33949

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**

CCJS 2019 Officers

- Dave Nims, President . . . . . 941.743.9511
- Jim Howarth Vice President . . . . . 941.505.2789
- Chris (Brown) Fitzgerald, Treasurer . . . . . 941.629.5338
- Lynda Platt, Secretary . . . . . 941.347.8403

Directors

- Ennis Bisbano, Scholarship . . . . . 941.623.0619
- Fred Capitelli, Scholarship . . . . . 941.743.2157
- Dan Cobb, Finance . . . . . 740.361.4060
- Pam Koontz, Scholarship . . . . . 941.749.0469
- Aaron Lucas, Scholarship . . . . . 502.386.3631
- Robert Murray, Events . . . . . 941.460.4871
- Tom Osborne, Jazz Jams . . . . . 941.625.2123
- Mike Parmelee, Concert & Jam Coordinator . .
- Charlotte Quinn, Historian . . . . . 715.570.7593

CCJS HOTLINE: 941.766.9422

www.ccjazz.org

www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety

Photography by Ken Franckling