



NOTES

The official magazine of the Las Vegas Jazz Society and Las Vegas Jazz Scene

Sunday Jazz at the Bootlegger Bistro

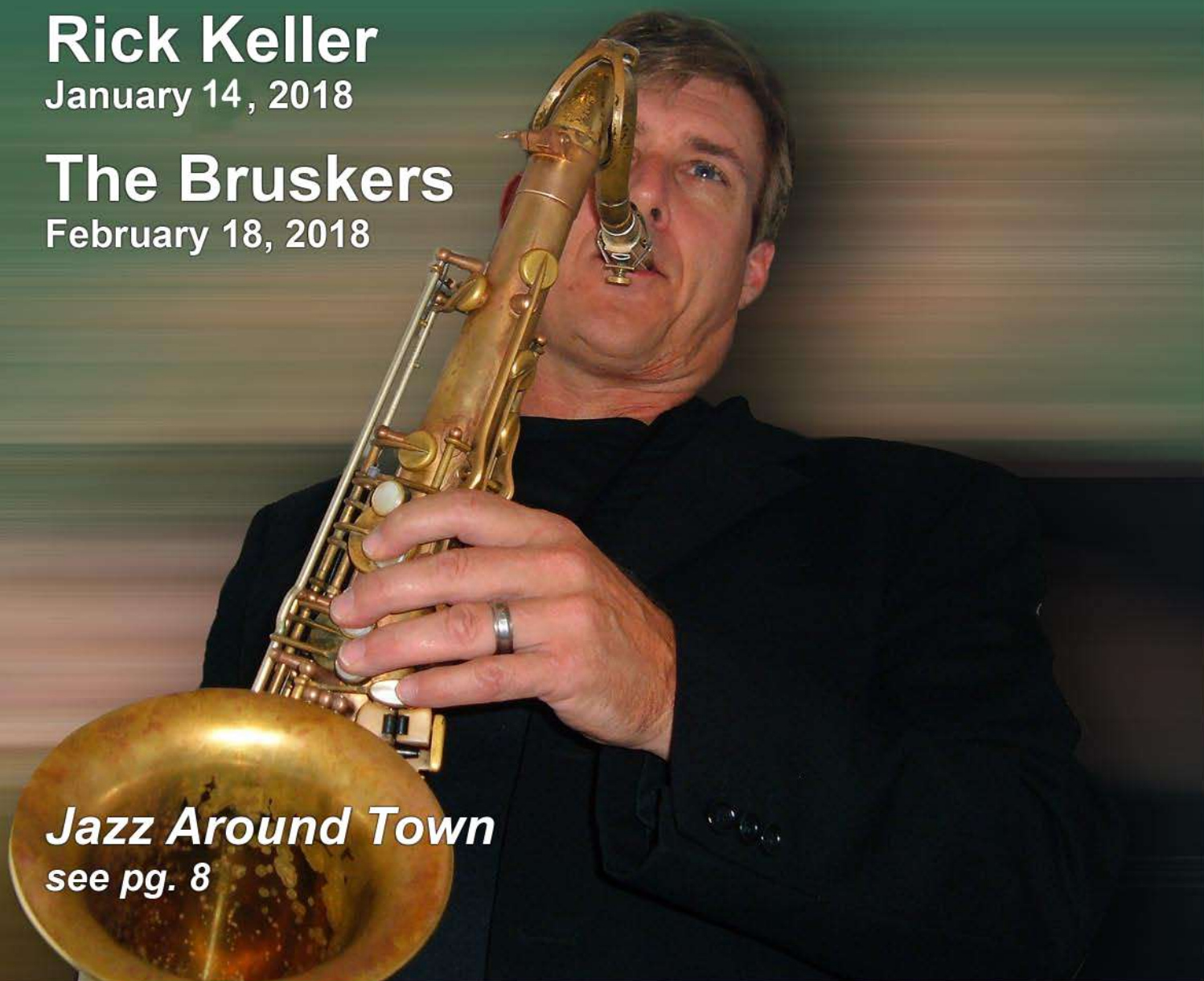
Presents

Rick Keller

January 14, 2018

The Bruskers

February 18, 2018



Jazz Around Town
see pg. 8

News/Updates

Events Calendar

Meet the Artists

jazz happens here... come find it at lvjs.org

NOTES

from the Board

Welcome back to another great year with LVJS, the Las Vegas Jazz Society. Our organization is stronger than ever thanks to members like you.

I would first like to thank the returning LVJS members for an outstanding 2017. Looking back over the past year, we have gone through a massive reorganization, from the simple new look of our LVJS logo, to the rewriting of our by-laws and business plan, a fresh remodel of our JazzNotes magazine, and the introduction of our first co-sponsored educational event "A Journey Through Jazz." All these changes, combined with some of the best jazz events that Las Vegas can provide, made for an exciting year.

I also want to welcome the new members who have just joined us. You have come at a great moment in our history, and I hope you find the same enjoyment and new-found friendships that I have been blessed with during my time with the LVJS.

2018 will also bring two new Board of Directors members to our Society. Re-elected to the Board were Rick Vittallo and myself, and newly elected was UNLV Jazz Division Graduate Assistant Michael Spicer. Betty Cleveland was brought on board as an alternate, and due to professional commitments of Rick Vittallo, she will be taking his position on the Board immediately. Thank you, Rick, for everything you do with and for us. We will miss you at the Board meetings but look forward to seeing you at the events. The Board also selected me, Shawn Whitmer, the 2018-19 LVJS President and Jonathan Karrant as the 2018 LVJS Vice-President. Jim Corwin and Adam Schroeder will continue in their present positions as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

This new Board has already begun working with the Advisory Board, consultants, and our own outgoing President Judy Tarte (who I heard is up for a position on the 2018 Advisory Board) on keeping the torch of growth and reorganization going. Besides the outstanding musical events and entertainment that have been planned, we have started to create a policy and procedures manual, form a new membership database that will help to automate a number of tasks required to keep this organization up and running. And, we look forward to working with the next generation of jazz lovers to grow our membership.

