THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY AZZ SOUNDINGS



Volume 44, Number 09 November 2019

NO DRUMS, BUT PLENTY OF RHYTHM WHEN JACOB ZIMMERMAN AND HIS PALS PERFORM ON **NOVEMBER 17TH** by George Swinford

Ray and Jacob often work together as a

duo. Lately they have enlarged their repertoire

by adding tunes composed and recorded by

Chicago clarinetist Darnell Howard. Howard

recorded some of them with pianist Don

Ewell on the Good Time Jazz label, back in

the 1950s. Hopefully our concert will feature

band with his alto sax and clarinet, the

additional clarinet will be played by Saul

Cline. Saul has degrees in music from

Berklee College of Music and Central

Washington University. He has taught

music at the elementary school level and

at the college level. He has also worked

While Jacob Zimmerman leads the

one or more of these gems.

In April of 2018 we first heard Jacob Zimmerman and His Pals, a two-reed combo without trumpet or drums. This November's version of the Pals will have a similar instrumentation, but with some different faces on the stand.

The classic example of a two-reed band without trumpet or drums was New Orleans clarinetist Jimmy Noone's Apex Club Orchestra. Noone was "knockin' 'em dead" ninety years ago on Chicago's South Side, with the legendary Earl Hines on piano. Late in Hines' life, he and Ray Skjelbred met and became friends. Hines' piano style has been a major influence on Ray, who will be playing piano with the Pals.

Below - Jacob Zimmerman



Below - Saul Cline

several years as a cruise ship musician. His current day gig is General Manager of the Tacoma Symphony. It will be interesting to hear him mesh with the rest of Zimmerman's jazz-oriented Pals. Although Jacob intends to emphasize his alto on the 17th, we can expect a clarinet duet or two.

Dave Loomis' trombone will be the the only brass instrument in the band. Together, Skjelbred's piano, Cole Schuster's guitar and Matt Weiner's bass will certainly provide "plenty rhythm", without which, as Jelly Roll Morton insisted, it wouldn't be jazz.

Zimmerman Continued on page 7

WHERE:

Ballard Elks Lodge 6411 Seaview Ave. NW, Seattle

WHEN:

1 pm - 4:30 pm - November 17 **ADMISSION:** Pay only at door. \$12 PSTJS members \$15 non-members.

Free admission for those under 21 who accompany a person paying admission.

FURTHER INFO:

Carol Rippey 425-776-5072. Or - website: www.pstjs.org. Plenty of free parking; great view & dance floor, snacks, coffee, and other beverages available.

Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society

19031 Ocean Avenue Edmonds, WA 98020-2344 425-776-5072 www.pstjs.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elks Lodge, Ballard, 6411 Seaview Ave N.W., Seattle

Nov. 17	Jacob Zimmerman and His Pals
Dec. 15	Dave Loomis' Good Herb Jazz Band
Jan. 19, 2020	Ray Skjelbred's Yeti Chasers
Feb. 16, 2020	Jonathan Doyle Jazz Band

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JAZZ SOUNDINGS

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Deadline is the 10th of the month for the next month's issue

Gigs for Local Bands

ALEX GUILBERT W/ RAY SKJELBRED

Nov. 20 7-9pm The Royal Room "Piano Starts Here: The Music of Blues And Barrelhouse" 5000 Rainier Avenue S, Seattle 206-906-9920

BARRELHOUSE GANG TRIO

Tuesdays 7:30-10:30 Oliver's Twist, 6822 Greenwood Ave. N. Seattle, WA 98103

BELLINGHAM TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

1st Saturday, 2-5pm VFW Hall 625 N. State St., Bellingham, WA

Nov. 2 Bonnie Northgraves & Friends

Dec. 7 Crescent City Shakers

MATT WEINER W/ RAY SKJELBRED

Nov. 25 9-Midnight Eastside Stomp at Aria Ballroom 15300 NE 95th St, Redmond, WA 98052 https://www.syncopationfoundation.org/eastsidestomp

OLYMPIA JAZZ SOCIETY

2nd Sundays 1-4pm Elks Lodge 1818 Fourth Ave E. Olympia, WA www.olyjazz.com

Nov. 10 Uptown Swing & Jazz Dec. 8 Tom Jacobus & Friends

REBECCA KILGORE W/ RAY SKJELBRED TRIO

Nov. 8 & 9 7:30pm Kenyon Hall 7904 -35th Ave. S. W., Seattle Information: kenyonhall.org

PEARL DJANGO

Nov. 16 7pm The Walton Theater at Mount Baker Theater Also appearing will be the Nuages. 104 North Commercial Street; Bellingham, WA 98225

Nov. 20 7pm Jazz at the Center - on Camano Island Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road Camano Island, WA 98282 Phone: 360-387-0222

Nov. 30 8pm Art House Designs Appearing with our friend & Olympia guitarist, Vince Brown. This is a wonderful, intimate, environment for live music (and art). 420 Franklin St. S.E.

Olympia, WA 98501 360-943-3377



On Your Dial.....

