

FROM THE CHAIR

Have you ever heard the unique jazz created in the 1930's by Django Reinhardt?

Well, there is going to be a special festival devoted to his Gypsy Jazz that will be held at Birdland in New York City from November 6th to 11th. Here's your chance. The general admission charge is \$40 plus \$10 min. for drinks. Plus of course, air fare of \$300 plus or minus, plus a hotel room of \$300 plus or minus, plus cab rides each of which will kill a twenty dollar bill. And maybe you want to eat dinner, a minimum of \$50 per person. I know all about this having been in the Big Apple last month. I love that town but remember to take lots of money whenever you go there.

But wait, you don't need to break into your IRA retirement account to hear this exhilarating music. Thanks to the efforts of Bruce Powell, PAJA is sponsoring a presentation by The Quartet of the Hot Club of San Francisco who will play their version of the Gypsy Jazz of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. This will take place at the Elks Club in Palo Alto on Nov. 11 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. This will only cost you \$30 plus a little for gas. Dinner too for a mere \$25 more. A bargain if I ever saw one. And no hassle with the airlines!!

It was great to see and talk with many of you at the September Member Party. Thanks to Ben Deovlet for making the arrangements with the Community School of Music & Arts for the use of their facilities. Also, thanks to Patty Boyle, Arlene Leslie, and Harvey Mittler for their donations to help defray the costs. Plus much appreciation to Max and Lori Jedda for handling the wine table. Additional special thanks to Herb, whose skill at continually finding musical talent we take so for granted; he provided us once again with a powerful and diverse group consisting of Wendy McCain, Vocals; Seward McCain, Bass; Rick Vandivier, guitar; Jim Zimmerman, Drums.

At the end of the afternoon, I held a "thank you" conversation with one of the musicians expressing how much we appreciated their performance. *Au contraire* was the reply stating how much they enjoyed playing for PAJA, an audience that actually sat or stood and listened to what was being played. He said that they play at all kinds of gigs, at many of which the audience could care less about the music. So I felt doubly rewarded; our members had heard some fine sounds and the players were having had a

great time playing for us. A twofer.

See you at the Elks and bring a friend or two.

C. Stuart Brewster, Chair

SOME LIKE IT HOT

Stuart has filled you in on the November 11 gig at the Elks Club with the Quartet of the Hot Club of San Francisco. The group is led by Paul Mehling on guitar and includes Eric Price on violin, Isabelle Fontaine on rhythm guitar and vocals (*en français*), and the multi-versatile Clint Baker, bass. This is toe-tapping, sophisticated swing with songs that evoke strong emotions.

This event is cabaret-style, with table seating and a full bar and snacks available. Want to dance? OK with us. A one-of-a-kind sea foam green PAJA sweatshirt—donated by Shirley Douglas—will be auctioned off at intermission. There were very few of these sweatshirts produced (about 2002) and this was the only one in this handsome color.

If you don't have your tickets yet, you can purchase them at the door: \$35 general admission, \$30 PAJA members, \$15 students. Doors open at 3pm, and the concert runs from 3:30-5:30 on Sunday afternoon, November 11, at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.

PAJA members and guests are invited to join the PAJA Board for a buffet dinner afterward. The cost is \$25 per person—includes tax and tip. Reservations advised by e-mailing Bruce Powell at jazzbo777@gmail.com or phoning 408/257-4584. You'll be able to get dinner tickets at the concert, if space is available.

AND SAVE THIS DATE

Dr. Herb Wong has a major event planned for February, with **Taylor Eigsti** returning to his alma mater, Woodside Priory, and the beautiful Rothrock Performance Hall. Taylor's trio will include himself, of course, on piano, Harish Raghavan on bass, and Eric Harland on drums. Redoubtable tenorman Dayna Stephens will appear as a special guest. This PAJA-sponsored concert will take place on Saturday afternoon, February 16, so mark your calendar

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Musings on Monterey Jazz Festival, September 21-23, 2012

Photos by Andy Nozaka

Text by Andy and Dorothy Nozaka

This year marked the 55th anniversary of the Monterey Jazz Festival. The Jimmy Lyons Stage (Main Arena) hosted many headliners such as Tony Bennett, Trombone Shorty, Jack DeJohnette, Esperanza Spalding, Ambrose Akinmusire, Pat Metheny, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Eddie Palmieri; many of these performers also played the grounds venues as well. We generally prefer the more intimate grounds venues such as the Coffee House, Night Club and Dizzy's Den; this still requires careful preplanning and the inevitable dilemma when two choice groups play at different venues at the same time. Here are but a few of the highlights of our 2012 Monterey experience.