Again, thank you all for your support, and may 2018 bring you joy, health, peace, and jazz.

Shawn E. Whitmer
President, Las Vegas Jazz Society

LAS VEGAS JAZZ SOCIETY

Upcoming Events

LAS VEGAS JAZZ SOCIETY PRESENTS
Sunday Jazz at the Bootlegger Bistro

January 14, 2018 - 2 pm

RICK KELLER

\$15 LVJS members/ \$18 general admission; tickets can be purchased on-line at www.lvjs.org

February 18, 2018

THE BRUSKERS

\$15 LVJS members/ \$18 general admission; tickets can be purchased on-line at www.lvjs.org

Listings are subject to change, please check www.lvjs.org for updated information

2018 JANUARY CALENDAR

Please note: Events and Venues are listed by day of week/date/time and are subject to change; Venue contact information is on page 6. Admission prices/additional information are indicated with the event listing.

*indicates LVJS member ** indicates LVJS Artist Member

Thank you for supporting LIVE JAZZ

TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday

"Class Act" Vintage Vegas-German American Social Club, 6-9 pm, \$2 GACON members/\$7 for non-club members: Call 702-453-8451 for reservations

Rita Lim with Dave Siegel-piano, John Plows-drums, Michael Westlake-bass**, Osaka Japanese Bistro in Henderson, 6:30-9:30 pm

Tuesday Night Jazz at the Space, 9 pm - Check venue for details

WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday

Uli Geissendoerfer Quartet**, The Dispensary, 9 pm-midnight

1/3 - **Uli Geissendoerfer** Quartet**

1/10 - **Carlos Mata-Alvarez**

1/17 - **Ronnie Foster Trio**

1/24 - **Triple Trio night**

1/31 - **Joe Darro** Trio and Michael Delano**, 8 pm-11

January 17

UNLV Honors Combo, Flamingo Library Theater, 7 pm, free

January 24

Steppin' Out with Jonathan Karrant**, Rocks Lounge at Red Rock Hotel & Casino, 7 pm, free

THURSDAYS

Every Thursday

Rick Vittallo and Friends**, Cork & Thorn at Tivoli Village, 7-9 pm, No Cover

Rita Lim with Joey Ugarte and Jazz Vibrations**, El Cortez Hotel, 7-10 pm

January 18-19

Essential Ellington – Regional High School Jazz Band Festival, UNLV Ham Hall, \$10 PAC Box Office, call 702-895-ARTS

FRIDAYS

Every Friday

Gus Mancuso** "Smooze and Booze" Happy Hour, Bootlegger Bistro, 3-5 pm

Rita Lim with Joey Ugarte and Jazz Vibrations**, El Cortez Hotel, 7-10 pm

Uli Geissendoerfer Trio with guest vocalists**, The Dispensary, sets-10:15/midnight/1:30 am

January 5 – **Toscha Comeaux****

January 12 – **Elijah Rock**

January 19

Essential Ellington – Regional High School Jazz Band Festival, UNLV Ham Hall, \$10 PAC Box Office, call 702-895-ARTS

FRIDAYS

January 19

Downtown Cultural Series: King Ibu from Podor, Senegal, Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse Jury Assembly Room, 12 noon-1pm, free and open to the public

SATURDAYS

Every Saturday

Uli Geissendoerfer Trio with guest vocalists**, The Dispensary, sets-10:15/midnight/1:30 am

January 6 - **Naomi Mauro**

January 13 - **JoBelle Yonely**

E-String Bar & Pizzeria, 1-4 pm, \$10 at door - happy hour prices on food and beverage

January 6 - **Tom Hall** Simply Bop Septet**

January 13- **Merv Harding** Bebop Band**

January 20 - **"Hot Cole" the Las Vegas Alto Madness Orchestra under the direction of Tony Wells**** playing Richie Cole's Big Band arrangements for 4 horns/rhythm section

January 27 – **A very special afternoon with the "Boneheads"**

January 13

Marlane Coker: Piano/Vocals featuring "HOT COLE" the Las Vegas Alto Madness Orchestra, Winchester Community Center Theatre, 7 pm

SUNDAYS

January 7

Jimmy Wilkins New Life Orchestra**, German American Social Club of Nevada, 1-4 pm, \$15 at the door/\$12

GASCON members: Call 702-453-8451 for reservations

January 14

Las Vegas Jazz Society presents Sunday Jazz at the Bootlegger with the Rick Keller Quartet**, Bootlegger Bistro, 2-4 pm, \$15 LVJS members/\$18 non-members, tickets on-line at lvjs.org

~Smith Center Cabaret Room~

January 24 & 25

Steve Smith and Vital Information - NYC Edition, 7 pm

Dr. Aaron Mancuso
Optometrist



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Henderson, NV 89052
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fax: 702.616.2133

MONDAYS

February 12

Bill King and the Knights of Jazz**, E-String Bar & Pizzeria, 2-4:50 pm, \$10 at door – Happy hour prices on food and beverage

TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday

“Class Act” Vintage Vegas, German American Social Club, 6-9 pm, \$2 GACON members/\$7 for non-club members: Call 702-453-8451 for reservations
Rita Lim with Dave Siegel-piano, John Plows-drums, Michael Westlake- bass**, Osaka Japanese Bistro in Henderson, 6:30-9:30 pm

