

JIVE TALKIN'

Doc Severinsen blows roof off of Clayes open house

Cal State Fullerton may have devoted an entire day's worth of events to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of its Joseph A.W. Clayes III Performing Arts Center, but it was Doc Severinsen who literally blew the roof off the Meng Concert Hall in the late-afternoon concert that was the culmination of the occasion.

The afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 6, was promoted as a "Community Open House" for the center – which broke ground as a building project in spring 2003 and officially opened on Jan. 13, 2006 – and included Marc Cherry, an alumnus of the theater arts department known as the creator and executive producer of the ABC series "Desperate Housewives," as the second featured guest besides Severinsen.

Events preceding the concert included excerpts from upcoming theater productions,



Doc Severinsen and, above, vocalist Vanessa Thomas.

Photos by Cindy Yamanaka

a history of the center "from A to Z," a dance presentation, a cello performance, and a "View From Above" tour of Meng Hall's "acoustic canopy" in venues named for long-time FOJ members and supporters James D. Young, Jerry Samuelson and William J. McGarvey. The varied pro-

gram served as a showcase for the talents of both students and faculty.

The 4 p.m. concert, which featured the Fullerton Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Bill Cunliffe, opened with a performance by Cherry of "One More Walk Around the Garden" from the musical

"Carmelina."

The student orchestra featured Severinsen and, as a special guest vocalist, soprano Vanessa Thomas, a regular performer in Doc's symphony pops shows and holiday pops concerts whom Doc discov-

Please see **CLAYES** on pg. 4.

FOJ hoists up another great Oktoberfest celebration

For the fourth consecutive year, FOJ held an Oktoberfest party as an annual Friends of Jazz fundraiser/pre-Mardi Gras Ball party. Since last year's event was so successful, its format and ingredients were replicated: Los Coyotes Country Club was the site, authentic German cuisine was served up, and authentic Bavarian music was delivered by The Alpine Quintet.

The opportunity prizes

were awarded after dinner, at which time FOJ president Colleen Wadsworth thanked Oktoberfest chairs Dottie Batinich and Charlotte Henderson for all their efforts in putting the event together – including the many phone calls they made to the membership at large.

A total of 65 guests attended the Oktoberfest, which netted FOJ \$2,400. 🎵



Photos by Doug Catiller, True Image Studio

For more Oktoberfest photos, see page 4.





Quarter Notes

FOJ wants to extend a hearty THANK YOU to its volunteers, especially in the area of helping with mailings. Jean Klinghoffer, who with Barbara Fischer organizes and oversees the mailing of every flyer, announcement and even this newsletter, says "Our members are wonderful in stepping up and volunteering to help with the Friends of Jazz mailings." And if you'd like to help out with future mailings, please contact Jean Klinghoffer (714-870-6342) or Barbara Fisher (714-526-5667).



If you still haven't reserved your spot at this year's Sponsors Party, it isn't too late. The party is on Sunday, December 11, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Los Coyotes Country Club, and is FOJ's way of saying thank you to all members who have joined in the past year at the \$250 level or higher. Please contact Dottie Batinich (714-525-6669) or Charlotte Henderson (714-870-9067) for information or to reserve your spot.



Friends of Jazz's high school jazz band program for spring of 2017 is close to being finalized. The first Saturday afternoon concert is scheduled for January 28 and the final one for May 20. Kennedy, Long Beach Poly, El Dorado, Yorba Linda, Fullerton, Valencia, Katella, Mission Viejo, Esperanza and Irvine high schools are signed for next spring.

All 10 performances are on Saturdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m., are free to the public, and will be held at Florentine's Grill, 102 N. Harbor Blvd. in downtown Fullerton. Doors open at noon. For more information, contact FOJ's Jim Harlan, jim@jim-harlan.com.

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www.friendsofjazzinc.com

FOJ lends a hand to Amazon Library's recorder program



While touring the northern Amazon region in October, Jerry Wolf and others discovered a remote village with a library that offers a recorder instruction program similar to FOJ's. Here, Jerry poses in front of the instruction charts posted on the library's wall. *Photo by Linda Duarte Wolf*

A real surprise awaited Jerry and Linda Wolf during their three-week visit to South America when they discovered a recorder instruction program, similar to FOJ's, at a library in a remote village in the northern Amazon.

The Wolfs were in South America from Oct. 16 through Nov. 7, spending the first week in the Amazon region, second at Machu Picchu, and the third at the Galapagos Islands. Jerry said he and Linda and six others were in the Amazon with a group known as OAT (Overseas Adventure Travel). In touring a little village Jerry said was "in the middle of nowhere," the group came across a library whose after-school programs include recorder instruction. The nearest populous area is Iquitos, Peru, the city that serves as a gateway to the jungle lodges and tribal villages of the northern Amazon.

