

FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you, thank you, to the Grace Griffin Charitable Trust for Grace's wonderful donation to PAJA of \$5,000. We are exceedingly grateful for this generous gift, especially when you consider how many other worthy nonprofit groups exist that she could have chosen.

While I'm at it, a hearty thank you to all our members who made donations to PAJA in 2020. A list of donors can be found elsewhere in this issue. These shots in the arm to our finances will assure the continuation of our efforts in providing LIVE jazz concerts to the Peninsula audience, as well as help further our efforts of providing jazz education support for students of all ages.

On that point, like all of you fellow shut-ins, I have been strolling a bit down nostalgia lane, looking back at years of fond memories. Just think, PAJA has been in operation since 1992 and we've generally offered at least two big concerts a year, plus free member party musical productions. All were live and one-time-only events. PAJA co-founder Herb Wong's notion was to arrange unique presentations, collaborations and combinations that you were unlikely to hear anywhere else. Harvey Mittler has endeavored to stay true to this idea since becoming our concert promoter after Herb's passing. (A complete list of PAJA concerts for the last 16 years is offered elsewhere in this issue.)

I'd say this is not a bad record for a local enterprise operated by an all-volunteer bevy of jazz lovers. I do not have a precise accounting of just how much we have contributed to school-age jazz students, but it's a significant amount. Another big thank you to all of our members for keeping your membership active during this frustrating time.

Please, let us not get too depressed with all the troubles of 2020. It is time to start thinking about the future and how PAJA can best continue to serve the needs of local jazz lovers and jazz education. Harvey will be ready to go with concerts once the social distance restrictions are eliminated. I'm sure we are all ready for that day. I would also submit that we need to find new ways to grow our audience. How can we get the uninitiated to want to learn and hear our special kind of music? I call on all of you to help us move forward in this effort, since without an audience jazz will be no more.

WELCOME GIFTS TO LOCAL JAZZ ORGS

The Grace Griffin Charitable Trust has put smiles on the faces of the leadership of three Bay Area jazz organizations this holiday season. Mrs. Griffin has allocated \$10,000 each to the Stanford Jazz Workshop and to radio station KCSM Jazz 91.1. In addition, a \$5,000 grant has been made to the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance. The KCSM gift will be used for matching challenge grants in PAJA's name during KCSM's winter pledge drive at the end of January. Station manager Dante Betteo said the gift couldn't come at a better time, as like everyone else this pandemic year, KCSM has serious financial concerns. PAJA chair Stuart Brewster commented: "Thanks to gracious Grace for helping to keep PAJA bebopping along." Board member Doris Harry called it "a great gift from two great people." Grace is the wife of one of the original founding PAJA Board members*, Michael Griffin, who has also served as chairperson and Jazz Buff editor. Michael still contributes to the Buff on occasion.



Grace Griffin

* The original five PAJA Board members were Herb Wong, Henry Page, John Richardson, Michael Flicker and Michael Griffin.

Some have said that jazz is already on life support. But anyone who watches the wonderful Emmet Cohen Monday evenings or tunes in to any of the other jazz streaming opportunities on the Internet knows that jazz is ALIVE and ready to burst back onto the scene once the virus is a memory. We all look forward to that happy day.

In continued appreciation of your support,
C. Stuart Brewster
Chair, Palo Alto Jazz Alliance

CD REVIEW— KENNY WASHINGTON'S "WHAT'S THE HURRY"



Full disclosure: I have been a Kenny Washington fan since I first heard him more than a dozen years ago. Kenny has performed for PAJA three or four times over the years and his concerts are always crowd-pleasers. Kenny has been featured on a number of albums previously, but this is his own self-designed project; "What's The Hurry" has to put "the Bay Area's best kept secret" into the top tier of American jazz vocalists (if he isn't already).

Of the 11 songs on the album, my two favorites are "Here's To Life," that achingly beautiful Shirley Horn signature song, and the Rodgers-Hart standard "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered." L.A. pianist Josh Nelson is the sole accompanist on both those tunes, and he does outstanding work throughout the album. "Bewitched" is given a gorgeous, slow-tempo rendition that melts the heart, and I just don't know of a better version.

In three of the tunes, Kenny is accompanied solely by guitarist Jeff Massanari—"S'Wonderful," "Smile," and "I've Got The World On A String." Chaplin's "Smile" is another emotional ballad and Kenny nails it. "S'Wonderful" has an unfortunate whistling ending.

"Stars Fell On Alabama" is given a beautiful, lush treatment, supplemented by Victor Goines on tenor. Mike Olmos' muted trumpet contributes to Ellington's "I Ain't Got Nothing But The Blues." Another winner is Bronislaw Kaper's haunting "Invitation."

My only disappointment with this release is Not Enough Scatting. For my money, Kenny is one of the coolest scatters around. In "What's The Hurry" he demonstrates this skill only in "Sweet Georgia Brown," accompanied effectively by bassist Dan Feiszli. So, next time, Kenny, more scatting, please.

