

David Crosby: Crosby, Coltrane & Miles

A renowned singer-songwriter
 tells tales from his surprisingly
 deep—and still-thriving—jazz life



No one would ever call David Crosby a jazz singer. Yet the singer-songwriter's music—his guitar tunings, chording and vocal phrasing, his insatiable desire to step out of bounds—has been informed by jazz since he first appeared on the scene in the mid-'60s as an original member of the Byrds. While neither that group nor Crosby, Stills & Nash (CSN) ever steered toward jazz in an overt manner, Crosby's lifelong love for the music has, at times, poked through and made itself known. In 1970, no less than Miles Davis picked up on and covered "Guinnevere," a ballad Crosby had written the previous year for the debut CSN album (more on that in a minute).

That song found its way into a new jazz-based arrangement in 2013, when Crosby, Stills & Nash collaborated with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for a pair of New York concerts. With Stephen Stills sitting it out, Crosby, playing acoustic guitar, and Nash harmonized while Marsalis blew muted trumpet.

What few CSN fans could have guessed that night was that the trio's long run was winding down. CSN's breakup arrived unceremoniously in 2016 amidst their latest spat—some 47 years after they formed—but by then Crosby's head was already elsewhere. In 2014 he'd released *Croz*, his first solo album in 20 years—with Marsalis among the guests. The album, like many of Crosby's extracurricular projects of the past two decades, also features multi-instrumentalist/vocalist James Raymond, the talented son Crosby didn't know he had until Raymond had already reached his 30s.

Since then Crosby has become highly prolific. After hearing and becoming infatuated with the 21st-century-fusion band Snarky Puppy, he called upon that group's leader and bassist, Michael League, to work together. Crosby contributed first to one of the band's projects in 2016 and then recruited League to produce his next solo release, that year's largely acoustic *Lighthouse*, which also features vocalists Becca Stevens and Michelle Willis.

Most recently, in late September, Crosby released *Sky Trails* (BMG), literally doubling his solo discography. This time the jazz accents—provided by Crosby and a core band of Raymond on keyboards (he also produced), saxophonist Steve Tavaglione, bassist Mai Agan and drummer Steve DiStanislao—are more pronounced. In addition to his own new material, the album includes a cover of Joni Mitchell's "Amelia," from *Hejira*, her 1976 album including the likes of Jaco Pastorius and Larry Carlton.

On the eve of the album's release, Crosby, 76, spoke to *JazzTimes* about the place jazz has held in his colorful musical life.

Read the interview at <https://jazztimes.com/features/david-crosby-coltrane-miles/> (published 02/07/2018 by Jeff Tamarkin)

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BLUE NOTES

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President's Improv

By Carla Page



It's been almost two months since our last Blue Notes, and a lot has happened!

We've made a decision with regard to our annual fundraiser *All That Jazz*. Our new venue will be the Hilton Inn on Northlake Boulevard in Altamonte Springs. It's almost at the corner of I-4 and 436. They have a beautiful ballroom with a stage for the musicians and a large dance floor. There's plenty of room for all of the tables and guests to be in the same room, and the acoustics are fabulous! We've also decided that three hours is not long enough, so our party this year will run from 4:00 to 8:00. The date is Sunday, August 26, 2018. Put it on your calendars now!



The Scholarship Competition will be on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00 AM in Keene Hall at Rollins College. We will narrow it down to 10 contestants and we will award five scholarships this year. Everyone is welcome to attend. It's so exciting to watch (and listen to) these fabulous young musicians. They are accompanied by a professional rhythm section, and we'll have three professional musicians as judges.

