

Jacksonville Jazz Society

August 2019 - "Keeping Jazz Alive"

Message From Our President **Jackie Valentine**

Good Day Jazz Lovers:

To a poet, poetry is the spontaneous outpouring of powerful emotions and thoughts put into words. To an artist, art is a diverse range of human activities created through ones visual or imaginative perception. But... to a Jazz lover, Jazz is _____. I deliberately left it blank, because if I were to take a poll, Jazz would mean something different to each of us. However, you'll have an opportunity to join the conversation at the next JJS monthly meeting on Saturday, September 14th.

Like last month's meeting, there will be opportunities to win door prizes and other surprises but you must be present to win. If you're an active JJS member I encourage you to attend the monthly meetings. However, I do realize we all have busy lives/schedules and we're not able to attend every meeting but lets at least put forth an effort.

Congratulations are in order for Mike Bertty and our vice president, Perry Robinson. They are our new chair and co-chair for the Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser. I'm so excited to see what these creative minds have in store for us.

I pray you all to have a wonderful week. Until we meet again remember Jazz is _____.

Jackie V.

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





JJS Education Committee



What is Jazz?

Jazz is a kind of music in which improvisation is typically an important part. In most jazz performances, musicians play solos which they make up on the spot, which requires considerable skill. There is tremendous variety in jazz, but most jazz is very rhythmic, has a forward momentum called "swing," and uses "bent" or "blue" notes. You can often hear "call-and-response" patterns in jazz, in which one instrument, voice, or part of the band answers another. (You can hear Ella Fitzgerald and Roy Eldridge do "call and response" in [Ella's Singing Class](#).) Jazz can express many different emotions, from pain to sheer joy. In jazz, you may hear the sounds of freedom-for the music has been a powerful voice for people suffering unfair treatment because of the color of their skin, or because they lived in a country run by a cruel dictator.

Our president, Jackie Valentine is asking us, "Jazz is what to you?" Perhaps after reading the definition from the Smithsonian Jazz Department, you can articulate the emotions as to why you like and listen to Jazz. Most often conversations are held with like-minded individuals who can appreciate and want to preserve this art form. This is the purpose of our Education Committee, to explore all the Jazz is and then some. No doubt the reasons we were led to this sound varies, but Jazz unites us. This is evident whenever you attend a Jazz festival, you see people from all walks of life, young and old. African-Americans today should be proud of the gift our ancestors left to America. Jazz is our gift to America. We will continue this conversation at our September meeting.

Last month our Vice-President Perry Robinson reiterated the importance of volunteering and two members stepped forward to join the Education Committee. They are Angela Bruton and Stan Skinner. By the way, we are blessed to have Stan Skinner as a member. He is a musician and I look forward to learning much from him. We thank them both for their dedication and support.

*"People who say 'Jazz is dead' just aren't listening,"
"It will never die. It just needs exposure." -Alan Leibowitz 1945-2019*



Jacksonville's Local Jazz Musicians

Meet Ray Callender

Professional musician and educator specializing in jazz and related genres.



Ray Callender was born in Winfield, Illinois. The son of Charles Callender, a Chicago trumpeter and craftsman at Schilke Music Products, Ray's love for the instrument began at an early age. However, his love for the music didn't develop until early high school, sparked by a double-sided tape of Kind of Blue and Jazz at Massey Hall. He was hooked. Callender began to study the masters, especially Freddie Hubbard, Clifford Brown, Miles Davis, and Woody Shaw, and his diligence earned him numerous honors while still in high school, including "Best Soloist" at the Chicago Area Jazz Festival, "Outstanding Soloist" at the Rolling Meadows Jazz Festival, and the 1996 Louis Armstrong Jazz Award. Callender graduated Cum Laude from the University of North Florida jazz program where he studied with legendary alto saxophonist Bunky Green. He performed with and composed for the top jazz ensemble and combo and was the featured trumpet soloist on UNF's Down Beat award-winning albums, Things To Come, Second Thoughts, and Through His Eyes, as well as recording with notable pianist/educator Dr. Keith Javors on his 2004 Zoho Records release, Mo' City Jungle.

