

FROM THE CHAIR

Since the inception of the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance back in 1992, every aspect of its operation has relied 100% upon the efforts of volunteers. Without volunteers, PAJA simply would not exist. It is long overdue that this aspect of our community be properly acknowledged.

A prime example is Patty Boyle, a long-time Board member who has just retired. Her commitment has had no limit, from selling concert tickets at the door to photographing at member parties to connecting with municipal officials in contracting for event sites. Her efforts in conjunction with the Menlo-Atherton folks last year were vital to the success of the Woody Herman concert. At Board meetings she was always ready with ideas and suggestions to strengthen our support of jazz education. So—a big thank you, Patty. Your contributions are always much appreciated.

Another case in point is Max and Lori Jedda. They have long handled the serving and selling of refreshments at gigs and member parties. Circumstances change and they are no longer able to carry this responsibility. Their support was energy-consuming what with all the moving of stuff to and from the venues, setting everything up, getting ice, and so on. Another shout-out for Max and Lori!! Thank you for all your help over the years.

All this points out that we need a continuing source of volunteers for one role or another. We do have some names to contact, but that list needs expanding and updating. To that end, there will be an opportunity at the member party for you to sign up for participating and helping out in the future.

Or you can indicate such when you next renew your membership or just call me (650/326-7836). Or if your interests are to volunteer at our concerts, you can call Event Chair Harvey Mittler at 650/345-9543 or e-mail him at harvey.mittler@gmail.com. Ushering, taking tickets, driving musicians to events or the airport, etc. There's plenty to do and you can help.

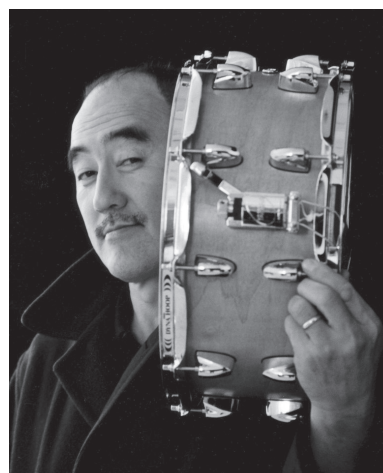
I hope to see many of you at the free member party on September 27. If you attend, please take a moment to talk

to me and other Board members. We want to hear your thoughts as to how PAJA can stay strong and improve as we continue our mission to support jazz education.

C. Stuart Brewster

EVENT CHAIR HARVEY MITTLER DISCUSSES THE UPCOMING FREE MEMBER PARTY

One of our most pleasurable PAJA member benefits is the annual member party. This year the party happens on Sunday, September 27 from 3-5pm. As usual it is at the Palo Alto Art Center at 1313 Newell Road in the outdoor patio. Enjoy a sunny afternoon with your fellow Peninsula jazz lovers, meet new friends and greet old friends, enjoy a glass of wine and some munchies.



Akira Tana

From about 3:30-4:45 you'll hear some exciting music presented by local premier percussionist Akira Tana and four talented stars he has assembled. Akira is an old friend of PAJA and should be familiar to everyone. A graduate of Gunn High in Palo Alto, he went on to Harvard and then obtained a master's at Julliard. To say he has played with everyone in the jazz world is an understatement. The rising stars he'll be joined by on this gig are:

- Parker Grant, piano. An alumnus of the acclaimed HS jazz education program at Lafayette
- HS and a graduate of the prestigious jazz program at Frost School of Music at U. of Miami.
- Giulio Cetto, bass. Has studied under Joshua Redman, Christian McBride, and others, and has played with such as Ben Flocks, Bob Mintzer and Joe Gilman.
- Katie Williams, trumpet. Only 15 years old, Katie lives

AMERICAN JAZZ MUSEUM—KANSAS CITY

By Shirley Douglas



Shirley standing in front of the entrance to the American Jazz Museum building.

Two articles in the July Buff by Mssrs. Brewster and Griffin prompt me to share a similar experience. It occurred in March when we visited our grandson at the University of Kansas. What Brewster and Griffin (and Fox), aka The Musketeers, heard in New York is claimed by Kansas City to have started there! An ongoing debate to be sure.

