

# MILESTONES

*MISSION: To promote the growth, appreciation and performance of Jazz & Blues – a great American music art form – through scholarships, workshops, clinics, weekly jazz jams and community outreach programs.*



## What's This Society All About?

By Don Bestor, Jr.  
President

The summer is hot and so is the determination of the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society. We continue to forge ahead with a passion to bring the music, the open mindedness of our "management team," the camaraderie of our volunteers, the constant consideration for others, and the wonderful musicians who make all of this possible, to you—the people who continue to support our efforts. It is all so simple: provide great music performed by great players, always respect and consider the people who support the effort, throw in some funds so as to continue this, and voila, you have the ingredients necessary to achieve our many worthwhile goals... expanding educational programs, musical forums, social events, City support and awareness, promoting artistic culture and last but not least, a very big warm smile from those who have learned to enjoy our traditional Jazz Jams! Is that all there is? ABSOLUTELY NOT. That's where everything *begins!* We shall continue to work diligently to make things entertaining, fun and interesting at our Jams.

During the 2010-2011 season, we brought Big Band Jazz Jams to you and it was received very well with record attendance. Thank you for your support. We have also begun featuring some of our many talented individuals as emcees – such as Scatman

Jack, Vicki Belmonte, Pat DiCesare, and others yet to be announced or introduced to you, our valued friends.

I have heard the comment "Where is the blues at your Jazz Jams?" and "Your name implies blues, as well as jazz, and we never see or hear any blues." I can say, with confidence, that we have responded to this query by extending invitations to a few local bluesy groups, namely *The Big Coque Band* and *Delta Dave and Lagoon Squad*. As of this writing, *Delta Dave* has yet to perform but is scheduled to appear at the Sunrise Black Box Theater on Tuesday, July 19, 2011. *The Big Coque Band* was there on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 and was very well supported by our loyal Jazz Fans as well as by a strong attendance of The Blues Alliance of the Treasure Coast. Please come out and support this latest endeavor as we are trying to offer a few new flavors on our menu of exceptional live music by listening to suggestions from our valued members, attendees and fans!

"What's the Society all about?" This Society is all about YOU! I say this at every Jazz Jam I attend (which is most of them), and I will always believe that *we cannot do this without you.*

**We are so very aware of that.**

THANK YOU!

*Don*



## A Refuge from the Storm

By Chris Hulka  
Vice President

We, the Board of Directors, value highly the opinions and/or concerns of our members—and especially appreciate the time taken to write to us. Recently, a valid question has been posed to this Vice President, and to our current and past Presidents, as well: "Why doesn't the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society do more to find and promote paying gigs for its musicians?"

In a nutshell, the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society is not associated with any local union(s), and does not function as a booking agency for its members. For further clarification, I refer you to our Mission Statement on page 6.

As a professional musician of over 35 years, I am no stranger to the never-ending quest for work. I have dealt with many local unions, booking agencies and countless 'professional' musicians—some more competitive and cut-throat than others. The majority of our volunteer musicians are active professional entertainers with 30 to 60 years in the music business, and have all dealt with the same. Our musician-members take great pride in knowing that, in the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society, *we have a refuge from the constant, tumultuous rigors of the music business.* For a few precious hours each week, we happily set the 'business' aside, and attend our Jazz Jam Sessions solely to perform

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# FPJ&BS Membership - We're Glad You're Here!

We would like to thank the following new and renewing members for joining the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society. Your membership dollars help provide scholarships for students in high school who are committed to furthering their education in an institution of higher learning. Your contribution also allows us to produce local shows which we bring to the community at little or no charge and to provide live music to students of all ages in local schools during the school year. *Without you, this would not be possible.*

## MEMBERS

Larry Abbott  
Harriet Aronson  
Vickie Beard  
Richard & Ursula Bondi  
Andonis Kostandinu  
Thomas Long  
Ken & Terry Lyons  
Nick Melnick  
Violet Perney  
Richard & Carmen Peterson  
Kerry Power  
Maureen Rodriguez  
Ralph Santangelo  
Bonnie Shelton

