

MILESTONES

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



Our Mission Statement is our Mission!

By Don Bestor, Jr.
President

To make a living doing what one loves to do is probably the epitome of a lifelong job. My Dad, Don Bestor, was the musical Director for NBC radio and for the Jack Benny Show when it was in New York City. He was credited with writing the very first singing commercial, J-E-L-L-O, many, many years ago. Music is all that he ever knew and subsequently all that I ever wanted to do. My love for the music, for the arts, for the people that I perform for, and my respect for those who spend their precious time supporting my effort is

immense because of my experience and my upbringing.

If there was no one to enjoy music, or art we would live in a very different world. A musician could stay in the living room, basement, or garage or wherever playing their instrument for their own enjoyment. For some people, that's fine but for some others, the "fire in the belly syndrome" takes place and those people realize that being a musician is their calling. Those who answer the call will continue to improve because of their love and dedication

to the craft. This dedication comes with a bit of ego which is necessary for the "flower" to grow. The trick here is to learn how to control that ego so that it does not infect one's soul. Generally, audiences provide the reason and the goals, and they become the barometer of success, which drives us to whatever excellence one might achieve. Musicians and artists are all very different when it comes to talent and commitment and some of us are blessed more than others. The audience IS the driving force or the motivation that we all aspire to and without you there would be no music or art for others to enjoy. There would be no incentive for others to aspire to for achieving excellence in what they do.

CONTINUED ON PG 2

In these days of economic uncertainty, once abundant 'financial good will' has been gradually disappearing. Obvious signs would be the lack of funding from city, county or state government entities for non-profit organizations that provide the many beneficial and desperately needed community-unifying events and services once taken for granted. Not long ago, 30 million dollars was cut from the Saint Lucie County School District's budget, alone. As a result, many community organizations have suffered drastic reductions in membership, while others have simply disappeared altogether. It would appear that in the interest of (financial) survival, the 'greater good' is slowly being pushed to the back burner.

But then, there's the **Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**: a modest, local

non-profit organization. A mere dot on the map, whose mission statement touts promoting musical genres *historically favored by only four to five percent of the population*. So how has this relatively small non-profit group defied the odds? It has nearly doubled its membership base, maintained record-breaking attendances at its venues, and year to year has increased the number of scholarships it awards. Is it because of hard work? Of course! Is it the result of strong leadership? Certainly! Is it because of the greatest volunteers, anywhere? You bet!

All of these admirable qualities could be the recipe for any successful organization. However, I believe the

deciding factor and the secret to our long-running success is **the sincerity with which we approach everything we do!**

After all, **we are about the music**: "The highest form of cultural expression." We are constantly striving to make your (the audience's) experience the most enjoyable and memorable it can be. The bottom line is:

When you're happy, we're happy!

So, where does this sincerity come from? Essentially, YOU! The fact that you've chosen to spend your evening

CONTINUED ON PG 4

A State of Mind



By Chris Hulka
Vice President

OUR MISSION... CONT. FROM PG 1

When I joined the Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Society a few years ago, it was for one reason and one reason only... to play piano. However, it was very obvious that a brighter light needed to shine on attitudes toward the musician, audience and performer in order for the organization to flourish. Oh yes, the Society provided the music and a place to go for people to go to enjoy some jazz. The small audiences, however enthusiastic they were, appeared to enjoy the music that was becoming much harder to hear anywhere else. Fortunately and magically, many people in the audience were terrific singers, musicians, and performers who were there to get the chance to perform with competent players and they sat and awaited their turn to show their stuff! This has continued to be the main ingredient in the winning formula for our weekly Jazz Jams!

After reading and re-reading our stated mission, and some very hard work, I can report that the train is back on the right track (and more people are coming on board every week).

This job takes time and is humbling, rewarding, and almost necessary! The job is a volunteer position, and, through some time management, positive awareness of our local musicians and singers has had a positive impact on what we do. The spent time seems to further the causes of Jazz and Blues in our community and you have responded favorably with unbelievable enthusiasm. As a result, the community is increasingly supportive of our activities, including the Jazz Jams, the School programs, our Scholarship program, Jazz Brunches, Jazz Week, Mardi gras and the Waterside Blues concerts, activities which seem to fill a void for people who love the camaraderie that comes with the music. This recipe also affects the hope and desires of our youth to continue their education in a field that literally brings harmony, joy and understanding