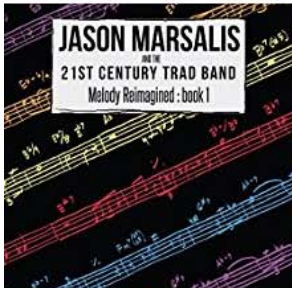
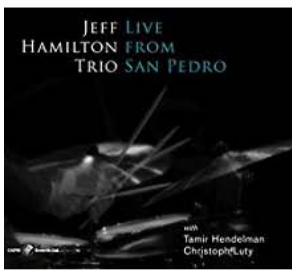
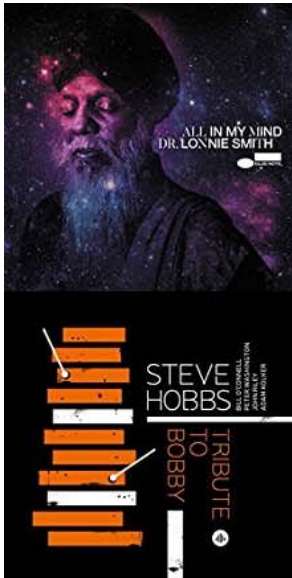
Our January and February concerts were sell-outs! In January it was the H. Johnson Jazztet, formerly of Rosie O'Grady's and currently performing at Disney. They were outstanding! And, in February we presented the UCF Flying Horse Big Band. I think these young people are just about everybody's favorite because of the remarkable talent they show and their enthusiasm for jazz.

March is going to be a lot of fun! It's the Michael Kramer Fundraiser Concert with Michael and Ben Kramer and Greg Parnell. You know how much fun it is to watch these guys, and we have a special

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JazzWeek

Top of the Charts!



Jack Simpson

JAZZ

ON THE BEACH

JOTB archived programs are broadcast on WUCF-FM Orlando (89.9) on Saturdays from 12-3pm.

If you're a close friend, radio listener, or family, I'm pretty sure you've heard this story before. It deals with an experience I had in my earlier days with *Jazz on the Beach*.

In the 1970s my show was on a pretty high-powered radio station -- WCKS in Cape Canaveral. The transmitter antenna and control equipment were located in a building close to highway A1A and to the Atlantic Ocean. The building is still there but WCKS is long gone. Don Becker, an old classical guy, played symphonic music on Sunday and, of course, I did jazz on Saturday night. Some listeners would call in with requests for music that I, too, enjoyed. A monthly booklet had my pictures and program schedules in it and, all in all, it was a nice situation for me.

One Saturday night I was playing "Bird" (Charlie Parker) recordings when I thought I heard a little voice say *Wow, that "Bird" was something else, wasn't he?* I agreed. It then occurred to me that it would be great to be talking on the air with something like a jazz loving Sandpiper -- there are thousands of them on the Canaveral beaches. Surely one or more of them liked jazz. If one did, I thought he knew about my show and would be so enthused that he would make a tunnel from under the beach to the WCKS control rooms. Hey, there he is now! *What's his name*, I asked myself? And I came up with Sturdevant. A pretty cool name in the 70s. I had him talk by recording my own voice at 3-3/4s at IPS on my reel-to-reel tape recorder and then I played it back at the normal 7-1/2 at IPS. Great! Sturdevant sounded like one of the chipmunks (we have Hi there Jazz Man!) I, of course, had my usual voice, and all of our conversations were naturally about jazz. My little "jazz bird friend" turned out to be pretty hip.

Sturdevant was a hit and I had artistic drawings of him which appear on my stationary and business cards, etc. The Simpson family became fans, with even Grandma embroidering a picture of him wearing sun glasses and a beard. A wood carving of him was created. Sturdevant was happy with his name (*It's better than Scolopidae*, he said) A semi-scientific study revealed that some sandpipers do, in fact, like jazz, as long as it contains bird-like music (as in, Charlie). An idyllic scene, right? Absolutely right! Until!! What happened? Well, a couple of wise guy teenage listeners who also owned tape recorders decided to reverse the process and played my own voice back to me, destroying the Sturdevant myth. In spite of that, Mark and Brad matured into intelligent adults and contributed to the progress of jazz.

Subsequently, I had to relocate *Jazz on the Beach* to the mainland while Sturdevant stayed on at memory beach where we hope he will live forever, at least in our minds.



Did you recently open an email account or change the address we have on file? Please contact Mary Uithoven at 407-699-1871 or rmejc@yahoo.com or. We want to get the latest CFJS news to you as quickly as possible!



A partnership in preserving JAZZ





Midge Bowman

Where Are They Now?