## PATRONS

Hurricane Hawk  
Marty & Flo Hulka  
Prof. William H Kenney, III  
Dr. Ronald Grober  
Henry & Alice Schmitz  
Bob & Jan Perrone  
Cora Jane Oster  
Jack & Carol Kuney  
Shirley R. Kosar  
Reid & Annamae Koppler  
Don Calese

## BENEFACTORS

Norman & Sandra Stevenson

## MUSICIANS

Elliot Abrams  
Claude Berardi  
Don Bestor, Jr  
Pat DiCesare  
Mario Geminiani  
Mark Green  
Chris Hulka  
Dean Lopes  
Bryan Chauncey Mays  
Jack Miller  
Taddy Mowatt  
Stix Nickson  
Bob Sagnella

## STUDENTS

Nancy Carvajal  
Riana Elliott  
Robert Geniti  
Christopher Hulka  
Mary Kelly  
Jake Pepple  
Maya Ratsey

# "THANK YOU!"



An appreciation dinner given in honor of our generous and talented volunteers was held on June 2 at the Elks Club.



# Ongoing Events:

## TUESDAY - Jazz Jams



### Summer Schedule

Every other Tues. 7:00 – 10:00 PM

**JULY 5 • 19**

**AUGUST 2 • 16 • 30**

**SEPTEMBER 13 • 27**

\$5 Cover - Full Bar available

117 S. 2nd St, Downtown Ft. Pierce

Dates also at: [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org)

## WEDNESDAY - Jazz Jams At The Gardens



Every other Wed. 6:30 – 9:30 PM

**JULY 13 • 27**

**AUGUST 10 • 24**

**SEPTEMBER 7 • 21**

\$3 Cover - Wine and Beer available

2410 Westmoreland Blvd., PSL

Dates also at: [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org)

## SATURDAY - Jazz Market



Managers Donna  
& Bernie Bires

Every Saturday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Downtown Fort Pierce**

**along the**

**Indian River Waterfront**

Funds raised support  
educational programs  
and local scholarships.

Info also at: [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org)

# Upcoming Events:



## Jazz Jam Brunch Buffet

*Mangia!*

1180 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd, Port St. Lucie

**Sunday, July 24, 2011**

**1:00 – 4:00 PM • \$11.99 per person**



## Waterside Blues Concert

FORT PIERCE MARINA • 1 Avenue A, Fort Pierce

**Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**1:00 – 5:00 PM**

**This great jazz event is FREE!**

Featured Blues Artist: **JP Soars**

2009 Winner - Best Guitarist, International Blues Challenge

Great music, food vendors, arts & crafts, and more. Bring family and friends to historic downtown Fort Pierce City Marina to enjoy the festivities.



Sponsored by Scripps Newspapers.  
**St. Lucie News Tribune**



# 2011 Scholarship Awards!

by Gene Hull



For the 15th year in a row the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society has awarded scholarships to worthy High School Seniors and on May 24, 2011, six graduating Seniors received merit scholarships of \$1,000 each. The performance presentation was made at the Sunrise Theatre's Black Box venue before a live audience. Three of the six scholarships were named in memory of member musicians Tom Omans, Louis Sanzaro and

Honesto Villasurda, who donated their time and talent to fulfilling the mission of the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society.

Over a period of weeks, sixteen high school musicians from Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties competed for the scholarships. Applicants were judged on their musicianship, ability to improvise, and over-all impression. Each was required to perform two songs with the Jazz Society's professional

Jazz Ensemble, submit an essay about their qualifications and be recommended by their high school band director.