to others who want and deserve to feel good about something other than negative news headlines. One thing for sure, the Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Society certainly aspires to be open and honest about its approach and we do strive for excellence. Because of the strong support for what we do, sometimes human emotions make all of this hard to hide when in public as I have experienced when speaking in front of many of you. You've been kind enough to accept my emotions and you have taught me to be more comfortable with my uncontrolled feelings. I look around at other city/town jazz societies, and I can't help but wonder why we are the only organization like this utilizing local community resources to the extent that we do? The same answer always pop-up...because we have to! We have a wonderful pool of local talent and that talent needs to be exposed to the community. We are simply the right organization to do it. By exercising commitment to showcase our local talent, the talent seems to attract others who possess this same gift. This also feeds the desire to help others and to realize and exercise our mission statement.

Our mission statement appears on our website front page and reads, in part: ***“Founded in 1996 by Darryl Bey & Larry Lee together with a group of Jazz and Blues enthusiasts, 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.”

I have been at the helm of the Ft. Pierce Jazz and Blues Society for just about one year as of this writing. I can say that we're really just getting started!!!! At our February board meeting, it was a unanimous Board of Directors' decision that the "slate" of officers remains the same for the 2012-2013. The actual vote for officers will be on March 21 at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. If elected again, I will remain as President of this organization. As the current President, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would care to attend this yearly public meeting as provided for in the by-laws. This meeting will commence at 5 pm. If you would like to attend, please let us know so that we can accommodate seating, etc....

Last, but hardly not least, I would be amiss if I didn't mention that our Saturday morning Jazz Craft Market supports our efforts financially and is in very good hands with our Market managers, Donna and Bernie Bires. We would not be able to fund any of our programs without our Jazz Market and because of wonderful people who frequent our functions we would not be able to support our youth scholarship program. I will personally thank you on behalf of the students who will receive extra funding because of your generosity through your donations and memberships. We can and will accomplish wonderful things together and I implore you to continue your support of the Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Society. We cannot accomplish anything we do without you.

Don

Ongoing Events:

TUESDAY - Jazz Jams



BLACK BOX

Tuesdays from 7:00 – 10:00 PM

APR. 3, 10, 17, 24

April 24 Big Band (\$8 cover)

MAY 1*, 8*, 15*, 22*, 29

*Student Scholarship Auditions

May 8 Little Big Band (\$8 cover)

May 29 Scholarship Awards Night

\$5 Cover (**\$8 on Apr. 24 & May 8**)

Full Bar available

117 S. 2nd St, Downtown Ft. Pierce

WEDNESDAY - Jazz Jams

At The Gardens



Every other Wed. 6:30 – 9:30 PM

APRIL 4, 18

MAY 2*, 16*, 30

*Student Scholarship Auditions

\$3 Cover - Wine and Beer available

2410 Westmoreland Blvd., PSL

SATURDAY - Jazz Market

(A Year Round Event - 8AM - 1PM)

THE JAZZ MARKET PRESENTS:

JAZZ IN THE GAZEBO



Managers Donna & Bernie Bires

LAST 2 OF THE SEASON!

9:00 AM – Noon

APR. 7 • MAY 5

Downtown Fort Pierce along the Indian River Waterfront

Funds raised support educational programs and local scholarships.

DATES AND INFORMATION FOR ALL EVENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: JAZZSOCIETY.ORG

Upcoming Events:

SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS ABOUT

Jazz Week - 2012! Monday - Friday, March 26 - 30



Sunday Jazz Jam Brunch - Sunday, April 22

Out of Bounds Restaurant - 1:00 - 4:00 PM \$12.99/pp



Waterside Blues Concert

FORT PIERCE MARINA • 1 Avenue A, Fort Pierce

This great jazz event is FREE!

Sunday, April 15 • 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Delta Dave & Lagoon Squad

Waterside Blues Concerts have drawn up to **700** happy fans! There's fresh air, great music, snacks and plenty of room to get comfortable and groove to the sounds.



Sponsored by Scripps Newspapers.

