

# In Tune

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## CCJS 2022-23 CONCERT SEASON PREVIEW



October 10  
Jeff Rupert Quartet



November 14,  
Ronnie Leigh



December 12  
Valerie Gillespie  
Ensemble



January 9  
Paul Gavin & Mosaic  
with Art Blakey tribute



February 13  
Orlando Jazz Orchestra salute to  
Henry Mancini



March 13  
The Midiri Brothers



April 10  
Trumpeter  
Terumasa Hino

### October 10, 2022 – Jeff Rupert Quartet

The excellent, hard-swinging tenor saxophonist Jeff Rupert, who chairs the University of Central Florida's jazz studies program, is no stranger to the CCJS stage. He will be joined by Richard Drexler, on piano, Ben Kramer on bass and Marty Morell, who was jazz piano great Bill Evans' longest-serving drummer. **(Gulf Theater)**

### November 14, 2022 – Ronnie Leigh and his sextet

Singer Ronnie Leigh, who is based in upstate New York, delights audiences wherever he performs, from Syracuse to Seattle, from the Big Apple to Istanbul. His mellow voice, stage presence, engaging style and love for the music combine to make him one of today's great song stylists. His repertoire ranges from jazz chestnuts to the Great American Songbook. **(Gulf Theater)**

### December 12, 2022 – Valerie Gillespie's Jazz Holiday

Saxophonist and singer Valerie Gillespie and her ensemble will play jazz music from her holiday repertoire, blending holiday spirit and jazz spirit into a fun evening. Another familiar face on CCJS concerts over the years, Valerie has performed across the U.S. and abroad with many of the great entertainers of our time. **(CPAC)**

### January 9, 2023 – Paul Gavin's Mosaic Project

Drummer Paul Gavin's band honors the legacy of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, one of hard bop's primary incubators. Dozens of fine bandleaders emerged from its ranks over four decades. The band is named after one of Blakey's finest albums, *Mosaic* (Blue Note, 1961). Tonight's music comes entirely from the Jazz Messengers' repertoire, celebrating Blakey's deep influence on jazz. **(CPAC)**

### February 13, 2023 – The Orlando Jazz Orchestra plays the music of Henry Mancini

This evening features 11 of Central Florida's finest musicians playing some of the beloved works of the composer best-known for his film and TV scores for the *Pink Panther* and *Peter Gunn*, and *Grammy* and *Academy Award*-winning songs "Moon River" and "The Days of Wine and Roses." Music director Greg Parnell was the Glenn Miller Orchestra's drummer/road manager, and has played in many other big-name big bands. **(CPAC)**

### March 13, 2023 – The Midiri Brothers

Twins Joe and Paul Midiri are two of the most exciting performers on today's classic-jazz circuit. They travel from their Pennsylvania home base to perform at festivals and jazz parties across the U.S. with original material and their takes on jazz standards. Joe is featured on clarinet and Louis Armstrong-like vocals. Paul plays vibraphone, drums and trombone. **(Gulf Theater)**

### April 10, 2023 – Terumasa Hino

Trumpeter-composer Terumasa Hino, who turns 80 in October 2022, is a musical dynamo revered as a jazz elder statesman in his native Japan. He worked steadily in New York starting in the mid-1970s, playing and recording in the bands of saxophonists Davie Liebman and Jackie McLean, and drummer Elvin Jones, among others. This hard-bop player's trumpet mastery reflects his range, playfulness and enthusiasm for the music. **(Gulf Theater)**



October, November, March and April concerts will be held at  
The Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum  
900 W. Marion Ave. in Punta Gorda

December, January and February concerts will be held at  
The Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC)  
Charlotte High School Campus

## Popular trio does it again - with charm and excellence

The all-star International Trio returned to the Charlotte County Jazz Society concert stage on Monday, February 7 for their fifth appearance in 10 seasons, mixing concert staples with a few surprise treats.

Drummer Eddie Metz Jr., bassist & singer Nicki Parrott and piano marvel Rossano Sportiello were happy to be back in front of a live audience. In this case, it was a packed house of more than 220 fans at Gulf Theater at The Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda FL.



Rossano Sportiello

Sheer talent, chemistry, audience rapport, and sharing new facets in tried-and-true material are key to keeping their music fresh and lively. As Italy-born, New York City-based Sportiello told the crowd, that's the joy of improvisation.

Sportiello's stunning keyboard techniques were evident from the opening bars as he explored "Chicago, (That Toddlin' Town)" and the Gershwin brothers' "But Not For Me," the latter as an uptempo burner with a honky-tonk flavor. Later in the program, Benny Goodman's "If Dreams Come True" was another new treat. Unlike past visits, he didn't include anything from his dazzling classical repertoire but it wasn't needed.

