

FROM THE CHAIR

June Was Busting Out All Over

All over the friendly patio of the First Congregational Church at Louis & Embarcadero in Palo Alto.

The sun shone down brightly, the wind was quiet, the air was clear. Mixing these ingredients together with a very engaging group of musicians on June third last resulted in a welcome feeling of joy at PAJA's annual free member party. About 70 members and guests sat down to hear some live jazz, offered by a team of young talents—and a few old timers—demonstrating, if you didn't know it already, that live jazz is the greatest way to get that special mental reward that comes from quietly just sitting and listening. This was not artificial intelligence, but real.

A word of thanks and appreciation to Dave Miller and family for putting this all together. Working with three youngsters around the theme of *The Future of Jazz*, Dave put together a very pleasing program of standards and jazz classics. The three vocalists—Ryan Barnes, Jackson and Kealy Bryman, all from Menlo-Atherton High School, performed beautifully and professionally, backed up by Andrew Higgins on bass, Rob Gibson on drums and sterling keyboardist Dave Miller—this all represented a major commitment of time and energy for all involved.

One might wonder—did it all fit together? Yes, it did. This was pure enjoyment not just for the listeners but for the performers as well. For the youngsters it was welcome stage experience, and I doubt whether the instrumentalists had ever worked with budding artists quite like this before. A rewarding time for all.

There was one failure, namely my attempt to communicate over a microphone. I earned an F grade. Maybe one of the teenagers will give me lessons on just where to put one's mouth and the level of force to use for better effect next time. What I was trying to communicate was that, as we continue on into our thirty-second year of existence, there are some challenges. We need to seek out new members, as both single and family memberships are in decline. Please share with the Board any ideas as to what we can do to reverse this trend.

Further, we need more backup helpers and board members to assist with the operational efforts that keep us moving. The time demands would not be great, but new blood is definitely needed to shepherd PAJA into the next decade or two. Anyone interested is welcome to attend a Board meeting to get some sense of the way we function and how concerts are planned, and so forth.

Looking forward to being together with you at the Sutton/Hendelman concert on August 13 at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View.

Thank you for your continued support,

C. Stuart Brewster
Chair, Palo Alto Jazz Alliance

LARRY GRENADIER ON JOEY ALEXANDER

"The first thing that impressed me, obviously, was that this guy could play amazingly well at such an early age. . . But that's the easy answer. The idea of his age quickly disappeared as soon as we started [making Alexander's *My Favorite Things* album in 2014]. It became more like, here's another interesting piano player to play with. He's gotten better since, but even then he was really good, not just in the big things but also in the little things like touch and timing. He was like Ahmad Jamal; he knew how to set something up and let it simmer.

"He was already going for something different than being just another bebop pianist. . . He didn't play like anyone else. Most pianists have gone through classical music and then switched to jazz. Joey wasn't like that; he went directly to jazz." Bassist Larry Grenadier, quoted in "The Next Step," *Jazz Times*, January/February 2023.

CUTTIN' TO THE CHASE

Once upon a time when pianist Errol Garner met Louie Armstrong:

Garner: "What's new, Pops?"

Armstrong: "Nothing new. White folks still ahead."

MEMBER PARTY—A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

A lovely late spring Saturday afternoon (June 3rd), a great piano trio, three talented young jazz vocalists—all this with a glass of wine in a pleasant church courtyard—and that was this year's member party, a very enjoyable time by anyone's measure.

The First Congregational Church of Palo Alto's courtyard supplied the setting. "A setting beyond all forgetting," as the song goes. The three vocalists were from Menlo-Atherton High, though two of them are off to college this fall. The youngest, sophomore Kealy Bryman, also brought out her guitar, and contributed fine solos and ensemble work. Ryann Barnes's sultry voice entertained with standards like "A House Is Not a Home." Lots of potential there. Additional potential was demonstrated by Jackson Bryman. His confident stage presence and pleasing baritone made a strong impression, and his version of Tom Lehrer's "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park" afforded some comic relief. Selection of material is so important in these affairs and these young folks nailed it.

Let's not forget our favorite pianist and PAJA board member Dave Miller who put this altogether and once again knocked it out of the park on the ivories, with the able accompaniment of Rob Gibson on drums and Andrew Higgins on bass. Lots of potential there, too, Dave.



Jackson holds the mike for Stuart Brewster



Duet with Kealy and Ryann



The band



Duet with Kealy and Mom Rebecca Dumaine. Pianist Grandpa Dave looks on



All three: Jackson, Kealy and Ryann.



Jackson soloing

Photos by Bebes Miller

~ PAJA PRESENTS ~

TIERNEY SUTTON and TAMIR HENDLEMAN in concert

Sunday afternoon, August 13, 2023, 2:30pm

At Tateuchi Hall, Community School of Music & Arts
230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View



"Once Upon a Summertime"

Tierney Sutton is simply one of the best contemporary jazz vocalists. The New York Times called her "a serious jazz artist who takes the whole enterprise to another level." PAJA is pairing her with the exceptional pianist Tamir Hendelman, a mainstay of the Jeff Hamilton Trio for more than 20 years. Tamir and Tierney have performed in duet many times, and this concert will feature ballads and tunes appropriate to the summer season.

Tickets available online (pajazzalliance.org) or at the door (cash or check only) or by mail from PAJA Tickets, c/o Ed Fox, 294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto 94306.

\$60 general, \$50 PAJA members, \$15 students.

Members may purchase one ticket each for a guest at the member rate.

THE JAZZ PERISCOPE *Selected gigs for July and August 2023*

YOSHI'S OAKLAND *www.yoshi.com/oakland*

7/10-11	David Benoit	8pm
7/12	Jane Monheit	8pm
7/18	Hot Club of San Francisco	8pm
8/5-6	Keiko Matsui	
8/14-15	John Pizzarelli	8pm

SF JAZZ CENTER *www.sfjazz.org/center*

7/8	Sergio Mendes (at Frost on Stanford campus)	
7/20-25	Sun Ra Arkestra	
8/3-6	Taj Mahal	
8/10-13	Stanley Clarke, et al.	
8/17	Erik Jekabson Quintet	7, 8:30pm
8/20	Tammy Hall	6, 7:30pm

Bobby
Watson



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

7/9	Pete Escovedo retirement tour	4:30pm
7/16	George Colligan, w/Zyenna	4:30pm
7/23	Dave Stryker Trio	4:30pm
7/30	Bobby Watson Quartet	4:30pm

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

7/10	Jane Monheit	7pm
7/24	Benny Green solo piano	7pm
7/31	Bobby Watson Quartet	7pm
8/10	The Bad Plus	7pm
8/21	John Pizzarelli	7pm
8/28	Kim Nalley	7pm

KEYS JAZZ BISTRO *498 Broadway, SF www.keysjazzbistro.com*

SAN JOSE JAZZ *www.sanjosejazz.org*

Summer Fest, August 11-14: Grace Kelly, Billy Childs, Marcus Miller, Gregory Porter, etc.

PALO ALTO JAZZ ALLIANCE *www.pajazzalliance.org*

8/13 Tierney Sutton/Tamir Hendelman at CSMA in Mtn View



JOIN PAJA

Mail your check to Palo Alto Jazz Alliance
P.O. Box 60397, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

New subscriber Renewal This is a change of address

Annual dues, \$35 for individuals \$ _____

Annual dues, \$50 family (two persons) _____

Additional contribution to support jazz education _____

Total enclosed \$ _____