

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BARBADOS JAZZ SOCIETY?

Why jazz? Because it is the first music that is our music, the music of black people in America, with roots in Africa, incorporating the blues that came out of the misery and hardship of slavery and racism, the spirituals that made that hardship easier, the rhythmic energy and syncopation of dance music and ragtime. It was loud, unique, unpredictable and hard to resist and got the blood moving and the feet tapping. It was the music of the new twentieth century, and echoed the sounds and rhythms of that century - automobiles, machines, trains, cities. It promoted freedom of expression and creativity in improvisation, the very heart of jazz. It swelled out of New Orleans and Chicago to reach across America, into the Caribbean and Latin America and across the world. It knows no limits and no culture and is one of the most unifying of art forms. A jazz musician from New Orleans or Barbados or Canada can walk into any jazz club in the UK or Russia or Turkey and join in the jam session, speaking a common language that needs no words and has no barriers and whose aim is only to create wonderful music. It is the language of tolerance and mutual understanding. That is why people all over the world love and embrace jazz.

To quote Herbie Hancock, the famous American pianist and composer:

"Jazz is in the moment and it is non-judgmental: when you are playing on the stage, you are not judging what the other musician plays. What you have in mind is to be able to enhance it..... to make it blossom..... There is a sense of mutual cooperation. Those values are not only wonderful values to have for the creation of music: they are wonderful values to have for daily life".

And that is why the Barbados Jazz Society was formed and has as its main objectives the fostering and the appreciation of jazz music, the playing of jazz on Barbados, and the development of jazz on the island.

To help us do this we need all of you who love jazz to join and work with us to accomplish these delightful goals.

Penny Hynam,
Barbados Jazz Society