



**JJS JAZZ Notes**  
**Jacksonville Jazz Society**  
May 2019 *"Keeping Jazz Alive"*



**Message From  
Our President**

**Jackie Valentine**

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**Good day Jazz Lovers!**

We are days away from our major fundraiser. That's right we are vastly approaching the Eighth Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser and the Jacksonville Jazz Society (JJS) members are fired up and ready to go. This year is especially significant to us because we're celebrating 10 years of this organization's existence. Ten years of our founders, Na'im Rashid and the Late Wayne Barlow, vision blossoming into full fruition. This year's fundraiser chairperson, Deborah Melvin, and co-chair, Sherice Crews, declares the night will be filled with excitement. It'll begin with a cocktail hour and end with blissful dancing to the powerful sounds of the Special Formula Band with so much more in between. So, ladies be prepared to slip on your prettiest dress, men don your white suits and let's get ready to have a good time.

Although we're preparing for our annual event, JJS still takes time to give back to our community. This year, in honor of Mother's Day, we gave live carnations to the mothers at Aging Grace Assisted Living Facility. Again, it's our way of remembering the underprivileged; with Father's Day around the corner, we'll be back to spread more love. If you're a JJS member and you're available we asked that you'd join us. More details to follow via email.

***"Life is a lot like Jazz. It's best when you improvise."  
-George Gershwin-***

**J. Valentine, BSN, RN  
Jacksonville Jazz Society, President**



Herbie Hancock has confirmed his upcoming summer tour of North America including a number of dates with Kamasi Washington as well as a return to both the Beacon Theater in NYC and Humphrey's in San Diego on his own! Both artists will perform separate sets with their bands. Visit Herbie's web site for more information. <https://www.herbiehancock.com/>

Herbie has recorded with many of the top Jazz musicians of our time. You can hear 14 of the best Herbie Hancock songs at this web site:

<https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2017/04/the-14-best-herbie-hancock-songs.html>

We had scheduled this for May and June, however, time was devoted to our fundraising event. So, for July, please utilize your own resources or YouTube and take time and listen to the music of Herbie Hancock. Be prepared to discuss the composition you enjoyed the most by Herbie Hancock.



Jacksonville's Local  
**Jazz Musicians**

## Saxophone is **Al Waters'** ticket to travel the world



(Al Waters on sax behind the keyboard)

By Tonyaa Weathersbee

Posted Jun 18, 2011 at 12:05 AM

For Jazz saxophonist Al Waters, the music that became stuck in his head as a child wound up guiding him to a rich, harmonious life.

Waters grew up watching Popeye and his nemesis, Bluto, fight to a tune called "The Spinach Overture," a song he later learned was based on the classical "Poet and Peasant Overture." He lived in the Davis Street area, right behind the old Isaiah Blocker Junior High School, where sounds from the band that practiced there wafted into the air and into his consciousness.

Then there was his mother. And his uncles.

“Back then, they had cartoons that had big band music in them, and my mother used to listen to Ella Fitzgerald and Dinah Washington,” said Waters, who is 61. “I had uncles that listened to a lot of music ... before I knew it, I was in it.”

Today, Waters still is going where the music takes him. He’s doing some recording now, and he’s played at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival and with jazz great Teddy Washington, who died in 2009. He also plays with and writes music for local conga musician Terry “Doc” Handy.

“He’s [Waters] phenomenal as a composer, and phenomenal as a musician,” Handy said. “Al takes my music for me, and writes it the way I like for it to be written ... He comes from that legacy of great musicians here who don’t get their due.”

But from 1990 to 2000, Waters’ saxophone playing took him on a journey that many musicians could only dream of: He traveled the world as part of the Ray Charles Orchestra.

“In 1990, a friend called and said he had a job for me,” Waters said. “I said, ‘A job for me?’ He said, ‘Are you going to be home this afternoon around 4?’ I said, ‘Sure.’ He said, ‘You’re going to get a call from Ray Charles.’

“And I did. It was on a Tuesday.”

From there Waters embarked on a career that allowed him to work with a musical genius and to set foot in countries throughout the world. Yet it was a career that wouldn’t have happened if he hadn’t followed the lead of the music that had shaped his early life.

After joining a band in the seventh grade with the support of his parents - Waters initially started out playing the trumpet.

“My mother, she said the first job she ever had to get was to buy me a trumpet,” said Waters, whose father worked at the Jacksonville Shipyards.