Jerry said that schoolchildren come to Amazon Library "from all over" for, among other subjects, art instruction, reading classes, and playing the recorder. The recorder classes, he said, draw an average of 30 kids. The library had a total of 30 recorders but no instruction books – just a chart on the wall.

Upon returning home, Jerry, seeing that this well off-the-beaten-path program could use some help, turned to FOJ, which authorized sending 30 recorders and 60 music books to the library (plus two "extra" recorders as backups in case one or two of the 30 are damaged).

Jerry said that with the new totals of 60 recorders and 60 instruction books, "each child in the program has two recorders and music books" – one of each at the library, one of each at home, allowing them to practice at home and not have to carry their recorders and books back and forth to and from school. "Hopefully," Jerry said, "FOJ will make this an annual gifting event."

At FC, scholarships highlight warm November night

By Eric Marchese

On Tuesday night, November 8, while many were casting their votes or watching election night returns at home, the Fullerton College Music Department held its annual late-fall concert at the Campus Theatre featuring the J Train Vocal Jazz group and the Fullerton College Jazz Band.

The focal point of the evening, of course, was the awarding and dispersal of Friends of Jazz scholarship funds to a total of 26 students, many of whom are past recipients of FOJ monies. All were nominated by Bruce Babad, coordinator of the jazz band, jazz combo and the jazz studies program; Dr. Joe Jewell, coordinator of the jazz combo and the guitar studies program; Mike Scott, jazz combo and jazz/classical guitar instructor; and Chad Willis, jazz lab band and brass studies coordinator.

Babad and the 17-member Jazz Band got things rolling with the famed Buddy Rich big band number "Standing Up In A Hammock," featuring Kaylah Ivey on drums, Deandre Grover on tenor sax and Miguel Partida on guitar. Along with alto sax player Ben Sachs, Grover was again featured on "Screaming Seeding Protagonists," composed and arranged by Joey Sellers.

Glynis Davies, interim vocal jazz instructor and J Train director, thanked the students and staff of Fullerton College before introducing the 14 vocalists (7 women, 7 men), who launched into "My Melancholy Baby" arranged by Phil Mattson, known as "the grandfather of vocal jazz." Done in an up-tempo style with much scat singing, the song was followed by the slow, mellow, soft and introspective "Old Friends/Bookends" by Paul Simon. The singers were accompanied by the rhythm section of Ivey, Partida, Tina Park on piano and Cole Sainburg on bass.

The Jazz Band returned with a fiery, brassy "Whatever Lola Wants," featuring Partida on guitar and guest artist Chad Willis on trumpet; the slow, sensual "Committed," with incredible solo sax work by Grover; and "Karma Police," featuring Park on piano and with a cool, mellow big-band sound through an arrangement by its composer, Nathan York, who Bruce Babad said had studied jazz at Fullerton College.

Bruce then announced the scholarship presentation by saying "Let's welcome the beautiful Jamie Shew, the equally beautiful Chad Willis, and Friends of Jazz's Nick Batinich and Colleen Wadsworth" to the stage.

Colleen noted that since its inception, FOJ has awarded more than \$1 million in monies, with Nick adding that 400 of those scholarships went to Fullerton College students. On this night, those figures were increased by a total of \$10,000 and 26 scholarships.

The following instrumentalists came up on stage, shook hands with Bruce, Jamie, Chad, Colleen and Nick, and were handed a check by Nick and Colleen: Grover, Ivey, Partida, Park, Sainburg and Sachs, and Joshua Chavez (trumpet), Giulio Figueroa (drums), Sam Gonzalez (trombone), Spencer Hinkle (bass), Madison Holland (guitar), Miles Nalasa (guitar), Luke Ray (drums), Jose Rios (guitar), James Teubner (trumpet) and Carlos Zagal (bass). Their checks total \$6,750.

Of the 14 vocalists, 10 were nominated by Davies and received checks totaling \$3,750: Alexandra Campero (second soprano), Travis Ciortan (baritone), Laurena Corona-McNeill (alto), Nathan Diaz (bass), Gian Manahan (tenor),



Photos by Eric Marchese



Zachary Nalezny (bass), Amy Piao (alto), Neyva Sandoval (first soprano), Kendall Stephens (alto) and Gio Thomas (first soprano).

