

# BLUE NOTES

JAN/FEB/MAR 2024 VOL 28 ISSUE 1



# **CONCERT VENUE**



pilarsmartini.com 146 W Plant Street, Winter Garden, FL

The Blue Bamboo notified us that our December concert was the last one they could accommodate in their current location. They are relocating to a central location, but renovations will not be completed in time to allow us to hold the remaining concerts in our 2023-2024 season.

"You can't imagine how much better it's gonna be in the new place. It'll be worth the wait, I promise. If everything goes according to plan, we will reopen in our new location in spring/summer of 2024."

#### Chris Cortez, President Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts

Through no fault of their own, this news put the Board in a bind, and we were met with many roadblocks in trying to find an equitable solution.

Pilars, though not ideally located for most of our members, is an excellent venue that will get us over this rough patch.

The great news is that we will still be able to present our full lineup of fabulous concerts at the regularly scheduled time! We are counting on you – CFJS members and Jazz enthusiasts -- to maintain your support of the Central Florida Jazz Society and our efforts to keep Jazz alive by attending the upcoming concerts in Winter Garden.

Same toe tapping awesome music! Same fun! Same camaraderie!

Oh yeah, EVERYONE HAS A TABLE!





14

JANUARY

MICHELLE MAILHOT WITH OUR SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTANTS



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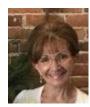


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# President's Improv

By Carla Hays



My dear friends,

Although this is our January-February-March issue, I believe you'll be reading this before the end of the year. Perhaps before Christmas. I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, or whatever holiday you observe. And a happy and healthy New Year. 2023 has not been a good year for many of us. Being an eternal optimist, I'm certain that 2024 will bring joy and blessings.

As Pat, our editor, explained on page one, for the remainder of our season, January thru May, our venue will be Pilars located at 146 West Plant Street in Winter Garden, 34787. Our concerts will be held in the Pilars Loft on the 2nd floor. Not to worry, there's an elevator. The Loft is large and open and made up of low tables and high tops. There is a full bar and food service available. At the back of the building there's a large free parking garage with space for 450 vehicles. Winter Garden is an extremely charming little town with great shops and restaurants. Please don't let the location dissuade you. It will be well worth the drive. The remainder of our concert series is wonderful!

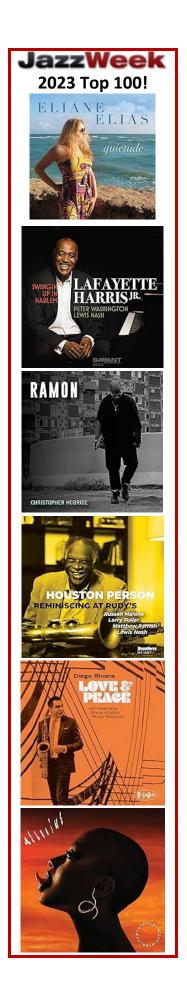
The Blue Bamboo will be up and running in their new location for our 2024-2025 season. The venue is just 3 miles from their current spot and will be bigger and better. The building that they have occupied for the last 7+ years has been sold and, unbeknownst to Melody and Chris, the new owners have other plans for it. It will take them the rest of this year to complete the build out.

Our first four concerts this year were fabulous. Our next five will be as well. Please come on January 14th to see some of our scholarship contestants perform. It will give you an idea of why our scholarship program is so imperative. The talent is phenomenal, and they are our jazz musicians of the future. As an added bonus, they will be performing with our own true diva, Michelle Mailhot. It will be an exciting afternoon!

We need your continued support and we're grateful for you all. We look forward to seeing you at the rest of our concerts. Please bring your family and friends. They'll thank you!

God bless and take care.

Cheers, Carla





Jazz is a conversation that has been going on for over a century. Each musician adds their own statement to the discourse, and one of the most exciting aspects of engaging with jazz is the opportunity to witness and appreciate the various voices that emerge and contribute to this ongoing dialogue. Here is one such profound contribution, a riveting piece of art by the multi-faceted saxophonist and composer <u>Christopher McBride</u> with his sophomore album, *Ramon*. McBride brilliantly straddles the territories of hard bop, R&B and beyond, extending his artistry across genres and emotions while remaining deeply rooted in jazz. The album is an innovative and striking amalgamation of experiences and influences that seamlessly align into a coherent musical narrative.

*Ramon* opens with "Lady D," a tribute to McBride's mother. Bursting with energy, the track is a striking hard-bop-meets-modern-jazz piece. The raw power and momentum are emblematic of the fierce and determined woman for whom it is written. "Welcome," the following track, introduces McBride's ensemble with a touch of hip-hop, offering a glimpse into his dynamic live shows.

