

JIVE TALKIN'

Winter 2019
Volume 20, Issue 1

Members rev up for annual Mardi Gras Ball

The biggest event of the year, coinciding with FOJ's 20th anniversary, will showcase great music, food and auction items as everyone on board on Sunday, March 10, is primed to 'let the good times roll.'

Story and photos by Eric Marchese

Few annual Friends of Jazz events are better and none are bigger than the king of all major fundraising – and fun-raising – events, the party celebrating Fat Tuesday: the Mardi Gras Ball, set for March 10 in the Grand Ballroom of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Brea.

Guests will come from far and wide to participate in FOJ's biggest bash of the year, more eagerly anticipated than ever since it coincides with Friends of Jazz's 20th anniversary.

As guests arrive at 5 p.m. and check in at the reception table, they'll receive a ballpoint pen with "Friends of Jazz 20th Anniversary" printed on it (and with a built-in mini-flashlight). The professional photographer from last year's



Dottie Blietz and Jack Miller (above) will be crowned 2019 Mardi Gras Ball Queen and King by 2014's MGB Queen, Jeanie Stockwell (top right). At right: Queen of the 2018 ball, Judy McFadden.



ball will be set up by the door, and before entering the ballroom, each participant and/or couple will have their photo taken and

will receive a 4"x6" mounted print of it.

At their place settings, guests will find a 10-ounce wine glass inscribed with the FOJ logo and "20th anniversary."

During the cocktail hour (5 to 6 p.m.), guests will have a chance to begin reviewing and bidding on the many silent auction items on hand (see the partial list on pages three and five of this issue). A jazz trio (piano, bass and drums) of Fullerton College student musicians under the direction of Bruce Babad will provide the music for the first hour of the evening.

FOJ's Jim Harlan is presiding over this year's ball as Master of Ceremonies and will welcome guests and introduce this year's royalty.

Please see **MARDI GRAS BALL** on page two.

FOJ bids a fond farewell to Shep Shepherd

Less than three weeks after Friends of Jazz created a special event at Fullerton College to present Shep Shepherd with a Lifetime Achievement Award, he took ill. He was admitted to Loma Linda Hospital with congestive heart failure on Nov. 24 and passed peacefully the next day. Since January 19 was the legendary jazz musician's birthday, that was the date wife Joy chose to hold a celebration



of Shep's incredible life at the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Musician Museum

in Carlsbad.

He was born Berisford Benjamin Shepherd on Jan. 19, 1917, in Honduras and raised in Philadelphia, where he studied music and furniture making. In New York City and California, he became a legend as a trombonist, vibraphone and xylophone player, drummer, vocalist, vocal conductor, arranger,

Continued on page seven.



♪♪ Quarter Notes ♪♪

Friends of Jazz has recently noted the passing of some of those who were members and supporters stretching back many years.

We pay our respects to Lee Brockett, Jean M. Fischer, Toni Ramsay, Robert Lambert, Shep Shepherd and Gil McFadden. Many of these fine folks gave of themselves through their time and funds. Some served on FOJ's board. Some volunteered their time to various special events. Some made sure to show support by attending the many functions on the calendar throughout the year. Some made monetary donations or gave us items for use in silent auctions and opportunity drawings.

Each held Friends of Jazz in a special place in his or her heart, and that means we at FOJ hold them in our hearts with affection, respect and fond memories that will last a lifetime. ♪

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

Eric Marchese, Editor. 714-836-1104

In March, recorder concerts will come roaring in

Be sure to catch the next two recorder concerts being performed by fourth grade students from two Fullerton elementary schools.

First off, on Friday morning, March 15, children from Sunset Lane Elementary School will play a concert at 9:45 a.m.

The Sunset Lane kids are among the most talented in the program and are regularly featured at the annual Mardi Gras Ball (and will be again at this year's ball).

The second recorder concert in March is at

2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, at Rolling Hills Elementary.

Both performances are free to the public, and the kids and their families always enjoy having the support of Friends of Jazz members in the audience to show support and to encourage and cheer them on.