First up Friday night was the Pedrito Martinez Quartet. Martinez, a young Cuban percussionist, displayed gorgeous open tone drumming skills on conga and bat'a drums.. His radiant personality and infectious energy, which infused both his singing and drumming, was a winning combination with the packed Night Club crowd.

The eagerly anticipated MJF debut of soulful singer Gregory Porter capped Friday evening's events at the Night Club. The atmosphere was akin to a tent revival meeting with plenty of encouragement and response from the crowd—it was a veritable love-fest. Porter displayed a wide range of skills from protest songs ('1960 What?'), Broadway and jazz standards ('Skylark' and 'God bless the Child') in addition to many of his own originals. Porter's star quality and cross-over potential is apparent even at this early stage of his career.

Moseyed over to the Coffee House on Saturday afternoon to hear the Aram Shelton Quartet. Saxophonist/clarinetist Shelton, now based in the Bay Area, led his cohorts in a set of bracing, well-crafted, original compositions influenced by jazz iconoclasts such as Ornette Coleman, Art Ensemble of Chicago, and Eric Dolphy. Shelton will be a welcome addition to this area's experimental jazz scene.

Saturday evening at Dizzy's Den kicked off with a "Tribute to Cal Tjader", featuring former members of Tjader's groups such as Pete Escovedo (timbales), Robb Fisher (bass), Vince Lateano (trap drums) and Michael Wolff (piano), who acted as director and arranger; vibist Warren Wolf and percussionist John Santos rounded out the group. All musicians, except for the youngster Warren Wolf, have longtime roots in the Bay Area jazz scene. Michael Wolff's arrangements paid homage to both the Latin and straight-ahead jazz sides of Tjader's work. Wisely, all the arrangements were very contemporary and not an attempt to recreate a bygone era. Tjader covers such as 'Cubano Chant' and 'Guachi Guaro' brought back warm memories.

'Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour/55th Anniversary Celebration' concluded Saturday's events in Dizzy's Den in grand fashion. The group is an all star aggregation of Dee Dee Bridgewater (vocals), Christian McBride (bassist, musical director), Ambrose Akinmusire (trumpet), Chris Potter (sax), Benny Green (piano), and Lewis Nash (drums). The sassy Ms. Bridgewater was on her game this night singing a memorable 'Don't Explain', the Billy Holiday standard. As one would expect, this is one supercharged straight-ahead group. The addition of the 30-year-old wunderkind Akinmusire, this year's MJF Artist-in-Residence, adds an interesting dynamic to the group. Although he fits in well, Ambrose is definitely one who revels in a much more cutting-edge, idiosyncratic bag,



Cal Tjader tribute



Dee Dee Bridgewater



Jack DeJohnette



David Sanchez

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so to speak; it will be interesting to see how he adjusts as they set out on tour.

On Sunday evening, Dizzy's Den featured the Jack DeJohnette-Bill Frisell Duo in a wide-ranging, musical conversation between old friends. DeJohnette, an NEA Jazz Master this year, is now 70 and Frisell, the composer of this year's MJF commissioned work, 'The Music of Glen Deven Ranch', is 61. Frisell's work, to say the least, has been eclectic and broad, encompassing such genres as folk, country/bluegrass, pop, classical, and jazz, the music often augmented by various noise effects generated by pedals, dials and switches. Frisell offered musical declarations from this vast storehouse to which DeJohnette would respond in kind and perhaps offer a new tangent for exploration. It was 90 minutes of spellbinding, civil, and warm conversation.

