



LOUISVILLE **JAZZ** SOCIETY

BIG ROCK JAZZ FEST!



HIGHLANDS-DOUGLASS BIG ROCK JAZZ FEST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010

Mark your calendar now!

**NEWS
LETTER**

©

By Patty Bailey



On Sunday, October 3rd 2010, the Louisville Jazz Society will sponsor the 11th annual **Big Rock Jazz Fest** in Cherokee Park as part of the *Week in the Highlands*.

This is a free concert in Cherokee Park produced by the Highlands-Douglass Neighborhood Association with additional sponsorship from local businesses and generous individuals.

This year's lineup features three local bands:

Steve Crews' **Black Cat Band**, the **Mike Tracy Quintet**, and the **Walnut Street Blues Band**. The music will begin at 2 PM with each group playing a 90-minute set, and wrapping up at 7 PM.

Steve Crews' **Black Cat Band** is an 8-piece ensemble that performs arrangements of early American jazz and Chicago era Dixieland music, a style made popular by jazzmen such as Bix Beiderbecke and Jelly Roll Morton.

Crews played trumpet in the high school marching band at St. Xavier and while piano is his main instrument, Steve revived his trumpet playing skills while performing with Jamey Aebersold promoting jazz in area schools. He and the other musicians in the Black Cat Band have had a blast putting this group together and have developed a loyal following around Louisville. Who knew that tooting a few notes for the kids would lead to a new passion for Steve?! Besides Crews on cornet, they have Paul Davis, trombone; Greg Walker, banjo/guitar; Hubert Griffin, Jr., drums; Gary Falk, tenor sax; Joe Spain, tuba; Roslyn Mattingly, clarinet; and Megan Gebert, vocals. To quote Steve Crews... "It's impossible to harbor a sad thought when you are playing or listening to this style of music.

"Big Rock Headliner this year will be **The Mike Tracy Quintet**. This is a

seasoned jazz group consisting of musicians that Mike Tracy has recorded and performed with over the past few years. Tracy will be blowin' hot licks, cool jazz and smooth tones from his saxophone while the rhythm section lays down the groove and harmony. You can expect to hear original tunes (cont'd page 2)



Market Street Stompers, 2009 Big Rock Jazz Fest

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September 2010

www.louisvillejazz.org

(Big Rock Jazz Fest cont'd)

with a Brazilian flair as well as some standards. The rest of the quintet (all accomplished practitioners of the jazz arts) will be comprised of Brazilian keyboardist, Renato Vasconcello; Louisvillian Craig Wagner, guitar; Doug Elmore, bass; and Mike Hyman, drums. (See musician bios in "Fall" for Jazz in Tyler Park article on page 5 of this newsletter) Be sure to check out Tracy's most recent CD entitled Wingspan released earlier this year at michaeltracy.com.

The **Walnut Street Blues Band** was founded by guitarist Foree Wells in 1989 with his sons Michael (guitar), Greg (keyboard and horns), and Foree III (drums). The father/sons team enjoyed performing around Louisville and at regional blues festivals for a number of years. Michael and Greg lead the band now that includes vocalist Artie Wells, drummer Jerry Harshaw, and bassist Donny Bridges. They have been influenced by west coast and Chicago style blues, and artists such as Buddy Guy, BB King, Gatemouth Brown, and Lonnie Brooks. The **Walnut Street Blues Band** currently performs at local venues such as Molly Malone's, Jim Porter's, Captains' Quarters, and the upcoming Garvin Gate Blues Festival in October. The band's demanding schedule has included gigs in Atlanta, Chicago, Memphis, and of course, Louisville.

Michael Wells has performed with Clarence Carter and toured with James Peterson. Earlier this year Artie Wells, received a Women in Music Award from Actors Theatre of Louisville. She was honored along with 13 other African-American women in the Louisville community who have made significant contributions to music.

So pack your chairs or blankets, load the kids in the car, arrive early and join us for what is sure to be a fine afternoon of jazz and blues at Big Rock in Cherokee Park. The first 250 people to arrive at the site will be offered a chance in a free raffle. See you there!

