

FROM THE CHAIR

Despite all the troubles that are afflicting our world, I am feeling quite positive—at least as far as music and jazz are concerned. What prompts this optimism? I recently attended a concert of the Gunn High School (Palo Alto) String Orchestra, which performed with the Amador Valley H.S. (Pleasanton) Wind Ensemble. These two groups are the only ones from Northern California selected to participate in the 67th annual Midwest Band and Orchestra International Conference, to be held at McCormick Place in Chicago, December 17-21.

This event requires that a certain percentage of the music performed must have been recently composed. PAJA provided a grant to the Gunn orchestra that will support their presentation of a piece entitled “V-7” composed by Wayne Horvitz, a jazzy piece he created in association with Gunn students. The piece was performed, to great audience appreciation, at the concert I attended.

The Gunn String Orchestra is composed of 80-plus students, and is led by Orchestra director Sandra Lewis, who by the way is married to local jazz drummer Jason Lewis (who also performed with the orchestra). Performance of “V-7” brought to mind a film entitled “From Mao to Mozart” which followed classical violinist Isaac Stern as he traveled through China visiting school music programs. He commented to the students that they had wonderful technique but the emotional connection was missing. Not so with our Gunn students. I cannot critique their technique, but I found the work, as offered, very mellow, comforting, and positively interpreted. The other selections, with the conducting split between Ms. Lewis and Todd Summers, were played with similar sensitivity.

It is so heartening to see these young people so involved with music. Think of the practice time involved and the dedication the teachers have provided. It was just a very rewarding evening and I was proud of PAJA's small part in the whole show.

Another reason for being upbeat is how jazz has been receiving some

special attention lately. For example, Herbie Hancock will be one of the 2013 honorees at the Kennedy Center Presidential Awards. Millions will watch the upcoming PBS show who perhaps have never been exposed to his kind of music. Also, a MacArthur “genius” grant was recently awarded to young pianist Vijay Iyer, a performer and composer who often collaborates with poets. Both are powerful recognitions that jazz is an important part of our culture.

Further, I was excited by the good turnout at our member party. It was nice to be back at the Palo Alto Art Center. The weather was ideal, the music by David Miller and friends was perfect, inspiring, and the ambience was warm and friendly. Nothing beats live jazz.

Finally, I am enthusiastic about our next big concert, featuring a super-charged team of top players from L.A., led by Joe LaBarbera, the widely admired drummer. Portola Valley's Woodside Priory has made their beautiful Rothrock Performance Hall available to us again. Mark down the date: Saturday, December 14—3-5pm. Come and hear some great straight-ahead jazz live, and bring a friend or two.

In appreciation of your continuing support,

C. Stuart Brewster



Enjoying the music at the member party

PATTY BOYLE

PAJA Presents

Saturday, December 14, 3-5pm
Woodside Priory Rothrock Performance Hall, Portola Valley

THE JOE LABARBERA QUINTET

PAJA's artistic director Herb Wong has invited this Los Angeles-based all-star quintet to the Bay Area for a special concert, which will include a Buddy Rich tribute.



JOE LABARBERA is a world-renowned jazz drummer who has performed with just about everyone in the jazz world (think Woody Herman's Thundering Herd, the Bill Evans Trio, Bud Shank, Tony Bennett, Diane Schuur) and this quintet is creating a great deal of buzz in the music scene. Joe is on the faculty of California Institute For the Arts in Valencia, CA.

Pianist **BILL CUNLIFFE** is another artist who has played with everyone, in particular Buddy Rich, Frank Sinatra, Freddie Hubbard, James Moody, et al. As a composer, he's received five Grammy nominations, winning for best instrumental arrangement in 2009. He is also a jazz studies professor at Cal State Fullerton.



CLAY JENKINS on trumpet is one of those North Texas State grads—that jazz program which has produced so many great players. His first gig upon completing his studies was the jazz trumpet chair with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. He has since performed with Clayton/Hamilton, Lennie Niehaus, Bill Perkins, Milt Jackson, and many more. He is Associate Professor of Jazz Trumpet at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

Saxophonist **BOB SHEPPARD** is much in demand and has collaborated with Kurt Elling, Manhattan Transfer, Billy Childs, Chick Corea, Peter Erskine (he appeared with Erskine at the Stanford festival a year ago), et al. He has been an educator at the University of Southern California.