In 2003, after winning an audition amongst thousands of emerging jazz artists from all around the globe, Callender was selected by jazz legend Curtis Fuller as a "Jazz Star of Tomorrow." As a result, he performed in Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Program at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. where he worked with esteemed artists including Fuller, Winard Harper, Carmen Lundy, Jimmy Owens, and John Clayton. He was also one of only four trumpeters nationwide selected to attend a summer residency at the Steans Institute Program for Jazz at Ravinia, where he had the opportunity to work with such venerable mentors as Dr. David Baker, James Moody, Rufus Reid, Danilo Perez, and Nathan Davis as well as to perform with up and coming players like Aaron Parks, Kim Thompson, and Maurice Brown. In addition, he was recognized twice by Down Beat magazine for Best Collegiate Jazz Combo (2002-2003).

Callender has performed in concert with such artists as Dave Brubeck, Clark Terry, Jimmy Heath, Slide Hampton, Jon Faddis, James Moody, Antonio Hart, Benny Green, Dave Holland, Chris Potter, Billy Childs, Pat Martino, Maurice Hines, Eddie Palmieri, Conrad Herwig, Dennis Mackrel, Percy Heath, Doug Carn, Steve Nelson, John Lee, Billy Kilson, Ignacio Berroa, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Bobby Shew, the Ritz Jazz Orchestra, the St. Johns River City Band, Bruce Paulson, and Bob Mintzer. Groups featuring Callender have performed at such venues as the Montreux Jazz Festival, the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Vienne Jazz Festival, the Savannah Jazz Festival, the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, the Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room, Joe Segal's Jazz Showcase, the Velvet Lounge, the International Association of Jazz Educators conference, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, and the Notre Dame Jazz Festival. Callender has held faculty positions at Florida State College and Duval County Public Schools and currently teaches at numerous private schools as well as performing regularly throughout the Southeast.

Catch Ray Callender performing at Breezy Friday, September 13th.

JT Notes:

Jazz Community Takes Action For Kenny Burrell

The celebrated guitarist's health prompted an outpouring of support



PUBLISHED JULY 2, 2019 – BY MAC RANDALL

It was quite a coincidence. Having recently finished reading through Mark Stryker's piece about Kenny Burrell for this issue—a slightly modified version of the chapter on Burrell in Stryker's new book, *Jazz from Detroit*—I felt moved to put on a couple of classics by the guitar great. First *Midnight Blue*, then *A Night at the Vanguard*. As Burrell, Richard Davis, and Roy Haynes eased into their sly take on “Just a-Sittin’ and a-Rockin’” from the latter album, I did what one does far too often in 2019 (and by “one” I mean me): I logged onto Facebook. And there at the top of my feed was news about ... Kenny Burrell. Who needed my help. What was this? A Zuckerbergian advertising algorithm interacting with my stereo?

No, as it turned out. The 87-year-old guitarist and educator was apparently in serious financial trouble, and his wife Katherine had launched a GoFundMe page in an attempt to set the family's house in order. On that page, she listed a cascading series of misfortunes: an accident that her husband had suffered after his 85th-birthday concert at UCLA's Royce Hall, mounting medical expenses, identity theft, bank fraud, ravaged credit scores, an ongoing homeowners' association lawsuit. The Burrells were broke. They might end up on the street. And they were trying to raise \$100,000.

This disturbing news came via a trusted source, so I presumed it to be true. Others weren't so sure. A spokesman for Burrell's employer, UCLA, from which he remains on medical leave following the accident, made a statement that the university was unaware of his precarious situation. Over the next several days, I fielded a variety of messages from people who believed that something was fishy. The Jazz Foundation of America, with whom the Burrells had been in contact for months before the GoFundMe launch, belatedly confirmed the campaign's legitimacy (the Foundation had in fact recommended the online-fundraising approach to Kenny and Katherine). But that didn't silence the doubters. Finally, almost a week after the page went live, a message of thanks attributed to Kenny Burrell himself was appended to it. “Your loving gifts,” it read in part, “have inspired us to become more giving and respectful of our fellow human beings.”

Lots of questions about this episode remain, many of them beginning with the words “What does it say about our society that ...” But right now I'd rather focus on the giving than the querying. More than 4,200 people contributed to the “Support Kenny Burrell” page; some of them have names you might recognize (Pat Metheny, Branford Marsalis), many don't. The \$100,000 goal was reached within a couple of days. As I write this, the total raised stands at \$227,277. How appropriate it now seems that the headline of Mark Stryker's piece is “Community Builder.” For here was the community, coming to the aid of the man who'd brought them all together.