(Directions: Taylorsville Road to Valletta Road. Go to the end of Valletta and you are there. However the parking at Big Rock is very limited so for hassle-free parking, go to Douglass and Ellerbee, where you can park at Adath Jeshurun Synagogue and take the free trolley down to Big Rock.)



Steve Allee Quartet, 2008 Big Rock Jazz Fest

LJS "JAZZ NITE OUT"

To encourage people to get out and support the Louisville Jazz scene, LJS has initiated "**JAZZ NITE OUT**". Once a month our Jazz Nite Out chairman (Patty Bailey) selects a local venue to visit and publicize through the Jazz Insider email. The idea is to raise awareness of the number of different places offering jazz, to help support Louisville's great local musicians and to build camaraderie among the members of Louisville Jazz Society.

If you currently do not receive the Jazz Insider emails, send me your email address to president@louisvillejazz.org and I will be sure to put you on the list. Please join us for a fun evening of jazz each month.

Mark your calendars for these "**JAZZ NITE OUT**" dates:

September: Tuesday Sept. 28, Sake Blue, 6.30—9.30pm (sakeblue.com), Craig Wagner, guitar (craigwagner.net)

October: Friday Oct. 22, Zanzabar, 10pm—til ? (zanzabarlouisville.com), Fattlab, "Louisville's Funkiest Original Jazz Band", (fattlab.net)

Louisville Jazz Society Newsletter

is published by:

Louisville Jazz Society,

PO Box 5082

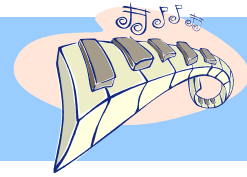
Louisville KY 40255

Editor: Matt Grossman

Send comments to the above address or to president@louisvillejazz.org.

To Subscribe: See the Membership Registration form on the back page of this newsletter or go to louisvillejazz.org to join online.

Keeping Louisville Weird, Jazz-Style



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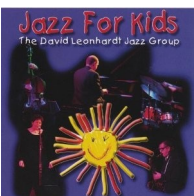


Since the early days of jazz and its predecessors, Louisville has been home for many musicians, both native born and “Louisvillians by choice.” Your Louisville Jazz Society is “a not-for-profit organization which promotes all forms of Jazz as an art form in Louisville, Kentucky.” (By-Laws, Article I) In keeping with that mission, in this

issue we look at recent releases by Louisville native (now of Pennsylvania) David Leonhardt, and Louisvillians Mike Tracy and Diego Palma. I covered another excellent new release, **The Innkeeper's Gun** (Bass Lion BLM008, by saxophonist Jacob Duncan, bassist John Goldsby (formerly of Louisville, now living and working in Germany), and drummer Jason Tiemann in my August, 2010 column in **Louisville Music News**. It is archived at www.louisvillemusicnews.net/webmanager/index.php?WEB_CAT_ID=50&storyid=6608&headline=Jazzin&issueid=258. The reviews are arranged alphabetically.

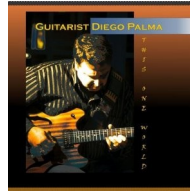


David Leonhardt - *Bach to the Blues* (Big Bang BBR 9584, www.davidleonhardt.com. Born in Louisville in 1956, pianist David Leonhardt has worked with jazz greats David “Fathead” Newman, Jon Hendricks and many more. Since 1993, he has been releasing recordings on his own Big Bang Records. ***Bach to the Blues*** is his latest CD. It spotlights his love for Western Classical music, and the opportunities it provides for jazz improvisation. His bandmates, bassist Matthew Parrish and drummer Alvester Garnett, provide suitably subtle accompaniment throughout. Bach’s “Prelude in G major” opens the disc with a stately presentation of the melody, which leads into a bluesy improvisation featuring solos by the leader and Parrish. “Claire de Lune” by Debussy is next, played as a jazz ballad. The oft-recorded “Gymnopedie No. 1” by Satie is introduced with a bass solo, followed by a trio workout that builds to a climax. The Shaker composition “Simple Gifts,” co-credited to Copland, is appropriately played simply without a great deal of elaboration. Chopin’s “Mazurka in G minor” is played in a bluesy style which calls to mind the work of John Lewis and the Modern Jazz Quartet, albeit here without vibes. The work of another classical/jazz musician, Claude Bolling, seems to influence “Prelude in Bb” by Bach. Leonhardt aptly mixes his classical and jazz influences well in this enjoyable album.



