



# Jazz Notes

**“Keeping Jazz Alive”**

**October 2021**



## Message From Our President

### **Mike Bertty**

As we prepare to close out 2021, we can look back and see the fruits of our labor. We Zoomed through the year without missing a beat and despite COVID-19 we were able to connect with Jazz Lovers both near and far. Our monthly virtual Membership meetings provided a forum for our JJS Entrepreneurs to share their skills, products, and abilities with our members. Thanks to **Stan Skinner**, we were provided educational tours visiting the musical worlds of Jazz greats, the likes of Esperanza Spalding, Billy Hart, Freddie Hubbard, Camille Thurman, Phineas Newborn and Gato Barbieri, just to name a few.

On a monthly basis, our **Communications Committee** set the stage for us to kick back

with our beverage of choice and listen to jazz tunes while virtually mingling with fellow jazz lovers in the comfort of our own homes. In recognition of Jazz Appreciation Month, albeit virtual, the JJS Team provided our members, family and friends with a musical extravaganza which highlighted female jazz greats. Virtual fun was had by all.

In October, after nine months of Zooming, we ventured out and held our first in-person meeting. Thanks to one of our members, **Dave Sanders**, meeting space was made available to us on the campus of NAS-JAX. This gathering allowed for much needed and long overdue face-to-face contact and set the stage for our next outdoor activity. On October 16<sup>th</sup> our first outdoor listening event provided us with the opportunity to showcase our two 2021 Scholarship recipients, **Ethan Halligan**, and **Antonio Vergara**. Our event took place on the Greens of Eagle Landing where two bands joined forces to provide non-stop musical entertainment from 3:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Ethan and Antonio joined both bands and played for the duration of the event. This event was viewed by more than two hundred music lovers who brought their lawn chairs and gathered around for the listening experience. In addition, 66 Jazz Lovers became JJS members during this event. Needless to say, a great time was had by all. If you missed this event, you could get into the groove by watching the live stream at [Jacksonvillejazzsociety.org](http://Jacksonvillejazzsociety.org), compliments of **Kevin Kelly**.

In January of this year, we promised to expand our footprint and to this end we have partnered with **Players by the Sea**. During the month of December "Players by

the Sea in conjunction with The Jacksonville Jazz Society will be presenting "Lady Day Live at the Emerson". This is a play with music by Lanie Robertson, recounting some events in the life of Billie Holiday. We invite you to join us in this endeavor and we will keep you posted on future events.

To assist us in staying focused on next year's pursuits, the Board has prepared a calendar outlining our activities. Once completed, the calendar will be placed on our website for your viewing at [jacksonvillejazzsociety.org](http://jacksonvillejazzsociety.org).

As we pick up the pace to finish out the year, we are looking at our **Annual WBSF event**, which will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel on December 4<sup>th</sup>. As part of this event, we have undertaken the preparation of a Journal. Our goals were to sell out the event and to raise \$10,000 from journal ads. As of today, the event has been sold out and we are just dollars away from reaching our financial goal. This endeavor required teamwork and your support; we had both and for this **I thank you**.

As I look back to January 2021 and see all our accomplishments, despite COVID-19 and our inability to gather in-person, I am truly motivated by what we have achieved. I honestly believe that we have built a solid foundation and JJS will continue to blossom. I am proud of the teamwork at the Board level and the support from our members. As I see it, 2021 was just a steppingstone for what we will accomplish in 2022. Until the next time, stay jazzy and thank you for your support.

**MEMBERS RESOURCE DIRECTORY:** Our Resource Directory project is in full swing. In the last few months the following JJS Members have presented their products and/or services:

### July

Lucious Sumlar, Broker - Bear Realty Inc.  
Office: 904-298-0101; Mobile: 904-635-1511  
[lou.BearRealtyInc@gmail.com](mailto:lou.BearRealtyInc@gmail.com)

### August

Jamaine Anderson - Jems and Jewels  
Jewelry Sales and Personal Trainer  
904-868-0995  
[www.JemsandJewels.net](http://www.JemsandJewels.net)

### September

Cynthia Latham - Expedia Cruise and Vacation Consultant  
240-421-4169  
[clatham@cruiseshipcenters.com](mailto:clatham@cruiseshipcenters.com)

### October

Debra Melvin, Thesbian - began her acting career in Brooklyn, NY, as a member the Endoda Entsha players and the Alonzo players. She was a stage manager for the Paul Robeson Theatre and has acted in several short films with Wonderline Media. We will certainly share Ms. Melvins next engagement as soon as we're apprised.

