

# Jacksonville Jazz Society

## October 2019 - "Keeping Jazz Alive"

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

#### *Good Day Jazz Lovers:*

Joseph Norman Alessi is an American classical trombonist who is currently Principal Trombone of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and a soloist, teacher/clinician and recording artist. Once again I was forced to do my research, because I was faced with a barrage of questions, about another famous trombonist.

My youngest son, Reece, is learning to play the trombone at Lavilla School of the Arts and frequently tests my knowledge. I must say I was surprised to learn he'd decided to play the trombone considering he'd taken guitar lessons in the past. Additionally, he'd expressed an interest in learning to play the keyboard and drums. When I asked him why he chose the trombone, he said he was curious about the high/low tones and the slide. He also said his choices were in the following order: trombone, saxophone and percussion. He takes pride in practicing regularly and he's getting better. He'll perform in concert, with the Lavilla Band of course, for the first time next month.

I'm particularly excited about his decision because he's our future. The Jacksonville Jazz Society has a history of investing in our youth. Because of them, we are able to fulfill our mission of "Keeping Jazz Alive in Jacksonville". With that being said, it gives me great pleasure to announce preparations for our Ninth Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser are underway. Our goal is to issue at least two \$5000 scholarships to deserving students who are studying Jazz music. So, mark your calendars for June 20, 2020. Be prepared to be blown away by the soulful sound of our new house band "URGE" who gave an amazing performance at our listening party.

This year's fundraiser is being chaired by Mike Bertty and co-chair, VP Perry Robinson. These men will be working diligently to ensure the event will be memorable. If you're interested in joining the annual fundraiser committee, please do not hesitate to contact Mike, Perry or JJS secretary, Sherice Crews.

As always, thanks for all you do and may you all have a blessed week.

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





## JJS Education Committee



This is a very good Jazz Quiz with multiple choice answers, and it also provides you with a brief history for each question. Test your Jazz knowledge. Also be ready for another round of Jazz Trivia with Stan Skinner at our next meeting (Nov. 9th).

<https://www.factmonster.com/take-quiz/jazz>



## Jacksonville's Local Jazz Musicians

### Lawrence Buckner

A U.S. Army veteran, bassist, vocalist, song writer, producer ; Lawrence performs and records in a variety of musical situations. He has worked on movie soundtracks and jingles, and currently tours with Mark Farner formally of Grand Funk Railroad. He has shared the stage with The Doors, Journey, Styxx, Maze featuring Franky Beverly, Branford Marsalis, and many other acts. He has numerous appearances as sideman and leader at Jazz Festivals in the United States and Europe.



# Mike Stern/Jeff Lorber Fusion: Eleven



(Concord Jazz)  
PUBLISHED OCTOBER 7, 2019  
OCTOBER 2, 2019 – BY LUCY TAUSS

Quite an interesting pairing: keyboardist Jeff Lorber, who has performed and/or produced many contemporary jazz and smooth jazz hits, and jazz/rock guitarist Mike Stern, whose background includes stints with Miles Davis, Billy Cobham, and the Brecker Brothers.

It was bassist Jimmy Haslip's idea to bring the two together. A founding member of the Yellowjackets, Haslip played with Stern when he guested on the band's 2008 album *Lifecycle*. These days, Haslip plays with Lorber's band, the Jeff Lorber Fusion, and he says he felt the combination of Stern and Lorber would produce something new and different. His instincts proved correct. On *Eleven*—which Haslip co-produced with Lorber—they serve up a set ranging from radio-friendly tunes to blistering jams that could peel the paint off your living-room walls.