Among his other recordings is ***Jazz for Kids*** (Big Bang BBR 9572), a 2002 release featuring friendly arrangements of pieces such as “Are You Sleeping” and the Disney ballad “Someday My Prince Will Come.” Most of the arrangements feature vocalist

Nancy Reed, who does some scatting. Taro Okamoto and Tony Marino, on drums and bass respectively, round out the ensemble. Jazz fans with children (their own, nieces and nephews, or whatever) can enjoy this without the sense that the music is being dumbed down.



Diego Palma - *This One World* (www.guitaristdiegopalma.com) This is the third release in as many years from Louisvillian Diego Palma. He plays not only acoustic and electric guitar, but also keyboards, “bass and drum sounds, loops, samples and other odd noises.” The overall sound here is fusion, with electric guitar in the forefront. Two of my favorite pieces are “In A Stern Way” and “El Conductor,” dedicated to Mike Stern and Carlos Santana respectively. While Stern is known for his high energy jazz-rock, Palma reflects on the more straight ahead stylings of Stern. The percussion and singing guitar of “El Conductor” invoke Santana instantaneously. Palma ventures into psychedelic rock territory for “Take the High Road,” while playing a lovely blend of acoustic and electric guitars on the title track. His studio abilities have sharpened over the course of his last few albums, and there is a more natural feel to the percussion here than would be expected from synthesized drumming. When I caught him recently at the 2010 WorldFest on the Belvedere, he was accompanied by a second guitarist, bassist, drummer and vibraphonist/percussionist. I hope the ensemble will record together for the next album, as Palma moves ahead in his musical explorations. Nonetheless, ***This One World*** is an apt demonstration of the high quality music which can be made by a single, talented performer with an aptitude for playing several different instruments, and with the patience to work carefully in the studio to advance his musical vision.



The Michael Tracy Quartet, featuring Davide Logiri *Wingspan* (Sea Breeze SBJ-3092 www.seabreezerecords.com, A brief disclaimer is necessary: I serve with Mike Tracy on the Louisville Jazz Society Board of Directors, and wrote the liner notes for his 2009 release, ***Tracings***. Saxophonist Mike Tracy is Director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at the University of Louisville School of Music, and maintains a heavy schedule of travel to promote jazz. On ***Wingspan***, Italian pianist Davide Logiri not only joins him in performance, but contributes three of the ten compositions, plus his arrangement of the Miles Davis classic “Freddie Freeloader.” The other musicians here are guitarist Craig Wagner, bassist Doug Elmore, and drummer Terry O’Mahoney. Tracy opens with high energy soprano work on Logiri’s “Kitchen in a Mess,” moving into Coltrane territory before the conclusion. Wagner, who plays on several pieces, contributed “Cloning,” a mid-tempo tune with (cont’d page 4)

a backbeat, and "The Only Peace I Know," a lilting mid tempo waltz. The title track, "Wingspan," is a contribution from Tracy's U of L colleague John La Barbera, and features the interaction of Wagner's guitar and the leader's soprano. A standout track is the standard "Old Folks," played with beauty and restraint by Tracy on tenor. This new release, overall, shows that Tracy not only continues to play with grace and energy, but that he has the knack for picking a varied yet cohesive program of music. Tracy's consummate professionalism shines on each piece here. Another colleague of Tracy's, bassist Chris Fitzgerald, contributed insightful liner notes.

In conclusion, as you seek out additional recordings to add to your collections, please keep these and our other talented local artists in mind.



Louisville Jazz Society What's in it for me?

The Louisville Jazz Society is the only organization of its kind in the Louisville area whose sole purpose is to promote jazz. But why should you be a member? What's in it for me you say? Ok, fair question.....

