

# In Tune

Official Publication of Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.

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## An Entertaining Start to the New Year

Welcoming our New Year in CCJS style, Danny Bacher brought his six-man ensemble to take us down a history laden road. "At the Jazz Band Ball" appropriately led off the show. This was the first jazz tune ever recorded in 1917 by The Original Dixieland Jazz Band. The night's journey included "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby," "Minnie the Moocher," and "St. James Infirmary." He was backed by his rhythm section with Simon Lasky on piano, Alejandro Arenas on bass, and Rick Costa on drums. James Suggs on trumpet and Herb Bruce on trombone joined him on the front line.

Danny is one of those gifted guys that not only is an accomplished musician but an outstanding entertainer as well.

He played his soprano sax, sang, and danced away the evening. He brought us through some movie soundtrack favorites like "I Wanna Be Like You" and "Frasier the Sensuous Lion." As the program ended, he presented us with his composition of "Cloudy/Nuages," as serious and contemplative as his other songs were joyful. All in all, this was an eclectic, enjoyable and uplifting evening.



Danny Bacher, James Suggs



Danny Bacher, James Suggs, Herb Bruce



Danny Bacher Quintet

## Explosive entertainment by Michael Andrew and The Atomic Big Band

The CCJS February concert brought us the big band sounds of Michael Andrew and The Atomic Big Band. The concert started off with “Come Fly” performed by The Atomic Big Band, which included Alex Kastner, Ryan Chapman, John DePaola, and David Pruyn on trumpet, Herb Bruce, Chris Clifton, Greg Nielsen, and Chris Lundquist on trombone, Dave MacKenzie, Pete Barenbregge, Lew DelGatto, Valerie Gillespie and Mike Brignola on saxophone, Frank Portolese on guitar, Charlie Silva on bass and Paul Parker on drums.

Michael Andrew came out on stage with an explosive start with “World on a String.” He quickly followed with “Lady’s A Tramp” and a toe-tapping medley of Bobby Darin favorites, including “Beyond the Sea,” “Splish Splash” and “Mac the Knife.” This rock and roll interlude was quickly followed up by a couple of Dean Martin favorites, “Ain’t That a Kick in the Head” and “Everybody Loves Somebody.”



Michael Andrew, Charlie Silva, Paul Parker

This smooth crooner and his band then launched into several Frank Sinatra favorites, such as “Are the Stars Out Tonight,” “Sit Down and Write Myself a Letter,” with outstanding saxophone solos, and “Fly me to the Moon.” The first half ended with a Count Basie shout out with “Luck be a Lady Tonight.”



The Atomic Big Band

The second half was a true delight with a number of songs honoring the Gershwin Brothers, including “Strike up the Band,” “I Got Rhythm,” “Nice Work if you Can Get It,” “I’ve Got a Crush on You” and “Love is Here to Stay.”

The very personable Michael Andrew asked for audience requests and delighted us with “Anything Goes” and “Unforgettable.” The evening concert closed with the classic “New York, New York” and “My Way.”

Michael Andrew is a consummate performer who draws his audience in with his engaging personality and enthusiastic dance moves. He left us with no doubt of his love for entertaining an audience.



John DePaola, Alex Kastner, Pete Barenbregge, Dave MacKenzie,



Charlie Silva, Paul Parker



Lew DelGatto, Pete Barenbregge, John DePaola

## A Perfectly Blended Tribute

The March 11 CCJS concert brought Miami Jazz Consort-Remembering Ira to our stage. This quintet from Miami wowed the audience with their perfectly blended tribute to Ira Sullivan, a modern Jazz trumpeter and saxophonist, as well as educator. Saxophonist Peter Brewer was joined on stage by Dante Luciani on trombone, Tom Lippincott on guitar, Chuck Bergeron on bass and Lucas Apostoleris on drums.



Miami Jazz Consort

The concert opened with Thelonius Monk's "Ugly Beauty" and was followed by "Stars Fell in Alabama" and "Sweet Georgia Bright."

Next up was "Bosa Nova," a beautiful song and one of Ira Sullivan's favorite songs to play. Peter Brewer accompanied on the flute and was one of three soloists.

"What a Difference a Day Makes" and "On a Clear Day" closed out the first half of the evening.

Rounding out the evening, the second half opened with Charles Mingus' "Nostalgia In Times Square." Next up was "My Little Suede Shoes."

The evening wound down with "Nature Boy," and ended with "Night Train."



Peter Brewer, Chuck Bergeron



Tom Lippincott, Dante Luciani

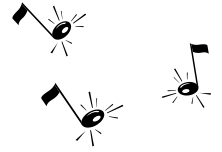


Luciani, Brewer, Bergeron

## 2023-2024 JAZZ JAMS UPDATE

Our February Jazz Jam was a celebration of life for Ken Franckling. Ken was a treasured friend and colleague to the jazz community and Charlotte County Jazz Society. Many friends, family members and CCJS members gathered in his honor to pay tribute to a gentle and talented man.





## Notes from the President's Desk



Aaron Lucas  
CCJS President

We are quickly coming to this season's end and I hope everyone has enjoyed our concert series. We have tried to present exceptional talent, some new faces as well as some old friends. We have presented Bebop, Latin, Great American Songbook, and an outstanding big band evening. There is still one more performance at the Gulf Theater in April. We busy working on next season and information about it should be available online in August.

Members of the Charlotte County Jazz Society get to experience our concert series but many do not know about our education programs. We have brought several professional musicians into our high schools and middle schools providing opportunities to listen and learn. Saturday morning clinics have been conducted by our guest artists and board members are regularly visiting local band rooms.

Auditions for the CCJS scholarship have recently been completed. This year we will be awarding 5 scholarships worth \$15,000. This program continues to grow, and we are encouraged by the increased musicianship we have seen in our candidates each year.

We hope to see everyone on April 22 at the Gulf Theater for an enjoyable evening with Benny Benack.

**Community Partners**



**Dr. and Mrs.  
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**CCJS on the Web!**  
[www.cc-jazz.org](http://www.cc-jazz.org)

- \* 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](http://www.facebook.com)  
Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS

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WEB SITES THAT WORK!

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

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100 Sullivan Street  
Suite 111  
Punta Gorda, FL  
33950  
(941) 639-1170

**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.

**ATTENTION:**

The CCJS Website address has changed. The updated website address is:

**cc-jazz.org**

**SACRED RITES TATTOO**  
532 TAMAMI TRAIL #3  
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33953  
941-979-9960  
[SACREDRITESTATTOO.COM](http://SACREDRITESTATTOO.COM)



**Time to renew your membership!**



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2023-24 Concert Season

April 22-Benny Benack  
(Gulf Theater)

## UPCOMING JAZZ JAMS

March 23

April 13

Jazz Jams are at The Grill at 1951,  
1951 Tamiami 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.cc-jazz.org](http://www.cc-jazz.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety](https://www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety)**

## 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.