At the conclusion of elimination weeks, the six winners performed again with the Jazz Ensemble before a sold-out house at the Black Box venue of the Sunrise Theatre. They were each awarded \$1,000 to be used to further their music studies. Each winner

## W I N N E R

### NANCY CARVAJAL

**Vocalist**, Indian River Charter High School



Graduate, with Honors Band Director – Mr. Dave Mundy Member, National Honor Society Dual enrollment at IRSC Currently studying Music Theory & Composition Private Voice lessons at the Academy of the Performing Arts in Vero Beach Featured Vocalist & Percussionist with the IRCHS Jazz Ensemble

Plays Latin Percussion, Drum Kit, Piano & Guitar IRCHS Musical Theatre Dept. – Last year's Soloist as Simeon in "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat"

This year's Lead Role as Carmen Diaz in "Fame, the Musical"

Frequent volunteer at community activities, including "Consulate Health Care" Performing Arts Major at IRSC (2 years), then transferring to Wittenberg University in Ohio Aspires to earn a Doctorate in Music

## W I N N E R

### RIANA ELLIOTT

**Vocalist**, Treasure Coast High School



Graduate, with Honors Band Director – Mr. Dominic Madison She has been singing since age four Has listened to jazz since Elementary School Maintained a 3.8 High School GPA AICE Program Student (classes provided by Cambridge University) In H.S. she learned to read music and studied marching, symphonic & auxiliary percussion instruments

Featured Vocalist with the TCHS

Titan Jazz Band for 4 years Member of the TCHS Marching & Symphonic Bands

This year's Drum Major of the TCHS Titan Marching Band

Volunteered with the Humane Society of Martin County

Volunteered at several Waterside Blues Concert Series & Jazz Market events

Guest Vocalist with the FPJ&BS Jazz Ensemble at the December, 2010 Waterside Blues Concert Attending the University of South Florida with a double- major in Nursing & Vocal Performance

## W I N N E R

### MARY KELLY

**Trombonist**, Jensen Beach High School



Graduate, with Honors Band Director – Mr. Thomas Dougherty In School Bands since fifth grade Member, National Honor Society, Student Government, Teen Trendsetters Mentoring Program & Rho-Kappa Social Studies Honor Society

Member of JBHS Marching, Concert & Jazz Bands

Has won numerous medals at District & State Solo & Ensemble Festivals

Earned "Superior with Distinction" ratings at State Competition

Performs with the Treasure Coast Youth Symphony, the New Gardens Band, the Indian River Pops Orchestra, and the Stuart Community Concert Band

Accepted at Florida State University – Double Major in Finance & Music



also received an engraved trophy and membership in the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Jazz Society President, Don Bestor, Jr., reflected on the growth of the Society throughout the past 15 years and noted its present recognition as a significant cultural influence in the Treasure Coast area. He spoke of the Society's stability and its pride in providing \$6,000 this year to assist young musicians in furthering their education.



Chris Dzadovsky, County Commissioner, addressed the audience about the importance of music in the high school curriculum and the valuable contribution the Arts make in attracting

new business and industries to any area. He noted that a strong cultural climate is high on the list of qualities valued by major industries when seeking expansion locations. He praised the Jazz Society for its progress over years and noted its perseverance in overcoming difficult times to attain its present success.



John Wilkes, Executive Director of the Sunrise Theatre, said the Jazz Jams have been an unqualified success and a welcome asset to the downtown area.

He was pleased to be able to provide the Black Box venue for FPJ&BS's presentations.

Our Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Al Hager, began the

process of advising potential applicants last fall by contacting area high school Music Directors. He remarked that he expects next year's turnout to be even greater.



Board member Gene Hull said the quality of applicants was the best he had ever seen. Chris Hulka, Jazz Society Vice President, concurred and credited much of the success to the dedicated work of area high school Band Directors.

Awards were presented by FPJ&BS President, Don Bestor, Jr., Vice President, Chris Hulka, Mia Batalini, and Board Members Chauncey Mays, Gene Hull, Stix Nickson, Bob Sagnella and Bill Genson.

