

FROM THE CHAIR

The End Of The Year—a time when the various media outlets like to provide us with a retrospective list of events—good and bad—that occurred during the previous twelve months. I too have been reflecting on that theme relative to jazz. I decided not to focus on how many great performers left us during 2013, but rather to share some thoughts about current and future jazz activities here on the Peninsula and some new challenges for PAJA.

My musings lead me to remember an article by Richard Scheinin of the Bay Area News Group that appeared in the *Daily News* on November 30. His thesis was that “new venues, small clubs, are bringing new energy to the Bay Area live music scene.” This is a welcome observation especially for those of us who have long been working to keep jazz sounds alive during a long period of declining appeal.

I would submit that a contributing factor to this revitalization has been the efforts of various non-profit operations right here in River City. Consider The Stanford Jazz Workshop with its always rich summer series of live concerts, with a plethora of established as well as emerging talent. Then we have a local thing called radio, namely KCSM, a singular voice for jazz 24/7; now, due to the Internet, it is reaching a worldwide audience. And don't forget San Jose Jazz, a non-profit that provides unique live listening opportunities all during the year, and particularly during the summer festival that offers a wide variety of jazz genres, headliners and local performers. PAJA provides some financial support to these three entities, among others.

Did I mention that Ye Olde Palo Alto Jazz Alliance is chugging along into its 23rd year? We too strive to keep jazz alive with outstanding concerts, showcasing remarkable jazz artists. Our primary charge is to stimulate and support jazz education in a variety of ways. Certainly these efforts have helped build a wider audience, as well as provide older devotees opportunities to enjoy live gigs at easily accessible sites and without breaking the bank.

A case in point would be our finale of the 2013 season with a slam-bang effort at Woodside Priory in Portola Valley by the Joe LaBarbera Quintet, which came up from Los Angeles. Too bad that so many of you missed it. You would have heard a thrilling medley of West Side Story selections, arranged by Bill Cunliffe, the group's stellar pianist. He had just finished this suite the week before and our event gave it its first public exposure. Artistically, the show was very special, but attendance was a bit disappointing—and the cost of the event was not covered. But thanks to your dues and contributions, the show will go on, and we look forward to some great new concerts in 2014.

We of course would like to be able to *increase* our support of jazz education; that means finding more ways to keep moving forward, such as attracting new members, and offering popular concerts that do well financially. In addition, we need to stimulate more contributions without being annoying or boorish—contributions that will underwrite our concert expenses and enable us to assist the Stanford Jazz Workshop scholarship fund, among other causes. PAJA is an all-volunteer organization; there is no paid staff. Any ideas or suggestions on how we can best reach our goals are most welcome.

All the best and a happy new year to all,

C. Stuart Brewster



The Joe LaBarbera Quintet in concert December 14th.

GREG TOLAND

DR. HERB WONG RECOGNIZED

PAJA cofounder Herb Wong has received the Palo Alto Excellence Award in Jazz Education, awarded by the Palo Alto Adult School where Herb has taught over 75 unique courses over the last 25 years. Adult School principal Kara Rosenberg said, "Herb's passion for jazz is infectious. His depth of knowledge has made our music program exceptionally popular." On Sunday, December 15th, a celebratory lunch was held in Herb's honor; more than 40 past and present students attended to congratulate Herb on this milestone.

JOHN PIZZARELLI ON IMPROVISATION

John's answer to what was his opinion about complete improv ("organic" and spontaneous, a la Lee Konitz) as opposed to "figured-out stuff": "Those 'figured-out' things started organically somewhere—at a rehearsal, strumming on the porch, being shown a chord by another guitarist. I think it's all great. I don't come out on one side or the other on this, but the total improv thing of, 'I'll play something weird, you follow same, and we all make up stuff for seven minutes' is questionable. Audiences are all for 100 per cent improv in theory—until they have to sit through it. I have never heard that work well. It's managing within a structure that makes improvisation so difficult." From *World On A String: A Musical Memoir*, by John Pizzarelli and Joseph Cosgriff.

EIGSTI AND RHAPSODY IN BLUE AGAIN—DISCOUNT TICKETS

It's pretty much a glorious annual affair, with Taylor Eigsti doing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with the Peninsula Symphony. This year it will be Friday, January 17, at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center and then again at DeAnza College's Flint Center on Saturday, January 18. Both at 8pm. The program is entitled "Eigsti, Gershwin, and Brubeck," so in addition to Rhapsody, Taylor will be joined by Dayna Stephens in a Brubeck tribute. Also on the program will be two world premiers of new compositions by Eigsti and Stephens, and two of Gershwin's greatest overtures.