I've always had the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City on my bucket list and now was the opportunity. This was not a place for listening, but a place for

learning, however. The museum is located at 18th and Vine in a reconstructed area of the city, with many surrounding clubs and theaters. All clean, tidy and inviting. This wasn't the case in the late 40's.

The tour started with a video of that region and its people—a far cry from the looks of it today. Another 18-minute film featured Max Roach, Jay McShann and Shirley Horn, all sharing their jazz experiences as a way of life, an art form and an American tradition. The exhibition continues through many rooms with alcoves dedicated to various jazz masters (Satchmo, Bird, Duke and Ella, etc.)—their history, videos, listening stations, quotes and numerous photos. The History of Radio was another fascinating display.

One room consists of photos and other art forms of the greats done by great artists. One section was called An American Legacy, "Women in Jazz." A similar exhibit contained articles, poetry, books and brochures by various artists and authors. Another section housed Jazz on Film and Album Jacket Art. And of course, by the exit, the usual gift shop hawking souvenirs of all sorts.

One could easily spend many hours/days absorbing all this stimulating historical information. Put the museum on your list!

in Vacaville where she leads her own HS jazz combo. You will be delighted by this prodigy.

- Ren Geisick, vocals. Graduated from the Bob Cole Conservatory at Cal State Long Beach with a degree in Jazz Vocal Performance. Was selected as the Outstanding Undergraduate Jazz Vocalist by DownBeat magazine in 2010. Has performed locally at Stritch, Hedley Club, the Fairmont, and Yoshi's.

Make the scene on September 27 for some good socializing and exciting music. See you then!/Harvey Mittler.

MARION AT THE HICKORY HOUSE

"In 1952, Marion McPartland and her trio began an eight-year residency at the Hickory House, a popular New York restaurant that was one of Duke Ellington's favorite hangouts. At length she got up the nerve to ask Ellington what he thought of her playing. His reply was elegantly and characteristically enigmatic. 'You play so many notes.' Eventually it hit Ms. McPartland that he wasn't

paying her a compliment. 'After a while I thought, "He probably is telling me I'm playing too many." It was one of the best criticisms I ever had.'" From The Record/Associated Press.

SHOP AT AMAZON/SUPPORT PAJA

PAJA has joined the AmazonSmile program and we hope that whenever you order from Amazon you'll use this special website: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0323088>. You will have the same wide selection of products and the same prices, but when you shop using this specific AmazonSmile site, they will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to PAJA.

BACH'S ANNOUNCES GREAT FALL SERIES

The Pete Douglas Beach House will come alive again with a remarkable jazz program this fall. The Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society on the coast in El Granada (just above Half Moon Bay) has announced a muscular series,

starting September 13 with the Kyle Eastwood Quintet. There are eight Sunday afternoon gigs altogether, ending on November 15 with Larry Vuckovich's Bay Area All-Stars (with Jackie Ryan). Other dates feature jazz heavyweights like Mary Stallings, Joey DeFrancesco and Anton Schwartz. For the full schedule see The Jazz Periscope, later in this issue.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

So, when the final week of the Stanford Jazz Festival coincides with the San Jose Jazz Summerfest, some pretty heavy jazz attendance is required. Myself, I had three nights at Stanford, starting with Cobb's Mob 3, Taylor Eigsti and company on August 4, and the big all-star jam session on Friday evening, August 7. The Cobb's Mob gig got off to a limping start when we learned that veteran drummer Jimmy Cobb suffered some sort of injury in New York and was unable to travel. He was replaced by Max Jaffe on drums (a few decades younger than Jimmy), but the rest of the group was intact: Larry Willis on piano, Ingrid Jensen trumpet, Andrew Speight on alto, and Larry Grenadier on bass. It was Ingrid and Andrew who attracted me to this performance in the first place, and it was a very satisfying evening. Ingrid can bring it on trumpet—that's for sure. The next night took the intensity up a notch. Taylor opened with "Lucky To Be Me", the title of his 2006 album—solo piano, very, very nice. I've always liked this song and Taylor's interpretation—though this was certainly not the same as on the album. During the evening, the dutiful son dedicated a rendition of "Nancy With The Laughing Face" to his mom, Nancy. Joining Taylor on stage were Eric Harland drums, Julian Lage guitar, Dayna Stephens reeds, and Larry Grenadier. These folks are all very familiar with each other, as they all play with Taylor in various contexts. Eigsti was in great form, playing several extended improvisations, and Dayna was as good as I've ever heard him. Julian played an outstanding solo on his composition, "Ryland"(sic).