Parrott, a talented jazz import from Australia who spent 10 years working with guitarist Les Paul at Iridium in Manhattan, is a fine bass player and charming singer. On this night, she opened her feature segment with three songs written by or popularized by Peggy Lee: "Fever," "Skylark" (written by Hoagy Carmichael with lyrics by Johnny Mercer) and "It's a Good Day." Lee wrote the latter song with her husband Dave Barbour in 1946.



Nicki Parrott

Later in the program, she was showcased on the Ella Fitzgerald hit "Mr. Paganini," Nat King Cole's "Straighten Up and Fly Right," Michel Legrand's "I Will Wait For You" from the French musical "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg," and a classic Cuban pop song that became a hit for Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole and Doris Day. That one was Osvaldo Far-rés' "Quezás, Quezás, Quezás" - better known to U.S. audiences as "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps."

Orlando-based Metz is a swinging drummer who can drive hard or add subtle touches as the moment requires, shifting with ease between sticks, mallets, brushes and hand drumming. He was featured on "Shoe Shine Boy," written by Saul Chaplin and Sammy Cahn, and a Count Basie band feature for tenor saxophonist Lester Young. It was a fitting choice. When Michigan native Metz was a 20-year-old music student at William Paterson University,



Eddie Metz Jr.

Basie hired him to play drums in his powerhouse band for six months.

Sportiello provided three of the evening's finest moments. He explored Erroll Garner's instrumental classic "Misty" in the middle of the first set with crystal-line delicacy. He followed it with a teasing stride-piano improvisation that seamlessly led into the Stevie Wonder hit "Isn't She Lovely." Lovely indeed.

Late in the second set, the pianist had an extended "Sound of Music" moment, opening with an intimate solo exploration of "Edelweiss" that led into a tension-building trio take on "Climb Every Mountain" from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical/film score, before resolving with a brief and gentle "Edelweiss" tag.

The trio brought this fine evening to a close with W.C. Handy's "St. Louis Blues," a regular feature that showcased their instrumental talent.

In the face of the continued pandemic, which brought an early halt to one CCJS concert season and cancellation of another, this night was a reminder that Sportiello shared with the audience: "Music is the one thing that will carry us through the hardest times."



The International Trio

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

Keeping alive that big-band swing and spirit

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, led by trumpeter and singer David Pruyn, drew the Charlotte County Jazz Society's largest audience of the 2021-22 season for its hard-swinging concert on Monday, March 14. For the audience, and the players, it was a journey back in musical time to the big band era of the 1930s, '40s and early '50s. Back to when the big-

band sound dominated America's popular music— and alto saxophonist Dorsey was known as “The Jukebox King.”



Eddie Metz Jr., Pruyn, Greg Diaz

Pruyn, who lives in nearby Nokomis, succeeded the late Bill Tole as leader of the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra in 2017. He pulled from the ranks of South and Central Florida's finest jazz musicians for this 16-piece band. His wife, singer Michelle James-Pruyn was the featured vocalist on six tunes.

Over two hours, they shared some 20 standards from Jimmy Dorsey big-band repertoire, and a few other gems in Pruyn's hip pocket. Opening with Jimmy Dorsey's theme song, “Contrasts,” they worked their way through hit after hit, including “Stealin' Apples,” “When You're Smiling” and “June Night.”

The latter was the first of many features for reed player David MacKenzie, who put his fresh stamp on classic Jimmy Dorsey alto sax solos.

The band played two versions of Dorsey's composition “I'm Glad There is You.” The first featured Pruyn on vocals, exploring the original Paul Medeira lyrics. Then they shifted right into Tole's subtle bossa-nova instrumental arrangement. It was clever and tasty.



Valerie Gillespie

James-Pruyn joined the program for a blend of uptempo and ballad features, taking on the role of the band's original songbird, Helen O'Connell. They included “Something's Gotta Give,” George and Ira Gershwin's “How Long Has This Been Going On?” and the Dorsey hit “Amapola (Pretty Little Poppy).” She returned in the second set for splendid takes on “Tangerine” and “The Man I Love,” finishing with a romp through the 1954 Rosemary Clooney hit “Mambo Italiano.”

There were interesting solos from everyone before this night was done. Alto saxophonist Valerie Gillespie was featured on Ray Noble's “I Hadn't Anyone 'Til You.” Trumpeter Randy Sandke was featured on “Poor Butterfly.” Pianist Jerry Stawski uncorked a side of his musical self that we rarely see as the band explored “JD's Boogie Woogie.”

After intermission, Pruyn put on his Mel Torme tribute cap for one tune, singing the Gershwin brothers' “Liza (All the Clouds'll Roll Away)” on a classic arrangement by the late Canadian big-band leader Rob McConnell.

The five-member sax section shifted into a flute and clarinet choir as the band explored Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen's “All My Tomorrows.”