**W I N N E R**

**ROBERT GENITI**

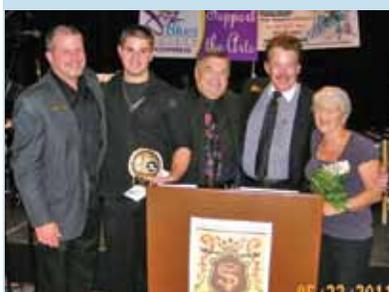
*Guitarist*, Treasure Coast High School



Graduate, with Honors  
Band Director – Mr. Dominic Madison  
Maintains a 3.6 High School GPA  
Lead guitarist in the TCHS Titan Jazz Ensemble for 3 years  
Has been a student both at Treasure Coast High School and IRSC with Dual enrollment for the past two years  
First guitarist invited

to play with the IRSC Four-County Honors Jazz Band

Volunteer basketball coach at Minsky's Gym in Port St. Lucie  
Coaches his little brother's team in the youth league  
Has also earned an IRSC scholarship to continue his music studies in the fall  
Assigned to the IRSC Jazz Ensemble  
Will major in Music Education



**W I N N E R**

**JAKE PEPPLE**

*Percussionist*, Jensen Beach High School



Graduate, with Honors  
Band Director – Mr. Thomas Dougherty  
Maintained a 3.9 High School GPA  
Member of the JBHS Drum Line, Marching Band & Award-Winning Jazz Ensemble

Percussion Captain with the JBHS Band  
Earned "Superior with Distinction" ratings at State Level Solo & Ensemble Competitions  
Volunteer Percussion Instructor at local Middle Schools

Accepted at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts  
Will attend Florida State University's School of Music to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jazz Studies  
Looks forward to being a professional performer and a Professor of Music at the college level



**W I N N E R**

**MAYA RATSEY**

*Guitarist*, Indian River Charter High School



Graduate, with Honors  
Band Director – Mr. Dave Mundy  
Maintained a 4.0 High School GPA  
Dual Enrollment at IRSC  
Has played Guitar for eight years  
Studied Guitar privately for four years prior to high school  
Extensive studies in Music Theory & Composition

Also plays Piano, Bass, Drums & Banjo  
Member of the IRCHS Jazz Band for four years  
Recipient of the IRCHS VAPA

Instrumentalist Award  
Recipient of the Michael Joseph Trevino Aversa Humanitarian Scholarship Award  
Has volunteered for the Special Olympics for 4 years, the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life campaign, the Youth Volunteer Corps, the National School Scrabble Championship and the Community Church of Vero Beach

Plans to attend McNally-Smith College of Music – majoring in Guitar Performance



# Support the Arts!

Funding and sponsorship provided in part by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, The Sunrise Theatre, The City of Fort Pierce, Friends of The Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Keystone Computer Concepts, DragonFly Graphics, Southern Eagle Distributing, and Kauff's Towing, Jane Caggiano, Shann's Tax Service, Drummers Only Drum Shop, and The Blues Alliance of the Treasure Coast.



We sincerely thank all our sponsors for their support and contributions.

## **Milestones** Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society a 501 (C) (3) Organization

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## **Officers & Board of Directors**

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## **Big Band Jazz Jams** will return after the summer break.

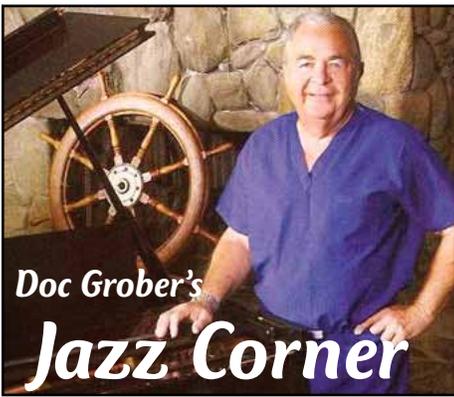
Visit our website  
or call the  
jazz hotline  
for updates  
and more  
information.



## MISSION

Founded in 1996, the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a greater awareness and love for jazz and blues by exposing these great American art forms to the community at-large and to the schools. The Jazz & Blues Society shares ideas with other jazz and/or blues-oriented groups locally and around the nation to mutually assist in promoting the growth, appreciation and perpetuation of the jazz and blues genres.

The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society presents jazz and blues music to the public in a variety of ways, including: festivals, performances, free jam sessions, hands-on workshops, clinics, community education, and outreach initiatives. Our objectives are to foster greater awareness and enjoyment in the community for jazz and blues through education and performances, and to provide scholarships to deserving college-bound students who wish to further their knowledge and skill in the music field.