February 6

UNLV Jazz Ensemble 1 in Celebration of Black History Month, UNLV Black Box Theatre, 7:30 pm, tickets through UNLV PAC at 702+895-ARTS

February 13

Journey Through Jazz Series Celebrates African-American History/Black History Month featuring **Gerald Clayton** with **Keith Fiddmont, Jakubu Griffin**, and **Dave Ostrem**: opening will be the **Las Vegas Academy Big Band** under the direction of **Patrick Bowen**, Flamingo Library Theater, 7 pm, free and open to the public

February 20

Tuesday Night Jazz at the Space featuring **Rick Keller****, with **Dave Siegel, Dave Ostrem**, and **Ryan Rose**, 9 pm, \$10

WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday

Uli Geissendoerfer Quartet**, The Dispensary, 9 pm-midnight

2/7 - **Jazz Jam w/ Uli Geissendoerfer** Quartet**

2/14 - **Marbin World Quartet**

2/17 - **Julian Tanaka Quartet**

2/28 - **Joe Darro** Trio and Michael Delano**, 8 pm-11

February 14

UNLV Latin Jazz Ensemble, Flamingo Library Theater, 7 pm, free

February 28

Steppin’ Out with Jonathan Karrant**, Rocks Lounge at Red Rock Hotel & Casino, 7-8:30pm, free

THURSDAYS

Every Thursday

Rick Vittalto and Friends**, Cork & Thorn at Tivoli Village, 7-9 pm, No Cover
Rita Lim with Dave Siegel-keys, Blaise Sison-bass, Michael Tramontana-drums**, Italian American Club, 6-10 pm

FRIDAYS

Every Friday

Gus Mancuso “Smooze and Booze” Happy Hour**, Bootlegger Bistro, 3-5 pm
Rita Lim with Joey Ugarte and Jazz Vibrations**, El Cortez Hotel, 7-10 pm
Uli Geissendoerfer Trio with guest vocalists**, The Dispensary, sets-10:15/midnight/1:30 am

February 16

Downtown Cultural Series: Li Lin-Hong (music will be played on traditional Chinese instruments), Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse Jury Assembly Room, 12 noon-1 pm, free and open to the public

SATURDAYS

Every Saturday

Uli Geissendoerfer Trio with guest vocalists**, The Dispensary, sets-10:15/midnight/1:30 am
E-String Bar & Pizzeria, 1-4 pm, \$10 at door - happy hour prices on food and beverage

February 3 - **Tom Hall** Simply Bop Septet**

February 10- **Merv Harding** Bebop Band**

February 17 - **“Hot Cole” the Las Vegas Alto**

Madness Orchestra under the direction of **Tony Wells**** playing **Richie Cole’s Big Band** arrangements for 4 horns/rhythm section

February 24 – The return of the 16 pc. **summit Big Band with a tribute to Arno Marsh & the Third Herd**

February 17

The Villalobos Brothers - Contemporary Mexican Music (blending elements of jazz, rock, classical, and folk), Historic Fifth Street School, 7:30 pm, Tickets: \$16 Adults/ \$8 under 18 plus tax

SUNDAYS

February 4

Jimmy Wilkins New Life Orchestra**, German American Social Club of Nevada, 1-4 pm, \$15 at the door/\$12 GASCON members: Call 702-453-8451 for reservations

February 18

Las Vegas Jazz Society presents Sunday Jazz at the Bootlegger with the Bruskers, Bootlegger Bistro, 2-4 pm, \$15 LVJS members/\$18 non-members, tickets on-line at lvjs.org

~Smith Center Cabaret Room~

February 2 & 3

Time for Three, 7 pm

February 9 & 10

The Lao Tiger Band, 7 pm

February 23 & 24

Herb Alpert & Lani Hall, 7 pm

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The Bootlegger Bistro

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Cafe Berlin

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(702) 875-4605 • chef@cafeberlinlv.com

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(702) 785-0419

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downtowncontainerpark.com • (702) 637-4244

The Cromwell Bound Bar

3595 Las Vegas Blvd. S. LV, NV 89109 • (702) 777-3777

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3200 East Cheyenne Ave. NLV, NV 89030 • Performing Arts
Center ticket Office: (702) 651-LIVE (5483)

Ron DeCar's Event Center

1201 Las Vegas Blvd. South LV, NV 89104 •
vivalasvegaseventcenter.com • (702) 453-8451

The Dispensary Lounge

2451 E. Tropicana Ave. LV, NV 89121 •
thedispensarylounge.com • (702) 458-6343

E-String Bar and Pizzeria

2013 W. Sunset Rd. Henderson, NV 89014 •
(702) 437-8764

El Cortez Hotel & Casino

600 W. Fremont Street, 89101 • (702) 385-5200

Forte European Tapas Bar and Bistro

4180 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 806, 89103 •
(702) 220-3876 • barforte.com

Flamingo Library Theater

401 E. Flamingo Rd. LV, NV 89119 • (702) 507-3400

German American Social Club of Nevada

1110 E. Lake Mead Blvd. North Las Vegas, NV 89030 •
germanamericanclubnv.com

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Italian American Club Lounge