J Train concluded the evening with three selections: An capella rendition of "What's In Your Heart" by the electronic funk-pop duo Kowner in an up-tempo yet mellow arrangement by Davies;

"Brazasia," a fusion of Asian and Brazilian sounds by composers Yutaka and Oscar Castro-Neves, featuring numerous J Train soloists; and Davies' arrangement of Stevie Wonder's "Knocks Me Off My Feet," given a big sound by the group and featuring the scat singing of eight soloists and great piano playing by Park. ♪

A gallery of memorable Oktoberfest moments



Photos by Doug Catiller, True Image Studio



CLAYES, continued from page 1

ered in a small town in her home state of Kansas.

The 89-year-old but still youthful Grammy Award-winning trumpeter, wearing what one audience member described as “a loud, rockin’ hot pink rhinestoned suit,” and the student musicians did a few selections before bringing on singer Thomas.

FOJ’s Judi McDuff described Thomas as “phenomenal, with a deep, throaty

voice akin to Sarah Vaughan.”

Judi said that the soprano, who has a four-octave vocal range, “wowed ’em by singing up into the Mariah Carey range and staying there – unbelievable,” which resulted in a standing ovation.

The program included “Here’s That Rainy Day,” “September Song,” “Singin’ in the Rain,” “Georgia on My Mind,” “Jumpin’ at the Woodside,” and the “Johnny Carson Theme” composed by Paul Anka. 



Final bows: Thomas, Doc and Bill Cunliffe. CSUF photos by Cindy Yamanaka

September a great time to be a member



Photos by Eric Marchese

The annual Friends of Jazz Members Party was held at Los Coyotes Country Club on Sunday, September 11. The 70 attendees enjoyed wonderful food and live music provided by student jazz musicians from Cal State University Fullerton.

This photo gallery illustrates some of the evening's highlights, which included FOJ president Colleen Wadsworth's inviting all of the Friends of Jazz board members to take the stage (top row, center) and receive recognition for their ongoing efforts on behalf of FOJ and in fulfilling the mission of keeping music in our schools.



RagFest's 'sweet 16' generates top-notch ragtime music

RagFest 2016, the 16th Fullerton ragtime festival put on by FOJ, filled an entire afternoon and evening at FCLO Music Theatre's rehearsal hall space on Commonwealth Ave. on November 15.

Attendance was fairly low, but the event drew many new patrons and generated a slight net profit due to low overall expenses and a tight budget.

Highlights included the all-new string trio of Tom Marion, Frank Fairfield and Dave Jones; the sensational pianistics of Paul Orsi; and a wide variety of obscure vaudeville songs, jokes and patter by the duo of Evans & Rogers, including a recreation of Gallagher and Shean's famed song "Absolutely Mr. Gallagher, Posi-



Paul O'Neil's "RagFest Model T" parked in front of the FCLO Music Theatre rehearsal hall in preparation for RagFest 2016.

tively Mr. Shean."

Founding artistic director Eric Marchese said that crowd favorite Brad Kay returned after having missed the festival in 2015,

bringing with him the dynamite vocal talents Suzy Williams, Mews Small and Dutch Newman.

Young pianist-composers Andrew Barrett, Vincent Johnson and Ryan Wishner all had multiple smash sets and contributed several striking original ragtime compositions.

A pleasant surprise was the appearance of Chris Fisher, a CSUF student and classmate of Barrett's who did some outstanding playing during "open piano" sets and was offered a spot in the 8 p.m. revue show. His selection: a low-down, improvising version of "Maple Leaf Rag," the 1899 hit that's considered "the grand-daddy of all rags."



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.

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

Website: friendsofjazzinc.com

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Friends of Jazz mourns the passing of Roger Shew

By Eric Marchese

Roger Shew, husband of Cal State Fullerton vocal jazz instructor Jamie Shew, died on Aug. 30 at the age of 42 after a battle with a rare form of cancer.

At the time of his death, Roger, the jazz band teacher for the Laguna Beach School District, had already undergone three major surgeries and chemotherapy and radiation treatments and was undergoing immunotherapy to fight MPNST, a cancer of connective tissue that surrounds nerves that had spread to his spinal cord.

Roger taught for 12 years at both Laguna Beach High School and Laguna Beach Middle School. His Laguna Beach faculty colleagues had set up a fundraiser on the GoFundMe website to help cover his medical costs, raising a total of \$63,660. Those fellow teachers had this to say about him:

“Roger had served as one of



Roger, Jamie and Simon Shew

the most impactful members of our Laguna Beach community, year after year inspiring students and enriching them with the joys of music. There are no words to truly express what a positive impact he has had on the lives of so many in our community. His ability to not only be a teacher to every one of his students but a true friend created one of the greatest environments for developing a lifelong love for music.”

“His passion for teaching and his work ethic went well above and beyond the expectations of any music teacher. Teaching Jazz Combo before class and staying after when students need extra help was proof in itself of his drive to better the lives of his students.”