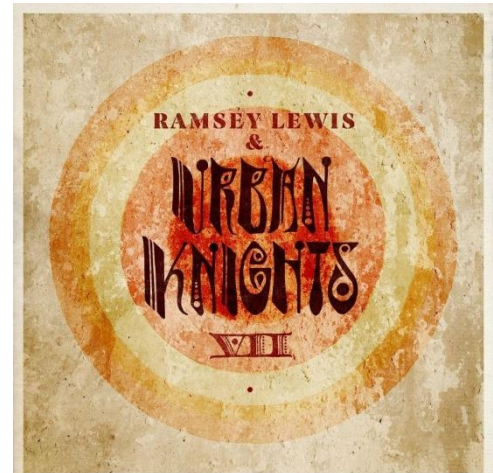
While some tracks, like the bright, cheery "Righteous," would fit comfortably on the smooth-jazz airwaves, others are less glossily produced. Stern's guitar floats ethereally over Lorber's chiming keyboards on "Nu Som" (featuring Stern's wife, guitarist Leni Stern, playing an African stringed instrument called a ngoni). Lorber displays impressive blues chops on "Jones Street," and both artists demonstrate the power of subtlety on the ballad "Tell Me."

*Eleven's* title comes from the famous scene in *This Is Spinal Tap* where Nigel Tufnel shows off his amplifier that goes to 11, and fittingly the album features plenty of opportunities for Stern to unleash his fiery chops. He and Lorber both throw down on the freewheeling jazz-rocker "Ha Ha Hotel," and Stern let's fly on the dark, sultry "Slow Change." It took several listens to appreciate this collaboration fully, but it's worth taking the time. This is a pairing both artists should consider pursuing further.

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## Ramsey Lewis & Urban Knights: VII (Ropeadope) A review of the seventh album from the pianist's all-star collective

PUBLISHED OCTOBER 6, 2019 – BY JACKSON SINNENBERG



Twenty-four years have passed between the release of the first, self-titled Urban Knights album and the group's latest recording, VII. The project began as an all-star collective, featuring fusion masters like Victor Bailey alongside voices from the smoother jazz vanguard like Grover Washington, Jr. and dexterous veterans like trumpeter Freddie Hubbard and pianist Ramsey Lewis. Since that first incarnation, Lewis has led varying lineups, keeping up the smart weave of acoustic bop melodies with classic fusion instrumentation. The current "Urban Knights," really more an alternate moniker for Lewis' current band, may not hold the same pedigree but certainly don't lack prowess.

This is the first recording for Lewis since his abrupt retirement in 2018, followed by an equally abrupt un-retirement. Listening to VII, it's clear why he chose this group for his return to music. An infectious joy extends from every instrument in their reworking of his "Tequila Mockingbird," ushered in by Charles Heath's carnival-worthy marching drumline. As Lewis lays down the lightly swinging rumba groove, keyboardist Tim Gant chimes in with synthesizers above like a celestial fanfare. Henry Johnson drives the band here and elsewhere with ringing, rapid-fire scratch rhythm guitar. The Knights find their way into a strong Latin feel on Chick Corea's "Armando's Rhumba," with a similar delightfully dynamic arrangement.

In between these tracks, and solo-acoustic melodic sketches by Lewis, the record presents more typical fusion fare, including a spellbinding cover of Sting's "Shape of My Heart" sung by Dee Alexander. The group only truly gets bogged down on "The Rose," due to syrupy-smooth production. They more than makeup for it with "Baby, Don't You Wanna Go," Lewis' reimagining of Robert Johnson's "Sweet Home Chicago," here both a herald of his reappearance on the bandstand and a sharp testimony to Urban Knights' continued vibrancy.



## **Larry Willis 1942-2019**

The former Blood, Sweat & Tears and Fort Apache Band keyboardist was a wide-ranging player and composer

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 – BYMICHAEL J. WEST

Larry Willis, a Grammy-nominated jazz pianist and composer who also enjoyed popular success as a member of the jazz-rock band Blood, Sweat & Tears, died September 29 at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. He was 76 years old.

Willis' death was confirmed by Pierre Sprey, a longtime friend of Willis and the head of Mapleshade Records, where the pianist served as music director. Cause of death was a pulmonary hemorrhage due to complications from diabetes.