2333 E Sahara Ave • (702) 457-3866

Lounge at the Plaza

1 S. Main St. LV, NV 89101 • (702) 386-2110

Luna Lounge - Jazz and Blues Thursdays

3057 Las Vegas Blvd S. LV, NV • (702) 462-9991 •
lunalasvegas.com

Osaka Restaurant/Bar

10920 S. Eastern Ave. Henderson, NV

Piazza Lounge in the Tuscany Hotel

255 E Flamingo Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89169 •
(702) 893-8933

Red Rock Casino - Rocks Lounge

11011 W. Charleston Blvd. LV, NV 89135 •
(702) 797-7130

Siena Golf Club Bistro

10575 Siena Monte Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89135 •
(702) 562-2653 for information

The Smith Center: Myron's Cabaret Jazz

361 Symphony Park Ave. LV, NV 89106 •
thesmithcenter.com • (702) 749-2000

The Space

3460 Cavaretta Court LV, NV 89103 • thespacelv.com •
(702) 903-1070

Starbright Theatre

2215 Thomas Ryan Blvd. LV, NV 89134. •
information at scscai.com, click "News & Events"

Texas Station

2101 Texas Star Ln. NLV, NV 89032 • texasstation.com •
(702) 631-1000

UNLV: Judy Bayley/Black Box/Ham Hall Theaters

4505 S. Maryland Pkwy. LV, NV 89154 • UNLV ticket pricing
and information is available through UNLV PAC Box Office at
(702) 895ARTS

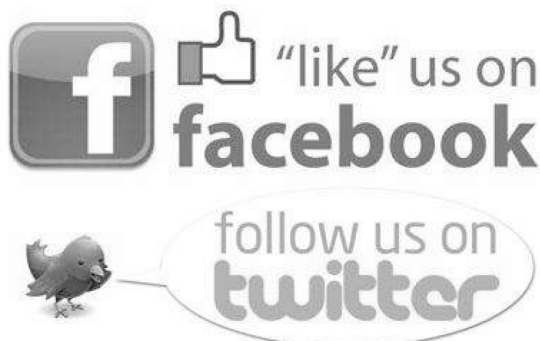
West Las Vegas Arts Center

947 W Lake Mead Blvd LV, NV • (702) 229-4800

The Winchester Cultural Center

3130 McLeod LV, NV 89121 • (702) 455-7340

At press time, the venues listed above were reported to have live jazz on a regular basis. For scheduled performances, artists and times, please use the contact information listed. Also, check evandavisjazz.com for more updated listings.



STAY CONNECTED: When you change your address, name, or email, please let us know. (702) 313-6778, message line; info@lvjs.org, email; or mail the info to us. **TICKET POLICY:** Members will be asked to show their membership cards when purchasing tickets. Membership dues entitle members to concert ticket discounts, an electronic version of *JazzNotes*, and a bi-monthly mailed version of *JazzNotes*. Additionally, your memberships and donations support the following outstanding jazz functions: Printing/mailling of *JazzNotes*; jazz education programs; community jazz events; maintenance to the website; Vegas Jazz Radio; partnerships with UNLV, CSN, and Clark County School District. Please consider a tax deductible donation or sponsorship to help us continue these outstanding programs. Las Vegas Jazz Society Member information Policy: All information is confidential, and will never be shared with other organizations or individuals.



MEET THE ARTISTS

RICK KELLER

Guest Artist at the LVJS Sunday Jazz at the Bootlegger Bistro on Sunday, January 21, 2018

Saxophonist Rick Keller spent seventeen years as a young saxophonist living in central Europe. Moving to Los Angeles in 2002, he made his way into the Jazz scene there, playing not only with his own groups but also with several world renowned big bands. He was lead alto saxophonist with Bill Holman for 4 years and in 2009 toured South America with Christopher Cross. Among the stellar players he has worked with are Steve Huffsteter, Bennie Maupin, Buddy Childers, Carl Saunders, Bob McChesney, Joe La Barbera, Lanny Morgan, Pete Christlieb and David Benoit.

Concert appearances include: Ronnie Scott's London, North Sea Jazz Festival, Blue Note Tokyo, Bratislava Jazz Festival, Burghausen Jazz Festival, Expo 98 Lisbon, Leverkusen. Most recently he has been touring extensively in the US, Australia and the UK with Frankie Valli.

He recently made the move from Los Angeles to Las Vegas and continues to explore and develop his musical voice both as a sideman and pursuing his own projects. Rick is a dedicated educator and frequently teaches master classes at summer camps and schools along with individual instruction in the language of jazz.



THE BRUSKERS

Guest Artists at the LVJS Sunday Jazz at the Bootlegger Bistro on Sunday, February 18, 2018

Back by popular demand, Eugenio Polacchini and Matteo Minozzi, the Bruskers Guitar Duo, have arranged their 2018 U.S. tour so they can be in Las Vegas in February.

Based in Modena, Italy, the Bruskers recently returned from tours in Austria, Germany and China. They have performed in international guitar festivals as well as theaters, auditoriums and summer festivals in such diverse locations as Italy, South Korea, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Bulgaria, Belgium, Hungary and Portugal. Besides their concert activity, Eugenio and Matteo are also guitar teachers.

...*"bright virtuosity, respectful humor, not only technique but also originality and grace"* L'Arena (Italy) – July 2012

...*"I recommend it for pleasurable listening and as a source of inspiration for guitarists"* Minor 7th (U.S.A.) – February 2012

...*"The Bruskers' ideas are bright and energetic, playful and intelligent, as well as, yes, unconventional and lightly fusionized"* Acoustic Music.com (U.S.A.) – July 2010

...*"it is a surprisingly fresh and energetic guitar dialogue, sometimes punctuated with humour, blending classical and...jazz"* JazzWorldQuest (Canada) – December 2009

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FIRST ANNUAL ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND FESTIVAL

Jazz at Lincoln Center, through its annual *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band program, co-produces noncompetitive, education-focused festivals designed to offer high school jazz bands of all levels the opportunity to perform the music of Duke Ellington and other seminal big band composers and arrangers. Participating bands receive professional feedback from JALC clinicians and other jazz professionals in their own backyard.