You can learn more about Friends of Jazz's recorder program by emailing Jennifer Hart, who runs the program for FOJ and provides classroom instruction for the young students. Her email is hartsong3@gmail.com. ♪

New members join FOJ while others return

Friends of Jazz is happy to announce these members who recently joined:

Kimberly Beach-Pettus
Kevin and Michelle Konecky
Kathie Lamore
Lorie Marini
Nick Moore

And, FOJ says welcome back to these

members who just renewed:

Nick and Dottie Batinich
Ron Celotto
Ronnie and Wayne Mason
Jack Miller and Dottie Blietz
Julie Nolan
Dave Robbins
Jane Rollingson

MARDI GRAS BALL

Jeanie Stockwell, the 2014 Mardi Gras queen, will conduct the coronation of longtime members Jack Miller and Dottie Blietz as King and Queen. Following the coronation, an authentic, New Orleans-style Mardi Gras parade, complete with twirling parasols. The live jazz for the parade, provided by the CSUF Dixieland Jazz Band under the direction of Bill Cunliffe, will "let the good times roll."

Before dinner is served (at 7 p.m.), fourth grade students from Sunset Lane Elementary School will deliver a 15-minute recorder concert, directed by FOJ's Jennifer

Continued from page one

Hart. Providing the always-stellar after-dinner music for listening and dancing will be The Fullerton College Jazz Band, and a handful of surprise musical performers will also take the stage.

Tickets are \$130 per person, and FOJ's board president, Colleen Wadsworth, urges you to "get your tickets now, because you don't want to miss this fabulous, one-of-a-kind event!"

For more information about this year's Mardi Gras Ball, call Colleen Wadsworth at 714-273-7504 or FOJ's Nick Batinich at 714-525-6669. ♪

Don't miss these upcoming CSUF and FC events!

- 3/7 Fullerton Jazz Orchestra and Big Band, 4 p.m. Meng Hall, CSUF
- 4/12-13 45th Annual Fullerton College Jazz Festival, day-long, campus-wide
- 4/18 Fullerton Jazz Big Band, 8 p.m. Meng Hall, CSUF
- 4/18 Fullerton Latin Ensemble, 8 p.m. Meng Hall, CSUF
- 4/23 CSUF Jazz Singers, 8 p.m. Meng Hall, CSUF
- 5/3 Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, 8 p.m. Meng Hall, CSUF

[NOTE: THESE EVENTS ARE FREE TO FRIENDS OF JAZZ MEMBERS.]

High school band program is cookin' at Florentine's

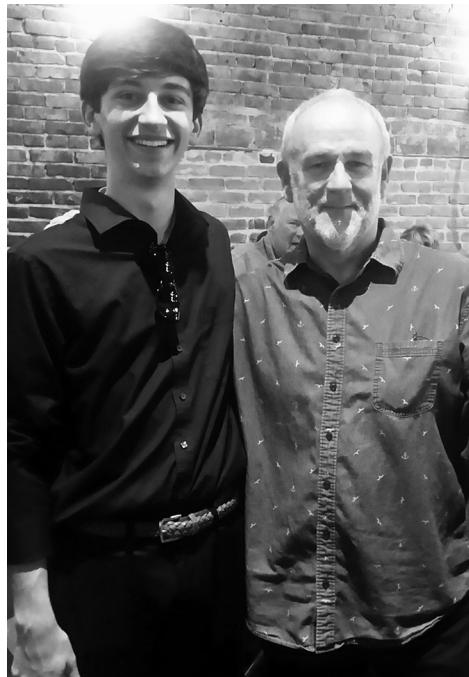
Friends of Jazz's spring high school band program got off to a great start for this year when Esperanza High's jazz students performed a stellar concert at Florentine's Grill in downtown Fullerton on Saturday afternoon, January 26.

FOJ's Jim Harlan, who runs the program, announced that FOJ would give \$300 to the school's program. Trevor Secoda, who plays lead alto sax as well as clarinet, was given a \$400 scholarship.

The program continued on Feb. 9 with Valencia High. Director Pete Perez celebrated his birthday by first bringing on the school's Band II before having the more accomplished student musicians of Band I take the stage. Bass player David Reynoso received the individual \$400 FOJ scholarship.