MacKenzie was back in the spotlight, exploring Dorsey's robust alto solo on Cuban pianist Perez Prado's “Mambo en Sax.” It was one of four tunes from Jimmy Dorsey's last recording session before his death in 1957. They were released posthumously. The trombone section was featured on West Coast bandleader Bob Florence's ballad “Autumn.”

The evening's big finish included “More Than You Know,” which reunited brothers Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey for a 1945 V-Disc recording after an on-stage falling out seven years earlier; Jimmy Dorsey's signature hit “So Rare,” which was released after his death; a fresh take on “America the Beautiful” featuring MacKenzie on clarinet and Herb Bruce on trombone; and a most-natural closer.



That closer was a searing version of “Two O'Clock Jump” featuring baritone saxophonist Jonathan Cestero. This arrangement touched on a variety of big-band covers over the years. The classic swing hit, based on Count Basie's “One O'Clock Jump,” was first recorded by Harry James, then Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton and Buddy Rich, among others. The band, powered all night by drummer

Eddie Metz Jr., swung mightily

The concert drew a crowd of more than 300 to First United Methodist Church in Punta Gorda.



Michelle James-Pruyn



Stawski, Pruyn, James-Pruyn



David Pruyn, David MacKenzie

## Levity accompanies vintage jazz mastery



Herb Bruce

Trombonist Herb Bruce and his Herbicide Jazz Band closed the Charlotte County Jazz Society's 2021-22 concert season on Monday, April 11 in Punta Gorda FL with a wide-ranging trip into the world of classic jazz. It featured a stage full of all-star players, accompanied between songs by the leader's self-deprecating humor.

This was Herbicide's third visit to the CCJS concert stage. There was a bit of repetition of favorites from the 2015 and 2018 sets, but the evening was mixed with fresh material, principally from 1920s and '30s Dixieland and New Orleans repertoires. All of it was delivered well by the sextet.

No matter whether he is playing classic jazz, swing jazz or bebop, Bruce is a master of the trombone – in technique, expressiveness and the musical passion that burst from his horn.

For this evening, he was joined by trumpeter Randy Sandke, clarinetist Valerie Gillespie, pianist Judi Glover, bassist Mark Neuenschwander and drummer Eddie Metz Jr., with Bruce's wife, the fine vocalist Patricia Dean, joining for two songs each set.



Patricia Dean

The band opened with a New Orleans staple, Lil Hardin Armstrong's "Struttin' With Some Barbecue" from 1927, then moved a couple of years earlier with "Cake Walking Babies (From Home)." The original 1925 recording by composer Clarence Williams' Blue Five featured a classic solo battle between a young Louis Armstrong and soprano saxophonist Sidney Bechet. "Storyville Blues" completed the band's opening Crescent City trilogy. A few songs later came another: the band's take on James P. Johnson's "Louisiana."

Dean joined the fun for two 1930s jazz/pop classics: "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down (And Write Myself A Letter)" and the Kansas Joe McCoy blues "Why Don't You Do Right?" Peggy Lee recorded the latter tune with the Benny Goodman Orchestra in 1942. This most popular of Lee's records with Goodman was the springboard for her solo career – and it was right in Dean's expressive wheelhouse. Gillespie switched to tenor sax for each of Dean's songs, adding much to the mood.

The strongest moments included the band's lengthy take on "Granada," written in 1932 by Mexican composer Agustín Lara, with Sandke's clarinet trumpet highlighting the extended, intricate arrangement that closed the first set. Bruce was in the musical spotlight after intermission on "Wabash Blues," which was first recorded in 1921 by the Isham Jones Orchestra. His sound was growling at times, plunger muted at others.



Valerie Gillespie



Randy Sandke, Herb Bruce

Sandke was featured on the "Theme from Pete Kelly's Blues," which was a natural choice. Actor Jack Webb played trumpeter/bandleader Pete Kelly in the 1955 film. The band dug deep into a hit of Fats Waller ("Yacht Club Swing") and the Hoagy Carmichael ballad "New Orleans" before Dean returned to share two Duke Ellington songbook early classics "Do Nothing Till You Hear from Me" and "Three Little Words." The latter popular song was recorded in 1930 by The Rhythm Boys (including Bing Crosby), accompanied by the Ellington orchestra.

Then it was back to New Orleans for the last segment, with the band sharing "Basin Street Blues" and its traditional closer, "Farewell Blues" from one of Bruce's favorite Dixieland sextets. The Basin Street Six, formed in 1950 with young clarinetist Pete Fountain, as one of its founders, is the band that inspired him to form Herbicide.



Judi Glover

Bruce lived and worked for years in Nashville, playing with Boots Randolph, the Nashville Brass and Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band. After his Nashville phase, he led the Main Street Rhythm Rascals at Walt Disney World and Rosie O'Grady's Goodtime Jazz Band in Orlando.

