

## FROM THE CHAIR

Remember Herb Alpert of Tijuana Brass and his hot trumpet rendition of "A Taste Of Honey"? I stumbled onto a Charlie Rose interview with him on PBS. They talked about various aspects of his career and especially how performing jazz has been Alpert's life passion. His remarks about passion and music made me think about PAJA and who we are. Even though just a few of us are performers, we too get to have a taste of this kind of passion just from listening—especially at LIVE gigs. I just think about one of my favorite pieces—"Take The A Train"—and am enveloped by all the passion and emotion it evokes.

I'd like to tell you about how we will continue to nurture this passion with our first concert for 2016. This show will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Menlo-Atherton High School auditorium headlined by the 16-piece Montclair Women's Big Band. The great Kenny Washington will be on hand as the featured vocalist. Traditionally, the big bands were all male, with a female canary.

There of course were exceptions such as Ina Ray Hutton and the Melodears and the less well known Anna Mae Winburn and the International Sweethearts of Rhythm. We are reversing the general structure by presenting an all women's band with a male singer. And perhaps best of all, the musical selections will be drawn from the works of Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra, in recognition of their hundredth birthday.

We sometimes forget how much talent we have right here in River City. The Montclair team, led by trumpeter Ellen Seeling, has been operating with great success for years. Some of you may remember they performed for us some years ago. It's no easy task to keep the group going, finding replacement players, dealing with costs and logistical problems, and so on. The MWBB is true gold. You will be delighted by this collection of talented artists.



Ina Ray Hutton

Kenny Washington of course is also a local treasure who continues to live in the Bay Area though his talent takes him far afield, as he achieves more and more recognition in the jazz world. For example, he has just returned from engagements in Europe, and in February will be performing at Wynton Marsalis's shop at Lincoln Center in Manhattan. Kenny last performed for us at the Tony Harry memorial concert in Mountain View a few years back.

Here is your chance to unwind from all the holiday stress and enjoy an evening of passion and memorable music. Also, think about getting tickets as a holiday gift for those friends and relatives who are hard to buy for and have no room for more stuff. This gift will only take up space in their head and heart.

In continued appreciation of your support,  
*C. Stuart Brewster*

## A BIG THANKYOU

Shout-outs to Corkie Freeman, Judith Kays, Trina Lov-ercheck, Bev Marconi and Barbara Smith for food donations to the September 7 Member Party at the Palo Alto Art Center. We couldn't have done it without you!

## MEMBER, MEMBER—WHO'S THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL?

At the recent Member Party in September it dawned on me that it might be interesting to poll some PAJAns re identifying their favorite jazz musicians and groups—yesterday and today. So I posed the "challenge" to several fans attending the event: name your five favorite current (living) musicians or groups, and three who are no longer with us. Not everyone deigned to contribute, but for those who did the results are rather interesting

**Fran Jackler** of Cupertino was quick to list Tony Monaco, Joey DeFrancesco, Mike LeDonne, Dr. Lonnie Smith, and . . . Kristen Strom? Do you get the idea that Fran is a B3 organ buff? And how did saxophonist Strom make the cut? Her defunct three include Jimmy Smith (yep, organ), Billie Holiday, and Miles Davis, a very nice cross section.

Veteran PAJAn **John Glead** of Palo Alto says his principal criterion was “highest capacity in instrumental improvisation” and came up with Ravi Coltrane, Taylor Eigsti, Arturo Sandoval, Toots Thielemans and drummer Matt Wilson, an interesting group spanning a few generations. His three long-gone favorites are Eric Dolphy, Stan Getz and Charlie Parker. John deliberately chose individual instrumentalists, eschewing band leaders and vocalists.

Serious aficionado **Karl Robinson**, whom you’re likely to run into at any local jazz boite from Bach’s to Angelica’s, contributed an eclectic contemporary fivesome: singer-pianist Patricia Barber, the Brad Mehldau Trio, Jackie Terrasson, hot vocalist Cecile McLorin Salvant, and (the lone horn player) Houston Person. For his non-contemporary triad, he gives us Milt Jackson, the Bill Evans Trio, and the Miles Davis Sextet.



