

JIVE TALKIN'

RagFest finds a new home in the city of Brea

FOJ's annual ragtime music festival will be held in September at the Curtis Theatre — the event's first time outside of Fullerton.

RagFest, the annual ragtime music festival created by Friends of Jazz in the spring of 2000, has always been held in Fullerton — that is, until now.

For the first time ever, RagFest is being held at the Curtis Theatre in Brea. It's the first time in the event's 17-year history that it's being held outside of Fullerton.

Scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, RagFest 2017 starts at noon and runs through 6 p.m. After a dinner break, the festival resumes at 8 p.m. with a ragtime revue show on the Curtis stage.

The Curtis Theatre is a beautiful venue located at the heart of the city's civic and cultural center. It boasts 199 seats, yet is intimate — not a bad seat in the house. The theater opened in 1980, yet to date looks almost brand-new, and is named for Dr. Glenn Curtis, who had a 30-year career practicing medicine in Brea and was devoted to the community and its individual residents.

Drop in on RagFest and you'll be submerged in a wonderful afternoon and evening of toe-tapping syncopation, all courtesy of some of the most amazing keyboard wizards you've ever seen — or heard! Get ready for



Above: Bill Mitchell; below: Rick Rogers and Sharon Evans.



Photos by Norma Spinney and Sue Bennett



Above: Those Syncopating Songbirds pile into the RagFest Model T; below: Vincent Johnson at the Muck gallery.



Above: Mikal Sandoval and Brad Kay; below: Dutch Newman croons on the stage at Steamers.



an afternoon of great ragtime through half-hour sets by the performers — then, after the dinner break, a ragtime revue show on the Curtis stage. You'll also have the chance to meet the performers firsthand, purchase their ragtime recordings and talk with them.

Ragtime music's heyday spanned the 1890s through the late 1910s and boasted pianist-composers like Scott Joplin, Eubie Blake, Zez Confrey, Jelly Roll Morton and James P. Johnson and a wide range of sub-genres such as folk ragtime, Tin Pan Alley, classic ragtime, Novelty and Stride.

RagFest's performers perpetuate the thousands of vintage pieces from this era via the piano and other instruments as well as in song. Many are also composers who'll perform wonderful new rags of their own creation.

One of the only annual ragtime festivals west of the Mississippi, RagFest provides local audiences a chance to hear some of the best ragtime musicians around while giving performers a way to connect with the music's biggest fans. Past RagFests have starred Ian Whitcomb, Tex Wyndham, Pat Aranda, Carl Sonny Leyland, Tom

Brier, Bill Mitchell, the Heliotrope Ragtime Orchestra and the Albany Nightboat Ragtimers. This year's festival will include past favorites like Vincent Johnson, Paul Orsi, the vaudeville duo of Evans & Rogers, Bob Pinsker, Shirley Case and Andrew Barrett. Johnny Hodges, a former Disneyland pianist, and Michael Chisholm are making their RagFest debuts.

RagFest founder Eric Marchese said that this year's

Please see RAGFEST on page 7.



♪♪♪♪ Quarter Notes ♪♪♪♪

FOJ's annual Oktoberfest party is always one of the most fun of all, complete with authentic German cuisine and the outstanding music and singing of the Alpine Quintet — great for dancing or if you just want to listen. As a bonus, you're invited to wear German, Austrian or Swiss attire, and it's always fun to see how your fellow FOJ members are dressed for the occasion. As yet another bonus, FOJ always has plenty of great items available to you through the opportunity drawing.

Tickets are \$65 per person and the RSVP date is October 14. If you're ready to get your tickets or would like more information about this year's Oktoberfest, please call Dottie Batinich at 714-525-6669 or Charlotte Henderson at 714-870-9067.



The Fourth-Grade Recorder program is nearly in full swing for the fall. Program director Jennifer Hart has lined up a total of six schools and will teach 17 classes (so far). The schools are Beechwood, Commonwealth, Golden Hill, Hermosa Drive, Raymond and Sunset Lane, and more are in the process of being added.



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

FOJ's annual Members Party is just around the corner

Friends of Jazz's annual Members Party is right around the corner, and it's one FOJ event you won't want to miss!