St. Lucie News Tribune



A STATE OF MIND . . . CONT. FROM PG 1

with us week after week is, in itself, a huge complement to our efforts and reassures us that we are accomplishing our mission. From a jazz musician's point of view, there's no greater compliment than you eagerly encouraging us to bare our heart and soul to you through our music. Also, there is the overwhelming support you've shown whenever a (terrified) young Jazz student musters up the courage to join us on stage to put *everything* he or she has learned into *one* performance – you've always made sure they'd leave the stage smiling from ear to ear! Recently, to our astonishment and despite the gloomy economic outlook, the Society has received an unprecedented number of generous donations to our scholarship fund. During the past several weeks, our President, Don Bestor, Jr., has announced (while teary-eyed) an additional six, \$1,000 scholarships – bringing our total to \$12,000 (and counting) for 2012. The majority of these donations were *not* from major corporations, but from members of our audience. One of your fellow patrons donated \$1,000 of his over-time pay to create an anonymous scholarship. With folks like that supporting us, how can we go wrong? In return, for us to give anything less than our most sincere efforts would be an insult to you our patrons, to the music and to ourselves.

Rest assured, the **Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society** will continue to give you the best we have to offer and we will *never* forget that **we can't do this without you!**

Honored, Chris



Christopher • Chris • Marty

THREE GENERATIONS OF MUSICIANS IN THE HULKA FAMILY

Jazz roots run deep in the Hulka Family. Marty Hulka was thrilled to see his son and grandson playing in the "For Dancers Only" Big Band.

JAZZ WEEK

March 26 - 30

11AM – 2 PM on the waterfront at Ft. Pierce Marina Square.



Annual Brown Bag Lunch Jazz Concert Series

**26th - Monday
Mark Green and the Rowdy Roosters**

The Rowdy Roosters Dixieland Band, founded by Mark Green in 1990, quickly became a popular band in South Florida. The Roosters' toe-tapping New Orleans-style jazz can turn any event into an instant Mardi Gras party!



**27th - Tuesday
James McCreavy Quintet**

Guitarist-composer James McCreavy has played with Palm Beach and New York-based society orchestras, and many local venues including Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago with Bobby Swiadow, Via Viscaya in Miami, the Eden Roc, the Kravis Center of Performing Arts, and the Meyer Amphitheater.

**28th - Wednesday
Errol Rackipov Trio with Nicole Yarling**

Jazz vibraphonist, marimbist, and composer Errol Rackipov holds a Bachelor's degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, and a Master's degree from the University of Miami. Errol is a member of the Groove Culture collaboration and he is active in the South Florida jazz club scene.



**29th - Thursday
Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Ensemble Quintet with Guest Vocalists**

**30th - Friday
Orquesta Nostalgia with Jim Hayward**
A 12 Piece Latin Jazz Group presents a tribute to New York Latin Music Roots.

Led by Anselmo Vidal, Jr. the band plays the music of the 50's Big Band era. Tito Puente, Tito Rodriguez, Machito and others. A perfect live Latin Jazz experience seldom heard in this area.





JAZZ STUDENT TAKEOVER

A new world record was set on Tuesday, December 13, at the Black Box: **17** local high school & college music students from four counties sat-in with The Ensemble.

It was an incredible celebration of Jazz exploration that led to a grand finale that featured

ALL 17 students on stage at once! The audience jumped to a standing ovation to thank the kids and the FPJ&BS for a fantastic evening. The kids, all fired-up, lingered by the front door well after closing time talking about chord changes, instruments & jazz heroes.

We all agreed: "same time next week!"

2012 SCHOLARSHIP SCHEDULE

STUDENT AUDITIONS:

Black Box: May 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens: May 2 and 16.

Winners will be contacted via phone or email by Educational Chairman Al Hager on May 25.

Awards will be presented at the May 29 ceremony at the Black Box.

2012 MUSIC EDUCATION AWARENESS NIGHT



Christopher Hulka, Jim LeBon

At a January Jazz Jam in the Black Box Theatre, Christopher Hulka presented his Senior Culminating Project, "2012 Music Education Awareness Night."

Guest speakers included Mr. Jim LeBon, Bandmaster at Southport Middle School and Mr. Kevin Perry, Assistant Superintendant of St. Lucie County Schools.

Norm Kubrin Ensemble

To the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society
Board of Directors

On behalf of the Norm Kubrin musical ensemble, I would like to thank Don Bestor and all the members of The Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society for giving us the opportunity to perform for you at The Black Box Theater. We sincerely appreciated the large and attentive audience who spent most of the evening with toes tapping and fingers snapping to our music. It was our pleasure to present music from The Great American Songbook to such a welcoming audience. I'm sure Cole Porter, Jerome Kern and friends would be proud.