Sunday

3 -6 pm Ken Wiley's Art of Jazz on KNKX - 88.5FM

Jazz Soundings November 2019 Page 3

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

by John Ochs

The landscape of traditional jazz has changed here and elsewhere along the West Coast. In Seattle, venues providing jobs that allow full-size bands to stay together long enough for younger musicians to learn the idiom from older players are almost extinct. The days when bands like holotrad and the Evergreen Classic had weekly gigs which allowed them to build a book of tunes and develop into a cohesive unit on the job came to an end when the New Orleans Creole Restaurant closed in 2012.

The same is true for the traditional jazz festival circuit. Due to a variety of factors, including the advanced age of the fan base, the retirement of older band members, and increased competition from other types of music, festivals and bands featuring traditional jazz are gradually closing down. The experience of the Grand Dominion Jazz Band serves as a prime example. Whereas in former years, the band was busy with all the festival and cruise opportunities it could handle, today its schedule is down to just three festivals a year, those being in Fresno, San Diego, and Olympia.

For the most part, "old-school" musicians, who have played for our society over the years, acquired their taste for classic jazz when the music was still basking in the afterglow of the 1940s and '50s traditional jazz revivals. Although a majority were college graduates, in most cases they didn't develop their love of the idiom in the classroom. Usually, they bonded with the music as teenagers after listening to records and hearing bands play at live venues. Today, the avenues for teenagers to learn classic jazz in the "old way" are lost in the vast myriad of trendy options being touted on the Internet.

Fortunately, the outlook for live traditional jazz is not doom and gloom. New musicians are learning older jazz styles, but most are approaching it through the more formal path of higher education. While in past years, there was a stigma attached to traditional jazz in many high schools and colleges as "oldtimey" or "Dixieland," and therefore not worth serious attention, many university-trained musicians are now graduating with open minds about the kinds of music they are willing to try. For these musicians, ill-conceived notions of the past are less important than a chance to learn and play high-quality music.



Above: Thomas Harris

One factor which differentiates the music played by younger players from that of older musicians is a greater reliance on written arrangements. As suggested above, the economics of the band business is not conducive to keeping a large band together. As a result, when young bandleaders accept a job requiring a six- or seven-piece band, which is usually the case at our concerts, they hire freelance players to fill in. Inevitably, this



Above: Michael Van Bebber

affects the music. On one hand, leaders can present any arrangement they like because the members are all good readers. On the other, the rapport that exists with a longstanding band may be missing. Even so, the bands usually settle into a groove after the first set.

The list of Pacific Northwest musicians who have followed the new path is impressive and still growing. As discussed in previous Jazz Soundings, British Columbia has produced Bria Skonberg, Jen Hodge, Josh Roberts, Bonnie Northgraves, Joseph Abbott, and Arnt and Evan Arntzen, most of whom have played for us at one time or another. From Seattle, Jacob Zimmerman, Emily Asher, Mike Davis, and Greg Ruby are sought after by bands playing in California, New York, Chicago, and even overseas.

Which brings us to some of the other new faces we saw last month and will be seeing again this month. In October, Jen Hodge featured trumpeter Michael Van Bebber and reedman Thomas Harris continued on page 6

GEN-CARE WHOLE LIFE EXPO

by Patrick Monteith

PSTJS board members set up a display table at the Gen-Care Whole Life Expo in Ballard to spread the Good News of Traditional Jazz. A Good Time was had by All!



Above: Patrick Monteith, Sharon Dooley, Gloria Kristovich, Carol Rippey



Above: Cilla Trush & Cookie Lady, aka Joyce

Below: Dancing the hours away - Joanne Hargrave extreme left and Cilla Trush extreme right.



We had a very active presence and we generated a lot of smiles. I know we were the most entertaining and memorable table at the expo. Because of that, I feel that it was a very worthwhile endeavor! John gave a nice speech to the attendees about who we are. We even had an impromptu 78rpm phonograph dance party in the middle of the floor!

We all spoke with a variety of people and handed out a good amount of our paper brochures and cards. Though we didn't have anyone sign up immediately as new members, some people signed up to be notified about our next show. We made some good connections with a local swing dance organization. The dance instructors sounded like they want to come see us in October. At the end of the day, we even had a young lady offer to volunteer to help us out with the set-up duties at the Elks. I believe that the fruits of our labors will come later from the seeds that were sown September 26!



Above: Project leader Patrick Monteith furnished the dancing music and John Ochs the straw hat!

Below: Expo Supporters take a break



Message - Continued from page 3

as sidemen with her All Stars. This month, Jacob Zimmerman is featuring reedman Saul Cline with his Pals. I use the word "sidemen" advisedly because each of these musicians is in fact a star in his own right. We have seen Van Bebber previously with the Good Herb and Jonathan Doyle bands, but his appearance as lead horn in Hodge's smaller group gave us an opportunity to better appreciate his talent. His resume is as deep and wide as it gets. Check it out online at http://www.rooseveltjazz.org/profile/ directors/. The credentials of Thomas Harris and Saul Cline are similarly impressive and can be found at https://www.thomasharrismusic. com/bio and https://www.linkedin.com/in/ saul-cline-0749bb85/.

