

CHARLOTTE COUNTY JAZZ SOCIETY 2024-2025 CONCERT SEASON PREVIEW

October 14, 2024- John Allred Quartet

Jazz Trombonist John Allred grew up in a musical environment and soon developed a deep appreciation for jazz. He started his professional music career in California with the Jazz Minors, a six-piece Dixieland group at Disneyland in Anaheim. During this time, he became active in the Los Angeles music scene, as a member of Dave Wells Trombone City and recording with the Los Angeles Jazz Workshop.

He moved to Orlando in 1986, and became active in the jazz and studio scenes, that involved Disney World, Broadway shows, and even the circus. He toured with Harry Connick Jr's big band and for the movie, My Girl, he coached actor Dan Aykroyd on how to

mimic a tuba player and recorded the tuba parts for the soundtrack. In 1987 John accepted an offer to join Woody Herman and the Young Thundering Herd as lead trombonist and featured soloist. Returning to Orlando, John began working more with his father in Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band. He led a euphonium band, worked at Rosie O'Grady's and the MGM Studios, and performed in many production shows. When not off to a festival or a jazz party, these days John can be found playing in a Broadway show orchestra.



November 4, 2024- Ryan Devlin Quartet



Ryan Devlin is a saxophonist and woodwind instructor living in Boston. He started his musical journey with his father, Scott Devlin, who was the leader of the Walt Disney World Sax Quartet. Music was always in their home and as a child, he played piano and saxophone. Ryan has been practicing, gigging, and teaching ever since.

Ryan completed a Jazz Performance master's degree at The New England Conservatory in Boston and is currently on staff at Newton South High School, Newton, Massachusetts.

He has been a member and featured soloist in ensembles including The Florida All State Jazz Band, The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, and The Orlando Jazz Orchestra. He has played famous jazz clubs, including Smalls in NYC, Chris' Jazz Café in Philadelphia, and Timucua Arts Foundation in Orlando. He is the 2017 winner of the Central Florida Jazz Society Scholarship Competition and was runner up in the 2017 Bob Washington Jazz Scholarship Competition.

Ryan has performed and/or recorded with pianists Davis Whitfield, Jr and Mike Bond, saxophonists Chad Lefkowitz-Brown, Steve Kortyka, and Dave Pollack, bassist Gene Perla, drummers Adam Nussbaum, Ulysses Owens, Jr., and many other notable musicians.

December 9, 2024- Heather Thorn

Heather Thorn is a xylophonist in Orlando, where she performs with her band Vivacity and as a freelance percussionist. She holds a degree in Music Performance with a minor in Theatre from Ithaca College. In 2019 and 2022, she was featured with Vivacity as the headline act for the I Love Jazz International Jazz Festival in Brazil. She was also a guest soloist with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra in 2021 for the Holiday Pops concert. Heather has been featured as a guest artist with Michael Andrew

and Swingerhead, Carol Stein, the John Depaola Quartet and as an opening act for the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

**January 13, 2025-
Per Danielsson Quartet, Suzy Park**

Suzy Park began her career in Atlanta, GA where she majored in voice at Kennesaw State University. In 1990 she joined the "Voices of Liberty" in Orlando. She then went on to perform with "The Girlfriends" at the Hyatt Grand Cypress for 9 years and with "American Vybe", an a cappella jazz & blues group at Epcot.

Suzy's live performances include Carnegie Hall and the Hampton Jazz Festival where she opened for David Sanborn, as well as local big bands, The Orlando Jazz Orchestra, The Phoenix Jazz Orchestra and The Naples Jazz Orchestra.



Jazz pianist, composer, arranger, writer and educator, Per Danielsson is a native of Stockholm, Sweden. After formal piano studies in Sweden, his love of jazz brought him across the ocean to attend the internationally acclaimed North Texas State University. Per completed his master's degree in jazz studies, composition and arranging, studying with one of the finest jazz writer/arrangers of today, Chuck Owen, at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Per is an active performer, appearing often as a guest artist, soloist, clinician, and sideman. He holds the position of Associate Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Central Florida. In addition, Per is active in jazz education outreach. His career has included performances with many jazz artists such as Louis Bellson, Clark Terry, Bob Brookmeyer, Randy Brecker, and Danny Gottlieb.

February 10, 2025- Fil Lorenz Orchestra



The Fil Lorenz Orchestra is a high-voltage, crowd-pleasing big band born of the blues, with a sound defined by a searing, relentless horn section and an exhilarating repertoire of well-known songs and fascinating originals alike. Saxophonist/arranger Fil Lorenz has assembled a musical cast of the highest standard, bringing some of Central

Florida's most accomplished jazz veterans together with the fertile scene's most promising up-and-coming players.

March 10, 2025- La Lucha

La Lucha is a Tampa Bay based trio that consists of three best friends from three different parts of the world: Colombia, Mexico & the United States. Their music ventures boldly into a wide variety of musical styles, offering an appealing and fun mix of genres under the jazz umbrella. The combination of their musical versatility and varied musical influences makes for compelling virtuosic performances. Through an engaging stage presence and high level of interaction, La Lucha brings the audience into their world.

Joining La Lucha is Barcelona born vocalist and composer Ona Kirei. Ona has performed across Europe in countries such as Spain, France, and the UK. She moved to the United States four years ago and is quickly becoming one of the premier performers with her own projects, including "Iberia" and a bass & vocal duo, "Orilla."