Norm Kubrin (piano/vocals), Don Coffman (bass) and I especially appreciated the warm reception from the audience members and the local musicians who couldn't have been more gracious towards us. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Claudio Berardi (drums) and Mark Green (trumpet/flute) for joining us and contributing their exceptional musical talents to our presentation. I should add that all of the fine musicians I heard that night at the jam session prior to our performance would have been a welcome contribution had we the space and time to include them.

You have a wonderful organization and we feel privileged to have played for you in your very special theater.

Again, thank you so much for inviting us and for your continued support of jazz. You have something very special going on with your society and we look forward to performing again for you in the near future.

Sincerely,

James McCreavy (guitarist)



**'LIL
BIG
BAND**



Guest vocalist Gregg Jackson.



Almost a big band, here is "Idle Gossip," the 'Lil Big Band at a recent Jazz Jam.

The band is always a crowd pleaser, with an interesting array of arrangements. Their next Black Box appearance is May 8. Don't miss it for musical surprises!



**BIG
BAND**



Caught in the act at a recent **Big Band Jazz Jam**

at the Black Box in Ft. Pierce. The *For Dancers Only Big Band* delivers another hit. Their Jams are always packed. So mark your calendars for the next one on Tuesday, April 24. *And Come Early!*



Are you in this picture? If not, you missed a great Big Band Jazz Jam on March 5 at the Black Box. The audience loves the exciting sounds of big band jazz at its finest. Always outstanding music.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Christmas 2011

FPJ&BS President, Don Bestor, Jr. and Vice President, Chris Hulka provided some Jazzed-up Christmas tunes for the monthly 'Coffee with the Mayor' breakfast.



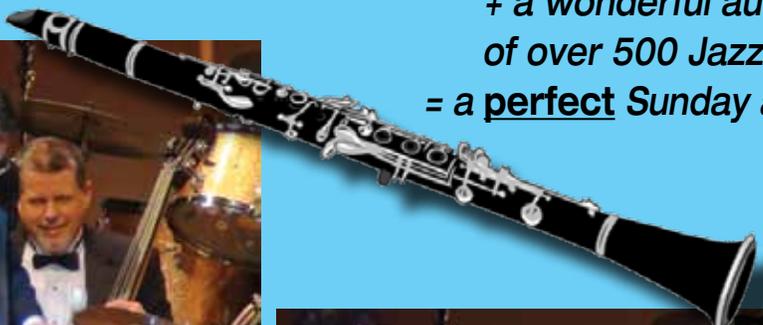
*Mayor Benton,
Chris Hulka,
Don Bestor, Jr.*



Mia Batalini, Paul Hubbell, Mark Green

**A BIG THANK YOU
TO ALL WHO ATTENDED OUR
BIG BAND TRIBUTE TO
BENNY GOODMAN
AT THE SUNRISE THEATRE
ON JANUARY 8.**

*A great band
+ a classic theatre
+ a wonderful audience
of over 500 Jazz lovers
= a perfect Sunday afternoon!*



Errol Rackipov, Chris Hulka



Errol Rackipov, Chris Hulka, Claude Berardi



VIP Luncheon
at the Black Box Theatre
before the concert



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.*

Patrons and Benefactors - *Your kind generosity hastens us toward our goals!*

NEW MEMBERS

Peter Amara	Bob & Peggy Flowers
Ron & Linda Aronberg	Mary Fulginiti
Norma Berry	Earl Gordon
Donald & Marilyn Benz	Clifford Gushen
Norma M. Berry	Kathy Harvey
Nick Bradley	Pat Horn
Gordon w. Case	Betty Kobiela
Barbara Carlon	John La Padula
Chase Carlon	Joan Le Brun
Jeff & Debbie Carlon	Sharon & Carl Lay
Kenneth Crowley	Emanuel Lugo
John & Dois Danese	Jeff Medina
Ralph & Gloria Dendler	Tom & Patti Merrell
Thomas Dixon	Anthony Morena
Robert & Marsha Duke	AJ Pastor
Frank Edwards	Sal Rizzotti
	Jodie Talmage

Mary Taylor
Jim Thorne
Al Tyrrell
Robert Wiseman
Mary Wogisch
Charles Woods

RENEWALS

Robert Bailey
Candace Banack
Maureen Bernas
Mario Geminiani
Ralph & Leia Haldorson
Carol Helderlein
Jan Hutcherson
George & Elaine
McDaniel