The UNLV School of Music, Division of Jazz Studies, is hosting their first annual *Essentially Ellington* Regional High School Jazz Band Festival on January 18-19, 2018, at Ham Hall.

Tickets are \$10, and will soon be available at the UNLV Performing Arts Center Box Office, for more information call (702) 895-ARTS.



UNLV Jazz Ensemble I (2017)



UNLV Jazz Ensemble I (Live at Ham Hall, UNLV 2016)



UNLV Latin Jazz Ensemble (Live at Ham Hall, UNLV 2016)

JOURNEY THROUGH JAZZ

Journey Through Jazz is a concert series designed to engage, encourage and showcase America's unique contribution to the Arts. It is co-sponsored in part by the Las Vegas Clark County Library District, the Las Vegas Jazz Society and the Clark County School District, and continues into 2018 with a celebration of African-American/Black History Month.

On Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm. acclaimed pianist **Gerald Clayton** joins veteran Los Angeles tenor saxophonist **Keith Fiddmont** and Las Vegas own **Jakubu Griffin** and **Dave Ostrem** for a celebration of African-American history month/Black history month. Opening the event will be the **Las Vegas Academy Big Band** under the direction of **Patrick Bowen**.

If you were at the 2017 concerts, we **know** you won't want to miss one...

When: February 13, 2018

Where: Flamingo Library Theater @ 7 pm

How much: FREE and open to the public



Gerald Clayton



Keith Fiddmont



SPOTLIGHT: NEXT GENERATION



WHY JAZZ?

An interview with

Molly Redfield

by Michael Spicer

Molly Redfield is a new upcoming bassist from the Sacramento, California area who is pursuing her Master's at UNLV.

Jazz Society (JS): Ms. Redfield, you are among the top bassists in the UNLV Jazz program. What was your earliest experience with Jazz, why did it stand out to you? What made you decide to study it? In other words, why Jazz?

Molly Redfield (MR): Thank you for the compliment. I started jazz in middle school and automatically fell in love with the family unit you build in a rhythm section and a band. My first experience that I knew that I would pursue Jazz as a career was when I spent a week under the great Jim Widner at the Stan Kenton Jazz Camps that he continued to administer. Having a mentor who takes you under their wing and guides you, plus they are your heroes, showed me the love that is shared through this music; that it does not matter how famous the person is they just want to help you become a better musician. A similar experience happened to me a few years ago when the great Billy Drummond led a combo that I played in with him and he mentored me.

JS: What made you choose upright bass as your instrument, and which Jazz bassists have influenced your playing?

MR: I actually started out as a cello player and when I moved to California the orchestra teacher had heard a rumor that I was an amazing bass player from Texas. Both were wrong, but she encouraged me to join the jazz band and since I grew up listening to the music I finally agreed and ended up falling in love with the bass. I love being involved in every moment of the music. I am constantly finding new bassists; however, I always go back to listening to Ron Carter, Ray Brown, Charles Mingus and my top two are Charlie Haden and Esperanza Spalding.

JS: You are originally from Sacramento California, but have traveled quite a bit growing up. Where are some of the places you have lived, and how you ended up in Vegas?

MR: I grew up in a family that supported my father's profession as a university professor and as a result we moved quite a bit. I was born in Reno, then lived in Vegas for a short period, then Arizona, then Folsom, and lastly Sacramento. What finally brought me here was the amazing programs available at UNLV both in the Jazz division and in the Wind Studies division. Furthermore, the atmosphere of encouraging students to study both classical and jazz and not separate the two really appealed to me since I have a degree in both.



JS: I understand you have quite a few awards and accolades under your belt. Can you talk about these?

MR: I have been very fortunate and received the Most Outstanding Rhythm Section Collegiate Performer award at the Reno International Jazz Festival and I received one of five of the Most Outstanding Soloists Awards at the Monterey Jazz Festival last year. The Reno Jazz Festival award is one that I hold very dear to me because the judges chose me out of all of the rhythm section players in each college group and I had received the same award when I was in middle school so it became a full circle experience for me.

JS: How has your formal music education helped your career so far?

MR: Having a solid foundation on your instrument can only open doors for you. I have become a better teacher, musician, and person because of my studies.

JS: You work as a Graduate Assistant for the UNLV School of Music while completing your graduate studies, playing in multiple ensembles, and gigging in town. How do you juggle your time?

MR: I live by a strict calendar and schedule. I treat practicing like a class that I have to attend and honestly, to keep myself sane, I try to always plan out one time during a week that I grab coffee with friends or even just relax and watch a T.V. show.

JS: What do you think are the best ways to get young people interested in Jazz?

MR: I think playing young people "jazz pop" is a great vehicle, such as Jacob Collier, Dirty Loops, Esperanza Spalding, etc. because this starts students down the path of listening to more harmonically and rhythmically complex music while still being able to get excited about the music.

JS: Do you have any advice for young Jazz players, bassists or otherwise?

MR: Never stop. Everyone hits down times when they feel frustrated, or maybe not make the group they wanted, but continue to play in community groups, jam with your friends, and most importantly never stop listening.

Jazz Guitarist, MUNDELL LOWE passed away December 2, 2017. He was 95.



Mundell Lowe (1922-2017)

After a stint in the Army during World War Two, Mundell spent two years with Ray McKinley's big band in New York City. He then joined the Benny Goodman orchestra and in 1950 hired on as a NBC staff musician while playing jazz on weekends. In the jazz world, he played with Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey, Bill Evans, Billie Holiday, Red Norvo, Charles Mingus, Charlie Parker, Sauter-Finegan Orchestra and Lester Young. He composed and arranged for NBC.

