

An Interesting Mix of Latin, Jazz, Swing and Funk

The inaugural concert of the CCJS season brought Ruben Caban's Latin Jazz Quintet to the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, providing a fresh take on our usual programming. Their material included some of Ruben's original compositions as well as some well-known standards and was an interesting mix of Latin, Jazz, Swing and Funk.

The Latin foundation of this group included Ruben Caban on trombone, Argentine bassist Agustin Conti and a fiery percussion duo of Ludwig Afonso on traps and native Costa Rican Ramses Araya on congas. Fellow FIU professor Michael Eckroth joined in on piano.

The concert was opened with "I'll Remember April," with a smooth trombone solo by Ruben as well as piano and percussion solos. Several original tunes were followed by "Midnight Mambo," with unforgettable solos by Ramses on conga and Ludwig on drums. Next up, the quintet performed an homage to J.J. Johnson with "Time After Time." Bringing the first half of the concert to a close was a Wayne Shorter classic, "Speak No Evil." We were again treated to a terrific solo by Ramses' fierce conga.

The second half opened with a very inventive version of Juan Tizol's "Caravan," followed by a few old standards including "Struttin' To A Groove."

The evening ended with a heartfelt original song called "The Prayer." This was an amazingly creative transfer of an Indigenous Prayer to music. This song was breathtaking and hauntingly beautiful.

A Native of Puerto Rico with an indigenous Taino heritage, Ruben Caban and his Latin Jazz Quintet brought us a unique interpretation of Afro-Caribbean music that was new to our ears. There was much visible enjoyment of the evening's entertainment and all look forward to future exploration of this genre.



Ruben Caban



Agustin Conti, Ludwig Alfonso, Ramses Araya



Ruben Caban, Mike Eckroth

Salute to Bird and Dizzy

Our November concert was held November 13 at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center. We were treated to an amazing performance by Dave MacKenzie on saxophone, John DePaola on trumpet, John Redfield on piano, Charlie Silva on bass and Walt Hubbard on drums.

This concert was dedicated to the art of Bebop as defined by Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Dave gave us a great rendition of the Bird's Ornithology and John countered with Dizzy's Bebop. They also treated us to "A Night in Tunisia" and the obligatory "Salt Peanuts." John also broke character with a very not bebop "Stardust." It was a wonderful evening celebrating a pair of modern jazz royalty.



David MacKenzie, John DePaola



Charlie Silva, David MacKenzie, John DePaola



Charlie Silva, Walt Hubbard



Redfield, MacKenzie, DePaola, Silva, Hubbard



John Redfield, MacKenzie, DePaola

The Show Must Go On



Our December 6th concert was a shining example of the old adage-The Show Must Go On. Dave and Michele Pruyne filled in at the last minute after an unavoidable cancellation. They were joined by Mark Neuenschwander on bass, Herb Bruce on trombone, Lew Delgatto on tenor saxophone and flute, and Eddie Tobin on piano.

We were entertained by old and new Christmas tunes. Herb Bruce and his trombone thrilled us with a rousing rendition of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town".

The showstopper of the evening was an unexpected, totally spontaneous and virtuosic performance by Eddie Tobin of "My Foolish Heart." Hardly a dry eye in the house. Sometimes the best things are unplanned. This concert was a perfect way to usher in the musical joys of this holiday season.



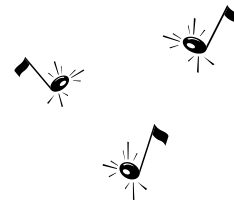
Dave Pruyne, Michele James-Pruyne



Dave Pruyne, Herb Bruce



Eddie Tobin



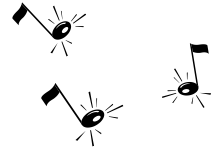
Michele James-Pruyne, Mark Neuenschwander



Michele James-Pruyne, Dave Pruyne



Lew Delgatto



Notes from the President's Desk



Aaron Lucas
CCJS President

I hope everyone is having a great holiday season as we quickly approach our season's midpoint. Our first three concerts have been well received and membership numbers have been slowly increasing. Jams have been well attended and we are beginning to see more students at our concerts and jams. Shawn Marren has been very successful utilizing our new grant resources to bring professional jazz musicians to the schools for performances and hosting clinics for students. I think everyone enjoyed the preconcert performance by the Charlotte County High School jazz band. We would like to thank Tommy Bunnens, CHS band director, for facilitating this. We would love to have all the county's jazz ensembles perform but it is logistically very difficult to make that happen.

Next year brings exciting artists, including our highly anticipated big band concert in February. Please consider bringing a guest to a concert. We need to double our numbers to break even financially. It will be necessary to make decisions on venues and artists soon. Do we continue to use CPAC and push for more patrons or do we retreat to a smaller venue? To accommodate our vision of enriching our next generation, CPAC is necessary; however, to justify the cost of this large venue we need more bodies. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have 500 members with 100+ students?

By the way, we still need a couple new board members. If you are willing to donate your talents to a nonprofit organization, give us a call.

2023-2024 JAZZ JAMS UPDATE

The November Jazz Jam had moderate attendance but was swinging none the less! The house band for the day was the PK Trio from Fort Myers. They are made up of three students from FGCU's Jazz Studies program. These same college students attended several Jams last year and have since started their own ensemble and are playing all around Southwest Florida--including at the impressive London Club in Naples!

We had several high school students in attendance representing Lemon Bay and Charlotte High Schools. Also visiting us for the day was music major Corey Pooler--our top scholarship winner from last year!

