

# Jacksonville Jazz Society

## July 2019 - "Keeping Jazz Alive"

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### Message From Our President **Jackie Valentine**

#### *Good Day Jazz Lovers:*

Jazz is like fine wine. It goes down smoothly and impacts the entire soul. If we were to survey a couple of jazz lovers and wine connoisseurs, I'm sure they'd agree that wine and jazz are two forms of art which blend well and their imagery is often intertwined.

Just as wine and jazz complement one another, so does the Jacksonville Jazz Society (JJS) and its members. Because we realize membership cooperation is the key element to our overall success, we, JJS board, solicit your participation. We are searching for our 2020 chairperson and co-chairperson for the Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser. As we all are aware, this is the most important event of our organization. Therefore, should you volunteer for these positions, please be advised you should be prepared to have a significant amount of your personal time consumed during the planning process. A list of responsibilities for these positions will be issued at the next monthly meeting.

Since we're talking about pairing, meeting and members go hand in hand. So, I'd like to see all members present at our next monthly meeting. You just might be selected to have a few minutes with the founder and first lady. Details will be discussed at the meeting. Until then, be blessed.

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





## JJS Education Committee

What a **HOT** summer we're having!

This year's scholarship affair was a huge success and we've already begun laying the groundwork for next year. During last month's meeting, I mentioned that scholarship applications would be made available by October. However, the school music departments prefer that we wait until the spring of 2020. This way students would not lose or misplace the applications prior to our deadline.

At our August meeting be prepared for a 10 question quiz on the life of Jazz Legend Herbie Hancock. We hope you found this article interesting and informative. Please take time to listen to the many great works by this incredible musician. My favorite album by Herbie is "The New Standard." Once again, Herbie makes a statement by recognizing contemporary songs that will eventually become classics.

The Education Committee is looking for members to assist in formulating ideas for Jazz Ed instruction, local artist lecturing, and community outreach programs. If you're interested, please see me following our meeting or you can reach out through email.

Finally, JJS is growing and with growth comes the need to expand our horizons. We have some terrific people in our ranks from various educational backgrounds, skills, and expertise. Simply put...JJS needs you!



## Jacksonville's Local Jazz Musicians

### Joshua Bowlus

Joshua Bowlus started playing the piano at age five and was trained classically through high school, where he then developed a strong passion for jazz in his hometown of Port Orange, FL. He studied under pianist Harold Blanchard before moving to Jacksonville to pursue an active music career as a pianist and keyboardist. He has since graduated from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville in 2006 and performs all over the southeast region primarily. He has performed with internationally acclaimed artists such as Ulysses Owens Jr., Jazzmeia Horn, Chantae Cann, and Delfeayo Marsalis. Described often as a soulful and creative modern jazz pianist, Bowlus has always taken inspiration from the music of various genres, including R&B, soul,



gospel, rock, and Latin music. “Joshua’s intricate excursions are well-developed spontaneous compositions which show a remarkable level of maturity and musical intellect,” states Rick Grant of Entertaining U. He performs regularly as bandleader with his trio and quartet, as well as a collaborator with numerous local artists and groups including Lisa Kelly, Linda Cole, and John Lumpkin & the Covenant. Bowlus currently has an album out featuring Linda Cole and his quartet, and two albums as co-leader of the Jax Jazz Collective.

### Tracking Joshua

Inplay every 1st Friday at the Parlour Jam Session with house band "Al Maniscalco Quartet." Currently working on a Disney themed show for my quartet, performing it at the Jazz Corner in Hilton Head on November 11th,15th and 16th ( but also likely in Jax and other areas in the Southeast).

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## Lawrence "Lo" Leathers 1981-2019

JUNE 5, 2019 – BY MICHAEL J. WEST

Grammy-winning drummer and musical partner of Aaron Diehl and Cécile McLorin Salvant was a victim of apparent assault; investigation continues.

Jazz drummer Lawrence “Lo” Leathers, a two-time Grammy winner who was a beloved member of New York’s straight-ahead modern jazz scene, was found lying in a stairwell of his Bronx apartment building on the late morning of June 2. Emergency medical technicians declared him dead at the scene, as first reported by Newark radio station WBGO.



