

FROM THE CHAIR

Spring is here at last and summer will soon be upon us with lots of exciting jazz events being offered by our friends at the Stanford Jazz Workshop and the San Jose Jazz Society, among others.

PAJA will start the season with a unique concert on Sunday afternoon, May 23, at Cañada College in Redwood City. Dr. Wong has organized a program that reflects the music and style of the old Gerry Mulligan Quartet [see full description below]. Mark your calendar and bring a friend or two and experience this one-time-only event.

Computers and the Internet reflect a very different world from the days of the big bands and bebop on 52nd Street when communication about an organization was handled via the print media. Now it is critical to have a web site that will provide detailed information about an organization and its activities. This holds true for PAJA as well. We have had such a service but we had no one to keep it up to date. Thanks to Linda Knipe we now have given new life to the system and it will furnish far more insight into our efforts and achievements in support of jazz education. Consequently, someone seeking information about jazz in the Midpeninsula area will have a site he/she can rely on. Check it out at www.pajazzalliance.org.

Michael Griffin, founding editor of the *Jazz Buff*, and I have just returned from an awesome trip to Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangkok and Tokyo. Tokyo was the only place we caught some jazz. We went to three different clubs, as well as to a closet-sized record bar. The owner of the bar has a huge collection of LPs and he just sits there with a few friends listening to all his great jazz recordings. It's kind of like a pub in Britain, but with only room for a dozen people. A strange venue, but it reflects how much American jazz is appreciated in some corners of the world.

The unexpected highlight was a gig at a lavish spot named, of all things, The Cotton Club. It is reminiscent of the luxurious clubs of old in Manhattan and Harlem. The Big Surprise was that Taylor Eigsti was on piano, accompanying a terrific singer named Hillary Kole who did some great scatting.

Michael had received an e-mail from his wife that clued us in to this show. Naturally, we showed up with bells and whistles to support this man whom we have seen develop from a talented 11-year-old to a fresh breeze in the jazz cosmos. Was he ever surprised to have two Yanks from back home cheering him on.

It is both exciting and depressing to see how American jazz is loved and respected in Asia. The audience were not all graybeards and nobody talked when the music played. Clearly jazz is an important export for the USA, but it's discouraging that at home we continue to battle for survival. One silver lining to this, however, is the number of successful jazz festivals held in the U.S. each year. Our web site lists 67 of them, and we could have listed more. We are also lucky in the Bay Area. Not only do we have one of the very few all-jazz radio stations still extant in the country (KCSM), but we have three of the most important festivals, from San Francisco to San Jose. And check out "Where To Go For Jazz" on our web site—there are dozens of places nearby offering jazz. Taylor Eigsti told us that the Bay Area has supplanted L.A. as the west coast's hotbed for jazz. Enjoy it.

Speaking of enjoying jazz—April is Jazz Appreciation Month, in case you hadn't heard. So, we hope you'll attend our April 25 event at Senzala Restaurant [see below], or, if you can't make that gig, get out and see some live event and support America's original music.

C. Stuart Brewster

PAJA'S SPRING CONCERT—A VERY SPECIAL JAZZ EVENT

Herb Wong has put together many wonderful concerts for PAJA over the years, certainly not the least of which was the Piano Jazz Summit III at Woodside Priory School last December. Herb has really hit the bulls-eye again with our upcoming concert in May. You all remember the great Gerry Mulligan Quartet, featuring Mulligan on baritone sax and Chet Baker—and later Art Farmer—on trumpet and flugelhorn. It was revolutionary due to its "piano-less" format.



Mulligan's mantle has been passed to New York-based **Gary Smulyan**, now a four-time winner of the Down Beat Readers poll and five-time Grammy Award winner and for 28 years a mainstay of the Vanguard Orchestra (originally the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra). Herb has arranged for Gary to appear in a memorably unique setting playing the Mulligan songbook with **Ron Stout**, a top-rank trumpeter from L.A., who like Smulyan is a Woody Herman alumnus. Stout has also played with Horace Silver, the Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra, Frank Capp's Jugernaut, Bill Holman, Super Sax, and many more, and fronts his own modern quintet.

This one-time-only pairing of two of the country's best horn players is a not-to-be-missed afternoon of Mulligan's accessible compositions and standards from the Great American Songbook. You surely remember "My Funny Valentine," "The Lady is a Tramp" and "Moonlight in Vermont" as recorded by the Mulligan Quartet. Pure velvet.

Smulyan and Stout will be backed by local favorites **Akira Tana** on drums and **Michael Zisman** on bass. Tana, of course, was co-leader of TanaReid with bassist Rufus Reid and worked with dozens of jazz luminaries, including Sonny Stitt, Milt Jackson, Sonny Rollins, Zoot Sims, James Moody, the Manhattan Transfer, and many, many others. Zisman has performed with the likes of Phil Woods, Clark Terry, Kenny Burrell, and many of today's stars such as Dena DeRose and Eric Alexander. He is the former Artistic Director, Education Director and Programs Manager of the Stanford Jazz Workshop and Festival.

