

JIVE TALKIN'

Cow-Bop a tasty mixture of old and new

Westridge proves a fine venue, sparked by Bruce Forman's humor and a tribute to Shep Shepherd.

By Eric Marchese

For the first time in all the years FOJ has held an annual Western Jazz Barbecue and featured the music of the Bruce Forman Country-Western Band, the event was held at the Westridge Golf Club in La Habra – and the location wasn't the only thing that was new.

As in previous years, things started at 5 p.m. with a no-host cocktail hour, and the barbecue buffet was served at 6. Throughout, attendees got a stream of live music from Forman and his three talented musicians plus vocalist Pinto Pammy. Casually known as "Cow-Bop," the quintet has been called "the best in cowboy jazz," praise more than borne out throughout the Friends of Jazz event.



Among the "new" was the fact that the evening was Colleen Wadsworth's first Cow-Bop as FOJ's president, and she took the mic to thank everyone involved, noting that

"for more than 15 years, Friends of Jazz has generated nearly a million dollars" that it has pumped back into the local educational systems (grade school, high school and college).

Jennifer Hart took the opportunity to announce Shep Shepherd's upcoming CD release party, held at Saddleback College (in mid-July). The CD, she noted, is the youthful 99-year-old legend's vocal debut album.

As if on cue, Shep joined the band, providing vocal renditions of "You Make Me Feel So Young," popularized by Frank Sinatra, and "When You're Smiling," a number associated with Satchmo.

Bruce Forman asked the crowd whether the entertainment aspect of the barbecue was "dance or show?" Wife Pinto Pammy urged FOJers toward "dance" by singing "Walkin' After Midnight" while leading everyone in a line dance. That prompted

Bruce to call the event "a dance – but one where we put on a show at the same time." Familiar from past Cow-Bop events was the inclusion of numbers like "Mambo Italiano," "Route 66," "Crazy," and "Cow-Cow Boogie" – but we also got more that was new: The band announced that it was Shep's birthday, and when Pinto Pammy was informed that his birthday was several months earlier (in January), she said "We're gonna do it anyway, because you're so special." That led to a spirited chorus of the birthday song, followed by the Willie Nelson song "Don't Be Ashamed Of Your Age."

Though Bruce's wry and dry sense of humor is always on display during his FOJ appearances, this time around he was even more jocular – first with his comedic song "Benny's From Heaven," meant to get the audience on its feet and onto the dance floor, next with his self-referential song "Ten-Dollar Baby," a jokey reference to his musical work on pal Clint Eastwood's 2004 hit film "Million Dollar Baby."

Yet another great humorous original was Bruce's song "The Tinder App," a hilarious number with Forman lyrics about millennials using the dating app to "hook up," all set to the tune of "The Tender Trap." If anyone else in the music world has the same skill as Bruce in connecting to both those of average FOJ age and the ages of their grandkids, we have yet to see it.

Story continued on page 4, plus more Cow-Bop photos.

Members Party set for September 11 in La Habra

Friends of Jazz's 16th annual Members Party is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 11, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Westridge Golf Club in La Habra. The party is for all who have currently paid their 2016 through 2017 membership.

The cost is \$30 per person. The event includes appetizers and a no-host bar. Dress is casual. Music will be provided all evening by students who have received FOJ scholarships as well as professional jazz musicians.

Westridge is located at 1400 S. La Habra Hills Dr. in La Habra. Please respond by September 3 by contacting Charlotte Henderson (phone 714-870-9067 or email joecharhender-



Student jazz musicians from Fullerton College perform at the 2015 Members Party.

son @ sbcglobal.net) or Dottie Batinich (714-525-6669).





♪♪♪ Quarter Notes ♪♪♪

If you're registered with Ralphs' Community Contributions Program to help make donations to Friends of Jazz whenever you shop at Ralphs, you'll need to re-register soon. The new program year begins on September 1, 2016, so you'll need to register for the new term online at www.ralphs.com or by calling Ralphs at 800-443-4438. Even if you registered as recently as June, July or August of this year, you'll still be required to register again beginning Sept. 1.

By registering, you'll link your Ralphs Rewards Card to FOJ. For your convenience, step-by-step website registration instructions can be found at www.ralphs.com: First, click on Community, then Community Contributions, then 'Enroll Now.'

If you don't have computer access, Ralphs asks you to please call them at 1-800-443-4438, where they'll be happy to offer their assistance.