Houston Person

Local jazz boulevardier **Bruce Powell**, a former PAJA Board member, offers five whom many of us have seen recently in our area: Kim Nalley, Kenny Washington, Andy Bey (that’s three singers), Houston Person, vibraphonist Christian Tamburr, and the Jeff Hamilton Trio (Bruce was

unable to list just five). And he lists four late lamented artists/combos: Stan Getz, with Bill Evans (a twofer); Woody’s Third Herd; Billie Holiday, with Lester Young; and Sinatra. Sinatra was a *pop* singer, Bruce, but OK, we love him and he can sit in our tent since he did do some good work with Red Norvo, Count Basie, and others.

**Bob Ross** of Campbell was reluctant to name his five current favorites, but he happily advanced Herman, Kenton, and Ellington as his bygone three. A big band fan, and a man after my own heart.

OK, nobody asked me, but I’ll throw in my two cents to round this all out: contemporary faves—Cyrille Aimée, The Four Freshmen, Kenny Washington, Bob Dorough (wow, all singers), and Monty Alexander. Five oldies: Lennie Tristano, with Konitz and Marsh; Dave Brubeck Quartet; the Stan Kenton New Concepts Orchestra (with Konitz), John Coltrane, Shorty Rogers and His Giants. Whew, I’m exhausted. Those lists could be completely different next week!/ Ed Fox

## BILL GOODWIN ON “THE LIFE”

“So we’re in the mid seventies now and I’ve met Phil [Woods] and we started playing together. We’re basically hanging out and playing together, you know, Steve [Gilmore, bassist] and I. I think I had left Mt. Airy Lodge when my bar tab exceeded my salary. . . [Steve and I] figured at one time that we’d spent more time together in the last 30 years than we did with our wives.” Drummer Bill Goodwin, in an article in *The Note*, Winter/Spring 2013. (Goodwin and Gilmore were charter members of the Phil Woods Quartet.)



Andy Nozaka took this lovely picture of a private home concert for San Jose Jazz, featuring the Helen Sung Quartet. Helen was joined for the event by Walter Smith III (tenor), Reuben Rogers (bass) and Donald Edwards (drums). Sung, a classically trained pianist, was invited to a jazz concert at the University of Texas (Austin) which turned out to be a career-altering moment. She joined the Thelonious Monk Institute’s inaugural two-year program in 1995 and has since achieved status as one of the generation of elite post-30 jazz pianists.



# MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL 2015: A View from the Grounds

Text by Andy and Dorothy Nozaka

Photos by Andy Nozaka

The Monterey Jazz Festival celebrated its 58th year, September 18-20, 2015. Amid warm weather conditions its usual mystique and relaxed vibe continued to hold forth. There was a wide spectrum of music to suit every jazz lover's taste. Some of the highlights of the festival, all available to grounds ticket holders, are presented here.

## Kurt Rosenwinkel New Quartet

Rosenwinkel's reputation is legend among his admirers for his lyricism and harmonic invention. Despite his awe-inspiring musicianship, Rosenwinkel began to tire on these old ears halfway through the set; there was a sameness to the music and a lack of a deep, emotional connection made to this listener. Rosenwinkel was backed by pianist Aaron Parks, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Alan Mednard—a rhythm section to die for!



Kurt Rosenwinkel



Cyrille Aimée

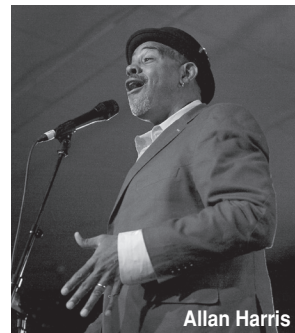
## Cyrille Aimée

French-born and Django-influenced, the young, beautiful and hip Ms. Aimée possesses a light and pleasant voice with a jumpy, infectious stage presence. For this gig she was supported by two guitars, bass and drums. A very good scat-singer, her song-book encompasses straight-ahead jazz, bossa-nova and gypsy-folk melodies.

