

FROM THE CHAIR

Did you know that April was Jazz Appreciation Month?

No matter. As a PAJA member you are probably involved every month, every day, in some way, with jazz. For me, I did my bit for Jazz Appreciation in April. I listened to KCSM every day on my car radio, attended an outstanding Stanford Lively Arts concert showcasing the Mingus Big Band, and had a happy evening with Herb and Marilyn Wong and Ed Fox at the Oak City Bar & Grill in Menlo Park listening to the swinging David Miller Trio, and the trio's outstanding vocalist Rebecca Dumaine (Dave's daughter). I also accompanied Michael Griffin to Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall to hear Terence Blanchard and Branford Marsalis and joined Ed Fox, Bruce Powell and Jan DeCarli at DeAnza College's handsome theater to catch the Daddios (6 and 8 O'Clock Big Bands). Wow, what a month. Some of these experiences were a challenge to my old ears. But part of the fun of life is to keep learning and appreciating new things.

If you are a computer type, I suggest that you check out the PAJA web site: www.pajazzalliance.org. You will find various items about jazz activities and experiences of members: where to see jazz on the Peninsula and elsewhere, news of upcoming important jazz events, jazz festivals, and more. We maintain this site for your benefit and also to help new people learn about PAJA—and we hope convince them to become members. Thanks to Linda Knipe and Ed Fox for keeping the site current and useful.

Bruce Powell has been hard at work organizing the June 5 Jazz Party featuring The Jeff Hamilton Trio. We've had concerts at the old Palo Alto Elks Club—wait until you see the new building and its modern facilities: bistro, exercise room, ballroom, etc. The intent of a jazz party vis a vis a concert is to make the event more informal, with easy socializing, table seating, and the availability of various libations and snacks, elements not possible in a concert environment. I first heard the Hamilton Trio on the Jazz Cruise, about a year-and-a-half ago. And then again at the San Jose Jazz Festival. Great sounds—relaxing, joyous, swinging. Another example of the kind of unique events that PAJA has been providing for almost 20 years.

Thanks to your donations and the proceeds received from the very successful Scott Hamilton concert in February, we have been able to continue our mission of providing support for student musicians. Recipients of recent PAJA grants have been the InConcert event of the San Mateo Union High School District, the San Jose Jazz Summer Camp, and Jimmy Nadel and the exciting 40th year of the Stanford Jazz Workshop. These awards are described more fully below.

As always, we more than appreciate your support. Please let me know if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions as to how we can better serve you and improve our operation.

Best wishes for a happy summer of jazz,

C. Stuart Brewster

THE JEFF HAMILTON TRIO

As Chair Stuart Brewster indicated, PAJA is presenting The Jeff Hamilton Trio in concert at the new Palo Alto Elks Club at 4249 El Camino Real in Palo Alto on Sunday, June 5. The concert starts at 3:00pm, and doors open at 2:15. It will be cabaret-style, with tables of ten. Drinks and snacks available.

With Jeff Hamilton on drums, Tamir Hendelman on piano, and Christoph Luty on bass, the trio plays standards, jazz classics and originals with a verve and freshness that has pleased audiences all over the world. They have just returned from a monthlong European tour. A DownBeat critic in 2010 wrote: "If you like tasty, smartly arranged, swinging jazz that can make three guys sound like a big band, dig in." That says it all. This is a group that has been together for ten years—a rare record of longevity for any jazz ensemble. But there's not a hint of staleness or ennui—every number displays a brilliance and vivacity that will get your juices flowing and your toes tapping.

The three artists are all veterans who have collaborated with some of the biggest names in jazz, including the Woody Herman Orchestra, Count Basie, Diana Krall, Clark Terry, Ray Brown, Oscar Peterson, and many more. Individually, they are superb jazz artists, but collectively

The Jeff Hamilton Trio on last year's Jazz Cruise.



they take it to a level that made one critic gush: "Trio jazz doesn't get any better." We hope you'll join us for this very special event. It'll also give you a chance to look over the new Elks lodge which just opened a couple of months ago.

Tickets are \$35 general admission, \$30 PAJA members, \$15 students, and are available by mail from PAJA Tickets, c/o E. Fox, 294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (until May 30), or from these outlets: Peninsula Music & Repair in Palo Alto, The Record Man in Redwood City, Vinyl Solution in San Mateo, and Groove Yard in Oakland.