The third piece, "You Put A Smile On My Face," featuring <u>Bobby Broom</u>, strikes a perfect balance between swing and soulful modern jazz. Broom's guitar solo adds an extra layer of energy and depth to the composition, and McBride's saxophone solo intertwines beautifully with the enchanting underlying harmony.

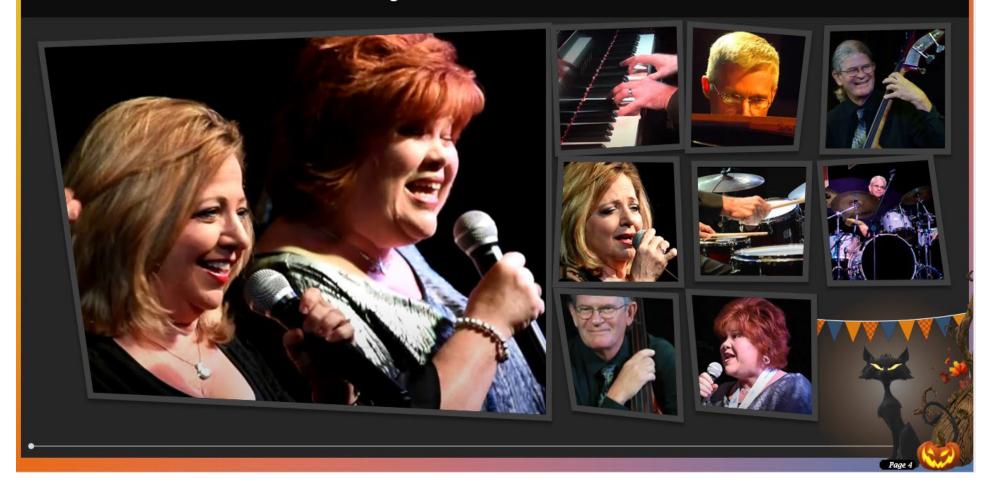
"Bronx Unchained" is a thrilling exploration of the borough's history. Starting with the sounds of hip-hop's raw energy, the McBride composition develops into up-tempo swing that mirrors the borough's pulsating life. It is a powerful homage that exhibits both McBride's versatility and knack for storytelling. Subsequent tracks like "Your Eyes Can't Lie," "Intimacy" and "Postlude" deepen the emotional narrative, creating a mellifluous blend of R&B, soul and modern jazz elements.

McBride then shifts to a poignant social commentary with the triptych "Stand Your Ground, Pt. 1, 2, and 3." This is a deeply stirring tribute to Trayvon Martin and perhaps the album's emotional climax. McBride uses his music to navigate the tragic event, from the anxiety-filled "Suspicion" through the tense "Confrontation" and finally the mournful "In Memoriam." This track is a profound statement.

*Ramon* is a stunning testament to Christopher McBride's growth as a musician, storyteller, and cultural observer. This album is a melting pot of experiences and influences, capturing his roots and his journeys. Each track is a narrative in its own right, and together they weave a rich tapestry of genres, emotions and histories that speaks to the universality of the human experience. It leaves an indelible impression as a collection of stories told through the universal language of music. It is the embodiment of jazz as a conversation, an ongoing discourse in which McBride makes a powerful statement through composition. Overall, McBride's playing emerges as a potent, eloquent and a vital addition to the jazz conversation. Bravo, McBride, bravo.

https://www.allaboutjazz.com/ramon-christopher-mcbride-self-produced

# Michelle Amato & Suzy Park - Bob Thornton (piano), Doug Matthews (bass), Paul Parker (drums)



# Zachary Bartholomew Trio - Zack (piano), Marco Bojorquez (bass), Max Marsillo (drums)



# Carol Stein & Friends — Carol (piano, vocals), Eddie Marshall (reeds), Charlie Silva (bass), Barry Smith (drums)







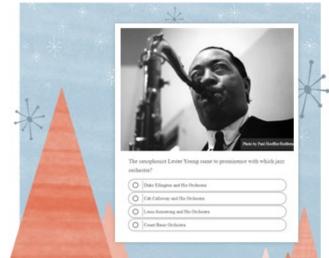




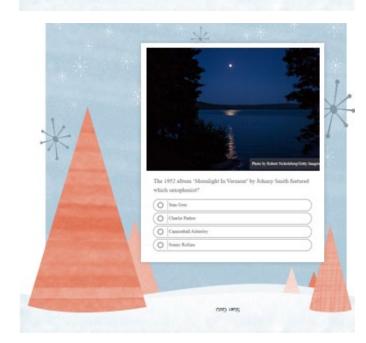








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# FREE Jazz Concerts

#### Jazz Chamber Groups Concert

Jan. 30, 2024 at 8 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Rehearsal Hall Free admission, no ticket required.

