

March 2013

PO BOX 60397, PALO ALTO, CA 94306

Ed Fox, Editor

FROM THE CHAIR

Since the first of the year we have seen the opening of two exciting new sites for musical events in the Bay Area. We have the new **Bing Concert Hall** right nearby at Stanford University. By all accounts it is visually spectacular. I haven't attended anything here yet, but Herb Wong tells me the acoustics are outstanding. The schedule of offerings for the year includes a number of jazz-related concerts.

The **SF Jazz Center** in San Francisco was built exclusively for jazz performances. Located at Franklin and Fell Streets (Opera House and Davies Symphony Hall neighborhood), this unique building, with its extensive use of glass, gives a sense of the outdoors merging with the indoors. Michael Griffin, former editor of the *Buff*, and I attended the open house on Martin Luther King Day. A group of students called the San Francisco High School All-Stars performed a selection of pieces with great panache. The hall is fantastic, both aesthetically and sound-wise. Also, there are two ceramic tile pictures on the wall in the upstairs lobby depicting the history of jazz in San Francisco and nationwide, greatly adding to the ambience of the place. Kudos, too, to whoever thought to mount huge black-and-white photos of jazz greats in the windows of the unoccupied building across from the Center. Nice touch. Despite the expense and effort to get there, this is a place you'll all want to experience.

So, what does this mean for PAJA and its members? My view is quite positive, since the more people get out and hear live jazz, the more the audience will grow. And, hopefully, more people will want to come out to our gigs as well.

Speaking of such, how about Taylor Eigsti and his gang of hot young New York City-based talent that recently performed for us? What a fabulous afternoon. Special thanks to the Woodside Priory School for opening their facility to us and Taylor, an alumnus. Admittedly, a few selections were a challenge to my old ears, but hey, it is good to get out of one's comfort zone. Honk your horn for Life Long Learning.

Let me take a moment to introduce you to Larry Lovercheck who has joined the PAJA board. Larry is a long-time member whom some of you might have met when he and his wife Tina handled the food at the latest member party. A Palo Alto resident, Larry grew up on a ranch in Wyoming, listening to opera on the radio turned to full

volume as he worked outside the house. He later discovered jazz and has been a devotee ever since. Welcome aboard, Larry.

Thanks to you who attended the Eigsti gig, and to those volunteers who helped us put it on, particularly Harvey and Herb.

C. Stuart Brewster



Larry Lovercheck

EIGSTI AND FRIENDS JUMPING AT THE WOODSIDE

A near-capacity crowd filled Rothrock Performing Arts Hall at Woodside Priory School for PAJA's winter concert on February 16. The headliner was Taylor Eigsti, who always enjoys returning to his alma mater and the very supportive crowds there. Taylor also seems happy to perform at Herb Wong-produced events, and he mentioned how Herb helped jump start his career when Taylor was just 11 years old. So, it was kind of an "old home" event, though the music was anything but old or cozy. One treat Taylor offered was a short classical piece exclusively for the left hand—except for the final note!

Saxophonist Dayna Stephens (a Berkeley High grad) was Taylor's special guest and his mellow solos illuminated every number. Of particular note were Dayna's flights on "But Beautiful" and, believe it or not, "I Left My



Stuart Brewster and Michael Griffin at the SF Jazz Center open house.

Heart in San Francisco." A highlight of the afternoon was Dayna's new composition, "Doctor Wong's Birdsong."

The impressive Eric Harland was the group's drummer. Harland, who has played with the likes of Wynton Marsalis, Charles Lloyd, Betty Carter, and most recently with the SF Jazz Collective, has a fascinating style which complemented the group beautifully. Longtime Eigsti collaborator Harish Raghavan was on bass.

The afternoon was billed as a tribute to Chuck Hug-gins, the late CEO of See's Candies—a major sponsor of jazz in the Bay Area—and to the recently deceased Dave Brubeck with whom Taylor performed many times. In fact, Taylor reprised a Brubeck piece—"The Duke"—which he played at Brubeck's memorial service in Wilton, CT.

Contribution to Dayna Stephens Kidney Fund. The PAJA board has voted to contribute \$1000 to help defray Dayna Stephens' expensive fight against focal segmen-tal glomerulosclerosis, a rare kidney disease which afflicts only 20 of a million persons. Dayna is urgently awaiting a kidney transplant. Our donation was made to the Jazz Foundation of America, earmarked for Dayna. The Founda-tion helps jazz musicians in need. Individual contri-butions can be made to Dayna through the Foundation: www.jazzfoundation.org. And you can read more about Dayna's ordeal by logging on to helpdaynastephens.org.