"What's The Hurry" is a fine showcase for the mature Kenny Washington and his distinctive voice, his impeccable phrasings and interpretations. Available from Kenny's website, or, of course, Amazon./Ed Fox

Kenny Washington: What's The Hurry. Liner notes by vocalist Karrin Allyson. Personnel: Kenny Washington, vocals; Josh Nelson, piano; Garry Brown, bass; Dan Feiszli, bass; Lorca Hart, drums; Jeff Massanari, guitar; Mike Olmos, trumpet; Victor Goines, tenor, clarinet; Jeff Cressman, trombone; Ami Molinelli-Hart, percussion; Peter Michael Escovedo, bongos.

COOL SHIRT

This young woman was spotted in a Palo Alto park sporting this cool SAXOPHONE shirt. The other side said "We're saxy and we know it."



NOSTALGIA—PAJA CONCERTS, 2005 - PRESENT

May 2005	The Woody Herman Orchestra
November 2005	Louis Bellson Orchestra
June 2006	Alan Broadbent (Tana, Jewkes, K. Washington)
May 2007	Shades of Jazz (Forman, Abate, Clairdee)
October 2007	Ballads, Blues & Soul (Tana, Dunlap, Margolis, Holloway, et al)
December 2007	Larry Vuckovich Band
2008?	Bill Evans/Zindar
November 2008	Montclair Women's Big Band
March 2009	Dmitri Matheny, Kim Nalley
May 2009	Bill Henderson, Mike Melvin
December 2009	Piano Summit (Eigsti, Zeitlin, Vuckovich, Muscarella)
April 2010	Senzala Restaurant (Octobop, Kenny Washington Christian Tamburr, Modesto Brisone)
May 2010	Gerry Mulligan Quartet Tribute (Smulyan, Stout)
October 2010	Remembering Ella (Dunlap, Washington, Norris, Jewkes, et al)
February 2011	Scott Hamilton, w/Noel Jewkes
June 2011	The Jeff Hamilton Trio
November 2011	Peter Welker Little Big Band
May 2012	Richie Cole, w/Carl Saunders, et al
November 2012	Le Jazz Hot, w/Paul Mehling
February 2013	Taylor Eigsti, w/Dayna Stephens
December 2013	Joe LaBarbera, w/Bill Cunliffe, et al
April 2014	Vince Guaraldi Tribute, with Vuckovich, Big Black, Noel Jewkes, et al
January 2015	Herb Wong Tribute—Woody Herman Orchestra
June 2015	Charles McPherson Quartet, w/ Andrew Speight
January 2016	Montclair Women's Big Band, w/K. Washington
May 2016	Dave Miller Trio, with Rebecca DuMaine
November 2016	Benny Green—solo piano
April 2017	Tamir Hendleman Trio, w/Jackie Ryan
September 2017	Peter & Will Anderson
May 2018	Six Jazz Masters (Abate, Speight, Jekabson, etc.
October 2018	Electric Squeezebox Orchestra
March 2019	Tenor Titans: Harry Allen, Grant Stewart, Wolff
October 2019	Bird with Strings (Speight + Alexander String Quartet)



Kitty Margolis



Richie Cole

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PAJA IN 2020

A heartfelt thanks to those of you who were able to make donations to the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance in 2020 over and above dues. Your contributions help to keep us solvent and ready to present live jazz again once we are allowed to congregate and attend live concerts. Thanks very much to these good folks.

Anonymous
Jean Barrick, Palo Alto
Cheryl Bartholomew, Sunnyvale
(in memory of Bob Bartholomew)
Stuart Brewster, Palo Alto
Ralph Deadwyler, Fremont
Claire Dikas, Redwood City
Cathy Dolton, Palo Alto
Stephen Erickson, Belmont
Les & Kay Filler, Emerald Hills
Ed Fox, Palo Alto
Beryl Gaidos, Danville
Kate Godfrey, Palo Alto
Glenn Grigg & Shirley Cantua, Sunnyvale
Mary Hand, Palo Alto
Anne Hessing, Palo Alto
Jan Henrotin, Palo Alto
Max & Lori Jedda, Sunnyvale
Robert Johnstone & Kristina Smith, Palo Alto
Peggy Kass, Oakland
Toby Kaye, Palo Alto
Judith Kays, Stanford
Hollis Lenderking, La Honda
Sheila Lewis, Palo Alto
Richard & Beverly Marconi, Los Altos

Tom Meeks, San Francisco
Richard & Anne Melbye, Atherton
David & Elizabeth Miller, Atherton
George Miller, Menlo Park
Barbara Morgan, Saratoga
Bruce Powell & Jan Di Carli, Cupertino
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B.J. Sorensen, Portola Valley
Leilani Stritter, Menlo Park
Roger Summit, Los Altos Hills
John Sylvester, Palo Alto
Louise Tassone, San Mateo
Terry Tran & Alice Nguyen, San Diego
Bill Whitmer, Palo Alto

BACH FUNDRAISER SET FOR FEBRUARY 21

The second annual fundraising event for the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society is set for Sunday, February 21st at 4:30pm. There will be live streamed music, historic videos and pictures, an online auction, and more. Tickets can be ordered from the website: www.bachddsoc.org; other ways to support Bach's is through sponsorships of the event (contact Barbara at barbara@bachddsoc.org). Also contact Barbara to offer auction items. For any questions email to customerservice@bachddsoc.org.

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

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Annual dues, \$35 for individuals \$ _____

Annual dues, \$50 family (two persons) _____

Additional contribution to support jazz education _____

Total enclosed \$ _____