The move to Saturday seems to be successful and we look forward to seeing everyone throughout the season. The December Jam will be headed by Tim Goodman and his trio. Coming up in February, we will be hosting a **celebration of life** for **Ken Franckling** at our jam on February 24.



EDUCATION UPDATE

Our Education Program is growing and is starting to bear fruit. Members of the LA Ainger Middle School Jazz Band were invited to play with local Englewood legend Jon Salaway at the FAME festival on Dearborn Street in early November. FAME is a local non-profit that donates its proceeds to local school band programs. In the picture you can see band director Tim Ostrow introducing the group to a *packed* crowd in the heart of Englewood.



On November 4th we hosted our second Jazz Improv clinic of the season. We had 11 students at this one hosted by Brandon Robertson and featuring the Jeff Pifer quintet. Jeff is a California-based educator and teaches for the prestigious Herbie Hancock Institute. He was very impressed with what our local students are learning and what they can already do in their improvisations. The tunes worked on at this clinic were the swing tune “Sonny’s Mood” by Sonny Rollins and modal Latin tune “Little Sunflower” by Freddie Hubbard. A generous lunch was served by The Grill at 1951. Dave Eger has been most generous in his support and assistance with hosting youth jazz events-in addition to hosting the monthly Jazz Jam.

The Charlotte High School Silver King Jazz Band opened our December concert with heavy hitting tunes like “Birdland” and a great Christmas song medley. Led by their band director and previous Charlotte High School graduate Tommy Bunnens these kids are really learning how to swing! Both CHS jazz bands (they are the only school in the county to have TWO) were featured in Punta Gorda’s monthly New Downtown Experience where they fundraised for their upcoming band trip to Gatlinburg, TN.



Community Partners



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David McAtee**



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- CCJS on the Web!**
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- * Check the concert schedule
 - * Join the jazz society
 - * Preview upcoming concerts and events
 - *Check out the local Jazz scene

LIKE us on Facebook
www.facebook.com
Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS

**Matt and Emma
Osborne
Tom Osborne**



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 send out reminders for events by email. Please send your name and email address to Emilie at intunejazz@gmail.com



Mission Statement of CCJS

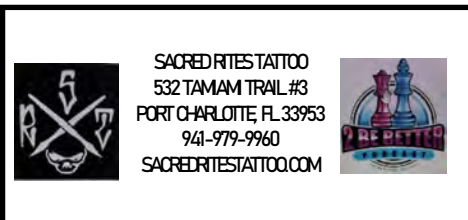
The Mission of the Charlotte County Jazz Society is to increase the availability of Jazz music in our county and to foster the study and appreciation of this original American art form, especially among the youth of our community.

We seek to continually develop and improve upon our monthly concert series which showcases some of the finest jazz performers from throughout the state of Florida. We strive to broaden exposure to jazz among the general public through live performances at community festivals and other local events which reach a wide audience.

CCJS works to serve as a source of information about jazz activities throughout our area by informing local news media, publishing a Society newsletter, and providing a telephone hotline.

We seek to provide continuing aid to middle school and high school students furthering their jazz education and awarding college scholarships on a competitive basis to promising students.

We strive to further expose our area youth to jazz music by admitting local students free of charge to our monthly concert series and jazz jams.



Charlotte County Jazz Society

Renewal/New Member Application Form

Membership is good for the concert year October through May

PLEASE PRINT:

Date: _____

New Membership: _____ Renew: _____ \$80

Name: (First, Middle, Last): _____

Additional Name at Same Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Permanent Resident? _____ Yes _____ No

If "No", dates at Florida Address: From: _____ To: _____

Are you a Musician interested in playing at the jam sessions? _____ Yes _____ No

What Instrument (s)? _____

Make check payable to: **Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.** (a non-profit organization)

Mailing Address: Charlotte County Jazz Society
P.O. Box 495321
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-5321

Become a CCJS supporter:

Our membership fees cover less than half of the cost to produce our concerts. We undertake various fund-raising efforts during the year to supplement these but inevitable we need to use assets from our endowment to balance the budget. We strive to keep our membership fees as low as they are to allow those with limited incomes to enjoy our shows. If you are fortunate enough to afford it please consider additional donations to our endowment fund. You may earmark your donation for support of our jazz performances or for the support our educational/scholarship programs.

Endowment: _____ Scholarship/Educational Fund: _____

2023-2024 Concert Season

Jan 8-Danny Bacher Quintet
(CPAC)

Feb 12-Michael Andrew and The Atomic Big
Band
(CPAC)

March 11-Miami Jazz Consort (CPAC)

April 22-Benny Benack
(Gulf Theater)

UPCOMING JAZZ JAMS:

December 16

January 20

February 24 (Celebration of Life for Ken
Franckling)

March 23

April 13

Jazz Jams are at The Grill at 1951, 1951 Tami-
ami Trail, Port Charlotte, from 1:00 to 4:00.

CCJS 2023-24 Officers

Aaron Lucas, President
Jordan Aquila, President Elect
Dan Cobb, Treasurer
Pam Koontz, Secretary

Directors

Chris (Brown) Fitzgerald
Steve Graettinger
Les Kraus
Shawn Marren
James Mashburn
Tom Osborne

Herb Bruce, Concert Coordinator
Emilie Deskins, Administrative Assistant

Messages for individual board members can be sent via
our email address or through the CCJS hotline number.

CCJS HOTLINE: 941.766.9422

www.ccjazz.org

www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety

Email: intunejazz@gmail.com

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.

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.