Alex Batinich, an FOJ member, scholarship contributor and brother of FOJ's Nick Batinich, passed away on June 15. He regularly attended the annual Mardi Gras Ball and will be missed there.



Please be sure to contact FOJ soon to RSVP for the upcoming Members Party on Sept. 11. You can reserve your spot by calling Charlotte Henderson at 714-870-9067 or Dottie Batinich at 714-525-6669.

This publication is produced by Friends of Jazz, Inc., an educational, Orange County-based, all-volunteer, non-profit corporation in operation since March, 1999. Please contact us at 714-871-6342 or PO Box 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671.
www.friendsofjazzinc.com

June 21 DOM gets a blast of jazz




Members of the Fullerton High School Jazz Band helped celebrate International Day of Music, which was observed throughout Fullerton on June 21 with ongoing music all day all around the city. FHS performed at Florentine's Grill late in the afternoon.


Photo by Eric Marchese

Year-to-date treasurer's report

As of August 1, the total income to FOJ is \$50,437 against expenses of \$37,008. As of August 1, membership and contributions are down by 19%.

Nick Batinich, FOJ's chief financial officer, has asked all members to "please contribute a little extra so that we can maintain the programs that we have made commitments to." You can call Nick at 714-525-6669, email him at nickbatinich@sbcglobal.net, or mail donations to FOJ at P.O. Box 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671. 

Newest grants to FOJ top \$6,000

FOJ has received \$6,480 in grant funds this summer: \$750 from Fullerton Rotary Club, \$730 from National Charity League, and \$5,000 from Orange County Community Fund. The \$5,000 is designated by OCCF to be used toward the fourth-grade recorder program over the next 12 months. 

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING FRIENDS OF JAZZ EVENTS:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| September 11 | Members Party, Westridge Golf Club, La Habra |
| October 9 | Oktoberfest, Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park |
| December 11 | Sponsors Party, Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park |

June city council spotlights recorder program

The June meeting of the Fullerton City Council once again drew attention to and praise of Friends of Jazz's fourth-grade recorder program.

Christopher Park, a fourth-grader from Sunset Lane Elementary School, played the recorder at the opening of the city council's June 7, 2016 meeting. Christopher played "God Bless America," then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Jennifer Hart, director of the fourth-grade recorder program, attended the meeting, saying that this was the third time since spring of 2015 that her students were invited to open a city council meeting with a recorder performance.

Also attending the meeting were Christopher's father, Yoonjae Park; his younger brother; and Mrs. Linda Kelly, Christopher's teacher at Sunset Lane Elementary.

Friends of Jazz is in the process of streamlining the record-



er program to make it less costly and more efficient. Colleen Wadsworth, FOJ's president, said that she and everyone on the FOJ board want to thank every FOJ member for all their help with and input into the program, which was launched

in 2005.

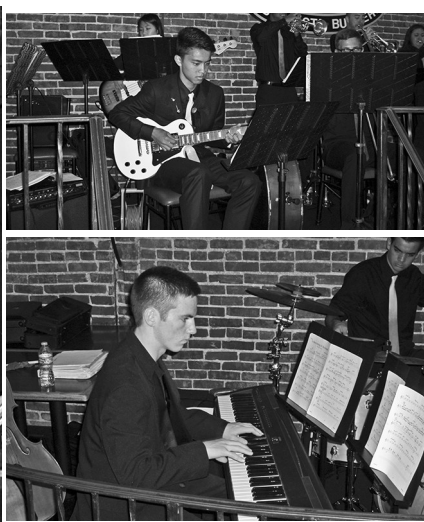
FOJ is currently seeking additional funding for the recorder program and wants potential donors to know that all funds given to FOJ for use toward the program will be earmarked for that purpose. If you wish

to contribute funds toward the fourth-grade recorder program, please contact Colleen at 714-273-7504 or email her at jazzycolleen@aol.com, or contact Judy McFadden, FOJ's director of school programs, at 714-525-7637. 🎵