If your membership is currently paid up for 2017-'18, then you're invited to attend. The party is at 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 10, at the Fullerton home of Dottie and Nick Batinich.

Tickets are \$30 per attendee/current member. Appetizers, a buffet and a no-host bar will be on hand. King Ron and Queen Pat, the reigning monarchs of FOJ, have asked their subjects to dress in casual attire.

Music will be provided by student scholarship recipients and staff members of the Fullerton College and Cal State Fullerton music departments.

The Batinich home is located at 915 Valencia Mesa Drive, Fullerton. For more information about the party, please call Dottie Batinich, 714-525-6669, or Charlotte Henderson, 714-870-9067. ♪

The Four Freshmen visit Orange County



The legendary close-harmony vocal group The Four Freshmen made their first Orange County appearance of 2017 on August 2 as part of the Sunset Jazz at Newport summer jazz series at the Newport Beach Marriott's scenic outdoor Rose Garden.

Photo by Art Pazornik

Third year's the charm for Fullerton Day of Music

The now-annual, daylong, city-wide event hit its stride, offering upwards of 140 widely varied performances at more than 40 different venues.

The concept of “third time’s the charm” rang true at Day of Music 2017 as this new music festival in Fullerton completed its third Summer Solstice event with more than 140 musical performances, all free of charge for attendees to enjoy on June 21.

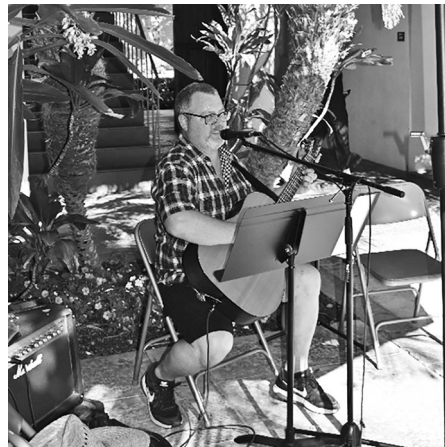
Music was heard in nearly every corner of Fullerton. DOM board member Carol van Ahlers said the event provided “a wide range of venues to enjoy the experience” and “a wide range of genres” that included jazz, hip-hop, latin, bluegrass, hard rock, indie rock” and more.

With a special effort to provide Mass Appeals geared to children, the day was filled with sounds from pBuzz instruments, bucket drums, harmonicas and Boomwhacker musical tubes. The Philharmonic Society of Orange County also was on hand to give kids hands-on experience with instruments of all types. A popular Femme Fest at Fullerton’s historic Plummer Auditorium also drew large crowds.

“We all finished off the night extremely tired and proud that once again the Fullerton community rose to the occasion, found the fun and wonder of music in ways that best touched their interests and hearts,” van Ahlers said.

“We owe the musicians who played for free a hearty thank-you, as well as the business community and those who attended, for creating an amazing event,” van Ahlers noted.

Attendance figures, she said, “are yet to be finalized,” but the event “did have more than 40 venues and 140+ performances” and reaction from businesses was “very positive.” Judging from the crowds that day and the smiles on their faces, so were the reaction and sense of enjoyment from those who came from far and wide to hear an impressive variety of musical genres.



Photos by Carol van Ahlers and Lynne Tsuda



Jeremy Siskind returns to Orange County

Jeremy Siskind, who was awarded a Friends of Jazz scholarship in 2004 for his talents as a jazz pianist, is returning to Southern California to teach music at Fullerton College.

The move is a homecoming for Jeremy, who grew up in Orange County and has made frequent visits over the years.

Since 2012, Jeremy has been teaching at Western Michigan University, where he was a full-time professor of piano and where, in 2014, he was Keyboard Area chair. He said he's going to miss WMU and the many people he has befriended there – so he called the news of his return to Southern California “bittersweet.”



Jeremy Siskind, a native of Irvine, has returned to Southern California: He'll begin teaching music this fall at Fullerton College.

Photo by Jennifer Taylor



Jeremy Siskind at his Kathmandu benefit concert in Irvine in 2015.

Photo by Katherine Cash

“I’ve met so many incredibly special people in Kalamazoo, particularly at Western Michigan University. I’ve had the opportunity to work with some of the most dedicated colleagues and students imaginable and witnessed an artistic community that provided them with unparalleled support.”