He played that instrument up until his sophomore year at Florida A&M University - where he went after graduating from New Stanton High School in 1967 and where he became a member of the famed Marching 100.

“Then I started wanting to play jazz,” Waters said. “I was 19, but I was so classically trained until I couldn’t make the transition quietly.”

He did make the transition, but he also began flirting with the idea of pursuing a career that some would deem more practical.

“I was trying to be a doctor for a minute, but I couldn’t get away from the music,” Waters said. “It gave me the most satisfaction.”

Then he tried teaching music instead of playing it full time after graduating from college. He took a job at Virginia Union University, where he remained for nearly four years.

It wasn’t for him. The students, he said, thought music was supposed to be all fun.

“I’m a great respecter of people’s wills,” Waters said. “If you show me that you don’t want to do something, I shouldn’t have to browbeat you. The minute I began to show them that music was work, they didn’t want to have anything to do with it.”

Playing the saxophone not only landed Waters a place with the Ray Charles Orchestra, but in other lands.

“I got to visit a lot of places in the world, places that I didn’t even know existed,” Waters said. “It’s a shame that we don’t realize how alike we are, once you get past the language and the food people eat.”

Waters stopped playing with Charles in 2000, after he developed some kidney problems. But he's better now - and still looking to use music to travel the world and share what he's learned from it.

"I learned that it's about the feeling and not so much about the notes," Waters said. "It's about conveying the idea of what the song is all about. It's about how to put yourself inside that sound and get it across."

[tonyaa.weathersbee@jacksonville.com](mailto:tonyaa.weathersbee@jacksonville.com), (904) 359-4251



## **Blue Note Jazz Cruise to Feature Marcus Miller, Joey DeFrancesco Reservations being accepted for the Jan. 25 - Feb. 1 Cruise**

**PUBLISHED**MARCH 21, 2019

The lineup for the 2020 [Blue Note at Sea luxury cruise](#) has just been announced featuring performances from over 75 musicians, including Kamasi Washington, Christian McBride, Joey DeFrancesco and more.

The cruise sets sail from Miami, Fla., and makes stops throughout the Caribbean. Reservations are now being taken for the Jan. 25 – Feb. 1 cruise.

The cruise takes place aboard the Celebrity Infinity, and the ports of call are Labadee, La Romana, and St. Thomas. The event's musical hosts are Marcus Miller, Robert Glasper and Don Was. Performers include Joey DeFrancesco, Christian McBride, Gregory Porter, David Sanborn, and Melody Gardot among others. Comedian Alonzo Bodden will also join the group of performers.

Shows and events start as early as noon and go on until late when guests can participate in late-night jam sessions or DJ sets. Guests can watch live interviews, experience meet-and-greet opportunities and participate in a wide range of special events with the artists—from wine tasting to “Cigars Under the Stars” to martini hour.

Other musicians scheduled to perform on the cruise include Kirk Whalum, Cory Henry, Cyrille Aimée, Emmet Cohen and Kamasi Washington.

Fares begin at \$2,025 per person and include all concerts, meals, special events throughout the voyage, and all port charges, taxes and gratuities. For more information or to book a cabin, visit [www.bluenoteatsea.com](http://www.bluenoteatsea.com) or call 844-768-5157.

The event is a collaboration between Blue Note Jazz Clubs, Blue Note Records and Entertainment Cruise Productions.

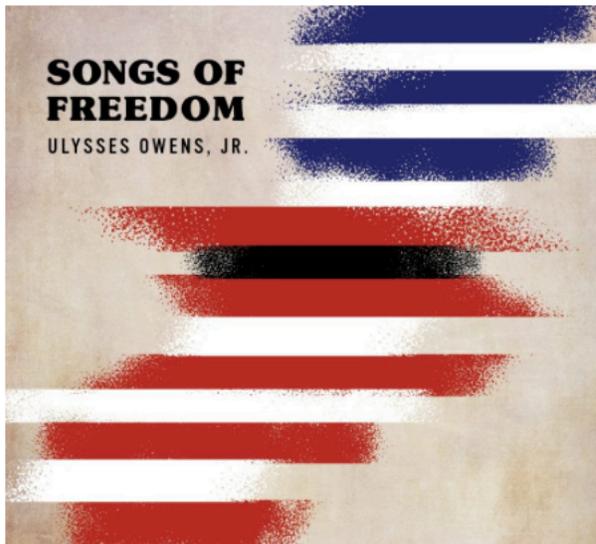
# **Ulysses Owens, Jr.: *Songs of Freedom* (Resilience Music Alliance)**

**A review of the drummer/producer's album featuring four different vocalists**

**(Ulysses Owens, Jr. is a Jacksonville native)**

PUBLISHED APRIL 21, 2019APRIL 25, 2019 – BY  
ANDREW GILBERT

The sign of a successful concept album is that it doesn't wear out its welcome. Drummer, producer, and savvy musical ringleader Ulysses Owens Jr. showcases four very different vocalists on *Songs of Freedom*, an album that could have easily expanded to twice its nine songs—all of them associated with or written by Nina Simone, Abbey Lincoln, or Joni Mitchell.