In 1965, he moved to Los Angeles and worked for NBC as a staff guitarist, composer, and arranger. He wrote music for the TV shows *Hawaii Five-O*, *Starsky & Hutch*, and the *The Wild Wild West*, and the movies *Billy Jack* and *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex, But Were Afraid to Ask*.

During the 1980s, he worked with Andre Previn, Tete Montoliu and the Great Guitars. He was a teacher at the Guitar Institute of Technology and the Grove School of Music. For several years, he was music director of the Monterey Jazz Festival.

During his career, he recorded with Carmen McRae and Sarah Vaughan and worked with Benny Carter, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Hodges, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Lee Konitz, Peggy Lee, Fats Navarro, Shirley Scott, Dinah Washington and Ben Webster. In the later decades of his life he collaborated often with flautist Holly Hoffman. At the age of 93, he released the album *Poor Butterfly*.

In 1998, he was inducted into the Mississippi Music Hall of Fame. In 1999, Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, gave him an honorary Doctorate of Arts. In July of 2009 he was given a key to the city in his hometown of Laurel, Mississippi in recognition of a lifetime of musical achievement. Mayor Melvin Mack further honored him by proclaiming July 18, 2009 *Mundell Lowe Day*.

Loyal LVJS Member, jazz fan and supporter, VICTOR MISTRETTA passed away on November 5, 2017.



Victor Mistretta (1928-2017)

A personal remembrance by Marsha K. Ross

He was just known as VICTOR. Everyone knew him when he walked into a room. He was everyone's friend. He was a great hand shaker and hugger.

Victor was born August 16, 1928 and was planning his 90th birthday party for 2018, with Ruthie, they were only a month apart in age. It was always Ruthie and Victor. Age didn't mean much to Victor, he stayed active in the Jazz and music scene and loved supporting Ruthie's dancing programs.

I met them at Pogo's jazz jam so many years ago...spent many a Thanksgiving or Christmas holiday with them. Now my heart breaks for Ruthie as her love has been taken away. Victor would always shock me. He would have a medical procedure and the next day, or soon after, would get out and go to hear music. He said nothing was going to hold him back from what he loved most to do. He had soooo much energy.

I will miss him and his sense of humor, the twinkle in his eye, his always sitting in the front, his always supporting anything I did. His always friendly smile, his always greeting the band when he came in and then would ask me to sing one of his favorites.

I want to thank the German American Social Club of Nevada for their donation in Victor's name to the Las Vegas Jazz

Society. It was a very kind thing to do and one that Victor would have appreciated as he loved the Jazz Society and attended as many events as he could.

We will all miss you Victor.



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Former LVJS Board member and guitarist TOM MARTH passed away October 22, 2017. He was 76.

Contributed by Greg Blando



Tom Marth (1941- 2017)

When Tommy was about 14 a young accordion player from his home town of Milwaukee, Kenny Kotwitz, called and asked him to join a polka band...playing his tenor banjo. Within a year they were featured on the Lawrence Welk show and started playing ballrooms and dance halls around the area. Their parents had to take them to their gigs.

Tom's transition into jazz came a couple of years later when Kenny (Kotwitz) started studying with Art VanDamme, the world's foremost jazz accordion player.

He came back from his studies with Art's quintet arrangements and suggested that Tom get a guitar so they could play them. After adding vibes to the group (Greg Blando), they were playing 5-6 nights a week. After a few years and changes in personnel/leadership, Tom decided to move to Las Vegas.

Some of his gigs in Las Vegas were with Martha Raye, Shecky Greene and in *Sweet Charity* with Juliet Prowse. As he stated in a JazzNotes spotlight article (July/August 2014)" the rest is history and included stints with Mel Torme, Dean Martin Sammy Davis, Jr., B.B. King and the *Hallelujah Hollywood* production show." Tom also traveled and performed with the Scintas group for 12 years.

Tommy was an active volunteer with LVJS and could always be depended upon. He was a wonderful musician and great friend. He will be missed.

Bassist, BILLY CHRIST, Billy passed away on October 30, 2017. He was 87.

A collaboration with Santo Savino, Gus and Maggie Mancuso and Tom Hall



Billy Christ (1930-2017)

Billy was a man of few words...well-chosen words. He had a dry sense of humor, so you had to listen carefully. Originally a "hip cat" bebopper from Detroit, Billy, along with Don Rea, Burt "Holiday" Bonaldi, and Ronnie "Gaylord" Fredianelli were original members of The Gaylords. This a group who were lifelong friends and "brothers," recorded on the Mercury label, performed throughout the country, and landed gold records and top 10's on the Billboard charts in the late 50's.

They made numerous appearances on The Colgate Comedy Hour, The Mike Douglas Show, The Merv Griffin Show, The

Tonight Show, The Flip Wilson Show, and Rowan and Martin's *Laugh In*. They worked with other major headliners throughout the country, including Duke Ellington who called the Gaylords "purveyors of tonal zest."

In Las Vegas since the early 60's, Billy played in many house bands and was a well-respected musician. He traveled with Paul Anka and opened for Ethel Merman...from which developed one of those Las Vegas legends:

Billy was on stage with his bass, the curtain began to raise, somehow, though, the curtain had wrapped around his bass and when the curtain went up, so did the bass with Billy hanging on, raising about 10 feet off the stage and bringing down the house. The audience thought it was so hilarious they thought it should be a regular part of the act!

LVJS member, LARUE SARES BOENIG passed away suddenly, Nov. 12, 2017, as a result of injuries suffered from a tragic traffic accident. She was 86.



