

FROM THE CHAIR

Betcha didn't know that April was Jazz Appreciation Month. It was Poetry Appreciation Month, too, which is a heavy burden placed on one month struggling to reach summertime. To me, jazz is a kind of poetry of sound, where the performer is creating his/her art on the spot. To me, this was a special time for personal reflection and introspection, both to listener and creator.

There are so many jazz styles—from the trad jazz first emanating from New Orleans to the far-out electronics of the current day. I tip my hat to all, even rock & roll (not my choice, but that's OK—neither is chamber music).

As to Poetry, the human impulse to manipulate language in creative ways dates to antiquity, ways of expressing feelings both positive and negative. After trundling through Shakespeare's sonnets in school and college, I can't call myself a devotee of poetry. But poetry readings seem to attract a lot of young people. And of course for years the accompaniment of jazz to these readings has attracted audiences. What a nice double header. More power to them.

PAJA is a small peanut in the overall jazz landscape,

but thanks to your continued support we make it possible from time to time for you to be present for the music, live and in the moment. There are two PAJA events coming up as we continue to promote our kind of music.

First will be the **FREE MEMBER PARTY** on May 11, Sunday afternoon, at the Palo Alto Art Center. 3 to 5pm. There's a full page announcement in this issue with all the details, and we'll send you emails to remind you. Do come and have a glass of wine and introduce yourself to me and other Board members. That darned pandemic has much reduced our opportunities to get to know one another.

Next, mark your calendar for the evening of **October 4th**—that's when **Taylor Eigsti** will once again perform for PAJA, this time at the Community School of Music and the Arts in Mountain View (Tateuchi Hall and its excellent acoustics). Taylor will be in trio mode, with old friends Jason Lewis on drums and Josh Thurston-Milgrom on bass. That's one you won't want to miss. Tickets will be available starting September 1.

In continued appreciation of your support,

C. Stuart Brewster

Chair, Palo Alto Jazz Alliance

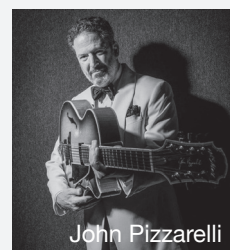
SUMMER JAZZ ON THE PENINSULA

Where do we start? A cornucopia...a plethora...an embarrassment of riches? There will be a lot for jazz fans to choose from this summer in our neighborhood, starting, of course, with...

The Stanford Jazz Festival. New executive director Cory Combs honchos his first festival and the lineup is impressive, as usual. 26 concerts from June 22 to August 1, with luminaries like John Pizzarelli, Anat Cohen, Fred Hersch, Dena DeRose, Taylor Eigsti, Ken Peplowski, George Cables, Jeremy Pelt, et al.

Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society. Bach's soldiers on with a fine summer lineup of Lew Tabackin, Tuck & Patti, the Jalen Baker Quartet, and Randy Brecker, with Tod Dickow. Each Sunday afternoon, from July 13th on. Start times 4:30pm. It's in a beautiful coast-side setting, just north of Half Moon Bay, off Route 1.

The San Jose Jazz Festival. The weekend of August 8-10, with a star-studded lineup, of course: John Pizzarelli, Mavis Staples, Mary Stallings, Tom Scott, the Pacific Mambo Orchestra, Vincent Herring, et al.

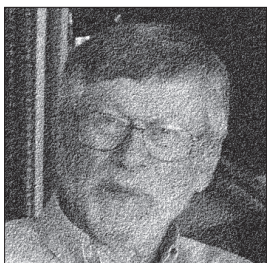


John Pizzarelli

Jazz on the Plazz. Free concerts each Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm, June 25-August 20. Downtown Los Gatos. The performers haven't been announced as of this writing, but you can count on several attractive events.

And of course the Meyhouse Restaurant in Palo Alto will continue to present regular gigs at least on the weekends. Check out their website.

So, there's no excuse—lots of great jazz within easy driving distance. Enjoy!