HERB WONG SALUTES WOODY

Dr. Wong's spring Palo Alto Adult School session will concentrate on the legacy of Woody Herman, surveying his major big band recordings, with some of our music's greatest soloists. This is a one-time only course for vet-eran and novice fans alike. Seven weeks, April 9-May 21. Tuesday evenings, 7-9:30pm. Palo Alto High School, Room P10. \$123. Register on line: www.paadultschool.org.

2012 CONTRIBUTORS

If an army travels on its stomach, a nonprofit organiza-tion travels only as far as the generosity of its members takes it. PAJA wishes to thank those generous members who made financial contributions to the organization during 2012:

Wes Ayres, LA
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C. Stuart Brewster, PA
Sarah Cross & Michael Sepulveda, MP
Pete Douglas, El Granada
Malcolm & Cosette Dudley, Atherton
Les & Kay Filler, Emerald Hills
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DAVID MILLER TRIO SCHEDULE

Those who caught the David Miller Trio, with the de-lightful Rebecca DuMaine on vocals, at the PAJA mem-ber party a year-and-a-half ago, will be interested in their spring schedule on the Peninsula. The Trio consists of Dave on piano, Mario Suraci on bass, and Bill Belasco on drums. Rebecca's tasty renditions of familiar standards make her a local favorite.

- Fri., April 5. Centennial Tower, 100 Airport Blvd., South San Francisco. 8pm. Tickets: 650/872-1143.
- Fri., April 12, and Sat., May 4. Menlo Hub, 1029 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. 8pm.
- Sat., June 1. Angelica's 863 Main Street, Redwood City. 9pm.

BENNY GOLSON ON TADD DAMER-ON'S INFLUENCE ON HIM

"What fascinated me was how he could get such a full sound out of small group. I joined this rhythm and blues band, Bull Moose Jackson and his Buffalo Bearcats, in 1951, and, lo and behold, Tadd Dameron was the piano player. I picked his brain so thoroughly, it's a wonder he

didn't have a fractured skull... He got a certain sound from the way he used those chords. His melodies were very melodic and memorable. They were things you could go to bed humming." From an interview with Golsen by Lawrence B. Johnson in the Detroit News.

THE 12TH ANNUAL JAZZ CRUISE— JAN. 27-FEB. 3

A number of PAJA members were on board for the 12th annual Jazz Cruise, where you get wall-to-wall music, fine dining, and a week in the Caribbean—this year Nassau, St. Thomas, and St. Barths. As usual a star-studded lineup of jazz headliners entertained us, generally from 1 in the afternoon to 1 at night. Veterans Phil Woods and Roy Haynes were among the cast, as was saxophonist Jimmy Greene, sadly one of the parents who lost a child at Newtown. Saxman John Handy was a passenger and played a nice solo late in the week. Here are some thoughts from PAJA members:



Jeff Clayton on the cruise.

Michael Griffin

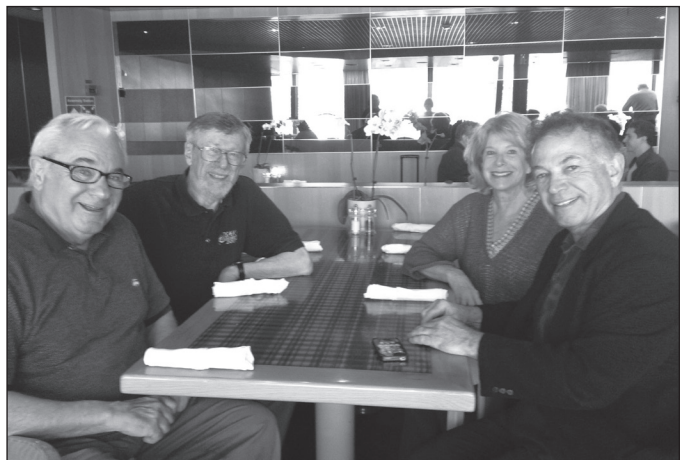
It was my third jazz cruise and it was better than ever. The music was Middle of the Road, which is right down my alley, pun intended. I'll go next year and the next. Besides, I like snorkeling in the Bahamas.

