

March 2011

PO BOX 60397, PALO ALTO, CA 94306

Ed Fox, Editor

FROM THE CHAIR

One of my many passions is reading the daily *New York Times*. I especially enjoy the reviews by Ben Ratliff, Stephen Holden and others of some exciting jazz performance that they have just experienced in the Big Apple. Makes one want to jump on a jet and go hear the latest effort by some old timer or a new hot shot that has just arrived on the scene. But this is not necessary since PAJA and other organizations and clubs in our area continually provide top talent and fabulous concerts right here in our own backyard.

A case in point. On Friday February 25, Herb Wong and Harvey Mittler outdid themselves once again by providing us with a fantastic evening of LIVE music of the quality and style that one might find at any Manhattan site. I hope you were one of the almost 300 people who heard Scott Hamilton on tenor sax, Larry Vuckovich on piano, Al Obidinski on bass and Vince Lateano on drums. Dr. Herb, our esteemed artistic leader, had carefully chosen a wonderful selection of music that Scott had not performed elsewhere. All numbers were warm, friendly and swinging. As Board member Shirley Douglas commented, "the songs chosen were beyond acceptable."

All that plus the unannounced inclusion of Noel Jewkes with his sweet tenor voice. Michael Griffin, founding editor of the BUFF, stated: "Wow, what a show, a most enjoyable evening of swing and boppish renditions of standards that had the audience begging for more!" The duet between Scott and Noel was very special. In my view, it was worth the price of admission just to hear these two talents connecting and doing what they love.

Speaking of love, Sam Whiting of the *San Francisco Chronicle* recently had a column wherein he interviewed Bob Parlocha, a long time jazz radio personality once at KJAZ and now on KCSM. They discussed the state of jazz and how it is a community of individuals who love it and have to play it; they cannot help themselves. Because of that, it will not disappear. I submit that the same is true for PAJA members; we have to have LIVE jazz in our lives. We too are in love with this art form.



Harvey Mittler, Scott Hamilton, Dr. Herb Wong

There is a lot of work involved in putting on these concerts. As you know, we are an all-volunteer organization. So special thanks to all who contributed their time and energy to make it all work, particularly Adrian Wong (sound), Ben Deovlet (lighting), Carroll Harrington (promotion), and so many others who pitched in when needed. I am happy to report that we made a significant profit that will further our ability to support jazz education in our area.

I am pleased to announce that Ben Deovlet has agreed to become a member of the Board. He will bring years of involvement with jazz that will enhance our ability to move forward. Some of you have known him from his work with Herb at his Palo Alto Adult School classes or as an active volunteer for the Stanford Jazz Workshop.

In continued appreciation of your support,

Stuart Brewster

SCOTT HAMILTON & COMPANY ROCK THE CHURCH

It's all over but the shouting, as they say. A packed house greeted the Scott Hamilton Quartet on February 25 at the First Congregational Church in Palo Alto—and we were



rewarded with one of best concerts in PAJA's 17-year history.

Best in terms of the caliber and execution of the musicians. And best in the sense of best-received by an enthusiastic audience. And close to the best in attendance. The acoustics of the church sanctuary are such that Scott's warm tenor sound filled the building and there was no trouble hearing his excellent back-up collaborators—the elegant Larry Vuckovich, crowd-pleasing Al Obidinski, and the precision tempos of Vince Lateano. It was PAJA's initial venture at the First Congregational, and it won't be the last. This was the first time Scott has played on the Peninsula in several years—and in order to make the event even more special Dr. Herb Wong suggested a playlist of songs that Scott hasn't been playing anywhere else.

The late addition of special guest Noel Jewkes had the two tenors wailing on familiar classics like Cherokee, Tickle Toe, and Jumping With Symphony Sid. Noel also enthralled the house with a soulful Early Autumn solo (another of Herb's requests).

It was a beautiful evening of audience-friendly straight-ahead ballads and uptempo pieces, with some bossa nova tossed in, and the about 300 fans who had the good fortune to be there left with smiles on their faces.

THE NEXT BIG GIG

Wait for it...**THE JEFF HAMILTON TRIO** at the brand new Palo Alto Elks building on El Camino Real in Palo Alto, Sunday afternoon at 3pm on June 5. Bruce Powell has put together one of his popular jazz parties, this time featuring one of the premier groups in jazz. The trio is composed of **Jeff Hamilton**, considered by many to be the finest drummer in jazz; **Tamir Hendelman** on piano—a young keyboard genius who impresses critics and audiences wherever he plays; and **Christoph Luty** on bass, known for his big sound, melodic lines and articulate arco playing. No other group in jazz meshes the way the Hamilton Trio does, with intricate and beautiful arrangements of standards and other accessible tunes. There will be more about this exciting concert in the next Buff (May) and we expect tickets to go on sale about the first of May.

BOBBY HUTCHERSON DOESN'T LISTEN TO HIS OLD RECORDINGS

"If you listen to yourself, then you program yourself, and you say to yourself, 'Oh, I like what I just played right there'. . . and every time you get to that spot in the song, you play that! Music should be like the wind: You don't



PHOTOS BY ANDY NOZAKA

know where it came from; you don't know where it went. It only passes through once." Bobby Hutcherson interview, "Spirited Away" by J.D. Ramey, in *Goodtimesantacruz.com*, Jan. 20-26, 2011.

ANDY'S FAVORITE SINGERS

Bruce Powell forwarded an e-mail from PAJA member and jazz fan extraordinaire Andy Nozaka in which Andy offered a list of his favorite vocal albums and cuts. We thought this might be of interest to any jazz fan, and could stimulate some discussion. If you'd like to comment or add to the list, just drop a line to ef@trackandfieldnews.com.