George Benson Tells Marcus Miller Like It Is

A Freewheeling Conversation Between Two Master Musicians

I love hanging out with George Benson. He loves music and he loves life. And he unapologetically enjoys the finer things in life. Walking through George's estate outside of Phoenix, Arizona, you marvel at the material signs of his success: gold and platinum records hanging on the walls, the Maybach car in the garage. But you also marvel at the fact that no matter where you are in the house, there's always a guitar within reach. George practices *all* the time. This is one pop star who never stops working on his craft.

For the jazz community, George Benson represents possibly the most dramatic version of what happens when one of its major figures "crosses over" and becomes a part of general popular culture. Other artists like Louis Armstrong, Wes Montgomery, Herbie Hancock and, more recently, Robert Glasper come to mind, but I think the closest comparison to GB would be one of his heroes, Nat King Cole. Like George, Nat was an incredibly influential musician, performing instrumental jazz for years with his King Cole Trio before he made the "mistake" of opening his mouth to sing a song. His vocal gift was undeniable, creating a world of unimagined opportunities for a musician from Montgomery, Alabama in the 1940s.

In speaking to George at his home, the similarities between his story and Cole's were striking. They both achieved true superstar status after making their initial mark as jazz instrumentalists. *And* they both faced criticism from the jazz world for choosing to follow the pop path. Phrases like "abandoned jazz" and "sell out" were freely tossed around. But in this interview, you'll hear George's story from his perspective. I think you'll discover some things you didn't know that will allow you to appreciate his incredible journey.

And as I tell every young jazz guitarist: You may think of GB as a crooner, but you better wear some protective clothing if you encounter him at a jam session. Otherwise, you'll end up getting smoked by one of the greatest guitarists the jazz world has ever known.

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



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JJS Who's Who



Meet Michael Lee

Michael L. Lee is originally a native of Ohio who was born June 6. He became a member in June 2018. He is a lover of Jazz for Ballroom Dancing. His favorite jazz Artist is Donald Byrd. Michael is a skilled Ballroom Dance Instructor. He is very interested in teaching Partnered Dancing to Jazz Music, Blues, and R&B. He says, "Get Your Groove On"



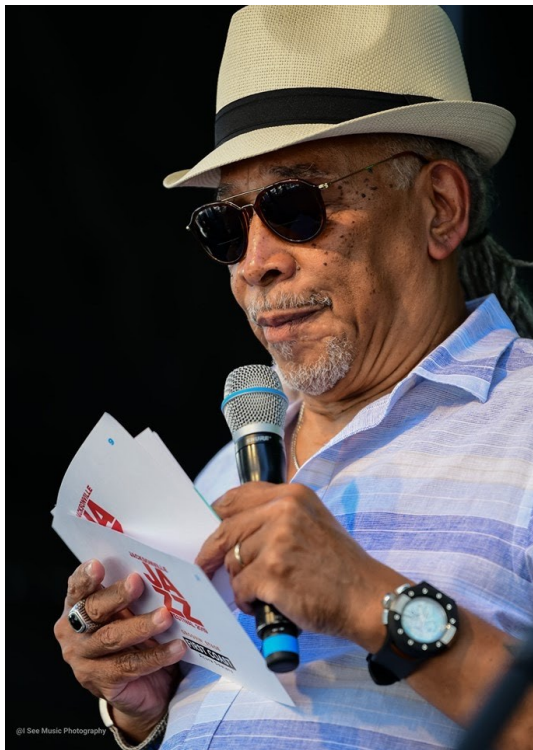
Dianne Smith

Meet Selena Mendez

Selena "LeLe" Mendez was born November 18 right here in Jacksonville FL. She joined JJS in May 2009. LeLe is here because of her vivacious love of Jazz and the opportunity to be around people who share her interest in Jazz. Her favorite jazz artists are Kem, Kim Waters, and Boney James. LeLe is a student studying Environmental Science at FSCJ. She trained vocally in classical and jazz music and sings as a soprano in a gospel ensemble. LeLe works for the Diocese of St. Augustine as a secretary. Her favorite message to share is, "My sheep, they know my voice and a stranger they shall not follow." The Bible!