The 37-year-old drummer was apparently the victim of an assault. The New York City Medical Examiner ruled that Leathers’ death resulted from “homicidal asphyxiation with compression of the neck.” The NYPD arrested Lisa Harris, 41—who lived with Leathers in his East 141st Street apartment in the Bronx’s Mott Haven neighborhood—and Sterling Aguilar, 28, of Brooklyn in connection with Leathers’ death. Ann Shelton, New York’s Deputy Commissioner of Public Information, announced that both suspects had been charged on June 3 with assault; according to the *New York Daily News*, charges have since been upgraded to criminally negligent homicide and manslaughter.

Leathers was perhaps best known for his work with pianist Aaron Diehl and with vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant. Both of his Grammy awards came from his work with the singer, who won the honors in 2015 and 2018 for her albums *For One to Love* and *Dreams and Daggers*, respectively. (Leathers played drums on both albums.) He was also a prolific presence at late-night jam sessions at New York venues such as Smalls, where he was scheduled to play in a house band led by trombonist Ben Barnett on the night he died.

His recordings evidence a musician of superlative technical ability, but not of ostentatious tendency. His accompaniment lines comprised steady, unflinching swing, seemingly impervious to change-ups by the soloists he worked behind. As a soloist himself, Leathers was more concerned with texture and with improvisational cogency than with showing off.

Bassist Dezron Douglas remembered Leathers as a “kind-hearted, strong-minded, swaggerific [sic], hilarious Black Man” with a distinctive ride cymbal and “serious musicianship.”

Lawrence Leathers was born in Lansing, Michigan, on November 23, 1981. He began playing drums at two years old, later appearing as a child prodigy on TV’s *Jenny Jones Show* and graduating to a professional performance by the time he was 15. He earned a degree at Michigan State University, then matriculated in 2007 to the Juilliard School in New York.

While attending Juilliard, Leathers met and formed a trio with pianist Aaron Diehl and bassist Paul Sikivie, recording with them in 2010 for Diehl’s self-released *Live at the Players*. Around the same time, Leathers began regularly holding down the drum seat in guitarist JC Styyles’ organ ensembles. He also began attending late-night jam sessions at Smalls and Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola, where he impressed onlookers with his skill and the depth of his knowledge of the jazz tradition.

Leathers became a protégé of trumpeter, educator, and impresario Wynton Marsalis, who recommended Diehl’s trio as an accompaniment to the then-rising star Salvant. Leathers worked with Salvant in that capacity, playing on her two Grammy-winning recordings and appearing in festivals and tours throughout the world.

In addition to his profound musical abilities, Leathers gained a reputation for his empathy and positivity both on and off the bandstand. Salvant told WBGO’s Nate Chinen that he was something of a cheerleader during the recording of *Dreams and Daggers*: “He kind of pulled us all together and gave us a *Snakes on a Plane* type of speech...Like: ‘We gotta do this! What have we been doing? Let’s get to our s\*\*\*!’”

In addition to his work with Salvant, Diehl, and Styyles, Leathers was a prolific freelancer. He worked semi-regularly with saxophonist Ian Hendrickson-Smith and trombonist Corey Wallace. He also headed his own bands (especially in the context of Smalls jam sessions, which Leathers frequently led).

“Thanks, Lawrence for the constant laughs, music, and friendship,” wrote his friend, pianist Sullivan Fortner, on Facebook. “We’ll swing again soon. Tell Roy [Hargrove] hello for me in paradise.”

The investigation into Leathers’ death is ongoing.

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## Joao Gilberto 1931-2019

The singer, songwriter, and guitarist who largely defined Brazilian bossa nova has passed away at 88

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BY MICHAEL J. WEST



the early 1960s. Gilberto's 1959 recording of Jobim and Moraes' "Chega de Saudade" is usually regarded as the first bossa nova record and was certainly the first one to achieve popular success, inaugurating the trend. Gilberto's lilting baritone voice and delicate, nuanced guitar playing immediately became a central pillar of Brazilian music.

