

FROM THE CHAIR

The room was gloomy and dark with smoke; one could barely see the stage. It was very late, or it least it seemed that way and I fell asleep after having just completed a long flight from the USA. What am I talking about? Why, my first visit back in the summer of 1985—at the recommendation of Dr. Herb Wong—to Ronnie Scott's renowned jazz club in London.

I was back in London last month and found that this hot spot is still in business. Unfortunately, Ronnie has left us, but his cool home is still swinging. Happily I did not fall asleep this time. AND no smoking is allowed these days—and there was no talking during the performance. The music was, as we say nowadays, awesome. Or in the vernacular of the Brits—jolly good!

My party consisted of four locals and two Americans. Only two of us had been there before, and only I was what might be called “versed” at all in jazz. We arrived at seven in order to have dinner before the first show. The opening act started around eight. I didn't get their names but gather they were local Londoners who quickly got everyone in the mood for the main event, namely, **Roberta Gambarini!** Roberta opened with an a cappella version of “Stardust,” which blew me away. And it all got better as she presented various chestnuts from the American Songbook. From time to time, she came forth with some terrific scatting—wow and double wow! We all elected to stay for the second set, and we had five new converts to jazz thereby. What an evening. Ms. Gambarini has appeared at the Monterey Jazz Festival and other Bay Area venues. Let's hope she returns soon.

I had an opportunity to talk with Ronald Holmberg, manager of the club. I mentioned I was from PAJA

and generously gave him a copy of the Buff, which he was courteous enough to take and thank me for it. If when you ever get to London, make sure to visit Ronnie Scott's—it's a must for any jazz fan. There's a continually changing roster of top talent, and the food is excellent. The staff is efficient and friendly—in short, it was a wonderful experience.

Sometimes I get depressed about how we can continue to keep jazz alive. Then I open the mail and find some new membership checks, and on occasion special donations. This is rewarding since we need new members if we are to keep growing the audience. Donations and sponsorships make it possible to keep bringing you outstanding music, and it's in this vein that I wish to thank Roger Smullen for his sponsorship help toward the costs of our November 18 concert. And welcome to all new members.

In continued appreciation,
Stuart Brewster



JAN DE CARLI

PAJA folks at the L.A. Jazz Institute Modern Sounds weekend: Jan De Carli, unnamed friend, Bruce Powell, and Beryl Gaidos.



Jan De Carli attended the L.A. Jazz Institute's Modern Sounds weekend in October and snapped this picture of trumpet great Carl Saunders chatting with legendary vibraphonist Terry Gibbs, after Terry's set. Terry can still bring it, says Jan.

WELKER/OSTER/WINTERS— OUR FALL CONCERT

There's still time to get tickets to PAJA's next concert—November 18, Friday evening 7:30pm at the First Congregational Church in Palo Alto. Tickets (\$35 general admission, \$30 PAJA members, \$15 students) are available at our usual outlets: Peninsula Music & Repair in Palo Alto, the Record Man in Redwood City, Vinyl Solution in San Mateo, and Groove Yard in Oakland for those of you on the other side of the Bay. They will also be purchasable at the door or by mail from E.Fox, PAJA Tickets, 294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto 94306 (until November 15—late orders can be picked up at Will Call).

Let us remind you about the superb group of musicians Dr. Herb Wong has arranged for us on the 18th. There's a nine-piece "Little Big Band" fronted by trumpeter/leader/arranger **Peter Welker**. This is a dynamic mainstream jazz ensemble which is based in the North Bay, and we're bringing them to the Peninsula for our local fans to enjoy. Included in the band are such Bay Area luminaries as Dave Matthews on piano, Charlie McCarthy on alto, and Randy Vincent on guitar. (Andrew Speight—originally slated to perform—is unable to make it and we're fortunate to have a stellar replacement like McCarthy.) Randy Vincent, as many of you know, is a well-known guitarist who has performed with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Bobby Hutcherson, George Cables, and many, many more.

The band will back two outstanding singers, **Jeff Oster** and **Deborah Winters**. Jeff's hip phrasing, contemporary styling and scatting ability have been compared favor-

ably to such as Mel Torme, Jackie Paris and Mark Murphy. He has made two terrific recent albums with the Welker band, both of which have received good attention across the country. Deborah has just completed an album with the band, and it too is a real winner. You'll love both of these terrific vocalists.

Herb has subtitled the concert "Swing Without Compromise" to describe the swinging, straight-ahead, hard-charging music you're going to hear on Friday the 18th of this month. Get your tickets now!