The freedom Owens has in mind isn't necessarily political. The material explores notions of spiritual and emotional liberation as well, though the album's pulse is driven by the disquieting sense that civil rights-era songs resonate more loudly than ever these days. René Marie sounds formidable on Max Roach and Oscar Brown Jr.'s "Driva' Man" from the *Freedom Now Suite* and positively ferocious on Simone's "Mississippi Goddam."

Read more at : <https://jazztimes.com/>

**JazzTimes**

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**Dianne Smith**  
**JJS Who's Who**

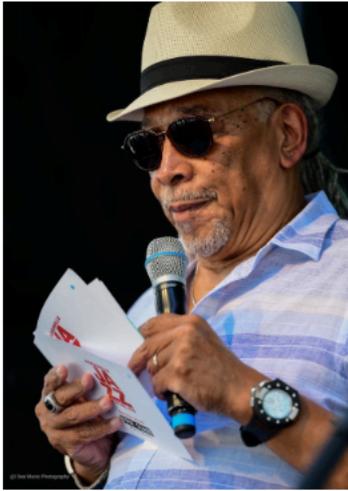


**Meet Patricia S. Kearse**

**Patricia S. Kearse** is an original native of Jacksonville, FL. She became a member of JJS last year, 2018. She joined JJS to learn and thus become more knowledgeable about Jazz. Her favorite musician is Grover Washington. Patricia is a retired teacher whose life mantra is "Just Believe!"

**Willadean LeBlanc** is from here, Jacksonville, FL and was born September 7. She joined JJS and announces Miles Jaye Davis Productions as her reason and favorite artist. Willadean's word of strength comes from Maya Angelou. "You can shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness but still, like air, I'll rise!"

**Contact Dianne Smith ([dkster9@gmail.com](mailto:dkster9@gmail.com)) to fill out and submit your "Who's Who" form!**



## Na'im Rashid

### *"Extensions of Congo Square"*

**Friday Afternoons  
3pm - 5pm  
WFCF-FM 88.5**



On Sunday, May 19th, Station Manager Dan McCook hosted a Happy 25th Anniversary gathering of all its community volunteers.

WFCF 88.5 FM, Radio with a Reason, is a non-commercial, educational radio station staffed by students in the Flagler College Communications Department and community volunteers.

WFCF was founded to provide a source of quality radio programming for the greater St. Johns County area and to provide a superior learning environment for students majoring in broadcasting at Flagler College. The station operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

<https://www.iheart.com/live/wfcf-88five-fm-5246/>



## JJS Out and About

### Mother's Day

#### *JJS Community Involvement*

Following our May meeting, some members of Jacksonville Jazz Society visited Aging Grace Assisted Living Facility to deliver Mother's Day flowers to the ladies residing there. Thanks to those members who participated in this outreach activity. Your assistance is truly appreciated.



Ann Scott

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# 2019 Jacksonville Jazz Festival



Ava Simmons and Dawn Lopez (CBS 47 Action News Anchor)



Jackie Valentine and Serice Crews



**Jax Jazz**  
**Coming Attractions**



**Sept. 26th-29th New Smyrna Beach Jazz Festival**



**Dave Koz and Friends Summer Horns**  
**Featuring Gerald Albright, Rick Braun, Kenny Lattimore and Aubrey Logan**

**Friday, July 12 | 8 pm**  
**Tickets start at \$39.00**

Nine-time Grammy-nominated saxophonist Dave Koz will be joined by saxophonist Gerald Albright, trumpeter Rick Braun, vocalist Kenny Lattimore, and trombonist and vocalist Aubrey Logan of Postmodern Jukebox, for the return of his popular Summer Horns Tour.