LaRue Boenig (1931- 2017)

LaRue worked at the University of Illinois for more than 30 years, before moving to Las Vegas. Her love of pug dogs was evidenced by her collection of nearly 100 pug figurines, as well as the numerous live pugs she owned during her lifetime. A lover of music, she will be especially missed by the regular group of "jazzers" at the E-String, "Nick at Night" and the Ladies Who Lunch group.

LaRue was widely beloved for her wry humor and keen sense of intelligence, combined with her compassionate and generous heart and soulful demeanor. RIP



Former LVJS Board member and guitarist TOM MARTH passed away October 22, 2017. He was 76.

Contributed by Greg Blando



Tom Marth (1941- 2017)

When Tommy was about 14 a young accordion player from his home town of Milwaukee, Kenny Kotwitz, called and asked him to join a polka band...playing his tenor banjo. Within a year they were featured on the Lawrence Welk show and started playing ballrooms and dance halls around the area. Their parents had to take them to their gigs.

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Steve Smith of Vital Information and Journey will give a master class at UNLV on January 25th.

After his last appearance in Las Vegas at the Gallery of Music and Art at Caesars Forum, he donated his demonstration Drum Kit to the UNLV Jazz Studies program.

Steve and his group **Vital Information NYC Edition** will be playing the Smith Center on January 24th and 25th.

LVJS Artist member and UNLV Jazz Studies faculty member, **Uli Geissendoerfer** caught up with Steve for a quick interview prior to these Las Vegas appearances.

Uli: Steve playing with you and seeing you play with Journey and Vital made me realize what a chameleon you are on the drums. Tell me how that all started.

Steve: I grew up in the Boston area and was really into Jazz. I went to Berklee and my first touring I did was with Big Bands. At the same time, it was the era of Fusion, which we didn't think of Fusion at the time, but simply that was the Jazz which was current back then with Bitches Brew, Mahavishnu Orchestra, Return to Forever coming out, that's what we played and I started touring with Jean Luc Ponty (preeminent French Fusion violinist). We even played in Vegas, I believe the Aladdin Hall in the 80's sometime.

Uli: What about Vital information?

Steve: That has been my band since 1983. At first, the band played Fusion, but now that everyone's based in NY the sound has changed to more Jazz and Straight Ahead, and less Fusion. Thus, it's called the NYC Edition featuring guitarist Vinny Valentino, Mark Soskin on keys, Baron Browne on bass and myself. Besides our originals and our Fusion legacy, we feature arrangements of standards of Monk, Trane and others and of course Vinny and I also do South Indian singing called Konnakol, which is the rhythmic singing that I picked up when touring with Zakir Hussain (foremost tabla player).

Uli: I am very much looking forward to hear the band again. You have a new album out.

Steve: Yes, we are presenting our new album *Heart of the City!*



REVIEWS/COMMENTS

Poncho Sanchez

December 1, 2017 – Myron's Cabaret Jazz Room at the Smith Center

Observations and Comments by Chuck Carter



Poncho Sanchez

traditional approach to Latin music. They pay a lot of attention to the detail of the specific rhythms they're playing.

For more than three decades, as a band leader and sideman, Poncho Sanchez has stirred up a fiery stew of straight ahead jazz, soul music, and infectious melodies and rhythms from a variety of Latin American and South American sources.

Growing up, Sanchez was exposed to and influenced by two very different styles of music: Afro-Cuban music (mambo, cha-cha, rumba, guaracha) by greats such as Tito Puente, and bebop jazz,

On December 1, 2017. I was a guest at the Myron's Cabaret Jazz Room for a performance by the legendary Poncho Sanchez.

Seated with me were two lovers of Latin Jazz in their early twenties, hearing Poncho for the first time. The good thing about the Cabaret Jazz Room is there is no view obstruction either on the main floor or the balcony. The great thing about Poncho Sanchez and company is, they take a very

including the works of Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker. Among the prominent architects of Latin jazz that formed his music were conga drummer and composer Chano Pozo and trumpeter bandleader/composer Dizzy Gillespie.

Originally a guitarist, Poncho later taught himself flute, drums, and timbales before finally deciding to pursue conga-playing in high school. In 1975, at the age of 24, he landed a permanent spot with Cal Tjader's band and played with Tjader until he died in 1982. That same year he signed with Concord Records and formed a musical partnership with trumpeter, composer Terrance Blanchard which has lasted over 25 years.

Early in the performance Poncho set the tone of the evening by playing a song written by Chano and Dizzy and educating the audience on the importance these two played in the history of Latin Jazz. Sanchez told his audiences: "What I'm most proud of is, that this music – while it may sound exotic at times—is from America. It was born in New York City, when Chano Pozo met Dizzy Gillespie for the first time in the mid-1940s. They created something that didn't exist before in this country. I'm very proud to take this music all over the world all the time."

It was a great experience for me, as well as the rest of the audience and the young couple I was seated with loved it!

MEMBERSHIP

THREE BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING • SHAWN WHITMER CHOSEN AS NEW PRESIDENT

Annual Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting and Board elections were held at the Bootlegger Restaurant on Sunday, December 3, 2017. At the meeting, outgoing president, Judy Tarte, provided a review of the past year's administrative activities and each committee chairperson reviewed the actions of his/her respective committee, as guided by the 2017 LVJS Business Plan. Treasurer Jim Corwin provided fiscal and budget information. Prior to the election, Judy spoke about the need for volunteers for certain committees and events and encouraged each member to actively participate in committee work, events planning and operation and all other aspects of LVJS activities.