February 16 featured Mission Viejo High, and MVHS's trombone player Grant Pendergast won the scholarship.

El Dorado High took center stage on Feb. 23 and La Serna High on March 9. You'll be able to see photos of and read about these performances in the next issue of *Jive Talkin'*.



Above: Mission Viejo High's trombonist Grant Pendergast with director Doug Meeuwsen. Top right: Esperanza High's lead alto sax player Trevor Secoda with band director Bradley Davis. Bottom right: Valencia's bass player David Reynoso and band director Pete Perez.



Photos by Eric Marchese and Judi McDuff

Here is the remainder of the program's schedule for this year:

March 23: Kennedy High
 March 30: Yorba Linda
 April 20: Katella High
 May 11: Irvine High
 May 18: Fullerton High

Each high school receives a \$300 check from Friends of Jazz; in addition, each individual musician is given \$400.

All performances are at Florentine's Grill, 102 N. Harbor Blvd. from 1 to 3 p.m. Doors open to the public at 12:30 p.m.

For more information about the program, contact Jim Harlan: Jim@Jim-Harlan.com. 🎷

Partial list of Mardi Gras Ball silent auction donation items

Here are some of the fantastic items you can bid on and win at this year's Mardi Gras Ball:

Las Vegas timeshare, 4 days/3 nights (date/time TBD). Value \$600.

Sedona timeshare for 4 days/3 nights (date/time TBD). Value \$750.

Four (4) Santa Anita Park clubhouse admission passes and valet parking pass (expires June, 2019). Value \$50

Six (6) admission passes to Los Alamitos Race Course Vessels Club (expires July 2019). Value \$60.

Two (2) passes to Wine Safari of Malibu, a bottle of wine and two wine glasses. Value \$250.

Two (2) seats to any Pacific Symphony Classical Series concert. Value \$170.

Two (2) tickets to a Los Angeles Philharmonic chamber music, organ, green umbrella or baroque concert. Value \$100.

Two (2) general admission tickets for dinner and tournament at Medieval Times. Value \$137.

"The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson" collector's edition DVDs [two boxed sets (12 DVDs and 3 DVDs) and five (5) single DVDs].

Fullerton Police Department tour and ride-along.

Five (5) tickets for two people each for the 2019 Sawdust Art Festival. Value \$90.

One (1) VIP guest card to the Academy of Magical Arts (Magic Castle). Value \$160.

Two (2) season subscriptions to Muckenthaler Jazz Series. Value \$280.

Two (2) 2-1/2-hour whale-watching cruise, Newport Landing, Newport Beach. Value \$64.

PLEASE SEE PAGE FIVE FOR MORE AUCTION ITEMS

CSUF's FOJ scholarship night stars jazz great Tom Ranier

Story and photos by Eric Marchese

Friends of Jazz's annual scholarship night at Cal State Fullerton is always exciting, especially because it includes a special reception for members at Meng Hall before everyone takes their seats for the concert and scholarship presentation.

This time around, Friday night Nov. 30, 2018, the bill of student musicians was headed by special guest star Tom Ranier.

Ranier's high school and college years were spent right here in Orange County, first as a high school student in Garden Grove, then an undergrad within CSUF's music department. He went on to help launch the jazz studies program at CSUF before his talent and fame took him to new heights as a jazz pianist but also as a saxophonist, clarinetist, composer and arranger. He currently accompanies Tony Bennett, leads The Tom Ranier Trio on the TV show "Dancing With the Stars," and is involved in a new Jazz Studies program at UCLA headed up by famed jazz guitarist Kenny Burrell.

Following the lovely, well-attended FOJ reception, attendees took their seats and were greeted by Bill Cunliffe, director of the 18-member Fullerton Jazz Orchestra. Bill conducted the musicians in a handful of memorable selections, including "Art of the Big Band" by Bob Mintzer and Duke Ellington's "Concerto for Cootie."