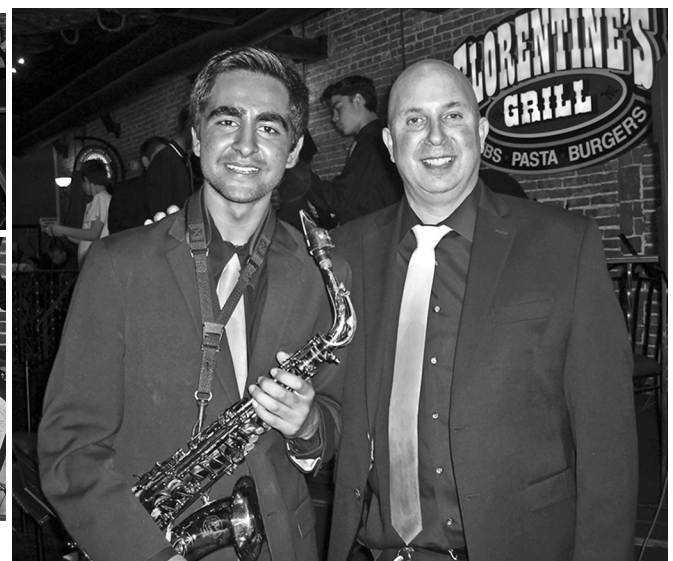
Christopher Park, left, played the recorder at the June 7, 2016 meeting of the Fullerton City Council. Shown at right are Linda Kelly, Christopher's fourth-grade teacher at Sunset Lane; the director of FOJ's recorder program, Jennifer Hart; Christopher; and Chris's dad, Yoonjae Park.

Irvine puts a wrap on FOJ's high school jazz band program



Irvine High School's jazz band wrapped up FOJ's spring high school jazz band program for 2016 at Florentine's Grill on Saturday, May 28.

Lead alto sax player Sho Chawla received the individual scholarship of \$400. An additional \$300 was awarded to the band, which is led by Bob Avzaradel. Chawla and other talented students were featured soloists in an enjoyably diverse program that ranged from trad jazz and standards to '70s rock tunes. 🎵



Irvine High School's lead alto saxophone player, Sho Chawla (far left and above with band director Bob Avzaradel), was awarded the individual scholarship of \$400 at the May 28 conclusion of FOJ's annual spring high school band program for the 2016 calendar year.

Photos by Eric Marchese

Photos tell the story of this year's Cow-Bop



Photos by Eric Marchese

COW-BOP, continued from page 1

Well after dinner, dessert and coffee, the opportunity drawing brought smiles to the faces of winners and more funds into FOJ's hands, the better for which to help keep music in our schools.

A few days after the May 22 party, Nick Batinich, FOJ's CFO, reported that the event's net profit was \$1,790.96. That sum is a testament to the way those who organize and run FOJ's various programs and how great musical pros like Bruce Forman manage to make annual events like Cow-Bop seem new again year after year. 🎵



RagFest is returning to FCLO Music Theatre's rehearsal hall

RagFest 2016 is coming soon, so circle the date October 15 on your calendars and be sure to set aside that night and at least part of the day, too! We'll be bringing back our long-dormant evening revue show, which has always been one of the most entertaining and popular parts of RagFest.

This year's performers include Andrew Barrett, Will Bennett, Shirley Case, Doug Haise, Vincent Johnson, Eric Marchese, Paul Orsi, Bob Pinsker, Ron Ross and Ryan Wishner. Banjo player Jimmy Green will be on hand to sit in with some of the pianists. Returning from last year are string player Tom Marion, back with an all-new string trio, and the ever-popular vaudeville duo Evans & Rogers, a unique act that blends vintage songs with humor, patter and great stage presence.



Musicians from RagFest 2015 gather around the piano at FCLO's rehearsal hall.

Photo by Lisa Pinsker

The festival will start at noon and wind up at 6 p.m. After a short dinner break, we'll reconvene for our 8 p.m. revue show, which will feature many of the performers from the afternoon sets. Some surprise

guests will also take the stage.

All events take place at the FCLO rehearsal hall, 218 W. Commonwealth Ave. in downtown Fullerton. The afternoon sets will feature concurrent performances in both the lobby and on the main stage. The evening show will unfold on the main stage.

There are no advance ticket sales. All admissions can be purchased at the door via cash as well as checks made out to Friends of Jazz. Admission price for the afternoon segment is \$15 per person, \$20 per person for the evening revue show, and \$30 per person for both.

Please contact festival director Eric Marchese at 714-836-1104 or emarchesewriter@gmail.com with any questions. 🎵

Mary Ransom was a 'gracious and giving person'

For more than 40 years, the native New Yorker made her home in Fullerton, where she devoted herself to charities, philanthropic endeavors and community causes.