#### Jazz Chamber Groups Concert

Feb. 20, 2024 at 8 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. ♥ Rehearsal Hall Free admission, no ticket required.

#### Jazz Ensemble II Concert

Feb. 27, 2024 at 8 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Rehearsal Hall

Free admission, no ticket required.

# Jazz Chamber Groups Concert

March 12, 2024 at 8 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Rehearsal Hall
Free admission, no ticket required.



In a 1964 essay, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. explains the importance of jazz music and its role in the story of civil rights.

"Jazz speaks for life. The Blues tell the story of life's difficulties."

Those words by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. can be found at the

beginning of his essay for the inauguration of the Berlin Jazz Festival in 1964. It might be one of Dr. King's lesser known speeches, but today remains one of the most profound essays about jazz and its role in civil rights.

Often called America's one true art form, in his own words Dr. King also acknowledges jazz as a powerful tool in the story of civil rights, writing in 1964, "Much of the power of our Freedom Movement in the United States has come from this music. It has strengthened us with its sweet rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down." That same year Dr. King played an essential role in the passing of the Civil Rights Act and appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine as "Man of the Year."

In the essay, Dr. King remarks on how long before modern scholars wrote of racial identity, jazz musicians were already approaching the topic through music.

The speech also notes how jazz music brings people together, not only through struggle, but also joy and community. "Everybody has the Blues, Everybody longs for meaning," writes Dr. King.

In the political climate of today, Dr. King's Berlin Jazz Festival essay can be a reminder of the impact that music has on people's lives. While a speech or protest may come and go, music lives on.

Below is the text of Dr. King's speech given at the 1964 Berlin Jazz Festival.

"God has wrought many things out of oppression. He has endowed his creatures with the capacity to create-and from this capacity has flowed the sweet songs of sorrow and joy that have allowed man to cope with his environment and many different situations."

"Jazz speaks for life. The Blues tell the story of life's difficulties, and if you think for a moment, you will realize that they take the hardest realities of life and put them into music, only to come out with some new hope or sense of triumph. This is triumphant music." "Modern Jazz has continued in this tradition, singing the songs of a more complicated urban existence. When life itself offers no order and meaning, the musician creates an order and meaning from the sounds of the earth which flow through his instrument."

"It is no wonder that so much of the search for identity among American Negroes was championed by Jazz musicians. Long before the modern essayists and scholars wrote of racial identity as a problem for a multiracial world, musicians were returning to their roots to affirm that which was stirring within their souls. Much of the power of our Freedom Movement in the United States has come from this music. It has strengthened us with its sweet rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down. And now, Jazz is exported to the world. For in the particular struggle of the Negro in America there is something akin to the universal struggle of modern man. Everybody has the Blues. Everybody longs for meaning. Everybody needs to love and be loved. Everybody needs to clap hands and be happy. Everybody longs for faith."

"In music, especially this broad category called Jazz, there is a steppingstone towards all of these."

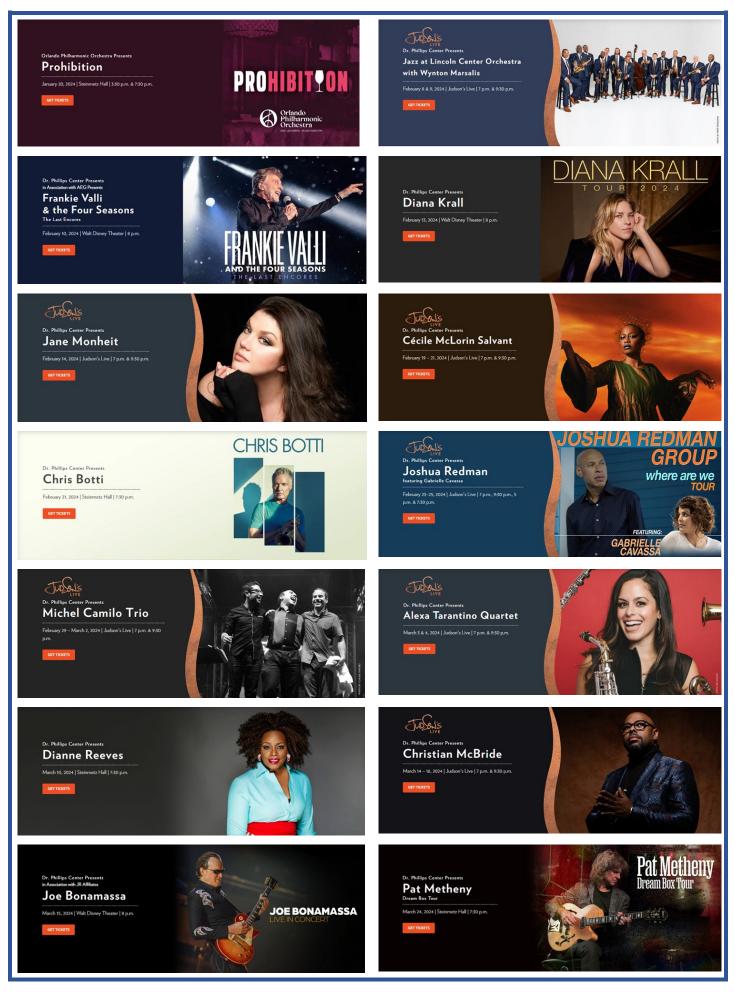
<u>https://sfcm.edu/discover/newsroom/mlk-ir-jazz-soundtrack-civil-rights</u> <u>https://jazzineurope.mfmmedia.nl/2019/01/martin-luther-king-at-the-berlin-jazz-fest-in-1964/</u>