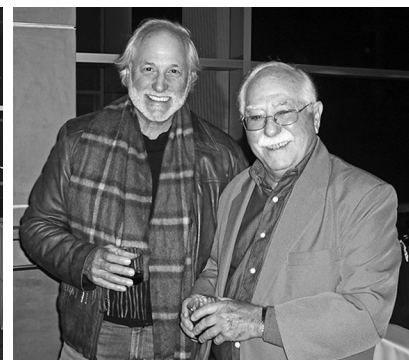
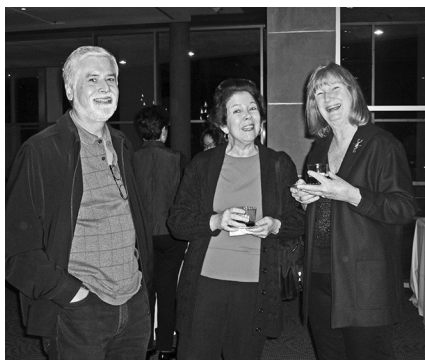
The audience was also treated to a vocal rendition of "First Circle" featuring 11 Fullerton Jazz Singers student vocalists.

During the first half, Bill also called attention to Friends of Jazz and noted how important FOJ has been to the jazz program at CSUF for the past 20 years. He brought FOJ's Nick Batinich and Colleen Wadsworth up onto the stage for the scholarship presentations.

Nick noted that the 2018 award included not just the individual scholarships to 17 talented, deserving students, but also the sum of \$10,000 as a donation to the music department at large.

After the intermission, Bill introduced his dear old friend, special guest Ranier, who delivered sterling performances of three outstanding pieces composed by Tom Kubis. For Count Basie's "One O'Clock Jump," Bill took the piano to accompany Tom on clarinet – a real treat hearing these two master jazz artists at once.

The following students received scholarships from FOJ: Luke Bither, bass; Brian Clemens, piano; Tony Fuller, trombone; Sam Gonzales, trombone; Jaesung Kwon, tenor saxophone; Michael Lin, drums; Srimal de Mel, piano; Adam Murray, trombone; Thomas Robinson, alto saxophone; David Saliby, trumpet; Jesus Sanchez, drums; Joe Terry, trumpet; Brad Torres, trumpet; Freddy Uyehara, bass; Christian Vazquez, guitar; Mark Wein, guitar; and Matthew Yang, piano.



December 4 a big night for Fullerton College's student jazz artists

Like Christmas, it only comes once every December, but the Friends of Jazz scholarship night at Fullerton College is always eagerly anticipated and well worth it for those who attend.

The audience not only gets a concert complete with vocal and instrumental jazz, all performed by students; but a handful of those students receive individual scholarship funds awarded to them from FOJ, which also donates a check for \$10,000 to the college's jazz programs.

This time around the event was held on Tuesday night December 4. Things got rolling with Bruce Babad introducing the Fullerton College Jazz Band as it performed Ellington's "Take the A Train" and the jokily titled "Bary Me Not" (because it features baritone, or "bari," saxophone, here featuring Gil Alvarado). Next, Jamie Shew brought on and directed the J Train Vocal Jazz singers to perform "Baroque Samba," a slow-tempo version of the '20s hit "Tea for Two," and "Cloudburst."

After the jazz band performed the Gershwin classic "Summertime," "No Bounds" and "Stompin' On a Riff," Bruce and Jamie directed audience attention to Friends of Jazz and all the support FOJ has given to college jazz students over the past 20 years. Jamie noted that not only were individuals given funds, but that the department was being given \$10,000, saying "that's remarkable!" and "thank you,



Friends of Jazz, so much for your support."

Colleen Wadsworth and Nick Batinich took the stage and as each student, after hearing their name, came out on stage, shook their hands, and took their place in line. A total of 16 students were recognized and given awards – 10 jazz band musicians and six vocalists. They are: Denisse Alvarado, soprano; Randy Carrion, drums;

Cameron Chavez, piano; Eric Cortez, saxophone; Nathan Diaz, bass vocalist; Cheyanne Fox, bass player; Alex Grant, bass player; Chase Gray, tenor; Brian Hernandez, tenor saxophone; Madison Holland, guitar; Dakota Noxon, tenor; Oscar Rodriguez, guitar; Avery Smith, saxophone; Bianca Varner, soprano; Veronica Villareal, soprano; and Johnathan White, trumpet. ♪

More Mardi Gras Ball silent auction donation items *continued from page three*

Two (2) tickets to San Diego Jazz Festival. Value \$220.