Bruce Powell

- The lineup was the best of my five cruises.
- Outstanding group of trumpet all-stars: Sandoval, Brecker, Lynch, Sean Jones, and Byron Stripling (also very entertaining).
- Also a great group of jazz pianists some of whom we seldom see on the west coast, like Ted Rosenthal and Alan Farnham. Bill Mays is always outstanding.
- Anat Cohen on clarinet or tenor is one of the best and can "cut" any of them!



Leslie and Sam Pearl on the beach, with the good ship Westerdam in the background.



Michael Griffin, Ed Fox, Leslie and Sam Pearl on the ship.

- Thoroughly enjoyed the Gary Burton Quartet with "our" Julian Lage... he is playing Beautifully and with creativity.
- I tried to enjoy Kurt Elling, but can't make it! He is smart, articulate and seems serious about the art of jazz, but he seems to be an actor who sings. He is affected, full of himself, with a relatively high-pitched voice for a baritone. Just too cute and clever by half...
- The most satisfying performer was Niki Harris. She is a real entertainer in that she connects with the audience, is charismatic on stage, and can sing it all, from blues to romantic ballads.
- Oh, let me not forget the peerless Jeff Hamilton; he continues to enrich our jazz sessions wherever he performs. On the cruise he swung the all-star band with drive and sophistication... The high point in the entire week was Jeff with Houston Person and Joey DeFrancesco. They were really cooking!

Ed Fox

The week's highlights for me were 1) the remarkable trumpet players on board—Terrell Stafford, Brian Lynch, Arturo Sandoval, Byron Stripling, Sean Jones, Randy Brecker; 2) The Clayton Brothers—always terrific,

Jazz Cruise Photos from Neil Gordon



Niki Harris and John Clayton



Emmet Cohen

with Gerald Clayton on piano really mixing well with the group; 3) the tight big band, led by John Fedchock—some great soloists including Steve Wilson, Gary Smulyan, Sean Jones, Pete Christlieb; 4) the young piano phenom Emmet Cohen, joining Joey DeFrancesco, tearing up the place—Emmet on organ! and Joey on piano; 5) Anat Cohen (love her on tenor sax); 6) Anne Hampton Calloway—always stunning and entertaining; 7) Niki Harris—her singing gets better and better; 8) Bruce Forman, particularly the guitar summit with Julian Lage, et al.; 9) a fabulous one-off with Gerald Clayton, John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton—magnificent. That was just a few of the wonderful performances we had the privilege of attending this year. Was not partial to Kurt Elling or New York Voices—not my cup of Snapple. I’ve heard them both do wonderful things, but there’s too much that fails to satisfy.

Justin Rockwell

Our favorite groups included Jeff Hamilton, of course. The outstanding quartet of Jeff, Shelly Berg, Ken Peplowski and Tom Kennedy was inspiring, as was his trio with the Claytons. The Piano Capers With Berg, Bill Cunliffe, Emmet Cohen and others was truly wonderful... Julian Lage did not disappoint with vibraharpist



Phil Woods



The New York Voices

Gary Burton’s group. All of the all-star sessions were terrific, particularly the one featuring Sean Jones and Jimmy Greene... I’m partial to Arturo Sandoval, but surprisingly not to his over-the-top trumpet playing, but his overall virtuosity. His rendition of “Smile” with Berg was memorable. Berg’s Jazz 101 class was much appreciated.

Vocalists were generally pleasing. Niki Harris with the Gospel program—not to forget her husband Wycliffe Gordon’s contribution. Ann Hampton Calloway and the New York Voices were appreciated as well. Houston Person is recalled with pleasure. Phil Woods not as much as I had expected.

It was a fantastic experience, an enriching week.

THE SWINGIN’ MS. O’DAY

Jazz critic Will Friedwald talking about singer Anita O’Day in his book, “A Biographical Guide to the Great Jazz and Pop Singers,” as reprinted in the Wall Street Journal.

“In O’Day’s music the emphasis isn’t on voice or melody, it’s about taking a song and styling it: swinging it, improvising on it. Yet, as her improvising shows, she knew her harmonies: Her scat solo on “Night and Day”

UPCOMING JAZZ IN OUR AREA IN MARCH AND APRIL

Some recommended gigs within driving distance...

BACH'S DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY, El Granada

All performances \$35. Start time is normally 4:30pm, Sunday afternoons.