Sunday night's conclusion at Dizzy's Den showcased 'Ninety Miles', featuring trumpeter Nicholas Payton and saxophonist David Sanchez. The title of the group derives from the proximity of our country to Cuba/Caribbean isles and the influence of each upon the other's music. Both Payton and Sanchez performed wonderfully. Sanchez, in particular, appeared to be greatly inspired by the driving, rock-solid groove laid down by the rhythm section of pianist Zaccari Curtis, bassist Ricky Rodriguez, trap drummer Henry Cole and Latin percussionist Mauricio Herrera, a revelation to these ears. Members of this rhythm section, all thirty-somethings, represent the cream of their generation in the Latin jazz field. Cole and Rodriguez have established their bona fides with such artists as Alfredo Rodriguez, Miguel Zenon, and David Sanchez. Conga players Herrera and the aforementioned Pedrito Martinez will one day, one assumes, rise to the ranks held by present day masters such as Changuito and Giovanni Hidalgo.

The magic that is the Monterey Jazz Festival continues on.

IN THE OFFING—NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Headliners and other selected performers coming to our area in the next month or two:

Yoshi's, San Francisco

December 4-5	Tuck & Patti
December 28-30	Maceo Parker's Funky New Year's Party

Yoshi's, Oakland

November 25	Montclair Women's Big Band
December 4-5	Lee Ritenour, Mike Stern
December 28-31	Pete Escovedo's Latin Jazz Orchestra

Bach's Dancing & Dynamite Society (Pete Douglas Beach House, El Granada)

November 18	George Brooks and Summit
December 2	Tessa Souter, vocalist, with Don Braden, Christian Tamburr, John Shiflett, Akira Tana

Kuumbwa Jazz Center, Santa Cruz

November 19	Ray Brown's Great Big Band (Kenton tribute)
December 3	Lee Ritenour, Mike Stern
December 6	Tessa Souter (see above)
December 13	Jeff Hamilton Trio
December 17	Charlie Hunter/Scott Amendola Duo

San Jose Jazz

Free jazz on Wednesday evenings, etc. Check the San Jose Jazz website for full listings: www.sanjosejazz.org

Hotel Sofitel (223 Twin Dolphin Dr., Redwood City)

Wednesday eves.	Michael O'Neill with various vocalists (Kenny Washington, Clairdee, Tony Lindsey, etc.)
Thursday eves.	O'Neill and vocalists also at Conservatory Lounge, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Half Moon Bay

Rrazz Room, San Francisco

November 12, 19	Tommy Igoe Big Band
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now. The next issue of the *Buff* will have details on where to get tickets, and so on.

PAJA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Four students at last summer's Stanford Jazz Workshop received financial aid from PAJA to help fund their participation in the SJW jazz camp. The students:

- Brandon Walters, 15 yr old drummer from Sunnyvale
- Jack Farnham, 13 yr old trumpeter from Sunnyvale
- Howard Dietz, 17 yr old saxophonist from Morgan Hill
- Jennifer Plock, 13 yr old drummer from San Jose

Your contributions to PAJA, along with concert receipts, provide the bulk of our funds to support projects of this nature. PAJA was also able to underwrite two scholarships to the San Jose Jazz summer camp this year. Support of young players and their jazz development is right on target with PAJA's jazz education mission.

FROM PHIL WOODS

"When we'd go away on vacations and stuff we would sing songs. We knew the score to *The Wizard of Oz*, "Over The Rainbow," and "Blue Skies" and what have you. It wasn't like music has become, where the youngest kid is up here with his iPod listening to some kind of garbage music, and grandma's listening to Lawrence Welk, and mom and dad are listening to Dick Powell or Bing Crosby or something. Everybody was listening to the same sort of stuff. It was part of the woven fabric of American life. It was the American song writers, you know, Irving Berlin. I mean, where would Charlie Parker be without Jerome Kern?" Phil Woods, in *The NOTE*, Summer 2011.



The Quartet of the Hot Club of San Francisco Plays Their Version of the Gypsy Jazz of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli

Sunday
November 11, 2012
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Elks Lodge
4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Come at 3 pm for Django Reinhardt on YouTube!

\$35 General Admission
 \$30 PAJA Member (limit 2 per member) \$15 Student
 Optional Buffet Dinner Afterwards: \$25 per Person (including tax and tip)
 Cabaret-Style Table Seating with Bar Service

Presented by:
 Palo Alto Jazz Alliance and Palo Alto Adult School ★ Cosponsored by KCSM FM 91.1
 Produced and Hosted by Bruce Powell

Information:
 PAJazzAlliance.org 408/257-4584 Jazzbo777@gmail.com

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