Initially an aspiring classical vocalist, Willis stumbled across a talent for the piano during his final year of high school, and less than two years later was on the road with Jackie McLean. Over the subsequent half-century, he crisscrossed the world several times over, performing as a leader and soloist as well as with BS&T and many other artists, including Hugh Masekela, Woody Shaw, Cannonball Adderley, and Stan Getz. He appeared on over 300 recordings, including 22 under his own name.

Willis was steeped in multiple styles of music. Outside of his fusion career, he was best known for straight-ahead, bebop-based work; however, he was also accomplished in Latin jazz and as an avant-garde player. One of the guiding words in his life, Willis said, was "Eclectic." Listen to everything and be exposed to everything, because you never know what you can learn." Lawrence Elliott Willis was born in Harlem, New York, on December 20, 1942. His was a music-loving family, which immersed Willis and his siblings in the classics from their childhood onward. Willis' elder brother Victor was an accomplished young classical pianist, and young Larry was interested in singing opera. Although he said that theirs was a "sibling rivalry like you have never seen," Larry refrained from attempting to play his brother's chosen instrument, despite its constant presence in his home.

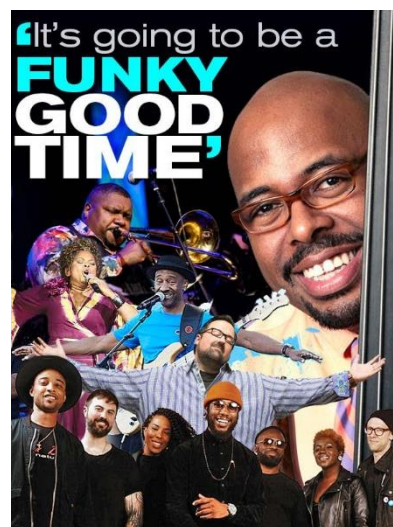
It was only in his final year at Music and Art High School in New York that Willis found himself interested in the piano. While he formally studied voice, he was entirely self-taught on the keys. Nevertheless, before graduation, he had attained enough proficiency to perform professionally in a trio with two of his schoolmates: bassist Eddie Gomez and drummer Al Foster.

Willis was also an all-city basketball player and was offered athletic scholarships, but opted instead to accept a scholarship to Manhattan School of Music. He studied music theory; his interest in jazz was increasing, but at the time the school frowned upon it, and Willis recalled getting thrown out of practice rooms for trying to organize jam sessions.

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

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**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**  
Music Director **ERIC MARIENTHAL** Comic/Event Host **ALONZO BODDEN**  
Featured Musicians  
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**BRETT WILLIAMS GEOFFREY KEEZER BILLY KILSON**  
**JOHN STODDART KEVIN WHALUM**  
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## JJS Who's Who



### Meet Deborah Melvin

Deborah Melvin is from the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, PA. Her birthdate is August 12. January, 2017, she became a JJS member at the suggestion of Al Spencer because of her love of Jazz. Some of her favorite Jazz artists are, Down to the Bone and Grover Washington, Jr. She excels as an Actress, Stage Manager,

Event Planner, and a Notary. Recently she was featured in 3 short films with WonderLine Media, "Like Molasses" and "Daughters of Legba parts 1 & 2" (Can be viewed on YouTube). She also was in a stage play in Little Rock Arkansas entitled, "Fire & Ice". Deborah is the author of a book of poetry entitled "Echoes from the Mind of a Vietnam Vet". Her voice says to others, "Be the change you want to see".



## Meet Flora Peterson

Flora's love for jazz attracted her to JJS but her desire to share jazz has kept her as an active member of JJS. As a young girl growing up in Columbus, Ga. she listened to all types of music but when she attended Spelman College in the late '60s, her boundaries were expanded. Flora says she listened to numerous jazz musicians, but Grover Washington, Jr. became her favorite. Upon retiring from AT&T after 25 years, Flora became a Licensed Insurance Agent for FL and GA. Specializing in life and health insurance, she can assist with your Medicare, life, and health insurance plans. Her message that she wants all to know is, "Remember, only what you do for God will last, always be kind and do good daily".