Opening for the Smulyan-Stout Quartet will be the Menlo-Atherton HS Jazz Ensemble. (Smulyan and Stout are also doing a clinic for the ensemble members and others at the high school on Monday.) Frank Moura, director the M-A Jazz Ensemble, is retiring and will be honored at the concert.

The date is the afternoon of Sunday, May 23 (starting at 2pm), and the venue is the Cañada College Main Theatre in Redwood City. You'll get more details in the mail soon, but mark this don't miss event down in your calendar. See you there.

JAZZ PARTY IN APRIL

As a warm-up for the big Gerry Mulligan Songbook concert, PAJA's #2 impresario Bruce Powell has put together a swinging afternoon (like the ones at the Elks Club) at Senzala Brazilian Restaurant in Sunnyvale. **The Modesto Brisone Septet**, with East Bay vocalist **Kenny Washington**, will bring down the house with storming classics from the 50's and 60's, familiar jazz standards arranged by Brisone. Kenny Washington is well known in these parts. He has appeared twice in the past for PAJA and left the fans screaming for more. In addition, **Christian Tamburr** will be a featured guest artist. Tamburr is a 29-year-old vibraphonist who has played the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, the Atlanta Jazz Festival, and the North Sea Jazz Festival, in addition to performing with Brubeck and Micheal Feinstein and opening for Harry Connick, Jr. Great vibes playing in the tradition of Red Norvo.

The music goes from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday afternoon, April 25 and there's a door charge of \$12.00. Doors open at 1:15pm. Bar food and beverages available and we're suggesting everyone buy something in the way of food

or drink to encourage Senzala to keep hosting jazz. **Senzala is at 250 E. Java Drive in Sunnyvale.** From Rte 101, take the Mathilda exit North...follow Mathilda past the Lockheed plant to the signal light at Java. Turn right on Java to the shopping center area at Geneva for the Senzala Restaurant.



Kenny Washington

AND NOW INTRODUCING WHATSISNAME

This from clarinet-sax great Ken Peplowski's blog dated February 15, 2007: "I later had another set by the pool [at the Newport Beach Jazz Party] as a guest with a pianist whose unorthodox technique is somewhat offset by his monumental ego. . . I know, because I've been down this road before, that either he doesn't know my name, and will introduce me like this: 'Let's hear it for Mr. Saxman!' or 'Now we'd like to bring on my main man!' or even better, he will kind of remember what my name sort of sounds like and will bring me on with a 'Now, we'd like to bring up Mr. Ben Peroski to the stage!' or any of a thousand variations therein. A lot is riding on this introduction, as I have a bet with two guys in the band about this . . . Soon, it's time and he looks around, catches my eye, gazes up in a heavenly direction for a clue, any clue, looks out over the audience and says, 'Now, I'd like to ask our

bassman to introduce our special guest,' and hands the microphone over to him. Brilliant!" Ken's blog is always entertaining . . . about a number of subjects: www.kenpeplowski.blogspot.com.

TRANSITIONS

We've been remiss in not mentioning the loss in 2009 of two prominent PAJA board members. On March 23, our treasurer Quentin Smith died at age 78. A graduate of San Jose State, Quentin had a 24-year government career, first as a management staff analyst in San Francisco, and eventually as Chief of Regional Management Staff, Western Regional office of the IRS in San Francisco. After retiring in 1979, he became involved in other enterprises and ended his working career as owner/president of Management Plus. In addition to jazz, his special interests included railroading, travel and history.

Paul "Tony" Harry, editor of the Jazz Buff, died suddenly on July 30th at 69. Tony was a long-time Cupertino resident and had a long career in education and music publishing. A PhD in music composition from the College Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, he taught at both the high school and university level, worked 10 years in the Educational Division of Baldwin Piano and Organ, and afterward worked in educational and music publishing and other activities. He was a private pilot and a talented music arranger and CD/book producer and had a long affiliation with The Music School in Sunnyvale.

YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Donations to PAJA help us with our ongoing efforts to present unique and memorable jazz concerts to our local community, as well as lend support financially and otherwise to programs and institutions involved with jazz education, such as the Stanford Jazz Workshop, Radio Station KCSM, and various other organizations and individuals. More than \$3,000 has been contributed to PAJA since the start of our fiscal year, July 1, 2009, from the donors listed below. Our heartfelt thanks for your generosity.

Phil Aranda	Wesley Ayres
Stuart Brewster	Lewis Creary
Claire Dikas	Malcolm Dudley
Paul Foerster	Ed Fox
John Gleed	Michael Griffin
A.R. Hessing	Greg Hull
Robert Johnstone	John Josse
Judith Kays	Ray Kenny
Stuart Leeb	Sheila Lewis
Trina & Larry Lovercheck	David Miller
Don Newmark	Sam Pearl
Bruce Powell	Louise Rising
Karl Robinson	Justin Rockwell

Steven Russell
 Jay Siegel & Linda Law
 Jeff Thompson

Ron & Katoko Sax
 John Sylvester
 Terence Tran & Alice Nguyen

And these contributions in memory of Tony Harry, some from as far away as Virginia and Pennsylvania:

Sally Abel	Faith Bamford
Leon Burton	Marilyn Forrester
Diane Hawkes	Janet Hermsen
Kelly S. Hite	J-M Manufacturing Co.
Roger Johnson	Andalusia Khechfe
Leonard Lattanzi	Leiva & Marks
Diane Lew, DDS	Mary McIntyre
Yvonne McGhee	Ian McMurray
Carolee Michener	Charles Neuhauser
Odin, Feldman & Pittleman	Charles & Nancy Shilling
Richard Silverman & Mary Spagnol	Susan Slovik
Brian Snyder	Gary Stokes
Kevin F. Thurston	Patricia Tsai

THE JAZZ PERISCOPE

In addition to PAJA's two outstanding upcoming events, here are two or three gigs in the offing that stand out:

Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society. The Pete Douglas Beach House on a late Sunday afternoon in May—jazz nirvana. On May 2, Pete has the Billy Childs Jazz Chamber Ensemble, and the following Sunday (May 9) it's saxophonist Michael O'Neill's quintet, with vocalist Sandra Aran and special guest pianist Michael Wolff. That sounds like a winner. PAJA members get a discount at Bach's. Their web site is www.bachddsoc.org.

Marqs Restaurant, Menlo Park. The redoubtable Lavay Smith appearing every Tuesday night, mostly doing the Billie Holiday songbook. www.marqsinmenlo.com.

Kuumbwa Jazz Center in Santa Cruz has a group called the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour appearing Monday night April 19. In the group are such headliners as Kenny Barron, Regina Carter, Russell Malone and vocalist Kurt Elling, all heavyweights. (They're also appearing at Yoshi's SF on the 16th.) Unfortunately this concert will probably be sold out by the time you read this. www.kuumbwajazz.org.

Yoshi's San Francisco. Two standout female vocalists appearing soon—Madeleine Peyroux, April 21-24, and Rachelle Ferrell, May 7-9. www.yoshis.com/sanfrancisco.

Razz Room at the Nikko Hotel, San Francisco. Ann Hampton Callaway and her sister Liz Callaway are at the Razz Room, April 27-May 2. Ann is a fine jazz singer, but this sisters show will probably be more In the pop/Broadway musical vein. Still, they are terrific together. www.therazzroom.com.

THE INCOMPARABLE DINAH



Dinah Washington

"[Dinah Washington] had a voice that was like the pipes of life. . . She could take the melody in her hand, hold it like an egg, crack it open, fry it, let it sizzle, reconstruct it, put the egg back in the box and back in the refrigerator, and you would've still understood every single syllable of every single word she sang. . . Once she put her soulful trademark on a song, she owned it and it was never the same. She was complete, original, and magnificent." From Q: *The Autobiography of Quincy Jones*.

THE PAJA WEB SITE

As our chair Stuart Brewster noted above, the PAJA web site has been pretty much dormant for many months, but the first stage of its makeover is pretty much complete and it has several attractive and informative features. Check it out at www.pajazzalliance.org. You'll find updated lists of jazz venues on the Peninsula and beyond, major jazz festivals around the country, write-ups on our upcoming events, this newsletter, and more.

Again, our heartfelt thanks to Linda Knipe (Jazz at Chardonnay) for making all this happen. Any organization without a functioning website these days is like a bas-

ketball player shooting free throws blindfolded. It can be done, but it's so much harder. We feel "back in the game" now, thanks to webmeister Linda.

KRML BACK ON THE AIR?

At this writing, we hear radio station KRML in Carmel is broadcasting again. The Jazz & Blues store was shut down about a year ago and the station's future has been very much in doubt. The web site shows a full schedule of jazz and blues, including Judy Carmichael's Jazz Inspired at 9am Tuesdays and Thursdays. The web site is www.krmlradio.com and the station is 1410 on the AM dial, 94.7 FM.

RENEW NOW

If you have let your PAJA membership lapse due to forgetfulness or procrastination, please take a moment now to get back on board. It's just \$35 a year, or \$50 for a family membership (two persons). We know your exchequer is not limitless and there are lots of demands and requests for your disposable funds. But we also suspect you have an abiding interest in the music, and that's where PAJA comes in. We'll continue to do our bit in helping to keep jazz alive in our local area and to assist individuals and organizations involved in jazz education. It is only through your continued support that PAJA—through the imaginative efforts of Herb Wong—can present the kinds of thematic jazz concerts you'll find nowhere else. Please renew now.

Palo Alto
Jazz
Alliance

P.O. Box 60397
Palo Alto, CA 94306

ABOUT PAJA

The Palo Alto Jazz Alliance (PAJA) is a nonprofit group of local music enthusiasts, who enjoy jazz and are interested in promoting jazz performance and education. Since 1993, it has been our goal to help educate the Bay Area community by providing concerts and get-togethers, helping nurture appreciation of jazz past and present.

PAJA annually contributes scholarship funds to local music education institutions, such as the Stanford Jazz Workshop, and has helped pay for teachers or music directors for school courses or student concerts. Past concerts have featured such greats as Shorty Rogers, Harold Land, Louie Bellson, Don Menza, Taylor Eigsti, the Woody Herman Big Band, Bud Shank, and many, many more.