Roger was not only a jazz instructor but an accomplished jazz bass player as well, joining wife Jamie on both her 2003 debut album,

“The Answers Are You,” and her 2012 album, “A Place For Me.” The couple have a nine-year-old son, Simon.

Everyone connected with Friends of Jazz knows Jamie Shew as the Director of the Vocal Jazz Studies Program at Fullerton College.

In her position at the college, Jamie has assisted FOJ in awarding and distributing thousands of dollars each year to vocal jazz students who show the most promise and whose talents have blossomed through her instruction and guidance. Like husband Roger, Jamie is also a performer, appearing at and singing for a wide variety of events throughout Southern California.

Funeral services for Roger Shew were held Sept. 25 at the Fullerton College Campus Theatre. Any donations to help Jamie and Simon would be greatly appreciated and can be directed to the GoFundMe website. ♪

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



Come and visit this beautiful spot in downtown Fullerton and enjoy fresh pasta, barbecue and more – and every spring we proudly host Friends of Jazz's wonderful high school jazz band program!

Florentine's Grill, 102 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton.

714-879-7570 and florentinesgrill.com

Cal State University Fullerton musicians get FOJ cash awards

A total of \$10,000 is dispersed to 17 students.

Each year, as the fall semester at Cal State University draws to a close, student jazz musicians are selected to receive scholarship funds from Friends of Jazz.

For 2016, a total of 17 students were announced as this year's recipients, roughly half of whom are members of the Fullerton Jazz Orchestra and big band. The news was announced at a special presentation at CSUF on Friday night, Dec. 2.

The student musicians are Danny Anaya (guitar),

Christine Araoka (piano), Michael Barrera (drums), Michael Bautista (trumpet), Zach Caplinger (guitar), Max Cogert (percussion), Shawn Graham (bass), Edgar Guardiania (tenor saxophone), Josh Jerome (saxophone), Christian Lissner (trumpet), Andrew Martelle (bass), Sean Mehaffy (baritone), RJ Root (guitar), Erika Takagi (guitar), Freddy Uyehara (bass), Ryan Weller (alto sax) and Brian Wright (bass).

While the individual sums of each award vary, the total donated by Friends of Jazz was \$10,000. ♪

**Dec. 11, 2016:
SPONSORS PARTY,
LOS COYOTES COUNTRY
CLUB, BUENA PARK**



Friends of Jazz

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

News & Notes

THE NEXT major Friends of Jazz event is the upcoming annual Sponsors Party on Sunday, December 11, devoted to those who have joined FOJ at the membership level of \$250 or higher.

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



Dec. 11, 2016

March 12, 2017

Upcoming Events:

Sponsors Party, Los Coyotes, Buena Park

FOJ's 16th annual Mardi Gras Ball,
Embassy Suites Hotel, Brea



AROUND TOWN

On Friday night, Dec. 16, the Hart and Soul Band is at Adele's in the San Clemente Inn featuring **Jennifer Hart**, vocals; **Mark Isbell**, sax; **Benjamin May**, piano; **Will Lyle**, bass; and **John Lecce**, drums and featuring the music of December-born Bette Midler, Ira Gershwin, Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Dionne Warwick plus loads of holiday music for just a \$5 cover. On Tuesday night Dec. 20, the Port Restaurant in Corona del Mar presents Jennifer as guest vocalist with pianist **Ron Kobayashi**. You can also spend Christmas Eve hearing Jennifer sing, accompanied by pianist **Mahesh Balasooria**, while enjoying dinner at Baci Italian restaurant in Huntington Beach.

Mark your 2017 calendars now for Friends of Jazz's biggest event of all: Our annual Mardi Gras Ball, in the ballroom at Brea's Embassy Suites on the evening of March 12, 2017. The festivities will give you the chance to hear a ton of great Dixieland jazz, dance in a New Orleans-style parade, bid on super silent auction items and enjoy great company and great food. Stay tuned to *Jive Talkin'*, because our next issue will feature a preview of this spectacular, one-of-a-kind event.

You'll also want to start setting a few Saturday afternoons aside for Friends of Jazz's springtime high school jazz band program at Florentine's Grill in downtown Fullerton. Performances are free to the public, so be sure to set aside Jan. 28; Feb. 11, 18 and 25; March 25; April 8, 15 and 22; and May 13 and 20. Which bands appear on those dates has yet to be finalized, but El Dorado, Esperanza, Fullerton, Irvine, Katella, Kennedy, Long Beach Poly, Mission Viejo, Valencia and Yorba Linda high schools are all set to perform.