## Allan Harris

Mr. Harris is a singer, song-writer and guitarist from Harlem. His tenor-baritone voice, pacing and

choice of repertoire is somewhat reminiscent of Nat "King" Cole, which presents a very formidable comparison from which to rise above.



Allan Harris



Ernesto Oviedo

## The John Santos Sextet with Ernesto Oviedo, Orestes Vilató and Jose Roberto Hernandez

John Santos, a true Bay Area treasure, has tirelessly promoted Latin Jazz for over forty years as a band leader, percussionist, composer, arranger, record producer and distinguished historian-educator. After the much-lamented closing of his Machete Ensemble in 2007, Santos' current sextet has become the perfect vehicle for his expressive efforts. The Monterey performance highlighted and honored the singing of guest artist Ernesto Oviedo, now 80 years old and the Cuban master of the bolero; having the stamina of a much younger man, Oviedo won over the crowd with his warm, seemingly effortless, relaxed style. Also honored were Orestes Vilató, the brilliant timbalero and Jose Roberto Hernandez, the Mexican-born multi-instrumentalist, singer, composer and arranger. It was an elevated occasion indeed and this performance was a definite high point of the Monterey weekend.

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## Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

The fifteen member strong JALC Orchestra, this year's Artists-in-Residence, played in several different configurations on Sunday night in Dizzy's Den. The orchestra leader, Wynton Marsalis, was notably absent. It is always a pleasure to hear a well-rehearsed big band, especially one having such distinguished personnel. The band kicked things off with the Duke Ellington composition, "The Mooche", written in 1928; hearing the first astonishing high clarinet notes and unique harmony sent a chill down one's spine. Wow—maybe this is the closest thing to having heard Duke's band live at The Cotton Club back in the day. Another Ellington classic was next: "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" (1940). "Take the A Train" (1939), Billy Strayhorn's classic, rounded out the proceedings.



## THE MEMBER PARTY

*Photos by Karl Robinson*

On a lovely Sunday afternoon in September about 75 PAJAns turned up at the Palo Alto Art Center courtyard for schmoozing, noshing, imbibing. . . and most of all to hear some mellow, gorgeous music arranged by our favorite drummer Akira Tana. Billed as "Akira Tana and the Rising Stars," the group included keyboardist Parker Grant, impressive bassist Giulio Cetto, 15-year-old Katie Williams on trumpet, and outstanding local vocalist Ren Geisick. And of course with Tana on drums. The group sailed through several standards, finishing with a rousing blues, adding young guitarist Dillon Scheel to the mix. Herb Wong would have said, "It was a gas, man."





# THE JAZZ PERISCOPE *Selected gigs for November and December*

## **YOSHI'S OAKLAND** *www.yoshis.com/oakland*

|          |  |              |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 11/7-8   | Lee Ritenour, w/ Dave Grusin. ....               | 7:30, 9:30pm |
| 11/9     | New West Guitar, with Tierney Sutton. ....       | 8pm          |
| 11/18-19 | Chris Potter. ....                               | 8pm          |
| 11/22    | Jackie Ryan. ....                                | 7pm          |
| 11/25    | Tommy Igoe Sextet. ....                          | 8pm          |
| 12/9-10  | Mike Stern Band, with Randy Brecker, Tom Kennedy | 8pm          |
| 12/22-23 | Count Basie Orchestra                            |              |

## **SF JAZZ CENTER** *www.sffjazz.org/center*

|          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 11/5-8   | Dorado Schmitt & Django All-Stars   |           |
| 11/10-11 | Brad Mehldau Trio. ....   | 7:30pm    |
| 11/12    | Clarinet Celebration, with Anat Cohen, Don Byron, et al. (At Grace Cathedral). .... | 8pm       |
| 11/19-22 | Esperanza Spalding, various combinations  |           |
| 11/27-29 | Hugh Masekela & Larry Willis. ....  | 7:30pm    |
| 12/10-12 | Bad Plus Joshua Redman. ....  | 7:30pm    |
| 12/17    | Adam Schulman: Charlie Brown Xmas. ....   | 8, 9:30pm |