JON HENDRICKS—NONAGENARIAN

One of our favorites, Jon Hendricks turned 90 on September 16, and he's not slowing down much. He had a major birthday concert at Lincoln Center in September and will launch an ambitious concert in London on November 14—"an hour-long cycle of songs" based on the Evans-Davis "Miles Ahead" album. And he has another project in the works after that—the Evans-Davis "Porgy and Bess" arrangements, in a stage production. Last June he sang at the Blue Note with his old partner Annie Ross (from Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, the greatest jazz vocal ensemble ever—1956-61). In an interview with Will Friedwald in the *Wall Street Journal* (Sept. 20, 2011), Hendricks said of that date with Ross: "It was wonderful. It was better than I thought it was going to be. Because we don't have the voices we used to have. But when Annie gets started, you don't miss nothing, you know? She just puts so much into it that it sounds great. Annie is just like Judy Garland up there, just the greatest." Wish you'd been there?



This iconic shot of the Pizzarellis at the latest Monterey Jazz Festival is too good not to share with a larger audience. It was taken by PAJA photographer/Man For All Seasons Andy Nozaka. Their expressions are priceless, and their music divine.

DAYNA STEPHENS KIDNEY CAMPAIGN

Many of you have heard and enjoyed the tenor stylings of Dayna Stephens at the Stanford Jazz Workshop, where he has been an alumnus, faculty member and performer for several years, and at other venues around the Bay Area and elsewhere. And many of you know that Dayna is awaiting a kidney transplant. Funds are urgently needed to underwrite Dayna's treatment and to raise awareness about kidney donation—which is what Dayna needs urgently to survive. To learn more about how you can help, log on to urbanmusicpresents.com/helpdaynastephens.cfm.

SJW WANTS VOLUNTEERS

Talking about the Stanford Jazz Workshop, they've put out a call for volunteers who have a basic level of computer literacy. The SJW archives need some attention, so they need people to help them digitize and catalog video and audio recordings of past SJF concerts and SJW classes and presentations. Interested persons should contact Ernie Rideout at erideout@stanfordjazz.org.

PHIL WOODS ON CHARLIE PARKER AND OTHER THINGS

"I remember when I had my first record by Charlie Parker—"Koko"—and I brought it to rehearsal. I said, 'Wait till you guys hear this!' I put it on and they said, 'Ooo, that's terrible—you like that?' I remember I quit the band and I went home in tears saying 'You're wrong! This is the greatest music in the world!' And I was right and they were wrong."

"We went for a lesson one time at Mr. [Lennie] Tristano's house and he said, 'Are you kids going down to 52nd Street tonight?' We said, 'Yes, why do you ask?' He said, 'Well, I'm opening for Charlie Parker tonight and I thought maybe you'd like to meet him.' And, you know, to myself I said, 'Yeah, I've always wanted to meet God!'. . . We came around the back of the bandstand and there was Bird sitting on the floor. The great Charlie Parker, the man who was changing the planet. He had a big cherry pie, and he said, 'Hi, kids, would you like a piece of cherry pie?'. . . the kindness; I mean, here was one of the greatest musicians in the world. Accessibility. There was

no presidium. There was no 'We're mere mortals and you're...', you know? 'Want a piece of pie?' I always remember that."

"I just got my third rejection slip in regards to my autobiography, *Life in E-Flat*, and it's the second time an editor has said I should punch it up. I have shared a cherry pie with Bird, studied with Tristano, worked with Dizzy, Monk and Quincy, and made Bill Joel a star, and they want me to punch it up." These quotes are from *The NOTE*, Summer and Fall 2009.

UPCOMING MUSIC

As Autumn segues into Winter, the jazz club scene is where it's at for our music in the Bay Area. Here are some outstanding gigs you might want to put on your calendar:

Yoshi's Oakland:

- November 27 Montclair Women's Big Band

Yoshi's San Francisco:

- December 1-4 Eddie Palmieri

Bach's Dancing & Dynamite Society, El Granada:

- November 20 Miguel Zenon 4tet
- December 4 Kenny Werner Quintet (with Randy Brecker & David Sanchez—hot, hot)
- January 8 Bach Society Fundraiser, spearheaded by Larry Vuckovich
- January 29 Kenny Washington & Michael O'Neill

Kuumbwa Jazz Center, Santa Cruz:

- December 5 Kenny Werner Quintet
- December 12 Charlie Hunter Duo, with Scott Amendola

San Jose Jazz:

- Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:30 at Club Hedley
St. Claire Hotel, San Jose
Jam sessions + featured groups

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