Mary Ransom, a longtime supporter of and major donor to Friends of Jazz, passed peacefully in her home in Fullerton on July 16 of this year at the age of 81.

Mary became involved with FOJ almost from its inception, becoming one of the organization's biggest donors and purchasing full pages in the Mardi Gras Ball program in support of the event and of FOJ.



FOJ's Nick Batinich, a close friend of the Ransom family, called Mary "a very gracious and giving person."

"She was a great supporter of

'She was a great friend to many... she loved to travel, was a voracious reader, and loved a good debate or argument.' Loved ones will miss Mary's hospitality, her laughter and her selflessness.

FOJ for many years, as well as of community activities and charities," Nick said. "She was one that could always be counted on."

Mary was born and raised in Queens, New York, where she attended the Mary Louis Acade-



Mary Ransom with friends at an FOJ event.

my. She and husband J. Marshall Ransom lived in eight different states before settling in Fullerton in 1974. Committed to her Catholic faith, Mary dedicated her time to philanthropic efforts both locally and abroad. She is survived by four children, eight grandchildren and three sisters.

Mary's family and all who knew her called her "a great friend to many," saying that she "loved to travel, was a voracious reader and loved a good debate or argument." They say the things they'll remember most about Mary are "her big hugs, her hospitality, her Eggs Benedict, her laughter and her selflessness." 🎵

FLORENTINE'S GRILL IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF FRIENDS OF JAZZ



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CalJAS event will feature a ton of FOJ musical talent

The upcoming CalJAS performance at the September 29 Claremont fundraising event will feature FOJ's own Dale Boatman plus the CalJAS All-Stars: Joe Bagg, Glenn Cashman, Bruce Forman, Dave Tull and Ken Wild. Debbi Ebert is the special guest vocalist.

The event is being held by the Assistance League of Pomona Valley at the beautiful Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont. The evening will include great jazz, entertainment, fabulous food, fine wine, strolling magician, exciting opportunity baskets, live and online auctions, and much more.

Also on the CalJAS concert schedule, on October 21, is a special Friday house concert with Kate Reid. For more information about any of these CalJAS events, or if you would like to host a house concert, contact Dale Boatman, Dale175@aol.com. 🎵

FRIENDS OF JAZZ, INC.
Second Decade of Keeping Music in Our Schools
Membership Categories for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Gold Benefactor (\$2,500+)	All benefits of Benefactor level plus two complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Mardi Gras gala dinner-dance.
Benefactor (\$1,000)	All benefits of Patron level plus two additional complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Sponsors party (12/11/2016).
Patron (\$500)	All benefits of Sponsor level plus recognition at a student scholarship presentation.
Sponsor (\$250)	All benefits of Friend level plus two complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Sponsors party (12/11/2016).
Friend (\$100)	All benefits of General level plus two complimentary tickets, when available, to a jazz event at CSUF or Fullerton College.
General (\$50)	Invitation to Friends of Jazz events plus recognition in FOJ newsletter.
Student (\$20)	Invitation to Friends of Jazz events plus recognition in FOJ newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FOR JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

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KEEPING MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS: OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

____ Yes, I'd like to help with fundraisers, scholarship awards, mailings! Please contact me.

For more information, call Jean Klinghoffer, 714-871-6342, or Barbara Fischer, 714-526-5667.

Website: friendsofjazzinc.com

Friends of Jazz is California non-profit educational corporation organized under the laws of the State of California and tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor in reference to the deductibility of funds or merchandise donated to FOJ.

The charmed musical life of Jeremy Siskind

In the 12 years since he was awarded an FOJ scholarship, pianist and Orange County native Jeremy Siskind has been on an incredible journey. That journey has situated him in the heart of the jazz world, New York City, first as a student, then as a participant in numerous piano competitions, and as a performer, recording artist, educator and author.

Siskind's talents were evident for many of those in Friends of Jazz who first met him in 2004 and heard him play: He deservedly was awarded an FOJ scholarship that year at a ceremony at Steamers Jazz Club & Café in Fullerton. In fact, his parents still actively support FOJ, having donated \$1,000 this past spring.

The Irvine native started playing piano at the age of four. While in high school, he became interested in jazz and began studying with pianists Linda Martinez and Tamir Hendelman in the Los Angeles area. Soon, he enrolled in and attended the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he studied piano with Tony Caramia and Harold Danko.

