

JAZZ NOTES

JACKSONVILLE JAZZ SOCIETY, INC.



Jacksonville Jazz Society
"Keeping Jazz Alive"

Visit our website and subscribe to our organization page to stay up to date on all events and happenings occurring with the Jacksonville Jazz Society!

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **14th Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser**

Saturday, August 29th
6:00pm - 11:00pm

Honoring Wayne Barlow's legacy through live Jazz, education and scholarships for the next generation of jazz musician.

* **Jazz at the Barn**

Saturday, September 26th
2:00pm - 6:00pm

Afternoon of live jazz, tasty food, and a 60/40 raffle - a free event for JJS members and the Lexington community

* **Annual Membership Drive & Listening Party**

Saturday, October 10th
11:30am - 6:00pm

General Body Meeting followed by Live Music - invite your friends and family to learn more about JJS.



Jazz on Point - By: Stan Skinner

Thelonious Monk's Unique Musical Mathematics

Thelonious Monk's distinctive piano style wasn't just artistic preference—it was rooted in his unique understanding of musical mathematics and space. Monk's use of dissonance, unusual intervals, and unexpected silences created a compositional approach that baffled many musicians initially but influenced generations afterward. He would spend hours

at the piano working out a single chord voicing, treating each note placement as a precise mathematical calculation. Monk's compositions, including standards like "Round Midnight" and "Straight, No Chaser," are now among the most recorded jazz tunes in history, studied by musicians worldwide for their innovative harmonic structures.

14th Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for our 14th Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser happening Saturday, August 29, 2026 from 6:00p-11:00p at the Adam W. Herbert University Center on the University of North Florida's campus! This unforgettable evening supports the next generation of jazz musicians in our community.



Jacksonville Jazz Society
"Keeping Jazz Alive"

Message from Our President

Dear Jacksonville Jazz Society Family,

This summer has been a wonderful reminder of the power of community. From our general body meetings and committee work to our community events and educational initiatives, we have seen firsthand that jazz is more than music—it is a legacy that connects generations, inspires creativity, and brings people together.

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to join us for our signature event, the 14th Annual Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser on Saturday, August 29th. This evening is more than a celebration of jazz; it is an investment in the next generation of musicians. Every ticket purchased, sponsorship secured, and donation made helps provide scholarships and opportunities for talented young artists who will carry this music into the future.

If you have not already done so, I invite you to become actively involved. Attend an event, volunteer with a committee, invite a friend to become a member, or simply share our mission with others. Together, we can continue expanding the reach and impact of the Jacksonville Jazz Society.

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping jazz alive. I look forward to celebrating with you at the Wayne Barlow Scholarship Fundraiser and to all that we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

With gratitude,

Tiphannie Mattis
President
Jacksonville Jazz Society

**Purchase
Wayne Barlow
Tickets!**



Jacksonville Jazz History

Vernis 'Von' Barlow

Vernis "Von" Barlow was born on July 31, 1943, in Cordele, Georgia. After his family moved to Jacksonville, he attended Duval County Public Schools and discovered his passion for drumming. A respected figure in jazz, Von performed many times at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival and played in the rhythm section for The Great American Jazz Piano Competition on four occasions, including its inaugural year, when Marcus Roberts and Harry Connick, Jr. were finalists. During his career, he performed with the late O.C. Smith at the 1969 Woodstock Festival and shared the stage with acclaimed artists including Mose Allison, Lou Rawls, The Ray Charles Trio, Eddie Harris, Bobby Hutcherson, Bunky Green, Roy Ayers, and Etta James. In 2007, he was inducted into the Jacksonville Jazz Festival Hall of Fame for his dedication to preserving jazz in Jacksonville and his longstanding support of the annual Jacksonville Jazz Festival and The Great American Jazz Piano Competition. He also supported the Jacksonville Jazz Society whenever time allowed.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to all our wonderful members celebrating a birthday in the months of May, June, July and August!

**JJS takes on New Orleans!!**

April – Jazz Appreciation Month



JJS celebrated Jazz Appreciation Month in true style with an unforgettable trip to New Orleans on April 16–19, 2026! Members traveled west together by motorcoach for a weekend filled with incredible music, rich culture, and lasting memories. The group celebrated alongside JJS co-founder Na'im Rashid at the legendary Dew Drop Jazz & Social Hall, enjoyed a lively Jazz Dinner Cruise aboard the iconic Steamboat Natchez, and experienced the vibrant sights and sounds of the French Quarter Festival.