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



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JJS Out and About

The Northeast Florida Jazz Association in Palm Coast hosted a Dinner Cruise recently in Daytona Beach. It was a beautiful cruise down the Halifax River aboard The Lady Dolphin of Daytona. This relaxing hour and a half cruise included dinner, dessert, unlimited soft drinks or ice tea, music, sightseeing information, free parking, and free raffled prizes. A full bar was also available. JJS has a few members who are also members of the Northeast Florida Jazz Association and some of us joined our NEFJA friends on this unique Saturday outing. We thank NEFJA for their continued support of JJS.



JJS in the House!

Na'im & Ann on a recent trip to Charleston, South Carolina to celebrate his cousin's birthday. However, this year we made our way to a very historic landmark, the Mother Emanuel A.M.E Church (founded in 1816). What a beautiful structure! It was hard to imagine the horror that took place inside by an evil 21-year old white supremacist. However, the healing process began four days after this tragedy when Emanuel A.M.E. reopened for its Sunday worship service. This gothic revival structure commands a striking view in downtown Charleston.



An Evening with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

The first half of the program by the Jazz orchestra performing Duke Ellington's music chronologically as Wynton spoke about the time periods of each piece.



The Swing Symphony 1-7 was a composed by Wynton Marsalis and both groups played together - First Philadelphia Orchestra and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. It was a wonderful concert. The orchestra said it was very challenging, however, it came across detailed and wonderfully performed. The audience stood and cheered for a standing ovation. They then performed again and featured orchestra members improvising as a Jazz soloist. Everyone was in awe and left very amazed. The performance was held at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in New York. Cheryl Hazzard (Na'im's sister on the right) is pictured with Wynton Marsalis with friends backstage.

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



Jax Jazz Coming Attractions

Thursday, Oct. 31st - Acoustic Alchemy,
Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 10th - Vincent Ingala,
Ponte Vedra Concert



The Ritz Jazz Series begins its fall season on
Friday, September 20th at 7:30 pm

Ritz Theater
829 North Davis St.
904-807-2010





Tuesday, September 24th -
Snarky Puppy

Thursday, December 5th -
Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2019

Tuesday, December 10th

A Peter White Christmas
with Euge Groove, Vincent Ingala & Lindsey Webster



September 22 - 28th

Save the Date
The North East Florida Jazz Association
 presents
The Nat Adderley Jr. Quartet



Saturday, October 26, 2019 - 4 p.m.
 for the "Jeep" McCoy Scholarship Concert & Supper
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Karen Brown JJS Pioneer Member

Our beloved Jazz Society member, sister, and friend, Karen Brown was called to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 24. Karen was one of the original Pioneers of the Jacksonville Jazz Society. For those who did not get an opportunity to meet Karen, she was classy, sassy and all about the Jazz Society. She loved his organization and worked tirelessly to make sure everyone knew about us. Please keep her family and each other in your prayers as this is a tough time for all. A memorial is planned at FSCJ for Karen. We will provide more information when it becomes available.



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***"Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.
And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.
And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance."***

-Kahlil Gibran



119 W. Adams St.

Fri Aug 30th - Longineu Parsons
Sat Aug 31 - Live Jazz
Wed Sept 4th - Art Walk - DJ Rob
Thu Sept 5th - Jazz Jam 6:30-9: 00 pm
Fri Sept 6th - Javian Trio
Sat Sept 7th - Mama Yo Productions
Fri Sept 13th - Ray Callender
Sat Sept 14th - Lady Renea
Wed Sept 18th - Win-Win Network 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Fri Sept 20th - Ernie Lombardi Quartet
Sat Sept 21st - Joe Watts

Reservations - 904-204-5299

JJS Next meeting:
Saturday, September 14th

11:30 am, Wells Fargo Bank

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



Jazzy's Restaurant & Lounge
901 King Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Jazzy's is a soul food restaurant and lounge, which includes takeout. It will feature live Jazz throughout the week.

Hours:

Monday: 3pm-12am
Tuesday-Thursday: 11am-12am
Friday-Saturday: 11am-2am
Sunday: 11am-7pm

Jacksonville Jazz Society

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