Herbicide also has a vibrant Nashville connection. It is home base for arranger Terry Waddell, a drummer and big band leader who wrote most of the band's charts.

The Herbicide concert drew a full house of about 250 to the Gulf Theater at the Military History Museum. Bruce's zany barbs back and forth with his band mates - and the audience - enhanced a joyous moment. CCJS completed a full concert cycle, on the heels of the pandemic-related cancellation of its final April 2020 concert and the entire 2020-21 season.

Smiles and laughter were in order.



Eddie Metz Jr.



Mark Neuenschwander



Herb Bruce and the Herbicide Jazz Band

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# Charlotte County Jazz Society

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## CCJS Can Use Your Help

Our membership fees cover less than half the costs to produce our concerts, special events, scholarship awards and jazz jams. We undertake fund-raising events during the year to continue our mission, but inevitably we need to use assets from our Legacy Endowment, funded by former members Marjorie Jean Bierman, Helen Langdon, Donatella and Ken Neuman and Roberta Gasparri. We strive to keep membership fees as low as we can to allow as many as possible to enjoy the outstanding jazz artists brought to our community by CCJS.

Please consider including us 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 with a contribution to the Legacy Endowment fund. Contributions to this fund may be made through the CCJS portfolio manager Sam Kiburz, Senior Vice-President/Chief Investment Officer, Charlotte State Bank & Trust, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda FL 33950. Sam can also be reached at 941-639-2511 should you wish additional information.

## 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**

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**Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS**

In Tune is published four times a year. 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 Emilie at

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**Membership**

questions call Emilie- Hotline—941-766-9422

**Charlotte County Jazz Society**

A 501(c) (3) Non-profit Organization\*

**Membership Form**

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Are you interested in being a volunteer for CCJS ? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Please let a Board Member know if you would like to attend a monthly meeting.

**Membership runs from October through May of the year you join.**

**You will see 7 concerts and 7 jams and other events.**

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Please **mail** this completed form with your check when applying for renewal. Thank you!

## 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## Jazz Society Honors Graduating Seniors

For over 20 years the Charlotte County Jazz Society has awarded scholarships to county high school seniors who plan to continue their music studies at the college level.

In April, five seniors were recognized at the final season concert where family, friends and society members applauded their achievements and wished them well as they start the next step in their educational adventure.

Ennis Bisbano, Ph.D, scholarship chairman for CCJS presented the awards at the Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum before a crowd of 250 attendees. Awards totaled \$11,500.

### Scholarship Recipients

Hunter Fisher, Charlotte High School, who has been accepted at Florida State University, will major in Music Education. His instrument for the audition was the bassoon.

Nicholas Neese, Port Charlotte High School, auditioned on the tenor saxophone. He will attend Duke University as an Engineering major and will perform with the band and orchestra.

Julia Sloane, a trumpet player from Port Charlotte High School, is enrolled at Florida Gold Coast University as a Music Therapy major.

Xavier Gauthier, Port Charlotte High School, chose the tuba for his audition instrument. Xavier has been accepted at Florida State University as a Music Education major.

Matthew (Cole) Grannan, Lemon Bay High School, performed on the drums and will attend Florida State University as a Music Performance major.

### New Scholarship Announced

The Charlotte County Jazz Society has been a strong supporter of our local students who have taken up jazz studies as part of their music curriculum. We're very proud of the fact that all three Charlotte County band directors, as well as two Jazz Society board members, are former recipients of scholarship awards from CCJS. Now we invite members and friends of our organization to join us in this commitment with the establishment of a **CCJS Members and Friends Scholarship** to be awarded in April 2023 along with those presented by CCJS.

This scholarship is already underway with an anonymous matching funds donation of \$1,000. If every member or concert guest donated just \$20 between October and March, a very deserving senior would receive a generous scholarship to assist them with college expenses. These are our future jazz musicians, educators and the next generation of those who will keep jazz alive and thriving. Can we count on your support?

# Charlotte County Jazz Society

A 501(c) (3) Non-profit Organization\*

## Membership

Don't forget to notify us if there are changes to your name, street address, phone number or email address!

Due to rising costs in printing and postage, we will no longer be mailing newsletters or special events notices. Your correct email address is critical in allowing us to stay in touch and keep you current on all our activities. The Charlotte County Jazz Society will never share your personal information with any other entity.



P.O. Box 495321  
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33949

## All That's Jazz



### 2022-2023 Concert Season



<b>October 10</b>	<b>Jeff Rupert Quartet</b>
<b>November 14</b>	<b>Ronnie Leigh</b>
<b>December 12</b>	<b>Valerie Gillespie Ensemble with a holiday themed show</b>
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<b>February 13</b>	<b>Orlando Jazz Orchestra's salute to Henry Mancini</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>The Midiri Brothers</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Trumpeter Terumaso Hino</b>

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