

July 2025

PO BOX 60397, PALO ALTO, CA 94306

Ed Fox, Editor

FROM THE CHAIR

Another year has gone by (our fiscal year ends June 30) and we'll start our twenty-third on July 1. I am excited about our next concert with Taylor Eigsti in October. I advise you to purchase tickets early as seating is limited at the Community School of Music and the Arts in Mountain View, and we're expecting a full house. Go to our website—pajazzalliance.org—and click on BUY TICKETS. Enter the number of tickets you wish to order, then hit the yellow "Buy Now" button and you're on your way.

We are grateful for your continuing donations. Membership has slipped a little but we still get new fans wanting to join an organization dedicated to promoting the music we all love. All seems well.

I do have a worry, however, and it is close to being critical. Namely, we must get some new individuals on the Board to carry the work load. Those of us who have been doing so for the last several years are, as they say, getting on. If we are to continue, we must get some new blood to play a role early on so that there will be a smooth transition, when some of us now on the Board get to the point where we cannot continue.

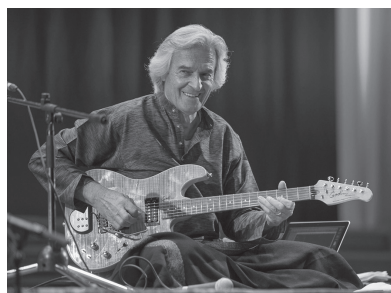
Perhaps you would like to attend a Board meeting to get a sense of how we manage our affairs and plan our concerts. We meet once a month. Please contact me at

650/868-2266 or email webowl@aol.com if you are interested in helping out.

Thanking you for your continued support,

C. Stuart Brewster, Chair
Palo Alto Jazz Alliance

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN ON SMOOTH JAZZ



This smooth jazz is not jazz to me, because I grew up listening to men with really deep passions. Without the depth of the passion, you're missing the blood and guts in the music. Because it's not just notes—it's like, what are you saying when you play?" John McLaughlin, quoted in "Bright Moments, John McLaughlin," by Evan Saga, in *Jazz Times*, August 2016.

WAINAPEL HEADLINES BRAZIL NIGHT AT MEYHOUSE JAZZ

Clarinetist Harvey Wainapel and an ensemble featuring Jane Lenoir on flute, Brian Rice, percussion, and 7-string Brazilian guitarist Julio Lemos present an evening of Brazilian music—modern, swinging and soulful—at Meyhouse Restaurant on Friday, July 18th. There are two seatings, 5 and 8pm, and you can reserve on meyhousejazz.com.

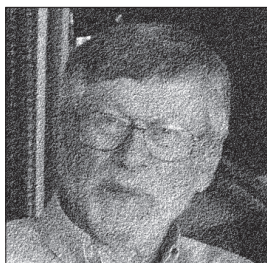
Meyhouse is at 640 Emerson St., Palo Alto. Good Turkish cuisine.

Meyhouse has a full schedule of jazz in July, including vocalists Tony Lindsay, Marina Crouse, and Jackie Ryan, plus Black Olive Jazz, featuring Kay Kostopoulos. See the full lineup on page 4 of the Buff.

And on August 1st top tier trumpeter Randy Brecker will be the featured artist. All shows have two seatings—5 and 8pm.



Harvey Wainapel



Jazz Cruise Reminiscences

Sometime in the 1980s, I saw the pianist Eddie Higgins at a San Jose club, Garden City—remember that jazz spot? Eddie talked about participating in a jazz cruise with his wife (the vocalist Meredith D'Ambrosio) and that was the first time I was aware that such a combination of sea voyage and music was available. But I put that on the back burner until the late 90's when I took a Greek Island cruise with my family which demonstrated to me how enjoyable these trips at sea can be.

So, the jazz cruise bug got serious after that and after doing some research I found The Jazz Cruise, a St. Louis-based outfit that had operated cruises, with a jazz theme, since 2001. My wife and I signed up, I think, for the 2005 cruise, two other couples joined us, and we enjoyed it immensely. Taylor Eigsti was on that cruise, as were a number of artists we'd later see almost every year on the cruise, like



Frank Capp

Ken Peplowski, Wycliffe Gordon, Shelly Berg, and Ann Hampton Callaway. Each year, there are more than 100 jazz musicians on board. That year the cruise featured Frank Capp's Juggernaut big band, with some great Neil Hefti arrangements. Wow!