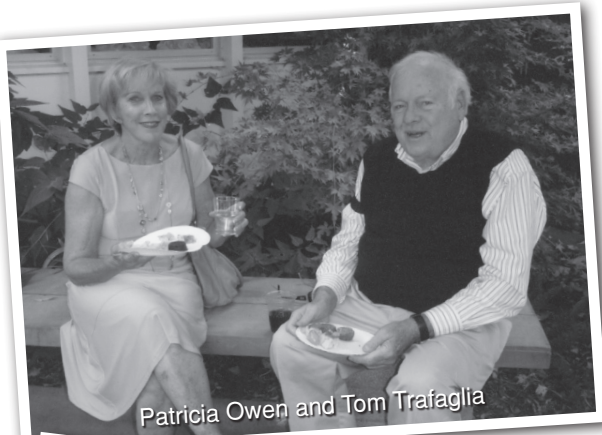
TOM WARRINGTON is the group's bassist, one of the busiest bass players in the L.A. area. He was in the Buddy Rich big band and later worked with Stan Getz, Freddie Hubbard, Hank Jones, Denny Zeitlin, Mose Allison, Arturo Sandoval, Randy Brecker, and many more. He is a faculty member at University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Tickets for the event are \$35 general admission, \$30 to PAJA members (2 maximum), \$15 students. They are available by mail from Ed Fox, PAJA Tickets, 294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto 94306, or at these outlets: Peninsula Music and Repair, 4333 El Camino Real (upstairs), Palo Alto; The Record Man, 1322 El Camino Real, Redwood City; and Vinyl Solutions, 151 W. 25th Ave., San Mateo. Cash or check only.

Co-sponsors: KCSM Jazz 91.1 and the Palo Alto Adult School

Concert information: Harvey Mittler, Event Chair: Harvey.mittler@gmail.com

Directions: From 280, exit Page Mill Road toward Palo Alto. Left at Junipero Serra (top of hill), turn left on Alpine Road (big intersection), Right on Portola Road—then it's about a half mile on the right.



Patricia Owen and Tom Trafaglia



Our lovely vocalist Rebecca DuMaine, sitting with husband, kids, and mom.



Arlene, Suzanne, Casey and Anne get their name tags



Judy Simpson, Shirley Douglas and Arlene Leslie

Member Party photos by Patty Boyle

MEMBER PARTY

What a lovely Sunday afternoon, October 6th, at the Palo Alto Art Center—it was PAJA's annual free member party and we had invited back the David Miller Trio, with vocalist Rebecca DuMaine to entertain us, while we socialized and relaxed in the warmth of the Art Center patio. About 75 jazz fans were on hand to enjoy a laid-back afternoon with cool music, refreshments, and good conversation. Sorry if you couldn't make it—but hope to see you next year.

ON CHARLES MINGUS'S MUSIC

"Gospel and blues, the New Orleans polyphony of Jelly Roll Morton and the urbane sophistication of the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the stride piano of James P. Johnson and the dazzling harmonizations of Art Tatum: all went into the Mingus cauldron, seasoned with dashes of circus music, obscure pop tunes, B-movie scores, flamenco, scraps of Mozart and Richard Strauss. To listen to Mingus is to hear the black American musical tradition talking to itself." Adam Shatz, from "An Argument With Instruments," which appeared in *The Nation* magazine, October 7, 2013.

MESSAGE FROM PETE DOUGLAS

The gray eminence behind our local beloved jazz venue, Bach's Dancing and Dynamite Society in El Granada, sent this message out to various jazz recipients. We're reprinting some of his thoughts and intentions for the Beach House:

"If our audiences want headliner talent with all the intimacy and comfort possible, then we must pay for it. No more jamming over 200 people in the room to pay for the talent. Any complaints from people in the audience about overcrowding, we will give them free tickets to subsequent programs. We will charge anywhere from \$35 to \$45 and beyond. We will continue two sets of music, not a 1 ½ hour show. Two sets gives the audience and musicians a break to digest more demanding music and gives the audience a chance to talk to each other during intermission, and they will in a small room. "We are not going to book headliners exclusively, but continue to book the best emerging talent as well as proven veteran musicians from the past. *An audience always senses when musicians have found their voice. Have a little patience and you will be rewarded.*"