“It’s truly been my privilege to guide young musicians at WMU for the past five years. That said, I’m very excited

to be joining an amazing faculty at Fullerton College this fall, and to have the chance to start playing with world-class musicians in the Los Angeles area. See you soon, SoCal!”

Jeremy actually completed his move in August and is already in place to begin his tenure at Fullerton College.

Many current FOJ members recall first hearing Jeremy play piano at Steamers in 2004. The Irvine native began playing piano at age four and became interested in jazz while in high school, when he started studies with jazz pianists Linda Martinez and Tamir Hendelman.

He enrolled in and attended the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, furthering his studies with Tony Caramia and Harold Danko. Aware that New York City is the heart of the jazz world, he moved there and began working on a Masters Degree in English Literature at Columbia University. While in New York, he began participating in numerous piano competitions and earned recognition in several of them, including the Nottingham International Solo Piano Competition, the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition and the American Pianist Association’s Cole Porter Fellowship.

Jeremy’s activities in New York also included work as a pianist-performer and recording artist. He also started his teaching career and became an author: He has published eight books with Hal Leonard, including a new instructional book, “The Jazz Band Pianist”; “The Magic of Standards,” a collection of eight new arrangements of beloved songs such as “Laura” and “Puttin’ On the Ritz”; and “Jazz Etude Inspirations,” a collection of eight original piano etudes inspired by some of the most important jazz pianists in history.


As a jazz piano performer and teacher, Jeremy has traveled to China, Thailand, Nepal, Japan, Switzerland, Tunisia, France and England, frequently with Jazz Education Abroad. The non-profit organization’s aim is to bring know-

‘I’m very excited to be joining an amazing faculty at Fullerton College this fall, and looking forward to engaging with inspired students.’

– *Jeremy Siskind*

ledge about education of jazz to students who may not have ready access to the music.

In 2015, Jeremy came home to Irvine to hold a special benefit concert, where he raised \$2,700 for the Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory in Nepal.

More recently, Jeremy was featured on the November 2016 cover of Piano Teacher magazine – all the more fitting, now that he’s back at home in the role of teacher. 

Save the dates of these Friends of Jazz events!

Members Party

RagFest 2017

Oktoberfest

Sponsors Party

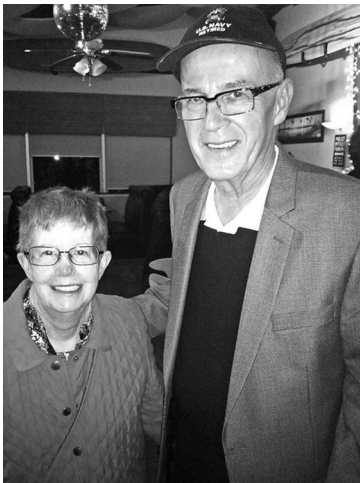
September 10, home of Nick and Dottie Batinich, Fullerton

September 23, Curtis Theatre, Brea

October 22, Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park

January 28, 2018, Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park

Culverhouses log many miles in support of FOJ



Robert and Elaine Culverhouse

If you've been to any FOJ events over the last few years, chances are you've seen or met Elaine and Robert Culverhouse. And if you've spoken with them, you've discovered that they drive from their home in Temecula to north Orange County – a lot more mileage than most FOJ members put in for the cause.

From 2010 up through this past June, Robert was curator for the *Classics at The Merc* series in Temecula, which comes under the umbrella of the California Chamber Orchestra and offers Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts in Temecula.

It was through FOJ's Jennifer Hart that the Culverhouses first became aware of FOJ. Jennifer had performed at the *Jazz at The Merc* series, an adjunct of *Classics at The Merc*.

The Culverhouses told us

that after meeting Jennifer, "she sparked our interest in her wonderful work with the recorder program. She introduced us to FOJ. We were aware of funding cuts in the music appreciation and educational arenas, and we joined to support music education."

As Jennifer Hart says, "they come all the way from Temecula to attend our activities and have been *very* generous."

That generosity has taken the form of donations to FOJ, much of that in support of the fourth-grade recorder program.