The Peninsula Symphony is graciously offering two-for-one tickets to PAJA members on its general admission \$40 tickets. To receive this discount go to www.peninsulasymphony.org/all-concerts.php. Fill out the order form and pay for one ticket. Then send an e-mail to sarah@peninsulasymphony.org with "PAJA 2 for 1" in the subject line. Include your first and last names. You'll receive two tickets in the mail.

Questions—e-mail to Sarah (above) Shepard, or call 650/941-5291.

MONTEREY JAZZ—MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Monterey Jazz Festival found a tasty sugarplum in its Christmas stocking this year, a \$37,500 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the 57th Annual Monterey festival in 2014. Festival development director Andrew Sudol said that the NEA support "allows for the participation of NEA Jazz Masters, and other incredible jazz artists who perform, adjudicate, educate and mentor young musicians in our jazz education programs and at the Festival itself." MJF plans to spend more than \$600,000 on jazz education in 2014.

RANDY BRECKER REMINISCES

"I had one solo a night with Blood, Sweat & Tears. As much as I liked playing with the band, it wasn't quite right for me. I didn't get enough room to stretch out. So when Horace [Silver] called and asked me to join his band, I kind of jumped at the chance. The very next Blood, Sweat & Tears record came out—one that I would have been a part of . . . sold eleven million copies, and they had agreed to split everything equally. So, I kind of lost out a little on that one—since Horace's gig paid \$250 a week. He took out taxes, which left \$147 a week, and out of that I had to pay for my hotel. We would find hotels for \$15 a week, believe it or not. We would stay in San Francisco at a place called the Swiss American Hotel, \$15 a week. It was famous because Lenny Bruce used to stay there. It was up the street from the Jazz Workshop, where we used to play. It was a virtual flophouse, basically, full of stoned-out hippies. That's how we were living in those days. Meanwhile, Blood, Sweat & Tears had gone on and they were making like \$100,000 a gig." From an interview with Randy in Eric Nemeyer's *Jazz Insider*.



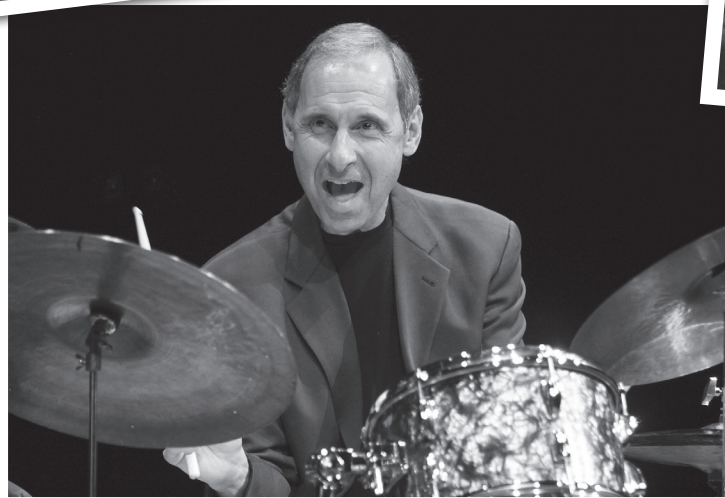
John Pizzarelli



Randy Brecker

**The Joe LaBarbera Quintet performed for us December 14th
at Woodside Priory's Rothrock Performance Hall.**

Photos by Greg Toland



The artists: Rob Lockart, sax; Tom Warrington, bass; Joe LaBarbera, drums; Clay Jenkins, trumpet; Bill Cunliffe, piano.