Remembrance -- January 15, 2024

We want to hear from YOU. Who would you like to see in the 2024-2025 concert season lineup? Catch up with Carla Hays or any Board member at one of the upcoming concerts. You can also share your

thoughts with Carla at <u>carlampage@yahoo.com</u>.







# **APPLICATION**

Is this membership a Gift? \_\_ Yes \_\_ No

If yes: Name 1	Anonymous		
Name 2			
Address			
City			
State		_Zip	
Phone (H/W/M)			
Email			
Date			
Youth Member Individual Couple Golden Patron Corporate Publication (Blue Venue Music		\$300 Single \$500	\$5 \$30 \$55 \$500 Couple \$1000 <b>GOLD</b> \$500 \$600 \$500 up
(Event			

### **MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE**

Mail the Membership Application to 3208 W. Lake Mary Blvd, Suite 1720, Lake Mary, FL 32746-3467.

Due to rising printing costs, the Blue Notes will no longer be mailed. Limited copies will be available at the monthly concerts.

Have you lost your membership card? Is something misspelled or incorrect? Are you not receiving Carla's phone message before each concert? Has your email address changed?

Renew as a Golden Patron member and you can reserve an "up front" table at any CFJS concert, making for a more intimate experience.

#### Mary Uithoven can help: 407-719-0521 or CFJSMemberships@gmail.com



### Welcome New Members!

Jason, Monica & Xavier Anderson Chuck Botwin Sharon Everett Theresa Hordge Benjamin & Jasmine Jakesz Joan Johnson Ashley Locheed Lee Moore & Dee White Donna & Bruce Mylrea Linda Naughtin Amy Parnell Joe & Sharon Pusateri Jocelyn Sampson Sandy Scott John Smith Tavian Walker Myra Winkler

### Members Who Renewed

Johny & Raija Carlsson Carole Carter Larry & Jennifer Coates Bill & Nancy Gaver Mark & Noreen Levitt Dr. Leslie Lieberman Craig & Nancy Ludin Mark Mancia Carol Morrow Stephen Raiford Diane Secor Joseph Shahum Sigi & Rudi Stockhammer Lynn Topel Hattie Wolfe & Ed Sabori Connie Zabukovec

# Golden Patrons

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# BECOME A MEMBER

https://www.centralfloridajazzsociety.com/membership/

<b>ENJOY</b> L	IVE JAZZ
2023-2024	4 SEASON SCHEDULE

10	SEPTEMBER
8	OCTOBER
12	NOVEMBER
10	DECEMBER
12	JANUARY
1	FEBRUARY
10	MARCH
12	APRIL

19

MAY

**CENTRAL FLORIDA JAZZ SOCIETY GOES TO HOLLYWOOD** Michael Andrew with the Orlando Jazz Orchestra

THE DYNAMITE DIVAS MICHELLE AMATO & SUZY PARK

ZACH BARTHOLOMEW TRIO

CAROL STEIN AND FRIENDS

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2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL HALL OF FAME CONCERT Join Us As We Induct the Class of 2024

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MEMBERS: \$20 | NON-MEMBERS: \$35 Youth Members Under 25: \$5.00 Youth Non-Members under 25: \$10.00 High School & Younger: FREE | Tickets Available at the Door or www.CentralFloridaJazzSociety.com

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Michelle Mailhot & CFJS Scholarship Winners





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