## IMPROVING LISTENING SKILLS

At the moment of performance, good jazz is heard in its totality as it generates a range of emotions in the listener.

People may react differently to the same music as the net effect is dependent on the interaction, tastes and expectations of the performers and their audience

Many factors govern the final result. I will focus on a few that I hope will augment your understanding of the elements of jazz performance. This should also serve to add to your listening enjoyment.

Some of these suggestions require concentration and are best 'practiced' at home with recordings – thereby allowing multiple times of listening.

There are different levels of listening. We can listen externally or passively and allow the music to simply have its effect on us. Or we can listen more actively and analytically as we 'dissect' out its many components.

There is much to be gained by doing the latter, and to those of you who wish to do so I offer a few guidelines. Assimilation of these skills will occur more quickly if you focus on each one individually.

1. **Melodiousness** – self-explanatory.
2. **Structure** – how many different parts are there to a tune? In what order do they occur and how often are they repeated?
3. **Predictability** – each listener has their own internal compass. This

governs how much the listener wants the performer's notes and timing to match their expectation of what will be played. Too much predictability will be heard as "boring." Too much un-predictability may sound "too far out." There is a high degree of individuality as to the percentages of each that optimize listening enjoyment. What is too much for one may be insufficient for another.

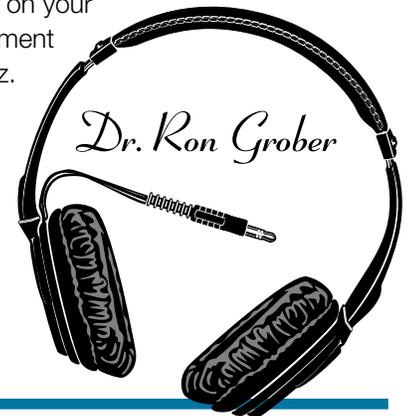
4. **Drive** – "it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing." There's a lot to that. Most jazz musicians agree that the single most important element of jazz is the pulse; i.e., the driving force. If it makes you want to tap your feet it is probably swinging.
5. **Sound** – the quality of the tone that is being generated on a particular instrument. Many musicians can be identified by their sound alone.
6. **Time** – similar to drive. It refers to the steadiness and constancy of the beat. Musicians refer to it as being "in the pocket." Once you have developed a reliable sense of time, just keep the beat and notice whether improvisers 'anticipate' chord changes by making the harmonic change ahead of the beat. Others play on or after the beat.
7. **Creativity** – what can the musician create given the bare bones of the melody and chord progression?
8. **Versatility** – the ability to create multiple and perhaps divergent styles and moods without compromising musical integrity and effectiveness.
9. **Harmonic Ingredients** – this does not require technical knowledge. Let your ears focus on the varying harmonies and the patterns they follow. It is not necessary to know the names of the chords.

10. **Patterns and Licks** – repeated listening to improvisations by the same artist will disclose devices that are used repetitively and may therefore be revealing as to the identity of the artist.

11. **Sing** the melody to yourself as you listen to improvisations. This will help you keep your place and add insight to the changing harmonies.

Keep in mind that jazz is a language and, as such, must be heard to be learned. But listening with a disciplined approach can do much to enhance one's appreciation of this very special art form.

I hope that diligent incorporation of these suggestions will facilitate your growth as an "active" listener thereby creating a salutary effect on your enjoyment of jazz.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE :

### A Refuge...

By Chris Hulka, Vice President

the music that is dearest to our hearts – JAZZ!

*In other words, we leave the gig-hustling at the front door.*

Over the past fifteen years, The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society has not only survived many social and economic changes, but instead has grown many-fold since its humble beginning, simply by being "about the music, not the money."

Proudly,  
Chris



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Fort Pierce, FL 34954

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*The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society is a nonprofit organization  
and all donations are tax deductible.*

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- Individual \$50
- Family \$75
- Patron \$100
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**Yes, I would like to volunteer, Please contact me.**

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