IN THE OFFING

Selected gigs for January and February

YOSHI'S SAN FRANCISCO

www.yoshis.com/sanfrancisco

- 2/2 Calvin Keys Power Quartet
- 2/5 Mads Tolling Quartet, with Kim Nalley
- 2/27 Jackie Ryan
- 2/4, 11, 18 Tommie Igoe Big Band

YOSHI'S OAKLAND

www.yoshis.com/oakland

- 2/9 John Abercrombie Quartet

SF JAZZ CENTER

www.sfjazz.org/center

- 1/16 Mary Stallings & Kenny Barron
- 1/17 Mary Stallings & Eric Reed
- 1/23-26 Bill Frisell, with various...
- 1/30-2/2 Chucho Valdés
- 2/8 Marcus Shelby Orchestra
- 2/13 Cecile McLorin Salvant
- 2/15-16 Kate McGarry, Keith Ganz
- 2/19 DeJohnette, Lovano, Spalding, Genovese
- 2/20-23 Hutcherson, Sanborn, DeFrancesco, Hart



Kate McGarry

BACH'S DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY, EL GRANADA

www.bachddsoc.org

- 1/12 Bach's fundraiser, with Vuckovich, Nalley, Tana, et al. \$50
- 1/19 Mike Galisatus Big Band, with vocalist Duane Lawrence
- 1/26 Dan Hicks and Bayside Jazz
- 2/16 Dr. Lonnie Smith
- 2/23 Helen Sung group—CD release event

KUUMBWA JAZZ CENTER, SANTA CRUZ

www.kuumbwajazz.org

- 1/13 Kim Nalley, Marcus Shelby: Cole Porter songbook
- 2/15 Cecile McLorin Salvant, 7 & 9pm
- 2/17 Dr. Lonnie Smith
- 2/20 Scott Hamilton/Harry Allen Quintet
- 2/24 Kenny Werner Trio

SAN JOSE JAZZ

www.sanjosejazz.org

- 3/6-15 San Jose Jazz Winterfest: Robert Glasper, Vijay Iyer, Sean Jones, José James, Tony Monaco, et al.

CAFÉ STRITCH

374 S. First St., San Jose 408/280-6161 Wed-Sun

For calendar: www.cafestritch.com

- 2/24 Richie Cole

CASTAGNOLA'S

286 Jefferson at Jones, San Francisco

- 1/14 and 1/28 Denise Perrier, with Greensill, McCarthy, etc. 5-8pm

CLUB DELUXE

1511 Haight St., nr. Ashbury, San Francisco

- Thursdays, 6-9pm B3 Band, with Jewkes, McCarthy, Broussard, et al.

LE COLONIAL

20 Cosmo Place, San Francisco www.lecolonialsf.com

- Mondays, 7-10pm Le Jazz Hot (Hot Club of San Francisco)

A large thank you, once again, to those who generously contributed to PAJA during the year 2013. We are grateful to each and every one of you.

Wes Ayres, Los Altos
Patty Boyle, Menlo Park
Lew Creary, San Jose
Bernie Culver, Mountain View
Shirley Douglas, Palo Alto
Malcolm Dudley, Atherton
Kay & Les Filler, Emerald Hills
Paul & Jeanne Foerster, Los Altos
Ed Fox, Palo Alto
Beryl Gaidos, Danville
Kate Godfrey, Palo Alto
Mary Hand, Palo Alto
Anne Hessing, Palo Alto
Donna Ewald Huggins, Larkspur
(in memory of Chuck Huggins)
Greg Hull, Emerald Hills
Max & Lori Jedda, Sunnyvale
Robert Johnstone, Palo Alto
Judith Kays, Stanford
K. Knox, Santa Clara
Robert & Christine Kradjian, Hillsborough
Hollis Lenderking, La Honda
Arlene Leslie, Palo Alto
Mary Lorey, Palo Alto
Rich & Beverly Marconi, Los Altos

R. Kent Mather, Palo Alto
Thomas H. Meeks, San Francisco
George & Luisa Miller, Menlo Park
Harvey & Claire Mittler, San Mateo
Sam Pearl, Palo Alto
Bruce Powell & Jan DeCarli, Cupertino
Bonnie Rattner, San Mateo
Geoff Roach, Foster City
Louise B. Rising, Palo Alto
Karl & Theresa Robinson, Saratoga
Justin Rockwell & Eileen Merten, San Carlos
Roberta Roth, Redwood City
Steven W. Russell, Redwood City
Ron Sax, Palo Alto
Nancy & Eugene Sharp, Palo Alto
B. J. Sorensen, Portola Valley
Jeffrey & Sueann Stone, Menlo Park
John Sylvester, Palo Alto
Jeff Thompson, Milpitas
Terry Tran & Alice Nguyen, San Carlos
Bill Whitmer, Palo Alto
Suzanne Williams, Palo Alto

and with heartfelt thanks to Roger & Mercy Smullen, Los Gatos

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 \$ _____