Jack Miller
Taddy Mowatt
Norman Payne
Nancy Richards
Elinor Samuels
Stephen C. Scorgie
Linda Scott
Maurice Sedacca
Butch & Cheryl
Shanaberge
Ronald & Roberta
Steinberg
Paul & Bunkie Smothers
Thornton Turpin
Ingo Von Ruckteschell
Dick & Maggie Westfall
George Zerdian

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Milestones

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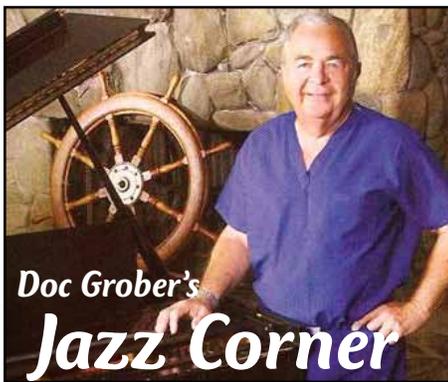


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PRESERVATION HALL

Imagine my surprise when I heard my name called above the crowd noise at Mardi Gras 1962. It was a college acquaintance I had not seen for four years. His name was Allan Jaffe, and he had been a big fan of my college jazz band at the University of Pennsylvania.

As an ardent jazz fan and an amateur banjo and tuba player, Allan decided to spend some time in New Orleans on his way back to Pottstown, Pennsylvania from his honeymoon in Mexico. Next thing I knew he had me playing with the Preservation Hall jazz band.

The 'moldy' style of old-time traditional jazz was dying and with it so were the musicians who played. In an effort to keep them and the music alive, Allan got the use of an old art gallery named Preservation Hall at the intersection of Bourbon Street and St. Peter Street in the heart of the French Quarter just three blocks from the Mississippi River. 1961 was a time when traditional jazz was losing much of its audience to both modern jazz and rock and roll. Allan and his wife, Sandy, wanted to 'preserve' the music they loved and provide a place for the musicians who played it to continue to make a living.

Allan insisted I play with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band every time I came to New Orleans for medical meetings. On one such occasion, the president of our national "American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons" recognized me at the piano and, in the middle of a tune, called out "there's

Grober" from the back of the room. He was shocked to see me in such an "unlikely" setting. He told this story frequently at subsequent medical meetings over the ensuing years.

The structure is an unpretentious converted home. The audience sits only a few feet away from the musicians in a frequently crowded, cramped setting.

The atmosphere in those years was dusty and humid. The admission fee of one or two dollars (in those days) was good for one 45 minute set after which the Hall was emptied and a new audience admitted. For a few extra dollars, one could make requests of the band. But, in the '60's, a request for "When the Saints Go Marching In" cost \$10.

Although the style of jazz they feature is now considered somewhat outdated, it nevertheless has an integrity to it that exudes happiness and a sense of true entertainment. Most of it is based on blues and spirituals, which have served as a basis for the jazz styles that subsequently evolved.

No matter what your favorite jazz style, Preservation Hall continues to serve as constant reminder of the true origins of this music we love so much.

I 'sat in' for the house pianist, "Sweet Emma." In addition to Emma, there were many other true stars, people like clarinetist Willie Humphrey and his brother trumpeter Percy as well as trombonist Jimmy Robinson.

Allan remained a spark plug of traditional New Orleans jazz for over 20 years, mostly as a



labor of love. Tragically, Allan died at age 51 after a battle with cancer. I lost a friend and the music world lost a hero. New Orleans musicians showed their affection and respect for him in the best way they could. They honored him with a traditional New Orleans funeral, including processions and stops at his home and at Preservation Hall.

Allan and I had played a lot of music together informally while in college – he on banjo and me on piano. I knew him well and can tell you he was sincere about the music and the musicians.

Preservation Hall opened in 1961 and is just celebrating its 50th year Of existence. With that in mind I have decided to pay tribute to Allan Jaffe and the musicians of Preservation Hall at the next performance of Doc Grober and his New Orleans Mud Cats scheduled for March 21, 7pm, at the Lyric Theater in Stuart, Florida. I hope some of you will join us.

Dr. Ron Grober



The jazz band's old piano at the Hall in New Orleans



Allan and Sandra Jaffe in front of Preservation Hall in the early 1960s.



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- Please Check One:**
- Individual \$50
 - Family \$75
 - Patron \$100
 - Benefactor \$250
 - Corporate \$500

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Yes, I would like to volunteer, Please contact me.

Please mail this form
and your check to: **Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society, PO Box 1086, Fort Pierce, FL 34954-1086**