If you have a business and would like to be a part of our Members Resource Directory Program, please contact Dianne Smith, our Vice President, at [JJS.vp21@gmail.com](mailto:JJS.vp21@gmail.com)

See the entire Resource Directory on our website [www.jacksonvillejazzsociety.org](http://www.jacksonvillejazzsociety.org) under "Members" tab.



## JJS Education Committee

I was born to Italian parents in Montpellier, France on December 28, 1962. I first became interested in the piano as a toddler after seeing Duke Ellington on the television.

When I was four, my father bought me a toy piano of my own, but I smashed the piano with a toy hammer. I thought the keyboard looked like teeth and I thought it was laughing at me. I was encouraged again by my father, a Sicilian jazz guitarist, who had a job at a military base and brought home a battered piano left behind by British soldiers. The instrument changed my life. You had to be strong enough to make the piano feel little. That took a lot of work in the beginning. I had always been musical, reportedly humming Wes Montgomery solos by the time I learned to speak. I began learning classical piano at the age of four, and was making music with my family by the age of nine.

For me the piano was strictly for classical studies - no jazz – for eight years. Studying orthodox piano taught discipline and developed technique, so I learned to take the instrument seriously.

After deciding to swap classical music for Jazz, Bill Evans became the musician who would prove to be most influential, and with Bill Evans as an early influence, my first significant appearance was at an outdoor jazz festival in Clionsclat, when I was 13. That year's guest, trumpeter Clark Terry, needed a pianist for his set, and someone sent for me. Clark thought that I was just a kid and that someone must be playing a joke on him. So, kidding around, he

picked up his horn and played mock bullfight music. I said, 'Let's play the blues.' After I'd played for a minute he said, 'Give me five!' and gave me a hug, and that was it.

At 18, I left France for America and was mentored by the saxophonist Charles Lloyd, who hired me for his quartet. We toured Europe and recorded a live album together, Montreux 82. Between 1985 and 1994, I made seven albums for Blue Note Records, including my acclaimed Music and Playground and Pianism.

My biggest inspiration was Duke Ellington, because in my very early age he gave the inspiration to play the piano. I was particularly proud of my 1992 album Promenade With Duke, on which my seven-minute version of "Caravan" explored every nuance of the 1936 hit Ellington wrote with trombonist Juan Tizol. Throughout the album, I showed my ability to create a mood and the album was one of the finest solo piano performances of Ellington's music.

As well as my own remarkable solo career, I was an in-demand collaborator and sideman for some of the great names in music. I was invited by trumpeter Freddie Hubbard to join his All Star band and also worked with Joe Henderson, Lee Konitz and violin maestro Stephane Grappelli. Van Morrison was delighted that I agreed to play with him at the 1984 Montreux Jazz Festival, and it was at that venue, two years later, that I joined Wayne Shorter and Jim Hall to record the superb live album Power Of Three.

Also in 1984 I was awarded the prestigious Prix Django Reinhardt and my solo album 100 Hearts won a Grand Prix Du Disque, the French

equivalent of a Grammy award. In 1994 I was made a knight of the Legion Of Honor in Paris.

Throughout life I did not believe in genius, I believed in hard work. I was still full of plans and musical ambitions when I was rushed to Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan, at the start of 1999. Sadly, it was there that I died of a pulmonary infection on January 6, aged 36. I was buried in Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris, next to the tomb of Chopin.

I was a national hero in France, and the French President said I was an example for everyone, even though I was labeled as a hot tempered, heavy drinker, and womanizer. In 2011, I was also the subject of a fascinating documentary film by British director Michael Radford, who stated “It is the combat that consists in overcoming where we start from and in living to the full, getting everything we can out of life.”