"We support the recorder program on several levels," Robert Culverhouse said. "Grade-school students need financial support the most. If we can spark an interest in music in a young student, then the recorder program is a great success."

They say they "try to attend as many FOJ events as possible," even despite the fact that they have a home in Maine and travel frequently.

Robert Culverhouse said he and his wife "have been impressed with the leadership of FOJ. Each FOJ event we attend is always well planned and thoughtfully presented. Elaine and I are always warmly greeted by FOJ

board members. Jean and Bill (Klinghoffer) have been especially kind and gracious in making us feel welcome."

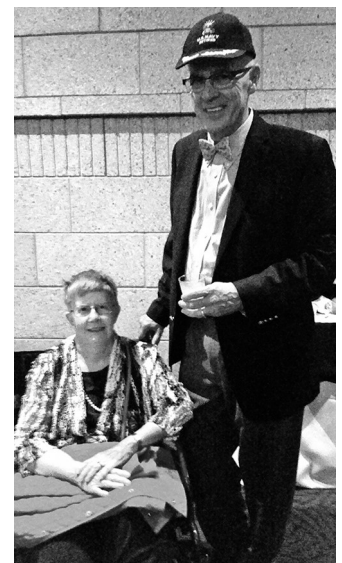
So, who are these wonderful supporters who have given so much of themselves to FOJ in terms of ongoing membership, attendance at various Friends of Jazz events, and monetary gifts?

Elaine was born in the Panama Canal Zone, when her dad was a Navy physician on active duty there, and raised in Washington, DC. She was graduated from Rosemont College in Pennsylvania with a degree in French and English and holds a BSN from the University of San Francisco and an MSN from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Robert was born and raised in Massachusetts. He has a BSN degree from California State University Long Beach and an MS degree in Health Services Administration from St. Mary's College, Moraga, California.

Elaine and Robert met in San Francisco while assigned to the staff of the VA Medical Center. Collectively, they spent 41 years in the Navy as Nurse Corps Officers. During their married life

of 27 years, they have lived in Durham, NC, Novato, CA, and Los Altos, CA. In 2008, they retired to Temecula – Elaine as a Lieutenant Commander and Robert as a Commander. Now retired, they divide their time traveling and spending time in their homes in Temecula and Maine. They have no children,




Elaine and Robert Culverhouse during a 2015 event at CSUF's Meng Hall.

Photo by Judi McDuff

but are "the proud humans to three cats, Nemo, Leslie and Cookie."

What with FOJ's efforts on behalf of music, do either sing or play any instruments?

"We're not musicians," Robert notes, "although Elaine plays a little piano." 

FRIENDS OF JAZZ, INC.
Second Decade of Keeping Music in Our Schools
Membership Categories for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

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 (1/28/2018).
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 (1/28/2018).
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, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018

Category _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ Date _____

Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone (_____) _____ (please include all phone numbers)

E-mail address _____

Mail to: Friends of Jazz, Inc., P.O. Box 5671, Fullerton, CA 92838-0671

Payment Method _____ Check _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ AMEX

Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____ (mm/yy)

V-Code (3 digits on back of card) _____ [AMEX: Use 4-digits from front of card]

Name on Card _____

Cardholder acknowledges receipt of goods and/or services in the amount of the total shown hereon and agrees to perform the obligations set forth in the cardholder's agreement with issuer.

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.

Get ready for FOJ's always-festive Oktoberfest

Ever-popular annual event has drawn high praise in recent years for its wholly authentic German music, cuisine and atmosphere.

It's never too soon to start planning for Friends of Jazz's annual Oktoberfest, one of FOJ's most popular events.

As in recent years, the 2017 Oktoberfest will be held at Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park and will feature the authentic German music of the Orange County-based Alpine Quintet. The party runs from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 22. Tickets are \$65



The Alpine Quintet entertains at FOJ's 2016 Oktoberfest.

Photo by Doug Catiller

per person. The delicious dinner includes authentic German cuisine to match the music.

The most recent FOJ Oktoberfest parties have drawn high praise for their great food,

festive atmosphere and, most notably, the Alpine Quintet's high-spirited music and gregarious stage presence.