- The Tony Bennett Bill Evans album, 1975
- Ella Fitzgerald (with Ellis Larkins, piano)—Gershwin Songbook, 1950
- Irene Kral—Where Is Love, with Alan Broadbent, 1974
- Ivie Anderson/Duke Ellington—I Got It Bad And That Ain't Good
- Billie Holiday—quite a few from either early or late in her career
- Frank Sinatra—Tommy Dorsey: Daybreak
- Carmen McRae—Carmen McRae at Sugar Hill
- Sarah Vaughan—If You Could See Me Now (the young Sarah!)
- Nat "King" Cole—This Will Make You Laugh (early Nat c. 1940)
- Billy Eckstein, with the Eckstein band, c. 1945. "Jelly, Jelly."
- Coltrane and Hartman, 1963. An almost perfect record.
- Ella and Louis, 1956
- Louis Armstrong/Earl Hines—West End Blues, 1928 (some scatting)
- Fred Astaire—The Astaire Story, 1953, with Oscar Peterson and others
- Fats Waller—Your Feet Too Big, many others



- Dinah Washington—hard to pick one, but one with great soloists behind her
- Joao Gilberto—almost any vocal with solo guitar
- Peggy Lee—Why Don't You Do Right? 1941?
- Bill Henderson—Catch a Sleeping Bee
- Herb Jeffries/Ellington—Flamingo
- King Pleasure—Moody's Mood for Love

I believe Andy was thinking chiefly of great vocals, with outstanding accompaniment. If that's the case, Andy, how about O'Day and Eldridge on Let Me Off Uptown? Roberta Gambarini with Tamir Hendelman on her album "Easy to Love"? Or Mark Murphy, with Richie Cole, et al. on the album "Stolen Moments"? Oh, and of course, Betty Roche and Ellington on A Train, with that great Gonsalves solo. Any other ideas out there?

BOBBY HUTCHERSON ON SOUR NOTES

"There are no wrong notes; it's only the look on your face . . . You can hit the same note, and to the audience, depending on whether it was right or wrong depends on the look on your face." Bobby Hutcherson interview, "Spirited Away" by J.D. Ramey, in *Goodtimesantacruz.com*, Jan. 20-26, 2011.

HOW ABOUT THIS PIC?

Red Holloway sent the picture at right to our webmaster Linda Knipe from a gig he appeared in in The Hague, Netherlands. There are four octogenarian sax players who were at the event—Jimmy Heath, Red Holloway, Bennie Golson and Lou Donaldson, plus "youngster" Eric Alexander at far left. Red felt this could be the last time these four played together, so wanted to commemorate the event for posterity.

FURTHER INSTRUCTION FROM PROFESSOR NOZAKA

To those who were English majors in college—you will appreciate that this blues song is in Iambic Pentameter. Each line is divisible into five individual parts.

My man don't love me
Treats me aw ful mean
He's the low est man
You ev er done seen

End of lesson

~ Andy Nozaka

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NEXT GENERATION

The Monterey Jazz Festival presents the Next Generation Jazz Festival, April 1-3 at the Monterey Conference Center. This is your chance to see fine young jazz musicians from 10 states—high school big bands, high school combos, middle school bands, college big bands and ensembles and special guest groups. This is the future of the music, folks. All concerts from Friday night through Sunday's competition are free. For more information: www.montereyjazzfestival.org.



SAN JOSE'S WINTER FEST IN THE OFFING

Our friends from the San Jose Jazz Society are offering a six-concert series, starting Saturday, March 12, finishing Sunday, March 20. Here's the very interesting lineup:

- **March 12:** Vocalist Denise Donatelli, at Trinity Cathedral, 81 N. 2nd St., San Jose, 8pm
- **March 18:** Salsa party with Louie Romero y su Mazacote at the Pagoda of the Fairmont Hotel (opening by salsa DJ Santos Lopez) Hot, hot! 7-10pm
- **March 19:** The Alfredo Rodriguez Trio. Cuban-born Rodriguez has become a much-talked-about pianist lately. At Club Regent of the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose. 4-6pm.

- **March 19:** Charlie Musselwhite, the blues harmonica master. Club Regent of the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose. 8pm.
- **March 20:** Taylor Eigsti. At Club Regent of the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose. 2-4pm.
- **March 20:** Acoustic Africa. Club Regent of the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose. 6pm.

For more information and/or to purchase tickets on line: www.sanjosejazz.org and click on "Winter Fest."

SFJAZZ SPRING FESTIVAL UNDERWAY

The San Francisco Jazz Organization has already begun its extensive Spring Festival (February 24-June 25) and there are countless opportunities to catch great music: Marcus Roberts, Jane Monheit, Patricia Barber in March; Madeleine Peyroux, Dr.Lonnie Smith, John Scofield in April; Eliane Elias, Tony Bennet in May, much more. For information: www.sfjazz.org.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

- **March 20-21.** Regina Carter's Reverse Thread. Yoshi's San Francisco
- **March 26.** Mark Richard's Group Jazz. Oak City Bar & Grill, Menlo Park
- **March 29.** Phil Woods, with Diablo Valley College Jazz Band. Yoshi's Oakland.

- **March 31.** The Shane Show & Larry Chinn and Friends. Oak City Bar & Grill, Menlo Park.
- **April 1-3.** Stanley Clarke. Yoshi's Oakland.
- **April 13.** Mingus Big Band. Stanford Lively Arts series. Dinkelspiel.
- **April 15-16.** Maceo Parker. Yoshi's San Francisco.
- **May 15.** Bill Charlap Trio. Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society.



SPONSORS WANTED

for PAJA's Jeff Hamilton Trio concert on June 5. Sponsors get preferred seating, program recognition, etc.

E-mail Bruce Powell at jazzbo7@webtv.net.

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