Gilberto took his newfound star with him to the United States, where he spent nearly 20 years collaborating with the leading lights of American jazz. Returning to Brazil in 1980, he was feted as a musical legend and pioneer by his peers and disciples. Although he performed regularly through the 2000s, he lived a reclusive life in Brazil and rarely recorded.

Gilberto was "the greatest genius of Brazilian music," wrote Brazilian singer Gal Costa on Twitter. "He will be missed but his legacy is very important to Brazil and to the world."

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

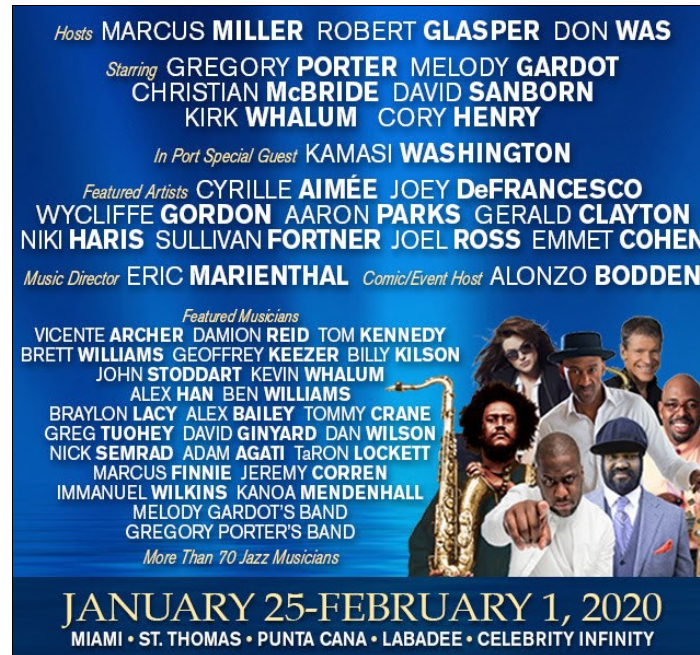


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## Blue Note at Sea Is Hip & Cool, Soulful & Funky!

Since its creation four years ago, **Blue Note at Sea** has always delivered the very best in contemporary jazz. The artists on every sailing of *Blue Note of Sea* have shown just how broad a term jazz can be, incorporating all styles including bebop, Latin, soul-jazz and more. But don't forget the funk, which runs like an electric current throughout *Blue Note at Sea*.



Hosts **MARCUS MILLER ROBERT GLASPER DON WAS**  
Starring **GREGORY PORTER MELODY GARDOT**  
**CHRISTIAN McBRIDE DAVID SANBORN**  
**KIRK WHALUM CORY HENRY**  
In Port Special Guest **KAMASI WASHINGTON**  
Featured Artists **CYRILLE AIMÉE JOEY DeFRANCESCO**  
**WYCLIFFE GORDON AARON PARKS GERALD CLAYTON**  
**NIKI HARIS SULLIVAN FORTNER JOEL ROSS EMMET COHEN**  
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**BRETT WILLIAMS GEOFFREY KEEZER BILLY KILSON**  
**JOHN STODDART KEVIN WHALUM**  
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**BRAYLON LACY ALEX BAILEY TOMMY CRANE**  
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**NICK SEMRAD ADAM AGATI Taron LOCKETT**  
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**IMMANUEL WILKINS KANO MENDENHALL**  
**MELODY GARDOT'S BAND**  
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More Than 70 Jazz Musicians  
**JANUARY 25-FEBRUARY 1, 2020**  
MIAMI • ST. THOMAS • PUNTA CANA • LABADEE • CELEBRITY INFINITY



## The National Association of Negro Musicians Celebrates 100 Years!

The National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) was created on May 3, 1919, in Washington, D.C. and is one of the oldest music organizations in the United States. NANM is dedicated to the preservation, encouragement, and advocacy of all genres of music of African-Americans.

NANM recently celebrated their 100th Anniversary in Chicago. This year's theme, "A Century of Excellence" and "A Future Unlimited." Members and visitors attended and participated in workshops, seminars, lectures, discussions, masterclasses, and performances.