You have until October 14 to RSVP for the party. For more

information about the event, entertainment, food, parking and other details, please contact Dottie Batinich at 714-525-6669 or Charlotte Henderson at 714-870-9067. 🎵

Friends of Jazz's latest new and returning members

We welcome these new and returning supporters to FOJ's membership rolls:

New members:

George Ennis

Bill Farkes

Terrence and Pamela Kennedy

Cindy Leone

Jeremy Siskind

Renewals:

Dennis Aigner

Terry Blackley

Jill DeWeese

Catherine Gach

Bob Hathaway

David and Julie Hodge

Gordon and Gail Judd

Irene Kauppi

David Klein

Ann and Doug Myles

Leona Pecs

Mike Sullivan

RAGFEST, continued from page 1

festival is being dedicated to Bill Mitchell, who passed away this summer at the age of 92. Marchese called him "one of ragtime music's elder statesmen" and said he "anchored every RagFest from the first one back in the fall of 2000." Marchese also noted that since this year is the centennial of Scott Joplin's death, audiences can expect to hear much of his music.

Tickets are now on sale to the public online and also by phone, in person and by mail. Ticket prices are \$15 per person for the afternoon segment, \$20

person for the evening show, and \$30 per person for the entire festival (both segments if purchased simultaneously).

Tickets may be purchased online 24 hours a day by going to the website, curtistheatre.com. Each purchase transacted online via credit card will carry a service charge of \$1 per ticket plus a \$4 service charge per total order. You may purchase tickets by phone during box office hours by calling 714-990-7722. For assistance with seating, group sales and other matters, call Audience Services, 714-990-7727, during regular business hours (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

To purchase tickets in person, visit the Curtis box office, which is open from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and noon to 3 p.m. on performance Saturdays, plus one hour prior to performances (if tickets are still available).

To purchase tickets by mail, send your order to Curtis Theatre box office, 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea CA 92821. Please make checks payable to City of Brea (checks payable to "RagFest" will not be accepted), and please be sure to indicate that your payment is for RagFest 2017 and the total number of tickets you'll need. 🎵

**Sept. 10, 2017:
MEMBERS PARTY,
FULLERTON HOME OF
NICK & DOTTIE BATINICH**

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 10

FOJ's annual Members Party, home of
Dottie and Nick Batinich, Fullerton

Sept. 23

RagFest 2017, Curtis Theatre, Brea

Oct. 22

Annual Oktoberfest Party, Los Coyotes
Country Club, Buena Park



friends of jazz

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

News & Notes

**ANSWERS TO LAST
ISSUE'S FOJ QUIZ:**

These are the FOJ
members' notable ac-
complishments:

1. Barbara Sue Johnson was a vocalist with The Johnny Mann Singers.
2. Nick Batinich played saxophone in the U.S. Air Force Band.
3. Pat Perkins worked with scientists in Antarctica.
4. Gil McFadden played college baseball.



AROUND TOWN



So. Co. Swing, featuring Andrew Marks (piano), Tim Slaven (guitar/vocals), and Ben Weavers (drums), will perform at Fullerton Elks Lodge on Fri., Sept. 8 from 6 to 10 p.m. Debbi Ebert does her thing every Friday and Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. at Cedar Creek Inn, 20 Pointe Drive in Brea. Ron Kobayashi fans can hear him every Friday night (from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.) in the bar and lounge at Bayside Restaurant in Newport Beach – you'll get Ron's phenomenal piano-playing plus the jazz vocals of his ongoing roster of guest performers. You can catch Jennifer Hart between now and Sept. 30 at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside. Jennifer will do two shows per night (6:30 and 10:30 p.m.) Wednesdays through Saturdays of every week (excepting Sept. 7). And, start planning for Halloween early by saving the date of Oct. 20, when Jennifer will sing at Adele's at the San Clemente Inn during its annual Halloween Costume Party.

Friends of Jazz's fourth-grade recorder program is ramping up for the fall, and that means that fans and supporters of these budding young musicians will be able to hear them once again. The schedule is still in the process of being assembled, but at least six schools have already signed up: Sunset Lane, Golden Hill, Commonwealth, Hermosa Drive, Raymond and Beechwood. FOJ will be providing instruction at these schools for a total of 17 classes/instructional sessions. More schools are being added now, so stay tuned for the complete fall schedule!