Currently the Louisville Jazz Society is a small organization, consisting of approximately 220 members. Right now, if you are a member of LJS you are pretty much doing it for what Jeanette Kays calls the "feel good factor". Louisville Jazz is in a building mode. Supporting LJS means that you are helping it to grow and become a stronger influence on the Louisville music scene. LJS membership goal is to build a core of 1000 jazz enthusiasts who want to support the jazz arts here in "possibility city".

So what is Louisville Jazz Society doing to that end?

Educational Sponsorships: LJS is one of the sponsors of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camp, the Bellarmine Jazz Guitar Clinic.

Concert Sponsorships: LJS helps to sponsor Big Rock Jazz Fest, U of L Jazz concerts and this year the board has added 2 more: Fall for Jazz in Tyler Park and one TBA coming up in April.

LJS Website: The one place where anything about jazz in Louisville is posted. Louisville jazz history, jazz musicians, jazz venues, calendar of events, newsletters, etc.

Jazz Nite Out: Each month members gather at a local jazz venue selected by LJS Jazz Nite Out chairman for an evening of music, fun and camaraderie.

Jazz Insider: Each week LJS Musician Liaison puts together an email of who's playing where and sends it out to our Jazz Insider list.

Partnerships: Also through the jazz insider email list, members receive announcements and discounts to special concerts from our partners like the Kentucky Center and others.

Fund-Raisers: By way of special meetings and general membership meetings.

Why I am a member? As a former jazz musician, I would like to see increased support of jazz in the Kentuckiana area. I love the groove of a tight knit jazz combo, the great harmonies, from the blues, to be-bop, to standards, to modal tunes, to fusion and the great new recordings like Martin Kazdan has reviewed in this newsletter. This is the type of music that speaks to my soul. Then there is the big band sound..... Wow! There is nothing like it. I am an avid fan of jazz and much like a sports fan I root for and support my team. In this case "team jazz".

What is your personal jazz story? Are you a musician with a passion for playing jazz? Someone who danced with your sweetheart to the great traveling big bands in the large dance halls of years past? A former musician or are you just someone who was bit by the jazz bug after listening to Miles Davis' "Kind of Blue"? Whatever your attraction to jazz, the Louisville Jazz Society needs you. Why not join us and help us grow? Turn to the back page of this newsletter or go online, select your membership category and come on-board.

Best regards,
Matt Grossman, President
Louisville Jazz Society



Fall for Jazz in Tyler Park



Sunday October 10, 2010 4-6 pm

By Jeanette Westbrook

The Louisville Jazz Society in conjunction with the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association and Eighth District Councilman, Tom Owen, are pleased to announce the first of an annual series of free jazz concerts to be held in Tyler Park. Be sure to mark your calendars for what is sure to be an exciting return of *LIVE JAZZ* to Tyler Park. The first concert will be held Sunday, October 10th from 4-6 PM in the lower section of Tyler Park featuring the music of Mike Tracy and The Louisville All-Stars featuring Renato Vasconcellos, keyboards & piano, Craig Wagner, guitar, Doug Elmore, bass, and Mike Hyman, drums.

Mike Tracy is an internationally known jazz saxophonist. He is currently the Director of Jazz Studies at U of L and is widely known as one of America's foremost jazz educators. Renato Vasconcellos, pianist, hails from Brasilia, Brazil where he is director of the University of Brasilia's Popular Music and Jazz Program. He holds a graduate jazz degree from U of L's School of Music and is back in Louisville for this concert. Craig Wagner, guitar, is well known in Louisville among music lovers who are familiar with his eclectic guitar skills. Across the musical spectrum from jazz to classical, Craig is known as the consummate musician. Doug Elmore, bass, is Orchestra Director for Floyd Central High School in Indiana. He is well-known locally as a first class bassist in jazz and classical styles. One might find Doug conducting his student orchestra in a performance of a Mozart symphony in the morning and laying down a bass line for Giant Steps with a jazz group in the evening. Mike Hyman, drums is a native Louisvillian. Mike began playing drums at an early age when it quickly became apparent that he had a special gift for music. During his career, Mike has performed with an amazing array of jazz greats including Joe Henderson, Stan Getz and Gary Burton to mention but a few.