I bought the CD from Frank Capp and still play it often.

There's plenty of opportunity to exchange words with some of your favorites, and I was able to do that with the likes of Jimmy Heath, Anat Cohen, Rickey Woodard, Jeff Hamilton, Cyrille Aimee, and many more over the years. They don't remember me, but I certainly remember them. I always seemed to embarrass myself by asking dumb questions and getting blank stares in return. I determined to fix this when I buttonholed John Pizzarelli one year and asked how the Boston Red Sox would do that year (I knew that was his favorite team, and since I'm originally from Massachusetts, I knew something about the Bosox). He was happy to talk about

LOOKING BACK

By Ed Fox

baseball for about 15 minutes.

Of all the musicians on the ship, Ann Hampton Callaway was always the most fan-friendly. You might be walking down a hallway and Ann might then initiate a conversation with you. She's a great wisecracker (she calls herself the illegitimate daughter of Lionel Hampton and Cab Calloway) and it's no wonder her fans are so devoted.

Every year Shelly Berg gives a one-hour course in jazz, and these are well attended. I usually got lost 10 minutes in, but Shelly always made it enjoyable enough so that it's still an hour well spent.

Panel discussions with the musicians are always worth listening to. One time Jeff Clayton asked the audience what would they rather hear—familiar tunes or originals? Someone in the audience shouted out, "Both!" Right answer.

I heard Taylor Eigsti once say at one of these panels that as a young pianist he wanted to play faster, so he went to Benny Green for a lesson. I was always curious as to what Green told him, and when Benny was here for a PAJA concert in 2017, I had the chance to ask him what his lesson with Taylor involved. Benny explained that it was a matter of practice. Start slow, and increase the speed gradually, until you get to the desired pace. But what is important is playing each note—not gliding over a passage. Each note must be heard regardless of how fast it gets. Listen to Taylor playing "Got a Match" on his "Resonance" album (2003) and it's obvious he learned the lesson well.

These are some of my highlights in 13 years of Jazz Cruising:

- * Ann Hampton Callaway singing "Over the Rainbow." (2007)
- * Vocalist Cyrille Aimee, with two Hot Club guitarists from France. (2015?)
- * Byron Stripling's tribute to Louis Armstrong (2015)
- * John Pizzarelli/Bruce Forman guitar summit (2008?) Laughs and great picking. Oh, my.
- * Impromptu duet with Emmet Cohen and Joey DeFrancesco. Emmet on organ, Joey D on piano. (2016?)

Reach Ed Fox at chezfox@mindspring.com

PAJA PRESENTS

Two-time Grammy winner

TAYLOR EIGSTI
IN CONCERT



**With JASON LEWIS, DRUMS
JOSH THURSTON-MILGROM, BASS**

**SATURDAY 7:30PM, OCTOBER 4, 2025
Community School of Music and Arts
230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View**

Seating is limited. Get your tickets early. General \$60,
PAJA members \$50, Students \$15.

Tickets from our website: pajazzalliance.org,
or by mail from Fox c/o 294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306

JAZZ ON THE PENINSULA

Selected gigs for July and August, 2025

BACH DANCING AND DYNAMITE SOCIETY, El Granada www.bachddsoc.org

7/13	Lew Tabackin's Dual Nature Trio	4:30pm
7/20	Tuck and Patti (sold out)	4:30pm
7/27	Jalen Baker Quartet	4:30pm
8/3	Randy Brecker w/Todd Dickow, etc.	4:30pm

MEYHOUSE RESTAURANT, PALO ALTO Meyhouserestaurant.com

7/5	Tony Lindsay, w/ Michael O'Neill Quartet	5, 8pm
7/11	Black Olive Jazz	5, 8pm
7/12	Frank Martin, w/ Michael O'Neill Quartet	5, 8pm
7/18	Jazz do Brazil (Harvey Wainapel & friends)	5, 8pm
7/19	Marina Crouse, w/ Michael O'Neill Quartet	5, 8pm
7/23	Jackie Ryan, w/Michael O'Neill Quartet	5, 8pm
8/1	Randy Brecker	

STANFORD UNIVERSITY www.live.stanford.edu

6/22-8/1 Stanford Jazz Festival

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