Realizing that New York City was the place to be, Siskind moved there and began working on a masters de-

gree in English Literature at Columbia. He also began performing as a freelance artist, became a student of jazz legend Fred Hersch, and earned recognition in several of the world's most important jazz competitions – the Nottingham International Solo Piano Competition, in which he won 1st prize, the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, in which he took 2nd prize, and the American Pianist Association's Cole Porter Fellowship, in which he was a two-time finalist.


Siskind made his debut at Carnegie Hall in 2012, performing classical music in the concert's first half and jazz in the second. Since then, he has been a full-time Professor of Piano at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, and in 2014 he became Chair of the Keyboard Area.

In addition to his teaching duties, Siskind has published four books with Hal Leonard, including solo etudes, duets for two pianists, and a new instructional book, "The Jazz Band Pianist." He has also been busy recording. "Housewarming," his latest album, features Grammy-winner Kurt Elling. A review in *DownBeat* magazine praised the recording as "a shining example" of the chamber jazz genre and awarded it a four-star rating.



Siskind has traveled to China, Nepal, Thailand, Japan, Switzerland, Tunisia, France, and England as a performer and teacher of jazz piano, frequently with the non-profit organization Jazz Education Abroad, which aims to bring knowledge about and education of jazz to students who may not have ready access to the music. At a special benefit concert held in Irvine in 2015, he raised \$2,700 for the Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory in Nepal.

Besides these professional ventures, Siskind has become a trailblazer for the house concert movement. His trio has performed roughly 80 in-home concerts in 25 different states, and he gave a presentation called "The Art of the In-Home Concert" at the Jazz Education Network convention held in San Diego in January, 2015.

You can learn more about Siskind at his website, www.jeremysiskind.com. He encourages Friends of Jazz members to visit the site, to learn more about him and his activities, and to contact him to say hello. 



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Hello to these new FOJ members

We welcome the following individuals and couples as the newest members of Friends of Jazz:

Collin Crestol (student)
 Johana D. Bonillas
 Sue and Frank Natalizio
 Pat and Rick Nelson
 Greg Shank
 Ray Smith
 Paul and Sheryl Tecker (parents of student
 Dave Tecker)

**Sept. 11, 2016:
MEMBERS PARTY,
WESTRIDGE GOLF CLUB,
LA HABRA**



friends of jazz

Phone: 714/680-6684
Fax: 714/680-0743

News & Notes

THE NEXT major Friends of Jazz event is the upcoming annual Members Party on Sunday, September 11. This fun, casual-attire event offers drinks, hors d'oeuvres and plenty of live jazz.

Be sure to contact FOJ soon to RSVP for the evening by calling Charlotte Henderson at 714-870-9067 or Dottie Batinich at 714-525-6669.



Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 11, 2016 Members Party, Westridge Golf Club, La Habra
Oct. 9, 2016 Oktoberfest, Los Coyotes Country Club
Dec. 11, 2016 Sponsors Party, Los Coyotes, Buena Park



AROUND TOWN

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley's Sept. 29 fundraiser at the Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont features several jazz performers connected with Friends of Jazz and familiar to most of our members: **Dale Boatman**, **Debbi Ebert**, **Bruce Forman**, **Glenn Cashman**, **Joe Bagg**, **Dave Tull** and **Ken Wild**. You can contact Dale, Dale175@aol.com, for more information on the event. Dale is also in charge of a special Friday night CalJAS house concert featuring **Kate Reid**, being held on Oct. 21, so be sure to reach Dale for more details.

FOJ's **Jennifer Hart** sings at Baci Restaurant, Huntington Beach, on Sept. 2, with pianist **Hal Ratliff** (formerly with The Righteous Brothers) as her accompanist; at Brix at the Shore in Long Beach on Sept. 10; again at Baci on Sept. 17; at The Port restaurant in Corona del Mar on Sept. 20, accompanied by pianist **Ron Kobayashi**; and at the Fullerton Elks Lodge, with Hal Ratliff on piano, on Sept. 30. You can also catch Jennifer's Hart and Soul band at Adele's in the San Clemente Inn on Friday night Sept. 23.

Saxophone player **Henry Alexander** is featured from 5 to 8 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month at D'Vine, a new downtown Fullerton restaurant billed as "a Mediterranean Experience." For more information, call 714-592-0001 or email info@dvineexperience.com.