My sister Cheryl Hazzard (second from the left) is a retired principal and music teacher with the Philadelphia school system. She served two terms as president of NANM of the Philadelphia branch of NANM. Since their conception, many international personalities have been presented in performance, including Lena Horne, Marian Anderson, and so many others over the years. The organization has awarded scholarships to scores of talented young musicians from around the country. The first scholarship was presented to Marian Anderson in 1919. NANM members are truly rooted in lending their support and influence on the human experience we call music. Congratulations to NANM on their 100th Anniversary from the [Jacksonville Jazz Society](#). Visit their website [NANM.org](#)



## JJS Who's Who



Dianne Smith



### Meet Ann Scott

Ann Scott was born on July 2 in Louisiana. She has been a member since the inception of JJS and is the wife of our founder, Naim. Her main goal was to support our founder Naim Rashid and learn more about Jazz. Her favorite jazz artist is Grover Washington. Ann is a civil service retiree. Prior to joining the federal government, she worked for a television station in Macon, GA. Ann likes helping others and is always willing to help when she can. She is also a good proofreader. Ann's words of wisdom for all to know is, "Anything worth doing is worth doing well!"

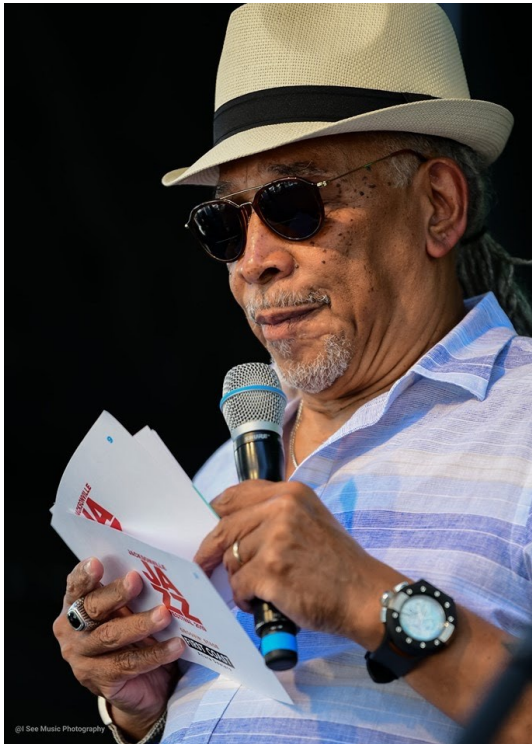
## Meet Alfred Smith



Alfred Smith is a native New Yorker, who retired to Jacksonville from Brooklyn, NY. He celebrates his birthday on September 10. Al became a member of JJS July 2016 because of his lifetime love for music, especially Jazz. He is a music enthusiast. Al had the opportunity to host a live NY radio show, WBGO with Felix Hernandez. He identifies some of his favorite jazz artists as John Coltrane, Miles Davis, and Louis Armstrong. Al is an IT professional, a Real Estate Investor, a Martial Artist, and a reliable friend. Al is a great Dad and loving husband. He is a biker's biker who is ever ready to ride and has traveled extensively across the country with Destiny, his motorcycle! Al is concerned about our future and says "Financial Education is the new currency!" and our integrity hails with this Martin Luther King quote, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

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

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## **Na'im Rashid** **"Extensions of Congo Square"**

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

[https://www.iheart.com/live/  
wfcf-88five-fm-5246/](https://www.iheart.com/live/wfcf-88five-fm-5246/)







## JJS Out and About

### *JJS in the House!*

Skyler Nolan 2017 recipient of the Wayne H. Barlow Scholarship was gigging at Breezy last Friday and JJS members came out to support his quartet. It was obvious that Skyler has been a good student, his level of play was a delight to witness that evening. Skyler sailed through compositions by Monk to McCoy Tyner that drew hearty applause from the audience. A few weeks before, Skyler and his band rocked the house while performing for the Jacksonville Beach "Summer Jazz Concert Series at Jacksonville Beach. Keep an eye out for this saxophone player. You can bet that JJS will.