IN THE OFFING

Selected gigs for November and December

YOSHI'S SAN FRANCISCO

www.yoshis.com/sanfrancisco

11/15 David Miller Trio, with Rebecca DuMaine (free lounge show)
 Tuesday evenings The great Tommy Iggoe Big Band: 11/5, 12, 26; 12/3, 10, 17
 12/20-21 Count Basie Orchestra
 12/24 Clairdee Xmas Show

YOSHI'S OAKLAND

www.yoshis.com/oakland

11/7 Lavay Smith Rhythm & Soul Revue
 11/8-9 Ramsey Lewis
 11/19-20 Diane Schuur
 11/24 Montclair Women's Big Band
 12/6-7 Joe DeFrancesco & The Vibe
 12/9 Larry Vuckovich—Guaraldi tribute
 12/13-14 Lee Ritneour, with Dave Grusin



Larry Vuckovich

SF JAZZ CENTER

www.sfjazz.org/center

11/6-9 Paula West
 11/16 Wesla Whitfield
 11/17 Jackie Ryan
 11/24 Jason Moran, with Randy Weston, Billy Harper
 11/29-12/1 Eddie Palmieri Septet & Big Band
 12/21 Arturo Sandoval
 12/31 Pete Escovedo Orchestra

BACH'S DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY, EL GRANADA

www.bachddsoc.org

11/10 Rex Allen's Swing Express
 11/17 Allen Hinds Band
 11/24 Times 4

KUUMBWA JAZZ CENTER, SANTA CRUZ

www.kuumbwajazz.org

11/7 Bill Frisell's Big Sur Quintet 7 & 9 pm
 11/11 Kim Nalley sings Cole Porter, with Marcus Shelby Orch.
 11/15 Joshua Redman Quartet
 11/18 Diane Schuur
 11/21 Randy Weston, Billy Harper Duo
 11/25 Ray Brown's Great Big Band
 12/5 Joey DeFrancesco & The Vibe
 12/16 Charlie Hunter, Scott Amendola Duo

SAN JOSE JAZZ

www.sanjosejazz.org

11/8 Mads Tolling
 11/22 Sean Jones, at Cafe Stritch, 7-8:30pm
 11/29 Natalie Cressman

OCTOBOP

www.octobop.com

Hedley Club, De Anza Hotel, Friday Nov. 22
 Savannah Jazz, San Francisco, Saturday, Nov. 23
 San Pedro Square Market, Friday, Dec. 6



Jackie Ryan

MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL 2013

Reported by Andy and Dorothy Nozaka

Photos by Andy Nozaka

The 56th Monterey Jazz Festival, September 20-22, provided a fine overview of various aspects of today's jazz scene; as usual, one had to make difficult choices as to event selections due to scheduling conflicts. Here is commentary on some of the events we were able to attend.

ROBERTO FONSECA

Fonseca's sextet led off the festivities Friday evening at the Garden Stage. Fonseca is yet another talented pianist to emerge in recent years from Cuba; his group featured an eclectic mix of traditional Cuban son and bolero, searing fusion guitar licks from Jorge Chicoy and, for good measure, a nod to the West African source of Cuba's musical roots with the Malian master of kora, Sekuo Kouyate. Its all pretty heady stuff spiced with sudden turnarounds in tempo and meter.

DAVE DOUGLAS QUINTET

The tireless and prolific composer and trumpeter Douglas, Monterey's 2013 Showcase Artist, celebrated his 50th birthday this year and led an excellent group of musicians all about half his age. For this set, his quintet played creative, high energy post-bop, although it is foolhardy to pigeonhole Douglas' musical "style." Of particular note were the young cohorts, each one seemingly destined for stardom: saxophonist Jon Irabagon, pianist Matt Mitchell, bassist Linda Oh, and drummer Rudy Royston.

CARMEN LUNDY

Los Angeles-based vocalist, composer Carmen Lundy has been performing for over 35 years. An absolute master of her craft and possessor of a fluid vocal range both in the high and low registers, she presented a mesmerizing set at her visit to Monterey. When one realizes that she should be included among the field of elite jazz vocalists, it is a puzzling that recognition has come so late in her career. Definitely one of the high points of this year's festival.