Pianist James Navan (2010 winner) and saxophonist James Zito (2016 winner) are in NYC doing post-graduate studies. Both of them freelance in and around New York, go to school, teach, and are able to support themselves. We are hoping to hear James Navan in Orlando, but we did hear James Zito at the Blue Bamboo on January 4th. Dan Jordan, bassist Greg Zabel (2013 and 2014 winner), and Greg Parnell were on bandstand with him. James presented himself well as leader of the group and played very well. It was a good evening of music!

Greg Zabel toured with the Glenn Miller Orchestra for 21 months and enjoyed traveling the United States, Canada, and Japan. He decided that was long enough and returned to Orlando to freelance his quartet at the Blue Bamboo in January. Every other Wednesday he plays at Eddie V's. He played with Vivacity – Heather Thorn's group – at the Blue Bamboo on February 3rd, and had a few days substituting for the bass in the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Joe Young, a trumpeter who won in 2010, continues to tour with the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He enjoys being on the road and looks and sounds great!

Dan Boissy (1995 sax winner), Jamie Tate (drums, 1998), Robert Schaer (trumpet, 2001), and Carey Frank (piano, 2011 and 2012) are busy in the Los Angeles area. Carey posts exciting news on Facebook every day. He and Jamie play together frequently and have recorded with each other. Dan has joined them also. Robert Schaer works in the movies and at the Hollywood Bowl. After graduation from UCF, Dan Boissy worked with Michael Andrew and Swingerhead in Orlando before settling in Los Angeles. Presently, he is touring with Michael in the Gershwin Tribute Band (Jamie has been part of this band, as well). Dan was back in Orlando with Michael on February 12th for the Gershwin Tribute at the Plaza Live!

Since the first scholarship in 1986, the CFJS has awarded 84 scholarships to students majoring in Jazz Studies. In the beginning, the Jazz Society membership was smaller, and getting the scholarship money together was a scramble. Nowadays we have the summer party All That Jazz to raise money for scholarships; each month the 50/50 winners often return the money to the scholarship fund; and individuals give contributions. If we could interest some corporate sponsors, we could help more deserving jazz students.

In May, scholarship auditions will take place at Rollins College. There will be a professional trio to accompany each student who prepares a standard tune as well as an improvisation to be judged by professional judges. The auditions are open to the public. It's a great afternoon to hear some amazing young musicians. See you on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m. in Keene Hall!

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guest performing with them. Charlie Russo was a Las Vegas entertainer for many years. He has a fabulous voice and personality and does a lot of your Sinatra favorites. And popular vocalist Suzy Park will be adding to the fun. This concert is a special gift to our scholarship fund.



It is with tremendous sadness that I report that Sue Ryerson Starks passed away on January 12, 2018. She was the President of the CFJS for a lot of years at several different times. She tried to pass the baton, so to speak, but we continually passed it back to her because she was such a fantastic leader. She is largely responsible for where we are today. She had vision and worked tirelessly. She wrote most of the literature that we still use. She loved jazz and the jazz society and was a wonderful friend to all of us. She was truly my dear, dear friend and my mentor. I know that those of you who knew her are heartbroken, as are we. If you are so inclined, her family has asked that donations be made in her name to the CFJS Scholarship Fund.

On a happier note, we are putting together our concert schedule for our 2018 - 2019 season. If you have some favorites that you'd like for us to present, we'd love to hear from you! As always, your suggestions are welcome.

carlampage@yahoo.com • 407-415-4345



* CFJS Scholarship Winners



BASS	DRUMS	GUITAR	PIANO	SAX, ALTO	SAX, BARI	SAX, TENOR	TROMBONES	TRUMPETS
Zach Greene	Devon Costanza	Chris Medina	Mikal Mancini	* Saul Dautch Declan Ward	Kristian Rey	Dylan Hannan Andy Garcia	Jeremiah St. John Christian Herrera Garrett Gauvin Matt Kerr	Marco Rivera Matt Peiper * Courtland Beyer Randy Le



Clyde Connor & JB Scott



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SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2pm. JAZZ MATINEE @THE BLUE BAMBOO!