Two (2) \$250 gift certificates redeemable for shopping or for events at South Coast Repertory, Segerstrom PAC, Westin & more. Value \$500.

One-year of free coffee at Original House of Pancakes, Whittier.

Fratellino's Italian Restaurant of Brea gift certificate. Value \$40.

Summit House Restaurant gift certificate. Value \$125.

Señor Campos Mexican Restaurant gift certificate. Value \$30.

One (1) Polly's Pie's pie per month for a year. Value \$150.

Two (2) haircut specials at Salon Chante. Value \$75 each.

Two (2) tickets to South Coast Repertory Theater's "M. Butterfly" (May 11-June 8, 2019). Value \$200.

Gift certificate for four (4) tickets to 3-D Theatricals production of "The Secret Garden" (May 3-19, 2019). Value \$340.

Two (2) tickets to any 2019 Maverick Theater show. Value \$60.

Two (2) ticket vouchers redeemable for one ticket per voucher (up to \$140 value) for any McCoy Rigby Entertainment Broadway Series show at La Mirada Theatre through 6/30/2019.

Two (2) tickets to Stages Theatre. Value \$44.

Two (2) tickets to any Brea Curtis Theatre show in 2018-19 season. Value \$75.

KJAZ picnic blanket and boxed matching set of two (2) china tea-cups. Total value \$40.

Barack & Michelle Obama Inauguration tribute musical glitter globe by Bradford Exchange. Value \$100.

Two (2) Bradford Exchange collector plates: 1 Norman Rockwell "Music Maker," 1 from "Oklahoma!" Value \$40.

One (1) 12"-high ceramic swan, one (1) frog, one (1) owl, one (1) eagle, one (1) flute, one (1) red shoe. Total value \$229.

Two (2) autographed Paul Anka CD sets: one (1) four-pack and one (1) two-pack. Value: priceless.

Hand-carved recorder and recorder books from Central America.

Hand-carved flute from Indian Reservation in Arizona.

200 bottles of wine (\$3,000), 50 bottles of beer (\$200), 20+ bottles of liquor (\$100), 32-bottle wine rack. Total value \$3,350.

12-bottle and 58-bottle wine coolers.

FRIENDS OF JAZZ, INC.
Second Decade of Keeping Music in Our Schools
Membership Categories for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

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 (January 2019).
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 (January 2019).
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, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

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.

Annual Sponsors Party fetes those who give the most

Special event honoring FOJ's highest donors rings in the new year with lots of style – and a touch of jazz.


FOJ's annual Sponsors Party was held at Los Coyotes Country Club

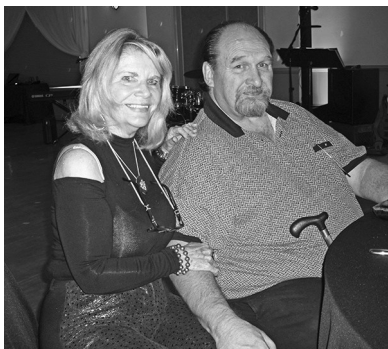
on Sunday, January 20.

The party honors and thanks all Friends of Jazz members who join at membership levels of \$250 or more.

A wide variety of delicious food was offered in a pleasing, informal

buffet format.

The evening's terrific music was provided by the Andrew Marks Trio. Jennifer Hart and Porter Sington were among the guest vocalists who took the stage to entertain us. 



Photos by Eric Marchese



SHEP SHEPHERD

Continued from page one

composer and studio session performer, working with the jazz world's greatest performers.

Shep and Joy met in 2007 and married on Shep's 91st birthday in January of 2008. In 2010, Jennifer Hart heard Shep perform, met him, and convinced him to join FOJ. She calls Shep "a quiet and refined gentleman, never boisterous. I have so many fond memories of this gentle giant of a man! When he sang one of his favorite songs, like 'Beautiful Girls,' many of the ladies in the audience would slowly parade by him and blow kisses, and he really ate that up!"