Tyler Park is located at 1501 Castlewood Ave. Louisville, 40204 (Baxter Ave. & Tyler Park Dr.). Simply Grand Pianos will provide a fabulous grand piano for the concert and the sound system will be provided by Andy Westbrook. Be sure to bring your own beverage and seating for this first concert, as we get up to speed for next year's concerts when we hope to have all the amenities. This event is sure to be thrilling as Tyler Park serves as a natural amplifier for beautiful music, on a beautiful day, in a beautiful city park. See you there!

(Please, for the safety of all, no dogs at this event)

For the 2011 Jazz Series, TPNA and sponsors (to-be-announced, maybe you?) hope to provide a series of at least four concerts in the fall of 2011. If you are an individual or a business looking for a great venue to advertise or wish to sponsor a community event with excellent visibility, this is the one for you. If you are interested in volunteering in TPNA's newest venture, contact Jeanette Westbrook at 451-8207 or Brian Caudill at 439-8030 for more information about becoming a sponsor or volunteer for the 2011 Jazz Concert series.

Help Wanted

The Louisville Jazz Society is looking for three new volunteer Board Members with special talents:

Newsletter Editor: Professional person experienced with publishing software, graphic arts, editing and deadlines to manage the publishing of the LJS Newsletter 3 times per year.

Webmaster: Professional person experienced in website design and management to maintain the LJS website.

Social Networking Editor: Person with experience with the social networking websites to develop and manage LJS Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Submit letter of application and qualifications to:

president@louisvillejazz.org or mail to:

President

Louisville Jazz Society

PO Box 5082

Louisville, KY 40255

Louisville Jazz Society

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Getting Back To Our (Grass) Roots

By Harry Kron, Membership Chair

We have all seen the power of grassroots advocacy in the past few years, from Barack Obama's ascendency as the first African-American President to the powerful changes happening today as a result of the Tea Party movement. Whatever your personal politics, you have to admit that grassroots movements work.

Now, you can be a part of a grassroots movement, too, and you can enjoy every minute of it. I'm talking about being a grassroots jazz advocate. We have an excellent jazz community, and we can make it grow with just a little effort. It's up to us to create the buzz for jazz, and to keep that buzz alive. The more we do it, the more they (and you know who *they* are) will listen to us.

Here are some simple things you can do to help:

Start by joining or renewing your membership with the Louisville Jazz Society. For just \$35 a year, you help us offer so much to the local community; from supporting the upcoming Big Rock Jazz Festival, to supporting the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Week in the spring, to just getting the word out on local jazz musicians through the Jazz Calendar on our website (<http://www.louisvillejazz.org/calendar>) or Jazz Insider email newsletter. Did I mention that you can now apply or renew online? Go to <http://www.louisvillejazz.org/membership.php> and follow the instructions.

See where the musicians are playing and get out there. Join us for "Jazz Nite Out". Invite your friends, and fill up the place with jazz enthusiasts. Buy a drink or two from the bar or restaurant and let them know why you are there and that you appreciate their support of jazz and the Jazz Society. They need to know that they did the right thing by supporting jazz – they need to hear from you.

Can't get out that night to hear jazz? What about another night? When you are choosing a place to dine out, patronize the restaurants that support jazz. At the end of your dinner, call the manager over and let the restaurant know why you chose to dine there. They will appreciate the sentiment and your comments.

Keep us on our toes, too. We try to find all the jazz in town and get it on our website and in the newsletter, but we can only do so much. If you find we are missing someone, let us know, and we can fix that quickly. Send an email to music liason@louisvillejazz.org and help us get all the information out there.

Hey, it sounds like grassroots jazz advocacy is pretty easy! A little eating, a little drinking, and a little money once a year; that doesn't sound too hard. There's always more you can do. Talk

up jazz. Leave a newsletter lying around accidentally (membership registration side up, oh yeah.) As always, if there are any questions or concerns about your membership, contact me at membership@louisvillejazz.org. I will respond as quickly as I can.