PAJA would like to thank the Sheraton Palo Alto Hotel for hosting the musicians. Their cooperation over the years has been much appreciated. We'd also like to thank Carroll Harrington for her invaluable assistance in promoting this event. And we're also grateful to Dave Dumont of Sherman Clay Pianos in Santa Clara for use of the Boston Steinway 193 6' 4: grand piano.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Some relevant quotes mined from the book *Better Than It Sounds*, compiled and edited by David W. Barber:

"A jazz musician is a juggler who uses harmonies instead of oranges," trombonist Benny Green

"Playing bop is like playing Scrabble with all the vowels missing," Duke Ellington

"Only sick music makes money today," German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

"Muzak goes in one ear and out some other opening," pianist Anton Kuerti

SOME RECENT PAJA EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

PAJA is pleased to have made contributions to the following organizations in the last month or two:

San Jose Jazz. PAJA is underwriting the cost of two scholarships to the San Jose Jazz Summer Camp in 2011. The scholarship recipients are Jesse Rosario, a 7th grader who plays the drums, and Carlos Morales, also a 7th grader who plays the bass. Both are from the Alum Rock School District and were identified by the Alum Rock Jazz Program staff as talented, low-income students who will benefit from attending the camp which offers two weeks of intensive jazz instruction from a faculty which includes such notable local professionals as Kristen Strom, Dave Gregorec, Wally Schnalle, Seward McCain and Oscar Pangilinan.

THE MANY FACES OF JAZZ

Billy Collins

*There's the one where you scrunch
your features into a look of pained concentration,
every riff a new source of agony,*

*and there's the look of existential bemusement
eyebrows lifted, chin upheld by a thumb,
maybe a swizzle stick oscillating in the free hand.*

*And, of course, for ballads,
you have a languorous droop,
her eyes half-closed, lips slightly parted,
the head lolling back, flower on a stem,
exposing plenty of turtleneck.*

*There's the everything-but-the-instrument look
on the fellow at the front table,
the one poised to mount the bandstand,
and the classic crazy-man-crazy face,
where the fixed grin joins the menacing stare,
especially suitable for long drum solos.*

*And let us not overlook the emphatic
grimace of the listener
who has somehow located the body
of cold rage dammed up behind the playing
and immersed himself deeply in it.*

*As far as my own jazz face goes—
and don't tell me you don't have one—
it hasn't changed that much
since its debut in 1957.
It's nothing special, easy enough to spot
in a corner of any club on any given night.
You know it, —the reptilian squint,
lips pursed, jaw clenched tight,
and, most essential, the whole
head furiously, yet almost imperceptibly
nodding
in total and absolute agreement.*

[Billy Collins was the Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003.]

Stanford Jazz Workshop gets one of PAJA's largest annual contributions. Our grants will support deserving young jazz musicians (usually of high school age) who attend one or two of the in-depth instructional weeks this summer. These workshops are conducted by a faculty composed of some of the biggest names in jazz. The Workshop expects more than 600 students this year and will be awarding more than \$100,000 for full and partial

scholarships. We've been pleased to maintain a close connection to SJW and its director Jim Nadel since PAJA's founding in 1994, as the mission of both organizations is to foster jazz education.

Foundation for the Fine & Performing Arts. This foundation, based in Millbrae, sponsors an annual concert—this year In Concert 2011—by student musicians of the San Mateo Union High School District. For a number of years now, PAJA has underwritten the costs of a coordinator and director of the jazz program part of the concert. Johannes Wallmann, a well-known performer and composer, conducted the jazz ensemble this year at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, in another well-attended and highly successful concert. Wallman is director of jazz studies at Cal State East Bay.

THE LIFE OF A JAZZ MUSICIAN

"A jazz musician's life isn't easy, but it's rewarding. Tamburr said, 'My original goals were to be able to travel the world and play the music that I love and I've been very fortunate to be able to do that. . . You don't become a millionaire doing it, but it's something that gives me goosebumps, having the ability to share music, something personal, especially original compositions, music that people are specifically coming to hear by you. When somebody in some strange place like Prague calls out the title of one of my songs, it blows me away. That gives me the warm fuzzies inside.'" From an interview with local vibraphonist Christian Tamburr in the *Palo Alto Daily News*, March 3, 2011.

SOME UPCOMING JAZZ TO CHECK OUT

May 21 — Eliane Elias at the San Francisco Jazz Festival—YBCA Forum, 8pm. Also at Kuumbwa in Santa Cruz the evening of May 23 (Monday).

May 22 — Nancy Gilliland Trio in concert at Club Fox, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. 7pm

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