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

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For 35 years, JAZZIZ Magazine has been covering the music scene, documenting innovations, charting industry trends, following the artists whose lives so colorfully inform our own. The award-winning JAZZIZ Magazine gives you the look, the listen and the lowdown, in print and online, what's hot (and what's not), in the world of music with insightful editorial, hundreds of reviews, and inspired photography and design.

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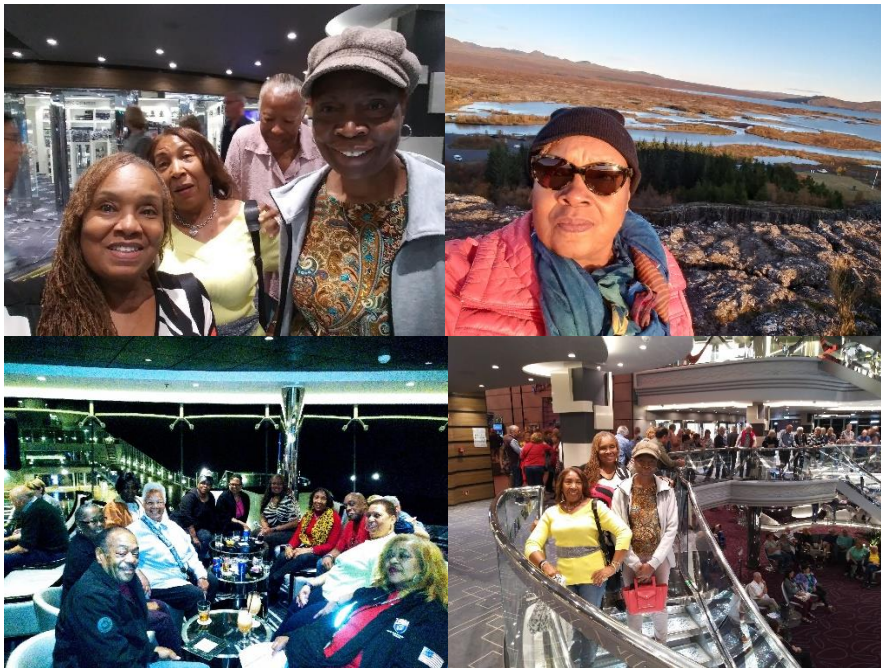


## JJS Out and About *JJS in the House!*

### **Karen McClain**

#### **Jazz on MSC Meravigila Ship**

Some people I met from Chicago, Frisco, Houston, NYC and Atlanta. We made discoveries in Copenhagen, Iceland, Belfast, Halifax and Hamburg. Jazz musicians from South Africa, Brazil and London. Great time..."music brings people together."



### **Paula Gadsden-Barlow is now a Member of "The 49ers Club"**

On October 2nd, Wayne Barlow's sister (Sharon Barlow-Hughley, pictured on the left) flew to Jacksonville to celebrate Paula's 70th Birthday. Ann and I took them to dinner at the Rain Tree Restaurant in St. Augustine.

**"Happy Birthday Paula!"**





## October 5th, The 18th Annual Soul Food Festival - Green Cove Springs

This annual free event is a family, fun-filled celebration of local foods, food trucks, dance contests for children and adults.



JJS members Deborah Melvin, Al Spencer and Geneva Wilson enjoying the sights, sounds and the food!

## 32nd Annual Great American Jazz Series Jazz Faculty Scholarship Concert



WELCOME TO THE UNF FINE ARTS CENTER

*"Debuting Original Arrangements and Compositions"*

JJS members Rainy and Nick Williams attended this outstanding concert on Thursday Oct. 3rd at 7:30pm at the Robinson Theater. According to Rainy the UNF Faculty put on a stellar performance. This yearly series began in 1989 and has become a Flagship program of the School of Music at UNF. The Great American Jazz Series is part of the Jazz Studies program that brings popular talented Jazz musicians to campus.



