



# MILESTONES

WWW.JAZZSOCIETY.ORG

fpjbs@bellsouth.net

VOLUME XVII Oct. 2009

Tom Omans, Milestone Editor

## **OUR MISSION: PROVIDE CULTURE FOR THE FORT PIERCE AREA AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING YOUNG STUDENTS**

### ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

With the publication of this October's Milestones newsletter, we enter another new season, which challenges your Board of Directors to provide Jazz and Blues culture to the Fort Pierce area Community and scholarships to deserving young students. Rest assured your Board is hard at work constructing an exciting year for all of us. You can review many of our events that have already been finalized in the following articles in this issue and the FPJ&BS Board of directors will keep you posted about additional events as the year progresses in the Milestones Newsletter as well as our website: [fpjbs@bellsouth.net](mailto:fpjbs@bellsouth.net).

Also, with this new season, we welcome back many of our members from up north. We hope their summer was fulfilling and their return was, or will be, safe and that they are ready for a great year of Jazz and Blues.

On a more somber note, as your President, I have the responsibility to report, as many of you know, the passing this past summer of two of our very active members: Lois Cole and Lou Sanzaro.

Lois Cole passed away on September 8. She was a hard worker for our Jazz Society for many years until she became ill four years ago. Lois was always there for the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, working in the background, quietly doing all the unheralded work - - the type of work that organizations such as ours just wouldn't exist if people like Lois weren't there to do them. Some of you may not have known her but will appreciate the hard work the Jazz Society requires and Lois was always there for us. I cannot express enough to you just how much the organization misses her.

Lou Sanzaro passed away on June 1. Lou was a true professional musician ever since his stint in the U.S. Army band. As most of you know, he played bass, trumpet and flugelhorn and was a gifted singer. As any jazz front man will tell you, "if you don't have a great rhythm section backing you up, you don't have anything" and when Lou was on bass for the Jazz Society, the rhythm section was great. Then when he sang, Lou gave us an extra, beautiful dimension that we all enjoyed. All of us, musicians and non-musicians, will miss Lou.

And finally, we were saddened to learn that Tina Marsh, the Artistic Director for the Creative Opportunity (CO2) Orchestra, passed away this past summer. Miss Marsh's last performance with her Orchestra happened to be for the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society last March. For those of you who missed it, their performance was the most unique, avant-garde jazz ever heard by many of us and was heralded by a beautiful article in our last Milestones Newsletter written by our very own, Gene Hull.

Your FPJ&BS President,  
Bill Genson

### **WEEKLY JAZZ JAMS**

Our weekly Jazz Jams have started up again. In Port St. Lucie, they are held on Wednesday nights in the rear building at the Holy Faith Episcopal Church located at 6990 U.S. 1 (about ¼ mile north of Rio Mar on the east side of the street).

In Fort Pierce, they are held on Thursday nights at the Fort Pierce Community Center located at 600 Indian River Drive (North of the Manatee Center).

Both locations have a \$2.00 per person entrance fee to help cover the use of the buildings and run from 7PM to 10PM. So come on out with your friends and enjoy a great night of Jazz again this year.

### **THE NEW BLACK BOX THEATER**

The Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society in conjunction with the Sunrise Theater will host the Grand Opening of the Black Box Theatre, on October 29, 2009, from 5:30 until 7:pm. The Sunrise Theater has converted a few storefronts next to the theatre into a small entertainment area that will feature jazz, comedy, and small productions. We're proud to say that the FPJ&BS Jazz Ensemble will play at the private gathering for the Grand Opening.

### **WATERSIDE BLUES**

Don't forget to bring your family, friends and neighbors to the next Waterside Blues Festival coming up at the Fort Pierce City Marina on Sunday, December 20, from 1PM – 6PM. Kicking it off, our very own FPJ&BS Jazz Ensemble will warm things up for IKO IKO who will be followed up by the Jack Starr Blues Band. Bring your chairs and enjoy this beautiful Festival.

### **ARE YOU READY FOR MORE HEATHCOTE CONCERTS IN THE GARDENS?**

The hugely popular Heathcote Concerts in the Gardens series is set to start in January and run into March with the following fun filled groups:

January 23 – Mardi Gras Kick-off with a New Orleans style Zydeco Band.

February 13 – Smooth Jazz Valentine

February 27 – International Jazz Night

March 13 – True Blue Bluegrass Season Finale

All above dates are on a Saturday from 5PM until 9PM with music starting at 6PM. Tickets for each event are \$10.00 for FPJ&BS and Heathcote Members, and \$15.00 for non-members. Food and drink will be offered for sale, so bring your family and friends, along with your chairs and enjoy the music of your choice and have a beautiful evening at the Heathcote Concerts in the Gardens!

### **JAZZ WEEK!!**

Your Board of Directors is working on Jazz Week, which will occur in early February. We will have the details in our next Milestones newsletter as well as posted on our website. So please stay tuned!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are in great need of volunteers for a multitude of tasks, such as helping out at our Waterside Blues events, Jazz Week, the Saturday Arts and Crafts, the weekly Jazz Jams, clerical work in the office and any number of tasks and events. Believe it or not, we all have a lot of fun working at these various events and it's a great way to get to know the organization and the people involved in making it run. So come on out and give a helping hand for this outstanding organization. All you have to do is leave your name and phone number when you call the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society at (772) 460-JAZZ (5299), or send us an e-mail at fpjbs@bellsouth.net, or stop by and introduce yourself to any Board Member at any of the weekly or annual events. You'll be rewarded knowing that you are helping provide music and culture for our Fort Pierce area communities and having a fun time doing it, too.

### **LOOK AT OUR NEW WEBSITE!!**

Wow! Carol Genson, wife of our esteemed President, has done a magnificent job on our new website. I urge you to check it out. Just go to our website indicated in our MILESTONES logo, above and peruse the entire site. It's up-to-date and will let you know about everything your FPJ&BS is doing.

### **OUTREACH MUSIC PROGRAM**

This summer, The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society continued our successful outreach in Music Education with an interactive music program at two summer camps, "Teen-Time After School Program" and the "Future Generations Music Enhancement Program." We used Caribbean Sound, a steel pan drum and percussion group that is currently on the Florida State Division of Cultural Affairs Touring Roster. Last year, the Jazz Society sponsored Caribbean Sound's performance to local school groups at the Sunrise Theatre, with great success – over 1,000 students attended the concert! This summer, Caribbean Sound conducted two workshops on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

At the Teen-Time After School Program, Caribbean Sound performers conducted an intensive workshop for six young teens (ages 15-18) who were mature performers at the steel pan drum. A small group worked well because boys were given individual attention, they played with the visiting performers, and each student was given feedback and encouragement on their skills.

That afternoon, at the Future Generations Music Enhancement Program, Caribbean Sound treated a group of younger children to a lively interactive two hours of fun.



This educational program is what the group performs when they are commissioned by Florida State Division of Cultural Affairs. It is meant for younger children, in this case 8-10 year olds. About sixteen children showed up. During the first part of the program, students make their own instruments using cans, rice, found objects, paper towel holders, etc. The students also got to play the conga drums

and the instruments they made. As a group, they learned about rhythm and tempo, performing as an ensemble, and as individuals. This was a very successful workshop and the children had a great time with it.

In the future, we hope to do more in the local schools, where there is a 'captive audience' and where our efforts can augment music programs that have been reduced, due to budget cuts. The Society welcomes ideas for other educational programs from our members and local educators. Please help support our Music Education program!

## Scenes from our last Waterside Blues