Chohiro Yamanaka at San Jose Summer Festival

You certainly wouldn't call this straightahead jazz, but it was all quite wonderful. They even had Ingrid Jensen join them for a final number.

The all-star jam session on Friday night was a concert for the ages. Jim Nadel told us we were in for some "astounding" music and he was spot on. For me the highlights were guitarist Peter Bernstein, a remarkable three-way musical conversation among Lage, Grenadier and Joshua Redman where you'd swear they must have rehearsed it for weeks, and a grand finale on "Anthropology," with SIX saxophones sounding like SuperSuperSax. It was just an amazing night with a terrific variety of inventive, "astounding" jazz offerings.

And then on Saturday, August 8, it was off to the San Jose festival. Our first show was a revelation. I was mildly aware of Chihiro Yamanaka and was looking forward to hear this Blue Note artist, originally from Japan, now based in New York. Wow! What a powerhouse and what a creative pianist! She played mostly familiar tunes, like "Take Five" and "When You Wish Upon a Star," but in her hands these numbers took on new life via her brilliant interpretations. The San Jose Stage auditorium was packed and the audience was suitably transported. I definitely want to hear more from Ms. Yamanaka.

The other gig worth mentioning was at Café Stritch—also packed for tenorman Rickey Woodard and vocalist Ernie Andrews (88 years young). I'm a big Rickey fan and don't want to miss him when he's in the area; he certainly didn't disappoint, and he and Ernie had a highly supportive crowd. I'd not heard Ernie before—he specializes in funky blues with entertaining lyrics, and it all meshed well with Rickey's tenor solos. They were backed by Murray Low on piano, Wally Schnalle on drums and John Shifflet bass. The fact that Kenny Washington and Kim Nalley were scheduled at exactly the same time was very frustrating to me—but that's the norm for festival going. But it was even more frustrating for Bruce Powell who was a financial sponsor for both concerts and could only attend one! /Ed Fox

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE—WISE WORDS!

"If more jazz musicians would just give a modicum of acknowledgment to learning how to play for an audience... then we wouldn't have conversations like, 'Is jazz dying, is jazz suffering?'"... I want to be able to bring people into the jazz world without turning them off and being too dogmatic... In almost any other style of music, you either like it or you don't. People present it to you the best they can and say, 'Do you like this music?' But with jazz there's always this preface, 'OK, this is what you listen for.' Don't tell people that. Just let them hear what they hear." From "Christian McBride: Jazz Without Pretense," by Phillip Lutz, in *DownBeat*, January 2015.

THE JAZZ PERISCOPE *Selected gigs for September and October*

YOSHI'S OAKLAND *www.yoshis.com/oakland*

9/7	Terence Blanchard's E-Collective.....	8pm
9/21	Kyle Eastwood Quintet.....	
9/23	Monty Alexander, with Clayton & Hamilton	8pm
10/9-11	Manhattan Transfer	
10/19-20	Karyn Allyson.....	8pm

SF JAZZ CENTER *www.sfjazz.org/center*

9/10	Jackie Terrasson	7, 8:30pm
9/10-13	Chick Corea, with others	
9/11	Helen Sung	7, 8:30pm
9/17	Duke Ellington sacred music/Grace Cathedral	8pm
9/19	Cecile McLorin Salvant.....	7, 9:30pm
9/24-27	Hiromi: The Trio Project	7:30pm
10/1-4	Allen Harris Quartet, with Eric Reed	7, 8:30pm
10/15-17	Wayne Shorter Quartet	7:30pm