"Because of Shep's legendary history of performing, we honored him and Joy as King and Queen of our Mardi Gras Ball in 2013. They had met Artie Butler, composer of the beautiful song 'Here's to Life,' and they persuaded him to sing that song for their coronation."

The Jan. 19 celebration of Shep's life included more than a dozen testimonials from friends, well-wishers and family members, including remarks from Shep's son Keith and testimonials from daughters Monea LaConta Shepherd and Montique Berisford Shepherd.

Of course, the memorial also included instrumentals of many of Shep's favorite tunes. Jennifer Hart, Jackie Ryan and Sarah LeVan each performed solo vocals. A highlight was Joy's reading of her "Letter to My Precious Shep." Another highlight was something Shep himself had requested for the memorial: His close friend Bruce Babad played the hymn "Amazing Grace" on saxophone.


You can see a video of the memorial at Adele's in the San Clemente Inn on March 15 – just call ahead (949-481-1222) to let them know you're attending.

Friends and loved ones can donate in



Queen Joy and King Shep at MGB 2013

Shep's memory to Friends of Jazz Recorder Program, P.O. 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671; Saddle-

back College Foundation – Jazz Studies, 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo CA 92692; and the NAMM Musician Museum, 5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad CA 92008. 

Friends of Jazz, Inc.

Celebrating Our 20th Anniversary!

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**March 10:
Annual Mardi Gras Ball,
Grand Ballroom, Embassy
Suites Hotel, Brea**

Upcoming Events:

March 10 Mardi Gras Ball, Embassy Suites Hotel, Brea
March 30 Yorba Linda H.S. student jazz, Florentine's, Fullerton
April 12-13 Fullerton College Jazz Festival, Fullerton College
May 18 Fullerton High student jazz, Florentine's, Fullerton



Friends of Jazz

Phone: 714/680-6684

Fax: 714/680-0743

News & Notes

Those involved with Friends of Jazz, even those who've been members for a while, may not realize that joining up and attending events are just two ways to help FOJ realize its mission.

Those who volunteer to assist us with our various events and projects play a huge role in our success. So please, give our board president, Colleen Wadsworth, a call (at 714-273-7504) and see if your talents, skills and areas of interest are a good fit with what we all do on an ongoing basis to help keep music in our schools.



AROUND TOWN

Friends of Jazz's ever-talented Jennifer Hart will be singing at BACI Restaurant in Huntington Beach on Friday, March 8, from 6 to 10 p.m., with Michael LeVan on piano. Jazz pianist extraordinaire Ron Kobayashi, accompanied by bass player Sam Montooth, works his keyboard magic every Thursday night at Bayside in Newport Beach, and on Friday nights, he hosts a rotating jam session at this cool nightspot. Every Thursday night from 7 to 10 p.m., singer-guitarist Anthony Williams appears at Ziings Bistro in downtown Fullerton. And don't miss the outstanding Andrea Miller every Tuesday night as she sings one great selection after another from the Great American Songbook at the Tartan Room in Orange. Andrea, Ron Kobayashi and Mike Peak (on bass) start their music 7 p.m.

If you've never been to Fullerton College during its annual jazz festival, now's the time to go. This year, the festival is on Friday, April 12, and Saturday, April 13, and it's a special one: This is the 45th anniversary for this festival, which showcases dozens of talented student jazz musicians and vocalists over a two-day period. Also at the Fullerton campus, on May 7, the Synergy Vocal Jazz and Lab Band is being featured and, on May 9, you can catch Jazz Combos directed by Bruce Babad, Joseph Jewell and Michael Scott. Both take place at the Campus Theatre and both start at 7:30 p.m. These college jazz events are free to Friends of Jazz members – just tell them you're a member of FOJ!

Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band will be on stage at 4 p.m. March 10 at Musco Center for the Arts in Orange, joined by the Chapman University Big Band for the grand finale. If you love Frank Sinatra (and, honestly, who *doesn't*?), you won't want to miss John Pizzarelli when he delivers a special tribute concert to Ol' Blue Eyes at Irvine Barclay Theatre on March 29. To obtain tickets or more information, call 949-854-4646, extension 1, or e-mail tickets@thebarclay.org.