## **BACH'S DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY, EL GRANADA** *www.bachddsoc.org*

|       |   |        |
|-------|---|--------|
| 11/8  | Mads Tolling Quartet. ....                        | 4:30pm |
| 11/15 | Larry Vuckovich's All-Stars (w/Jackie Ryan). .... | 4:30pm |

## **KUUMBWA JAZZ CENTER, SANTA CRUZ** *www.kuumbwajazz.org*

|       |   |        |
|-------|---|--------|
| 11/9  | Dorado Schmitt & Django All-Stars. ....             | 7, 9pm |
| 11/12 | Kim Nalley, CD release. ....                        | 7pm    |
| 11/23 | Ray Brown's Great Big Band (Cabrillo College). .... | 7:30pm |
| 12/9  | The Bad Plus Joshua Redman. ....                    | 7, 9pm |
| 12/10 | J. Hanrahan Quartet: A Love Supreme. ....           | 7pm    |
| 12/11 | Dan Hicks & Hot Licks: Xmas show. ....              | 7pm    |
| 12/17 | Lavay Smith and Skillet Lickers. ....               | 7, 9pm |

## **SAN JOSE JAZZ** *www.sanjosejazz.org*

|                   |                          |        |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 11/8, 12/2, 12/16 | Jazz at the Hedley. .... | 7:30pm |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------|

## **ANGELICAS** 863 Main St., Redwood City *www.angelicasllc.com*

|                       |  |        |
|-----------------------|--|--------|
| Every Tuesday evening |  |        |
|                       | Jazz on Tuesdays Trio + vocalists. ....            | 7:15pm |
| 11/8                  | Mike Galisatus Big Band. ....                      | 7pm    |
| 11/13                 | Jazzi Jan & Bay Area's Finest Female Jazz Ensemble | 8:30   |
| 11/20                 | Rebecca Du Maine & Dave Miller Trio. ....          | 8:30pm |

## **CAFÉ STRITCH**, 374 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St., San Jose *www.cafestritch.com*

## **HOTEL SOFITEL**, 223 Twin Dolphin Dr., Redwood City 650/598-9000

Wednesday evening jazz, with Michael O'Neill and vocalists 6-9pm

## **FATTORIA E MARE RESTAURANT**, Burlingame *www.fattoriaemare.com*

## **CAFÉ PINK HOUSE**, 14577 Big Basin Way, Saratoga 408/647-2273

Jazz Fri. & Sat. evenings plus Sunday brunch

|       |                                   |     |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 11/13 | Tammy Hall Trio. ....             | 7pm |
| 11/14 | Kristen Strom. ....               | 7pm |
| 11/28 | Michael Zilber Quartet. ....      | 8pm |
| 12/3  | Jackie Gage. ....                 | 7pm |
| 12/10 | Oscar Pangilinan's Bad Five. .... | 7pm |

## Mark Your Calendar

PAJA's next major concert

# THE MONTCLAIR WOMEN'S BIG BAND

"One of the West Coast's most formidable jazz ensembles," All About Jazz

with the great KENNY WASHINGTON, featured vocalist

"Washington slays 'em wherever he performs," Andrew Gilbert, [eastbayexpress.com](http://eastbayexpress.com)



Order tickets by mail:  
Ed Fox, PAJA Tickets,  
294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto 94306

After November 15 at:  
Peninsula Music & Repair, Palo Alto  
The Record Man, Redwood City  
Vinyl Solution, San Mateo  
Groove Yard, Oakland

**SATURDAY EVENING • January 9th, 2016 • 7:30pm**  
**Center for the Performing Arts, Menlo-Atherton High School**  
**555 Middlefield Road, Atherton (Corner Middlefield & Ravenswood)**

Tickets: \$40, general public • \$35 PAJA members • \$15 students

Celebrating the Centennials of Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra

A unique pairing of two Bay Area treasures:

Kenny with MWBB—a concert to remember!

For music samples: [www.kennywashingtonvocalist.com](http://www.kennywashingtonvocalist.com) and [www.montclairwomensbigband.com](http://www.montclairwomensbigband.com)

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