LOOKING BACK

By Ed Fox

If you held my feet to the fire and made me pick my all-time favorite jazz album, I guess I'd have to nominate Brubeck's *Jazz at Oberlin*, so that tells you that I am a fairly conservative fan. You might say: "Wait a minute, pal, that's not even Brubeck's best album—what about *Time Out*, which contains "Blue Rondo A La Turk" and "Take Five," the best selling single in jazz history? And it has Joe Morello on the drums, which took the quartet to a new level?" I'd reply that you are right; that was a great album, but *Oberlin* has five tunes recorded with the immediacy and excitement of a live audience.



Dave Brubeck.
Jazz at Oberlin.



And it has my favorite tune, *The Way You Look Tonight*, a brilliant combination of intricate arrangement and improvisation that to me, and perhaps thousands of other fans, makes for a very satisfying work of art. The classically trained Brubeck takes that beautiful melody and he and the wonderful Paul Desmond turn it around every which way. That concert took place 72 years ago and it still seems fresh and exciting three quarters of a century later.

I am a sucker for "The Way You Look Tonight." Tony Bennet's slow tempo version raises emotions in me I didn't know I had. "The Way You Look Tonight" is a Great American Songbook staple, composed by Jerome Kern, with lyrics by Dorothy Fields. Fred Astaire sang it in the movie "Swingtime" and it won the 1936 Oscar for original song. Of course in the Brubeck version you don't hear much of the melody, but that's OK. It all works for me.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

If there is such a thing as First Family of Jazz on the Peninsula, then I am nominating Dave Miller and family. Dave sits on PAJA's Board of Directors, but he's also of course a marvelous jazz pianist. He and his vocalist daughter Rebecca Du-Maine know their way around the Great American Songbook and they've produced several wonderful albums together. We are very happy they'll be performing at our member party on **May 11** at the Palo Alto Art Center Courtyard. I'm also very anxious to hear a jazz ensemble Dave has recruited from UC Santa Cruz. That group's pianist is Dave's grandson (Rebecca's son), Jackson Bryman. They should shake the trees a bit in the Courtyard. Jackson's sister Kealy may favor us with a tune or two—perhaps in a duet with Mom? Hope to see you all there for all the fun.

Reach Ed Fox at chezfox@mindspring.com

PALO ALTO JAZZ ALLIANCE

FREE MEMBER PARTY

*Sunday May 11
Palo Alto Art Center
3-5pm*

The Art Center is at 1313 Newell Road,
next to the Palo Alto Main Library.
Plenty of free parking.

Come and have a glass of wine and meet your fellow PAJA members
in the lovely Courtyard of the Art Center.

Outstanding music provided by

- The Dave Miller Trio
- Vocalist Rebecca DuMaine
- UC Santa Cruz Jazz Quintet
- And other guest artists



Members—bring a guest. Doors open at 2:30pm.

Join us for a great afternoon of music and schmoozing with fellow jazz fans.

JAZZ ON THE PENINSULA

Selected gigs for May and June, 2025

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

5/4	Nicholas Bearde	4:30pm
5/11	Destani Wolf	4:30pm
5/18	Ken Peplowski	4:30pm
5/23	Jazz Mafia	4:30pm
6/15	Somi	4:30pm
6/22	Jeff Denson & Romain Pilon Trio	4:30pm
6/29	Marcus Shelby Nonet (Birth of the Cool)	4:30pm

MEYHOUSE RESTAURANT, PALO ALTO Meyhouserestaurant.com

5/2	Tammy Hall	5, 8pm
5/3	Kim Nalley, w/Larry Vuckovich Trio	5, 8pm
5/5	Noel Jewkes Quartet	5, 8pm
5/9	Jorge Luis Pacheco	5, 8pm
5/10	Paul Hanson Quartet	5, 8pm
5/17	Afro-Cuban Jazz Quartet	5, 8pm

STANFORD UNIVERSITY www.live.stanford.edu

5/23	Stanford Jazz Orchestra, w/Wycliffe Gordon (Bing) 7:30pm
6/22-8/1	Stanford Jazz Festival

PALO ALTO JAZZ ALLIANCE www.pajazzalliance.org

5/11	Free Member Party, featuring Dave Miller Trio, Rebecca DuMaine.	3pm
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Join PAJA

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P.O. Box 60397, Palo Alto, CA 94306

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☐ 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 \$ _____