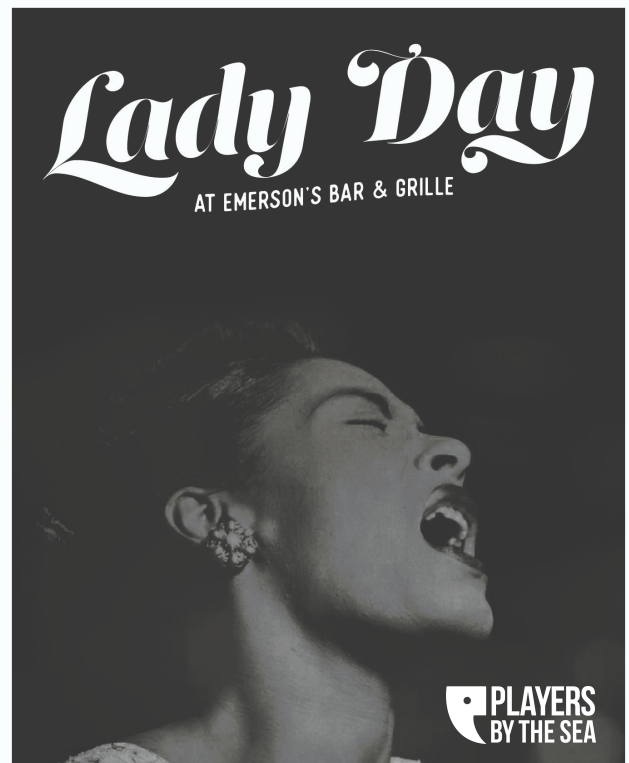
By the way, I overcame severe physical disabilities. I was born, with osteogenesis imperfecta, known as “glass bone disease”. I could not walk and my bones fractured constantly. I grew to only three feet tall and weighed barely 50 pounds. I had to be carried on to the stage and had a special attachment to use the pedals of the piano.

My name is....



Michel Petrucciani

Check out YouTube—Take the “ A Train “ 1998 and “ On top of the Roof”



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## Jax Jazz Legends

**Khan Jamal** (born July 23, 1946, Jacksonville, Florida) is an American jazz

vibraphone and marimba player.

Ron Wynn describes Jamal as "a proficient soloist when playing free material, jazz-rock and fusion, hard bop, or bluesy fare.

Jamal began playing vibraphone in the mid-1960s. Later in the decade, he joined Cosmic Forces, then co-founded Sounds of Liberation with Byard Lancaster during the early 1970s. During the 1970s, Jamal studied at Combs College of Music and joined Sunny Murray's group Untouchable Factor. In addition to leading his own groups, Jamal has performed with Ronald Shannon Jackson's Decoding Society, Joe Bonner, Billy Bang, Charles Tyler and others.

Enjoy Khan Jamals music on YouTube or via other music streaming services.



## **Breezy Jazz House** **1402 San Marco Blvd.**

Join us, as we strive to deliver the best, in Jacksonville and beyond.

### Line up:

Wednesday Night Jazz Jam Session 6-9pm

Thursday live jazz 6-9pm

Friday & Saturday 9-midnight

(Full Restaurant and Bar)

## **Na'im Rashid**



### **WFCF-FM 88.5**

**Friday Afternoons 3pm - 5pm**

**"Radio With A Reason"**

[🎵 WFCF, 88Five FM | Flagler College, Radio with a](#)

[Reason \(iheart.com\)](#)

**"Extensions of Congo Square"**

[WUCF 89.9 FM](#)



## Music to Our Ears!

Under a bright shining sun on October 16, 2021, the Jacksonville Jazz Society members and friends were treated to a splendid listening event on the grounds of the Eagle Landing community in Clay County. The jazz tunes were provided by the Bismarck Sextet and the Mick Pepper Quartet and both groups were accompanied by our 2021 Scholarship Winners, Ethan Halligan, and Antonio Vergara.

The audience consisted of 200 plus people, many who were first time attendees to a JJS listening event. Over 60 attendees decided to become JJS members thus making this a successful membership event.

The jazz enthusiasts brought their lawn chairs, picnic food, goodies and their beverage of choice for the 4- hour event. Food and drinks were also available at the Golf Clubhouse eatery on the premises. Everyone rocked to the beats of the jazz favorites highlighted at the event by the 12-members in the 2 bands.

The event was especially remarkable as this was the first listening event that we were able to enjoy in-person since the pandemic shutdown. JJS member Lynn Riley attended the event and commented that "there was good music and good people. The vibe was great!"

After so many months of social isolation, it was wonderful to be able to spend a relaxing afternoon with fellow members and new friends listening to fantastic live music. Another event attendee, Gary Upon stated, "we had a great time at this event. It was wonderful to see so many friends and make new ones there. Looking forward to the next jazz event with JJS."

This event was the perfect prelude to our next live social extravaganza, the Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser Gala taking place on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We can hardly wait for the next event which is expected to be another great Jazz "party". Liz Bertty