## Congratulations!

Karlous Lampkin is one of our 2019 recipients of the Wayne H. Barlow Scholarship. Karlous is featured in the Douglas Anderson Segment of the July edition of the Emerging Black Magazine. We wish Karlous much success as he begins the next chapter in his Jazz music educational pursuits. Please know that the Black Emerging magazine is a local online publication. ([magcloud.com](http://magcloud.com))

### **Diane and Al Smith Chillin'**

For one week, Al and I, Dianne, had a delightfully blessed vacation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. It felt good being with others who put no demands on our time or wanting everything fun their way. We got up and out at our leisure. We ate at restaurants that were easy to get to and meals that were fantastically tantalizing to the eyes and even better for the pallet. That food was good!

Al and I took each day without pressure to rush, to keep up with others or to follow anyone. Actually, we did not make an agenda, nor did we bustle over a bunch of ideas or trips that took our time and money. It was just relaxing and fun!

Have you ever floated on a tube in a lazy river? Well, that was great! It even felt better than it originally looked. After years of always trying to cross



every T and dot every I, it was great just sitting and doing nothing.

This was a vacation without issues and we plan to find more vacations that are the same.

Thank you for sharing.



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Carnival Elation to Amber Cove, Dominican Republic, and Grand Turks.  
***"Ava and Dorothy Hit the High Seas"***



When our founder, Na'im, asked me to write an article about my and fellow JJS member, Dorothy Oxendine's, trip my initial reaction was "why?" Then as I reflected on our experience I realized that this is what you do with the family. Share. You share pictures and stories with your family. That means by blood or by adoption (JJS). We sailed out of Cape Canaveral on a bright Saturday for a 5-day cruise. The ship had recently been renovated and they did a wonderful job. It goes without saying that the food (quality and quantity) was amazing. Of course, we sought out the music. They had a piano bar, jazz violins in the Atrium, an amazing duo from South Africa and of course the live shows. The talent was exceptional and the presentations were very good.



To show you that the world is very small. I ran into a young lady whose parents were customers at the Pharmacy in Queens, NY where I worked over 30+ years ago. She remembered me from when she was a child. It goes to show, you never know who you make impressions on be they young or old.



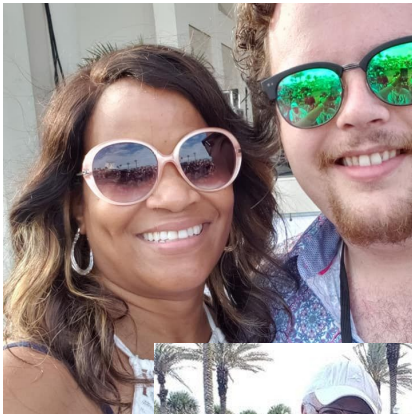
Our first stop was Amber Cove in the Dominican Republic. We had drinks at a local bar and watched those brave souls zip line while others swam in the pool. We found much more comfortable back on our ship since relaxation was my main goal. Another day at sea and then Grand Turks. Wow!! What beautiful blue/green water, beautiful beach, and kind, gentle people. We visited their Duty-Free shops and the small market that was close by.

After a few hours, back to the ship to head home. One more day at sea. Our weather, both day and night were exceptional. On the final night at sea, there was a very good show called "Epic Rock". Don't judge. Good music is good music. This was a show with songs from the '70s and '80s. It was very entertaining.

It's always good to spend time relaxing and meeting new as well as old friends but coming home is the best part. My JJS family is the best. I just hope that Na'im asks others to share their travel experiences with the JJS family in the future. It's always enjoyable to hear about "family" adventures.



***THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!***  
**JJS at the Jacksonville Beach Summer Jazz Series supporting our**  
**2017 Scholarship Recipient Skyler Nolan**



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](mailto: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



# SAVANNAH Jazz FESTIVAL

September 22 - 28th



August 8th - 11th

<https://richmondjazzfestival.com/>



## A JJS History Moment

The First Wayne H. Barlow Scholarship All-White Affair at Carl's Place, 8th and Main Sts. Thank you to those members who were there and continue to lend their support to JJS.





**119 W. Adams St.**

**Lunch - Tuesday - Friday  
Thursday - Happy Hour 2:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Friday - Jack Miller Quartet  
Saturday - Mama Yo Production**

**Reservations - 904-204-5299**