April 7, 2025- Michael Ross Quartet

Bassist and composer Michael Ross captivates audiences with his exceptional skill and dedication to musical excellence. Hailing from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Michael spent his early years being mentored by bassists Cecil McBee, Dee Moses, and Jim Miller, transforming his artistic trajectory in profound ways. Within the vibrant music scene of Tampa Bay, Michael assumed leadership roles in two renowned and award-winning groups, Liquid Bebop and later the Michael Ross Quartet. His latest work, "Giraffe," featuring a mix of new original material and his fresh take on jazz classics, is a testament to his unyielding passion for musical exploration.

Education Update

- Shawn Marren



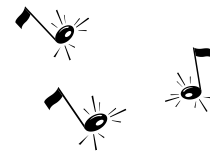
As of July 31, 2024, we have officially closed our 2023-2024 Florida Department of State Division of Arts and Culture Specific Cultural Project Grant! (There's a mouthful!) Through the generous funding of the Department of State we were granted \$19,000 to provide musical education in our schools and to help underwrite our programming that had an educational component. Several instructors (Les Kraus, John Hill, and Shawn Marren) visited 6 schools over 80 times throughout the school year! We also saw kids from all 3 Charlotte County High Schools engage in our 3 Improv Clinics and 7 Jazz Jams. While we wish there were more students attending our 7 guest artist concerts, we did see a marked uptick in student attendance this year—something that takes a while to catch on.

Throughout this summer there has been a small coterie of students from Charlotte High School who are frequenting Tim Goodman's weekly Jazz Jams at *The Grill at 1951*. This group is learning jazz standards on their own and showing up to play each week. I have heard from the other musicians present that they are consistently improving and that the older musicians love to see the young ones showing an interest in jazz! I'm sure we can all agree that is our hope as well. At the college level, you may remember some of the Florida Gulf Coast University students who played at our jams the past two seasons. Three of them have since formed their own group (The PK Trio) and they are playing weekly sessions at several venues in Fort Myers and Naples. I'm glad that we gave them the opportunity to play in public and experience live jam sessions. They told me that their experience at the CCJS jams was one of their motivations to form their own group and start gigging.

Cultural change in a community takes time—a LOT of time. I'm reminded of an old saying I was once told: "young people overestimate what they can achieve in the short term and underestimate what they can achieve in the long term while older people underestimate what they can achieve in the short term and overestimate what they can achieve in the long term." I hope we can all continue working together, intergenerationally, to support our students and young musicians in the hopes that it not only keeps live jazz music alive in our community but also contributes to making them better people who will make our entire community better. Thank you all for your support!



Notes from the President's Desk



Aaron Lucas
CCJS President

I would like to welcome everyone back from the summer pause. We are pleased to offer an exciting collection of talent for the 2024-2025 concert season, representing examples of traditional to progressive styles and small combo to full big band ensembles. Each concert is summarized in this newsletter. Details of this season will also be available on our web site at cc-jazz.org if you need a reminder. This season all our concerts will be at Charlotte Performing Arts Center in Punta Gorda. There has been extensive reevaluation and repair where necessary of the HVAC system of the building. We have been assured temperature control will be much better than last season. I would also like to thank our loyal members for staying with us through some less than comfortable evenings. Just a reminder we have nearly 900 seats to fill. You will not find better value anywhere with an

\$80 dollar membership for seven concerts!!! Currently our membership fees cover less than 40% of our cost for just the concerts. Please encourage friends and family to join you for our concert series. If we could increase our audience to 500, we could break even this year.

Last year we initiated a very successful educational program in our middle and high schools. Shawn Marren, one of our hard-working CCJS board members, conceived and executed this program. With a grant from the Board of Education, monies from fund raising events and support from our instrumental music instructors we have brought professional jazz musicians into our schools to enrich jazz instruction and hopefully bring a new generation to our favorite musical idiom. With the help of your membership fees, we hope to continue this program into the coming year.

On a less optimistic note, our monthly jams have become progressively less popular. A decade ago, when I joined this organization, we had 10-20 musicians show up to jam and 100-200 members in the audience. This sadly has declined to an unsustainable level. We have looked at many options without arriving at a viable solution. If we can reinvent this part of our community outreach, we will announce it here in the newsletter and by email blasts.


I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on October 14 when we welcome one of the great trombone artists, John Allred.

Aaron Lucas

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

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Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS

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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

Membership
questions call Emilie - Hotline—941-766-9422



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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 season- October through May

PLEASE PRINT:

Date: _____

New Membership: _____ Renew: _____ \$80 (per person)

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 of our educational/scholarship programs.

Endowment: _____ Scholarship/Educational Fund: _____

2024-2025 Concert season:

Oct 14, 2024-John Allred Quartet
Nov 4, 2024-Ryan Devlin Quartet
Dec 9, 2024-Heather Thorn
Jan 13, 2025-Per Danielsson Quartet,
featuring Suzy Park
Feb 10, 2025-Fil Lorenz Orchestra
March 10, 2025-La Lucha
April 7, 2025-Michael Ross Quartet

All concerts start at 7:00 pm and will be held at Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC), 701 Carmalita St., Punta Gorda.



CCJS 2024-25 Officers

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

Directors

Chris (Brown) Fitzgerald
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

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.