I reference these musicians because, though new to us, each has been a potent force in the region's mainstream jazz scene for over a decade. Van Bebber and Cline began their undergraduate educations in the 1990s, earned advanced degrees in music, and have held jazz professorships at universities. Harris, though younger in years, has been playing professionally in Bellingham since his middle school years. He attended the Berklee School of Music on a full scholarship, graduated in 2013, and is currently an instructor at the college level. The fact that these musician/educators are playing for the PSTJS is further indication that traditional jazz now is being accepted by the jazz community at large.

If we are to be successful in expanding our umbrella, which we must do if our organization is to survive, it is important for us to warmly welcome these musicians because they are our lifeline to the next generation of traditional jazz players. Michael Van Bebber is on the faculty at Northwest School and serves as band director of ensembles 2 and

4 at Roosevelt High School. Thomas Harris is an education director at the Whatcom Jazz Music Arts Center and a teacher of courses in jazz ensemble and jazz vocals at Western Washington University. By attending our concerts and openly expressing support and appreciation for these musicians, you can be a part of building the relationships which our society needs to survive and further its mission to promote live traditional jazz in the Seattle area.

My challenge as music director, as I see it, is to mix the new with the old and thus bridge the exciting transition which the evolving jazz scene is offering us. If we do this, we can continue to honor the musicians who have been the backbone of our society for so long and at the same time encourage the new generation of musicians who are making the bold commitment to carry forward the music we love

JAZZ MEMORY

by Patrick R. Sullivan

As a child in the 1950s, my father worked in Seattle/Tacoma/Everett radio. Thus, I grew up with an abundance of music in our houses. Every couple of weeks brought new records from the promoters of the likes of Rosemary Clooney, Lena Horne, Anita O'Day, Patsy Cline, Peggy Lee, Dinah, Della, Sarah, Jo, Ella Fortunately for the children of radio station employees, there was only so much storage space available there, and we reaped the benefits.

From an early age I learned to appreciate what was known back then as, girl singers. There were none finer than those I've listed above. Unfortunately, with the advent of rock 'n roll things like diction, phrasing, elegance of style went out of fashion. Fortunately, some 3,000 miles from where I was living, a young woman my age was growing up in Waltham, Massachusetts, teaching herself to play the guitar, and singing along with Joan Baez and Judy Collins records. Then that woman started listening to a jazz

radio station in Boston and her musical tastes changed radically. Her name was Rebecca Kilgore.

I discovered her several years ago while watching YouTube videos of jazz festivals. Specifically, one in which she and the Australian bassist/vocalist Nicki Parrott duetted on "Better Than Anything". I was amazed at the purity of her voice, her sense of rhythm, her phrasing. That was not the only YouTube video available featuring vocals by Ms Kilgore. There are dozens. When I learned that she lived in Portland, Oregon I was stunned that I didn't know about her before. Surely she comes to Seattle regularly, I thought.

No, she has only sung in the Puget Sound area infrequently (sometimes with her good friend Greta Matassa). Nor did she have plans to travel north any time soon. This I learned from exchanging e-mails with her last year. So, just before Christmas I drove down to Portland to have dinner at the Jo Bar

and Rotisserie, where she was singing on a Sunday evening. After the first set, I introduced myself as her e-mail correspondent, and joked that I had to drive down and back (8 hours, round trip) since she wouldn't come up to Seattle to sing. All right, she responded, if you get some gigs, I will come.

And so I have, and Becky-simply the finest jazz singer in the world today-will be making Puget Sound a regular spot on her schedule. First up: Friday/Saturday, November 8th & 9th, 7:30 PM, at Lou Magor's Kenyon Hall in West Seattle. It's an old fashioned Music Hall on 35th Avenue SW, at the highest point in Seattle, near Sealth High School. So old fashioned that Lou only accepts cash payments at the door. To reserve seats, simply send an e-mail to kenyonhall@earthlink.net with the number of people in your party. Your reservation will be confirmed, and your seats ready for you when Lou opens the doors at 7 PM.

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Please (enroll) (renew) (me) (us) as a member or members		
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Dues for 12 months: Single \$25 Couple \$40 Lifetime single \$200 Lifetime Couple \$350 Patron \$500 (One or two lifetime membership) Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to the performance		
and preservation of traditional jazz. Your membership and contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you.		

Zimmerman - Continued from page 1

We've enjoyed the unique instrumentation of Jacob Zimmerman and His Pals twice before. With the exception of Saul Cline, we know all the guys in the band from many previous sessions. On November 17th they will bring us a little different approach to danceable classic jazz. Bring a friend or two and join us at the Ballard Elks!

Rebecca Kilgore

America's finest jazz vocalist (Performing with the Ray Skjelbred Trio)

Friday/Saturday, November 8th/9th at:

Kenyon Hall

7904 35th Ave SW

\$20 general admission/ \$18 seniors

For reservations, e-mail kenyonhall@earthlink.net



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