**Renew your
Membership !**



Where are They Now!?

Ethan Grussgott

Since receiving the Jacksonville Jazz Society Wayne Barlow Scholarship in 2022, Ethan Grussgott has continued to build an impressive career in jazz. After earning his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance from the University of North Florida, Ethan is now pursuing a Master of Music at the University of Northern Colorado, where he also serves as a teaching assistant. His career has taken him across the Midwest and to several countries, performing with renowned artists, including touring with Max Moore and appearing with the Max Moore Quintet in partnership with KUVU Jazz. Ethan has also contributed to multiple recording projects and is featured on

several albums scheduled for release in 2026. Looking ahead, he continues to perform regularly throughout Denver and Northern Colorado and hopes to bring his Denver-based ensemble to Florida for a future collaboration with the Jacksonville Jazz Society. Ethan's success is a testament to his dedication, artistry, and the bright future that lies ahead. Looking ahead, he continues to perform regularly throughout Denver and Northern Colorado and hopes to bring his Denver-based ensemble to Florida for a future collaboration with the Jacksonville Jazz Society. Ethan's success is a testament to his dedication, artistry, and the bright future that lies ahead.



"Jazz is personal. Find what motivates you and show that in your music. We all have things to work on, but no one can tell your story."

- Ethan Grussgott

Member Spotlight!



We honor the life of our friend and longtime Jacksonville Jazz Society (JJS) member, Isaac Byrd, Jr. who transitioned on March 26, 2026. When Wayne and I announced the first JJS meeting at the Ritz Theater, Isaac was among the first to join. His energy and creativity were immediately evident. Though he served only briefly as president while his music career was gaining momentum, he continued to support JJS through his membership and by helping whenever he could. Known for what he called an unorthodox approach to the trumpet, Isaac brought a sultry, distinctive style to his playing, using his instrument to

paint vivid musical pictures and tell compelling stories. Although his professional tenure was cut short, he made a lasting name for himself performing live with Keni Myles (lead singer of The Rude Boys), PJ Morton, Laura Izibor, Nick Colionne, Blake Aaron, Julian Vaughn, Will Donato, Nils, Joy Dennis, James Lloyd (Pieces of a Dream), Bobby Shew, Joe Lovano, Chase Sanborn, Chris Vidale, and Jaguar Wright. Isaac was a valued friend of the Jacksonville Jazz Society and will be deeply missed. He is pictured with our past secretary, Sherice Crews, and our new member, Marcus Click. Rest in peace.

LIVE ON FIRST COAST CONNECT
LOCAL CONVERSATIONS. REAL CONNECTIONS. **wjct 89.9 FM**

Authors
RONALD GALVIN & DR. TIFFANY GALVIN GREEN
Featured Guests on **FIRST COAST CONNECT**

Discussing their book: **STANTON**

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 | 9:00 AM ET | WJCT 89.9 FM | STREAMING LIVE

Hosted by **ANNE SCHINDLER**
Longtime Northern Florida Reporter

First Coast Connect is a live radio conversation focusing on local politics, public affairs and cultural events. Incorporating listener questions and comments via phone, email and social media.

WATCH & LISTEN | Facebook | YouTube | WJCT App | WJCT.org | Podcast Platform

Please Tune In, Share, and Join the Conversation! | TAG US: #JJSociety #JJSociety

Jacksonville History

JJS member Ron Galvin and his daughter, Tiffany Galvin-Greene, appeared on WJCT's "First Coast Connect" on June 4th to discuss Stanton, their book on the rich history of Florida's oldest African American high school. Destroyed, rebuilt, relocated, and renamed several times, Stanton has evolved into a diverse school community known for outstanding academic achievement. The interview is available on YouTube under "WJCT - Stanton Book." Congratulations to the Galvin family for helping preserve an important part of Jacksonville's Black history.



LOOK BACK

April 11th – 3rd Annual Membership Barbeque



April 29th – JAM at Gusto's



May 21st – May 24th – Jacksonville Jazz Festival & Jazz Clinic



June 20th – Melanin Market Juneteenth