BACH'S DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY, EL GRANADA *www.bachddsoc.org*

9/13	Kyle Eastwood Quintet.....	4:30pm
9/20	Mary Stallings Quartet	4:30pm
9/27	Larry Coryell Passing Dreams Trio.....	4:30pm
10/4	Yosvany Terry & Baptiste Trottingnan.....	4:30pm
10/25	Joey DeFrancesco Trio.....	4:30pm
11/1	Anton Schwartz Quintet	4:30pm
11/8	Mads Tolling Quartet.....	4:30pm
11/15	Larry Vuckovich's All-Stars (w/Jackie Ryan)	4:30pm

KUUMBWA JAZZ CENTER, SANTA CRUZ *www.kuumbwajazz.org*

10/27	Chucho Valdes & Irakere	7:30pm
-------	-------------------------------	--------

SAN JOSE JAZZ *www.sanjosejazz.org*

ANGELICAS 863 Main St., Redwood City *www.angelicasllc.com*

Every Tuesday evening	Jazz on Tuesdays Trio + vocalists	7:15pm
9/13	Mike Galisatus Big Band.....	7:00pm
9/19	Rebecca Du Maine w/Dave Miller Trio	8:30pm
9/27	Melanie O'Reilly Quartet (Anita O'Day tribute).....	7:30pm
10/25	Wesla Whitfield, w/Mike Greensill Trio.....	7:00pm

CAFÉ STRITCH, 374 S. 1st St., San Jose *www.cafestritch.com*

9/19	Bob Shepherd Quartet
------	----------------------

HOTEL SOFITEL, 223 Twin Dolphin Dr., Redwood City 650/598-9000

Wednesday evening jazz, with Michael O'Neill and vocalists 6-9pm

FATTORIA E MARE RESTAURANT, Burlingame *www.fattoriaemare.com*

10/7 and 10/14	Le Jazz Hot Trio.....	7-10pm
----------------	-----------------------	--------

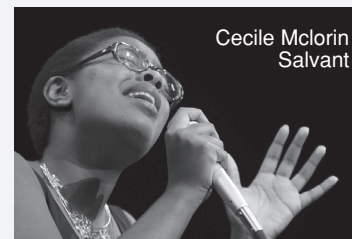
CAFÉ PINK HOUSE, 14577 Big Basin Way, Saratoga 408/647-2273

Jazz Fri. & Sat. evenings plus Sunday brunch

9/25	Christian Tamburr
10/25	Kenny Washington & Michael O'Neill

MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL Sept. 18-20

PAJA FREE MEMBER PARTY Sun., Sept. 27 3-5pm P.A. Art Center



Cecile McLorin Salvant

URBANE OR UNSOPHISTICATED? • JAZZ SAVANT OR NOVICE?
DRIVE A BMW OR A SCHWINN?
CHARDONNAY DRINKER OR DR. PEPPER?



COME ONE, COME ALL
TO THE

PAJA FREE MEMBER PARTY

*Sunday afternoon, 3-5pm, September 27
At the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd.*

All are welcome. If you received this Buff in the mail, you're invited.
If your membership has lapsed accidentally,
come and rejoin us—we want you back and in the spirit.

Whatever your net worth, political leanings, or beverage preferences,
you are welcome. But you need to appreciate good jazz, and
you'll get it with AKIRA TANA AND THE RISING STARS.

Also free libations and munchies, and good conversation. See you on the 27th!

Palo Alto
Jazz
Alliance

Join PAJA

Mail your check to Palo Alto Jazz Alliance
P.O. Box 60397 • Palo Alto, CA 94306

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

☐ New subscriber ☐ Renewal ☐ This is a change of address

☐ Annual dues, \$35 for individuals \$ _____

☐ Annual dues, \$50 family (two persons) _____

☐ Additional contribution to support jazz education _____

Total enclosed \$ _____