Now! Join or Renew Online.....

Yes, after all these years, we are finally in the 21st Century! You can now apply for or renew your membership online at <http://www.louisvillejazz.org/membership.php>. Select your membership category and follow the directions. We use PayPal for processing: it's safe, it's secure, and it easy to use. And, no, you don't have to have a PayPal account to use it.

*** Membership Meeting ***

*** Set for Jazzyblu ***



By Dick Sisto



Louisville, Kentucky, which includes the southern Indiana vicinity just across the Ohio River, is centered geographically between the northern cities of Chicago and Indianapolis, St. Louis to it's west, Cincinnati to it's east and Nashville to the south.

Although Louisville is a smaller city than those neighbors, it has always stood out artistically and as a home for exceptional jazz musicians, jazz venues and radio airplay.

The city of Louisville is the largest city in Kentucky, but it does not share the same cultural, political or spiritual "leanings" with the rest of the state. Since the 1960's and before it has fostered a nationally recognized theatre and symphony that break new ground artistically by embracing controversial subject matter and avant garde compositions. Louisville has been the home of one of Americas' most respected liberal newspapers as well as one of the oldest public radio stations that features great jazz programming.

All of these factors have made Louisville an excellent hothouse for jazz and a great place for musicians to live and develop their art. It has also been the birthplace of a handful of jazz musicians and singers that were major groundbreakers and innovators in the field of jazz. They all moved on to an illustrious career on the world stage.

To this day, the city offers its' residents many locally owned restaurants, bars and lounges where dedicated jazz musicians collaborate. Louisville presents more than it's share of great jazz concerts by touring groups at several concert and theatre venues. The musicians that live and work here have always been a collection of home bread and transplanted players that have either returned from successful careers in major cities working with famous names in jazz or embraced Louisville as their own after realizing the artistic gem quality of the place. Some have developed national and international recognition only after moving to Louisville.

When we examine the quality of the musicians and the history of their work it's interesting to note that racial barriers have never been a factor. A musician born and raised in Louisville always had an opportunity to develop as a player by jamming and working with some of the very best players in the region without any racial bias . The result of that freedom can be cited in a white Louisville musician becoming a member of one of the

greatest African American jazz giants of the 60's. There are other similar examples of this type as well as the case of a jazz disc jockey who became a major liner note writer for classic jazz albums.

The present day Louisville jazz musician is a product of either the extensive jazz education network that the area offers, which is itself world renown and has influenced and taught countless thousands or the "street taught" musicians who beckon back to the days before "jazz education". It may also include a combination of both. The end result is a community of jazz players that is serious about it's work in keeping America's art form healthy and vibrant in a city that loves and respects the serious artist no matter what the discipline.

(Dick Sisto is a local jazz musician , vibraphonist and pianist. He can be heard regularly at the Seelbach Hotel in downtown Louisville. Go to dicksisto.com for more info.)



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Business owners. Get more visibility, support jazz in Louisville. LJS wants you for a business partner. To become an LJS business partner, see application on back page of this newsletter. You support jazz and LJS supports you in our newsletter and on our website. In addition, there are other ways to partner with LJS to create more visibility for your business. Contact Matt Grossman, president@louisvillejazz.org

LOUISVILLE JAZZ SOCIETY
www.louisvillejazz.org
Louisville Jazz Society
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LOUISVILLE JAZZ SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

YES, I'd like to join the Louisville Jazz Society : New Member ____ Renewal ____

LOUISVILLE JAZZ SOCIETY Please check the appropriate dues level and complete the info below.

____ Adult Jazz Enthusiast \$35 per year *

____ General Business Partner \$150 per year

____ Senior Jazz Enthusiast (65 and up) \$20 per year *

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____ Other Community Organization \$20 per year

____ Jazz Musician \$20 per year

* Add add'l family members for \$10 each per year.

**Students, please list your school & grade level here _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Name _____

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Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

I picked up my newsletter at _____

____ Yes, I'd like to know more about volunteer opportunities and/or social events.

Please be assured we do NOT sell or rent our mailing lists or other contact information to others.

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