- 3/17 Hal Galper Trio. Veteran pianist Galper has worked with Chet Baker, Cannonball Adderley, Phil Woods
- 4/7 Joel Harrison & Spirit House, featuring Brian Blade
- 4/21 Denise Donatelli (vocals) & Geoffrey Keezer (piano) Quartet.
- 4/28 Markowitz-Brock Quartet Zach Brock—hot young violinist.

SAN JOSE JAZZ*

- 3/4 Sean Jones, trumpeter extraordinaire Theater San Pedro Square, 4pm. \$30
- 3/10 Tony Monaco, Hammond B3 star Theater San Pedro Square, 2pm. \$30
- 3/15 Vijay Iyer Trio. Theater San Pedro Square, 8pm. \$35
- 3/22 Aaron Lington Quartet. (Music of Sting) 8pm San Pedro Square Mkt. Free
- 3/27 LeBoeuf Brothers, Lobby Lounge Fairmont Hotel, 8pm. Free

KUUMBWA JAZZ CENTER, Santa Cruz

- 3/16 Vijay Iyer Trio 7:30pm
- 3/18 Kyle Eastwood Group. 7pm
- 3/21 LeBoeuf Brothers & Myth String Quartet. (Musical Imagination of Franz Kafka!) 7pm
- 3/25 The Brubeck Brothers Quartet 7pm
- 3/28 Chihiro Yamanaka Trio. Virtuoso piano. 7pm
- 4/3 Pharoah Sanders 7, 9pm \$28
- 4/4 Along Came Betty. Paul Tarantino (sax), etc. Classic jazz of 50's, 60's, 7pm
- 4/22 Anat Cohen Quartet 7pm
- 4/24 Chick Corea and The Vigil 7, 9pm
- 4/29 The Bad Plus 7pm
- 4/30 Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour (Bridgewater, McBride, Green, Nash, Potter, Akinmusire, etc.) 7, 9pm

YOSHI'S Oakland (Jack London Square)

- 3/7-8 Jose Feliciano, guitar
- 3/15-16 Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band
- 4/5-7 Stanley Clarke
- 4/25-28 Chick Corea and The Vigil
- 4/30 The Bad Plus

YOSHI'S San Francisco

- 3/19 New York Jazz Quartet
- 3/27 Chihiro Yamanaka Trio

SAN FRANCISCO JAZZ CENTER

- 3/3 Patricia Barber 7:30pm
- 3/28-31 SF Jazz Collective 7:30pm
- 4/4-7 Hiromi: The Trio Project 7:30pm
- 4/25-28 Brad Mehldau, solo & trio 7:30pm

THE DAVID MILLER TRIO

With vocalist Rebecca DuMaine.

- 4/5 Centennial Tower, 100 Airport Blvd., S. San Francisco. 8pm Tickets: 650-872-1143
- 4/12 & 5/4 Menlo Hub, 1029 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. 8pm
- 6/1 Angelica's, 863 Main St., Redwood City. 9pm

*SAN JOSE JAZZ WINTER FEST

Special Discount for PAJA Members

The San Jose Jazz Winter Fest runs from March 6 to 15 and it offers a fascinating mix of young artists taking jazz beyond the expected, performers like Robert Glasper, Vijay Iyer, Hammond B3 legend Tony Monaco, trumpeter Sean Jones, and more. The concerts will be held at the intimate Theater on San Pedro Square in San Jose. PAJA members will receive a 10% discount off the listed ticket price (excluding the \$5 master classes). Visit www.sanjosejazz.org/winterfest for full information and prices and use the promotional code WF13PAJAJAZZ no later than Wed., March 6 at 11:45 to buy tickets.



***Eigsti Concert
Photos from
Andy Nozaka***



Taylor Eigsti



Dayna Stephens and Eric Harland

***See more concert photos
on the PAJA web site.***

(1959) is a typically brilliant O'Day invention, with the singer leaping over Cole Porter's chromaticisms like Tarzan swinging through the trees. . . She claimed that when she first began singing professionally (around 1936), she discovered that some years earlier a careless doctor had sliced off her uvula while removing her tonsils. This

made it difficult for her to sustain notes, which she did only rarely. . . 'I can't get a sound with the air back there because there's nothing to vibrate it,' she wrote. 'That's the reason I got into singing eighth and sixteenth rather than quarter notes. Instead of singing "laaaaa" I'd sing "la-la-la-la" to keep it moving.'"

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