"Lisa Kelly/JB Scott Sextet Featuring trombone legend Dave Steinmeyer!"

\$15 online and at the door... <https://bluebamboocenter.com/.../kelly-scott-sextet-featur...>

One of the most rewarding aspects of attending a good live jazz performance is in enjoying the spontaneously creative musical magic between a unique combination of seasoned artists. This concert features six highly regarded Florida jazz notables, each with years of regional, national, and international experience, coming together for a special matinee of absolute swing to New Orleans and modern jazz. The backgrounds of these artists speak volumes for the artistry they'll be bringing to the Blue Bamboo stage through an entertaining repertoire of classic jazz favorites and self-penned originals.

Eight-time DownBeat Magazine award winning vocalist- composer- arranger Lisa Kelly has been featured with many small groups and big bands including the Larry Elgart Orchestra, Chris Riddle Orchestra, the St. Johns River City Band, and UNF JE 1, co-releasing six successful CD's with JB Scott. Former leader of the famed Dukes of Dixieland in New Orleans, Warburton signature trumpet artist JB Scott toured with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and is the Coordinator of Jazz Studies at UNF in Jacksonville. Legendary trombonist Dave Steinmeyer performed for 28 years with the Air Force's big band the Airmen of Note, leading the band for 10 years. He is the trombone professor at UNF. Bass professor at UCF in Orlando, known for his musical combining of jazz, classical, and Latin forms, multi-instrumentalist Richard Drexler has toured with the Woody Herman Orchestra, the Jeff Berlin Orchestra, and Kenny Drew, Jr. With 20 years in Walt Disney's Grand Floridian Society Orchestra, much in-demand bassist Charlie Silva plays and tours with countless artists. Former drummer with the United States Navy Commodores in D.C, Clyde Connor has appeared on Beldwin, Warner Bros, and other recordings, played with many major artists, and is now the drum professor at UF in Gainesville. Each of this group's artists have appeared and recorded with a roster of jazz legends, including Arturo Sandoval, Jane Monheit, Paquito d'Rivera, Claudio Roditi, Bob Mintzer, Mel Torme, Tony Bennett, and Al Jarreau. Each has performed on TV, radio, at major festivals and in clubs worldwide.

Kid Dutch Remembers Syl LaFata



One night this pleasant, slightly Italian looking gentleman with glasses joined the Coconut Manor Orchestra. It was 1982. His name was Syl LaFata and we were playing at a nice joint on Park Avenue in Winter Park called Harrigan's on Thursday nights. The band had a long (for Central Florida) residence there.

Syl played great Goodman-esque clarinet - beautiful tone, control and intonation, and swinging ideas. But more importantly than that, he was a real gentleman.

Syl had a real easygoing way about him. In the 35-plus years of our friendship I don't think I ever heard him raise his voice to anyone, though he could be serious and make his point when he wanted to.

He had the wisdom of the older musicians. I always liked to be around that. Most of the time he would ask you questions that would make you think. For example, one night we were subjected to a not very good sit-in at Del Frisco's Steakhouse (where we shared

a very long residence). After this fellow's rather dire performance, Syl asked me "Dutch, what is the difference between a good musician and a bad musician?" I thought for a while and said "A good musician listens more than he plays." Syl got a big smile on his face and said "Man, you got that right!"

Syl played for many years with hot cornetist Connie Jones in New Orleans. Prior to that he was in the band on the Dinah Shore show. (He said she was a pleasure to work with.)

Syl was always ready to share with you what he knew. He had many students on clarinet - and the rest of us. He was devoted to his wife Gloria and his kids. I hope he's having a great time with his buddies that went on before - Dave Cramp, Mousey Alexander, Bill Barnes, and all the rest.

A fine gent, and a fine musician - he is missed.

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Have you lost your membership card? Is something misspelled or incorrect? Are you not receiving your bimonthly Blue Notes newsletter or monthly phone message from Carla Page? (Carla sends a message at least once a month before each concert.)

Mary Uithoven can help: 407-699-1871.



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Ben Kramer, Michael Kramer, Greg Parnell



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ALL CONCERTS START AT 3:00PM

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