JOE LOVANO Us Five

Joe Lovano, Monterey's 2013 Artist-In-Residence, returned with his latest version of Us Five, featuring his superb drummers Francisco Mela and Otis Brown, both of whom inspire one another in this tight-knit group. Lovano's take on post-bop is always fascinating and his sound on tenor sax is as welcoming and comfortable as an old shoe. Lovano's wife, guest vocalist Judi Silvano, provided pleasing wordless obbligato accompaniment on several compositions.



Carmen Lundy



Ravi Coltrane

RAVI COLTRANE QUARTET

Now nearing 50, saxophonist Ravi Coltrane made a strong case to be completely free from comparison with his famous father, John. On a warm and muggy night in Dizzy's Den, his latest quartet played a mostly uptempo set of post-bop jazz. Coltrane's group sports an excellent supporting cast with the enormously gifted Cuban-born pianist David Virelles, relentless Dezron Douglas on bass and the powerhouse drumming of newcomer Johnathan Blake. Whew! Post-bop it is, but what searing intensity! Catch this group while you can.



Joe Lovano

CLAIRE DALY QUARTET: Baritone Monk

Although New York-based saxophonist Claire Daly is largely unrecognized on the Left Coast, her distinctive style and attack on baritone make the perfect foil for Monk's quirky songbook. Besides playing the better known Monk standards, Daly managed to sing a sardonic and dirge-like Monk Christmas carol, "A Merrier Christmas . . . Ting . . . Ting. . . Ting." Yes, a magic Monterey moment, but you had to be there!



Claire Daly

BOBBY HUTCHERSON QUARTET (Performance in tribute to the late Cedar Walton)

These days NEA Jazz Master Bobby Hutcherson suffers from debilitating respiratory problems, but he is still a formidable talent as a performer. Originally scheduled to play at Monterey in Cedar Walton's Timeless All-Stars, Hutcherson's performance instead was dedicated to the memory of Walton, who passed on August 19th; in tribute, Bobby played two of Walton's classics, "Bolivia" and "Mosaic." To these ears, two ballad standards taken at a slow and shimmering pace were the highlights of his set—a truly memorable end to the festival.

OCTOBOP SCHEDULE

PAJA member Geoff Roach, the organizing member of the hip group Octobop, tells us of Octobop's upcoming local schedule, featuring music from their new CD release, "Out of Nowhere." They've already had gigs at Angelica's in Redwood City and Zone 8 at Casino M8trix in San Jose, but they can be caught in November at the Hedley Club in San Jose (De Anza Hotel)—Friday the 22nd, and at Savannah Jazz in San Francisco—Saturday, November 23, and Friday, December 6th at San Pedro Square Market in San Jose.

Out Of Nowhere is Octobop's sixth CD; inquire from Geoff at news@octobop.com. As Geoff says, "Christmas is coming—buy local!" The group has another CD, released last year, entitled "West Coast Christmas," perfect for stuffing any stocking.

HERB HONORED

PAJA cofounder and artistic director Herb Wong was honored October 20 at the San Francisco Filipino American Jazz Festival at Yoshi's San Francisco. Herb received a Lifetime Achievement award from the festival, "in recognition of his role as a radio programmer, record label

owner and producer, historian, and pioneer in the development of jazz radio in the Bay Area. His influence over generations of jazz fans throughout the world as a teacher and mentor is legendary. Many have been touched by his wisdom, devotion, and deep love of music. Dr. Herb Wong is Jazz. He is a living Jazz legend."

Also, any AT&T subscribers who have had trouble accessing the Palo Alto Adult School website, on which you can register for Herb Wong's classes, might try www.199.80.254.58/, a coding that was instituted by AT&T to overcome the problem. John Schroeder and Beryl Gaidos have been working on the problem with AT&T and Beryl indicates she hasn't had the problem lately with the regular website.

MORE ON MINGUS

"It was hard for critics to hate a man who called one of his pieces—an ingenious reworking of 'All The Things You Are,' the Jerome Kern standard—'All The Things You Could Be By Now If Sigmund Freud's Wife Was Your Mother.' Mingus loved words as much as they did, and they recognized a kindred spirit." Adam Shatz, from "An Argument With Instruments," which appeared in *The Nation* magazine, October 7, 2013.

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