Board Election

The members elected **Michael Spicer**, **Rick Vittalio** and **Shawn Whitmer** to the LVJS Board of directors for two-year terms beginning in January 2018. **Betty Cleveland** was chosen as alternate.

Saxophonist **Michael Spicer** is a newcomer to the Board and presently serves as a graduate assistant in the UNLV School of Music Jazz Division. Among his various duties, he is the leader of UNLV Jazz Ensemble III which is supported by the Society.

Rick Vittalio is a well-known and respected guitarist, vocalist and music director who has performed around the world and presently works mainly in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. He has served on the Board for the past two years and was Vice-President during 2017. With other Artist members, he has provided support to UNLV Jazz Ensemble III by conducting sectional rehearsals for ensemble members.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to professional commitments, Rick needed to resign from the Board, effective immediately. Alternate Betty Cleveland will serve his two-year term. Rick will remain an active member of the Society as time allows.

Shawn Whitmer has served as an alternate and member of the Board for the past two years. During this time, he has also served as a management consultant to the Society and is presently involved in the production of the LVJS magazine *JazzNotes*. He is an accomplished jazz pianist, music composer/arranger, and adjunct instructor and administrator in the UNLV Jazz Division.

Betty Cleveland is a long-time jazz enthusiast and is member of the Events committee. She is a retired administrator who volunteers her time at each LVJS event and helps to coordinate ticket sales and other tasks to keep things moving smoothly.

As a result of the elections, the Board now consists of:

Continuing Members (Terms Continue Through December 2018)

Chuck Carter

Jim Corwin

Jonathan Karrant

Adam Schroeder

Newly Elected Members (Terms Continue Through December 2019)

Betty Cleveland

Michael Spicer

Shawn Whitmer

Selection of Officers

At the inaugural meeting of the newly-constituted Board on December 11th, its members elected and/or verified the following officers:

Shawn Whitmer, *President, 2018 – 2019*

Jonathan Karrant, *Vice-President, 2018*

Jim Corwin, *Treasurer, continuing through 2018*

Adam Schroeder, *Secretary, continuing through 2018*

LAS VEGAS JAZZ SOCIETY

Jazz Happens Here!



Support Live Jazz!

2018 Membership Application

All memberships will expire on December 31, 2018

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: _____ **New** **Renewing** _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

All members will receive hardcopy of bimonthly JazzNotes magazine, weekly e-mail calendar of jazz-related events, access to our website, www.lvjs.org, and reduced admission fees to LVJS-sponsored events.

- _____ \$10 Student (Minimum number credit hours required)
- _____ \$35 Individual
- _____ \$45 Family (Additional family members in same residence as primary member)
- _____ \$55 Artist

In addition to membership benefits (above), Artist members will receive the following services:

- Listing of jazz related events in the JazzNotes bimonthly magazine
- Listing of jazz related events on the lvjs.org website calendar of events
- Assistance in publicizing Artist member events and information via social media and emails to membership
- Listing in LVJS Artist Member directory

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please Print)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

*If **FAMILY** or **ARTIST** Membership, please include names of up to two family members living in the same residence as member*

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Artist Member Only: Please add the following information if you wish to be listed in the LVJS Artist Directory:

Professional Name/Nickname AND/OR Name of Band: _____

Main Instrument/Skill: _____ Secondary Instrument/Skill: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Website: _____

Other Contact Info: _____

I WISH TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE LAS VEGAS JAZZ SOCIETY

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Membership dues are not eligible for IRS tax deductions. Tax-deductible donation may be entered here. Receipt for tax purposes to be provided via e-mail or hard copy, as requested. If using same check for membership and donation, please note amount of donation.

Amount of Donation \$ _____

For information on opportunities for sponsoring events and/or specific activities, email LVJS Marketing at info@lvjs.org.
Volunteers wanted for assistance at LVJS events. Please contact LVJS Events at info@lvjs.org.

Please send application and check payable to:

'Las Vegas Jazz Society' or 'LVJS' to:

LVJS Treasurer, 20300 Sawmill Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89134

Further Information: info@lvjs.org ♦ Telephone Message: (702) 313-6778

NOTE: You may also join/renew membership by completing on-line application at our website, www.lvjs.org.

Myron's

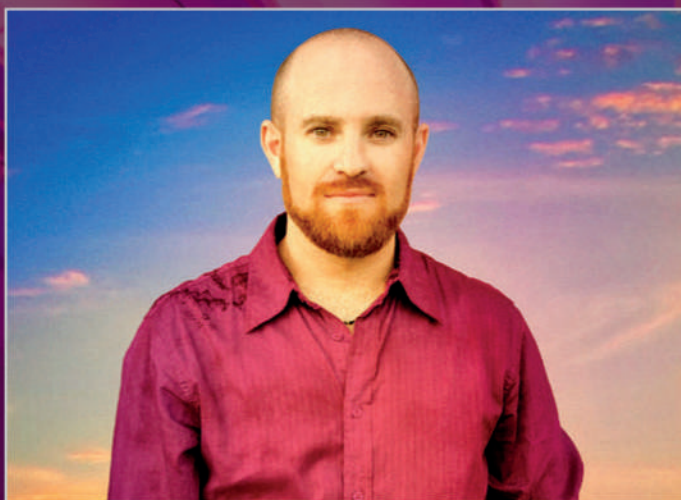
CABARET JAZZ



STEVE SMITH AND VITAL INFORMATION
NYC EDITION
JANUARY 24 & 25 • 7PM



TIME FOR THREE
FEBRUARY 2 & 3 • 7PM



THE LAO TIZER BAND
FEBRUARY 9 & 10 • 7PM



HERB ALPERT & LANI HALL
FEBRUARY 23 & 24 • 7PM



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