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.

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



## Jax Jazz Coming Attractions

**Thursday, Oct. 31st - Acoustic Alchemy**, Ponte Vedra Concert Hall  
**Tuesday, Dec. 10th - Vincent Ingala**, Ponte Vedra Concert Hall



## "Evolution of Soul"

Songs of Luther Vandross, Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway & Sam Cooke

with **Adam McKnight**

**Friday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30pm**



## Ritz Theater

829 North Davis St.

904-807-2010

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Thursday, December 5th

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2019



**Tuesday, December 10th**

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

**The Florida Smooth Jazz Weekend**  
November 1-3, 2019

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4. A podcast series, unique in jazz, that features in-depth interviews on the history – and future – of jazz with [jazz scholars](#), [educators](#), and [presenters](#).
5. One of the most detailed educational resources available anywhere on the [music of Cuba](#) and other Latin countries and their under reported, and often under appreciated, impact on jazz past, present and future.

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



**November 22 - 24**

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

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**119 W. Adams St.**

**Fri Nov 1st - Al Reshard  
Sat Nov. 2nd - 5 Live (R&B)**

**Reservations - 904-204-JAZZ**

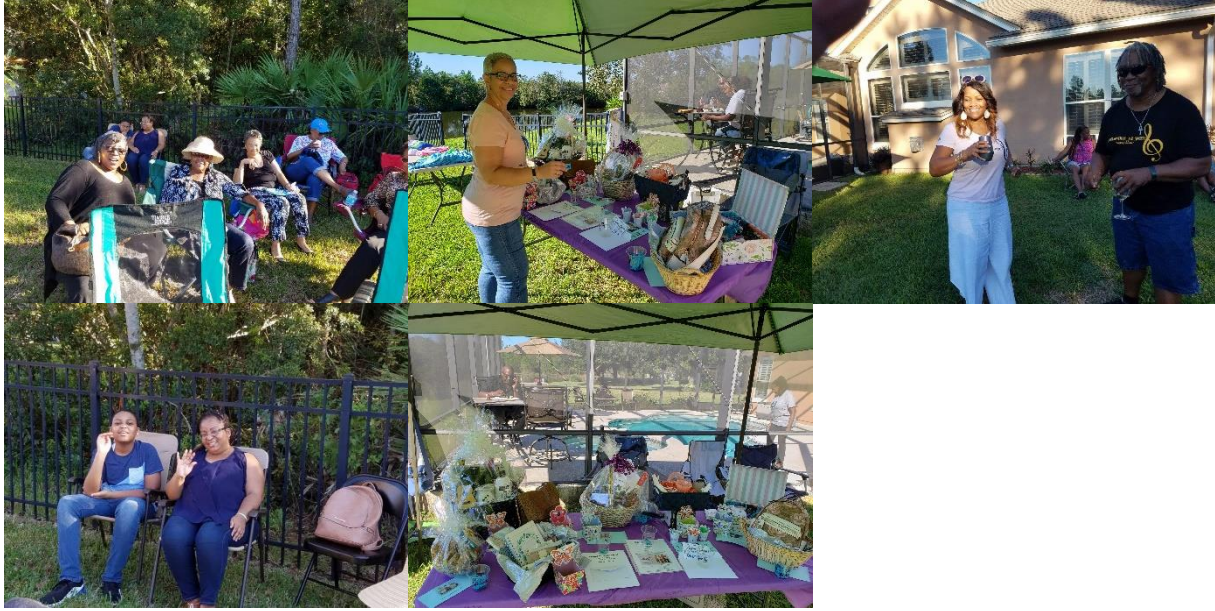
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## **JJS Fall Listening Party**







***The Best JJS Listening Party Yet!***

*15 people became members, a terrific job by the JJS Membership Committee*

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**JJS Next meeting:**

**Saturday**

**November 9th**

**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

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### **Jacksonville Jazz Society**

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