Together they will perform songs from their recently released album Summer Horns II From A To Z, including Earth, Wind & Fire's "Getaway," KC and the Sunshine Band's "That's the Way I Like It," Natalie Cole's "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)," and "From A To Z (Take The "A" Train/ Roc Boys (And The Winner Is))," a mash-up medley of Billy Strayhorn's standard "Take the 'A' Train," with hip-hop icon Jay-Z's "Roc Boys (And the Winner Is)."



<https://www.wucf.org/>



<https://www.jazzradio.com/>

# DCJAZZFEST

presented by **eventsDC**

**JUNE 7-16, 2019**

## FEATURING

Jon Batiste & Stay Human

Snarky Puppy

Roy Hargrove Big Band • Lean On Me:

José James Celebrates Bill Withers

Joshua Redman Quartet

Patti Austin • Justin Kauflin • Michael Franks

Joey Alexander Trio • Terri Lyne Carrington &

Social Science • Stefon Harris & Blackout

Celebrating Randy Weston:

Marc Cary/Rodney Kendrick/Alex Blake/

TK Blue/Neil Clarke

Etienne Charles Creole Soul • Anat Cohen

Quartet • Sharon Clark

Ralph Peterson & GenNext Big Band

Sean Jones Dizzy Spellz • Georgia Anne

Muldrow • Justin Brown's NYEUSI

Miles Okazaki • Hailu Mergia

Olli Soikkeli Trio • Brass-A-Holics • SPAGA

El Violin Latino • Evan Harris • Cornerstore

Joe Morris+Tomas Fujiwara Duo

Girls In Airports • Witness Matlou Trio

Allyn Johnson & Sonic Sanctuary

Tarus Mateen & Beyond Genre 2019

DCJazzPrix Finalists & more!



**FestEvents** @FESTEVENTS

37TH ANNUAL  
NORFOLK WATERFRONT  
**JAZZ**  
FESTIVAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
AUGUST 23 & 24

TOWN POINT PARK  
DOWNTOWN NORFOLK  
WATERFRONT, VA

**MORE INFO >**  
FESTEVENTS.ORG

## Sax To The Max

- Michael Lington
- Paul Taylor
- Vincent Ingala
- West Coast Jam
- Richard Elliot
- DW3
- The West Coast Horns
- Peter White
- Sheila E.

## **Saturday, August 24, 2019**

- Brian McKnight
- Lindsey Webster
- Jazz Funk Soul
- everette Harp
- Paul Jackson
- Jeff Lorber

<https://www.jambase.com/festival/norfolk-waterfront-jazz-festival-2019>



<http://www.capitaljazz.com/fest/2019/talent.php>

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# SAVANNAH Jazz FESTIVAL

September 22 - 28th



**August 8th - 11th**

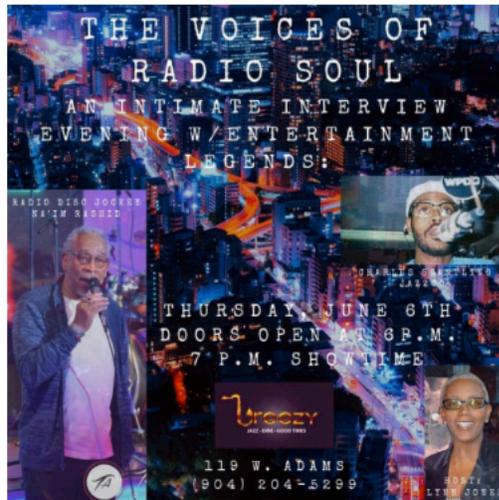
<https://richmondjazzfestival.com/>

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Please share your adventures with your fellow members. Just send a brief story of your travels or events (along with a photo) to [ear.on.jazz@gmail.com](mailto:ear.on.jazz@gmail.com). place "Out and About" in the subject line. Thank you



**119 W. Adams St.**



Thursday, June 6th, 6 pm

The Voices of Radio Soul

**Charles Scantling & Na'im Rashid**

*(Na'im's 70th Birthday Celebration)*

Fri June 7th -Live Jazz

Sat June Eric Carter

Fri June 14th - Damien Lamar & Friends

Sat June 15th - Catch the Groove (Gemini Party)

Fri June 21st - Chris Thomas

Sat June 22nd - Mama Yo Productions

Fri June 27th - Live jazz

Sat June 28th - Snack Blues Band

**Reservations - 904-204-5299**

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**JJS Next meeting:**  
**Saturday**  
**July 13th**

**11:30 am**  
**Wells Fargo Bank**

**1601 North Main Street**  
**Jacksonville, FL**  
*(parking in the rear)*