

JIVE TALKIN'

Shep Shepherd honored for a lifetime of jazz

Legendary jazz man and FOJ member is recognized for his multiple and wide-ranging achievements in the world of jazz.

Story and photos by Eric Marchese

At first glance, the November 6 evening jazz concert at Fullerton College's Campus Theatre was just like previous years' performances: a near end-of-semester showcase for the school's student jazz musicians, playing in the Fullerton College Jazz Band, and jazz vocalists, singing in the J Train Vocal Jazz ensemble.

But an extra-special feature had been added by the college's Bruce Babad and Jamie Shew and Friends of Jazz: The announcement and presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Berisford Shepherd, known throughout his life as "Shep."

The award was given not just due to Shep's longevity – he'll turn 102 next January – but also in recognition of the depth and variety of his skills: Musician, on drums, trombone, vibraphone and xylophone; vocalist; vocal conductor; arranger and composer; and as an ever-reliable studio session performer.

During his peak years, Shep also became known throughout the industry as an expert music copyist – so much so that "Get Shep" became something of a catchphrase within the microcosm of the New York jazz world.

The roster of jazz greats Shep has worked with is truly staggering and includes, among others, Artie Shaw, Cab Calloway, Benny Carter, Bill Doggett, Patti Page and Lionel Hampton. In 1956, he and Doggett co-composed "Honky Tonk," the song that became Doggett's signature tune.

The evening began with the Jazz Band's



Top left: Shep with Jamie Shew, Colleen Wadsworth, Bruce Babad and Nick Batinich. Top right: Shep kids around with Bruce. Lower left: Shep seated in the audience with Joy after receiving the award. Lower right: Shep with Jamie Shew and FOJ's Jennifer Hart.

rendition of "Stompin' on a Riff" and J Train's singing of "Baroque Samba" and "You Make Me Feel So Young."

Bruce Babad then noted that "So Young" was the perfect segue for bringing Shep up on stage since in recent years the song has become one of Shep's specialty numbers.

As the audience applauded him, Shep took his place seated center stage while repeating the phrase "so much love, so much love." After the applause subsided, he said "Folks ask me about this longevity thing – but I find that in this tune, the lyrics satisfy me a lot more than anything else."

"This tune" referred to "Make Someone

Happy," another of his signature songs, which he then proceeded to sing, accompanied by Jeremy Siskind on piano.

Bruce then announced the award, talked about FOJ and invited Nick Batinich and Colleen Wadsworth onto the stage to present Shep with a certificate created for the occasion by FOJ.

Clearly humbled by the honor, Shep said "Thank you indeed – thank you, thank you, thank you. The best I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart. My lovely wife (Joy, sitting in the front row) and I are so grateful."

Continued on page seven.



♪♪ Quarter Notes ♪♪

Friends of Jazz notes the passing this summer of Robert Lambert, a longtime member and supporter of FOJ. He's survived by his wife and current FOJ member Sharon Lambert.

Toni Ramsay, who passed this summer, was memorialized by member Irene Kauppi through a special donation to FOJ.

Friends of Jazz salutes its longtime member Debbi Ebert, whose one-woman show *Divalicious* has just been nominated by Broadway World in the category of Best Cabaret Artist. Debbi, who created the show as a way to celebrate jazz's most famous lady vocalists, frequently appears at various FOJ events, where her dynamic singing always lights up the room.

CalJAS, the California Jazz Arts Society, has two upcoming events. On Sunday, December 2, Debbi Ebert & The Ron Kobayashi Trio will provide the music for the 6 p.m. Jazz Vespers at Claremont Presbyterian Church. On Saturday afternoon, December 8, is a 4 p.m. house concert in Long Beach featuring the musical duo Black Market Reverie. For more information about these and other CalJAS events, contact Dale Boatman, dale@caljas.org. ♪

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



The Fullerton College J-Train was featured in a concert on November 6 that honored Shep Shepherd (see story on page 1). The troupe will perform again, and receive scholarships from Friends of Jazz, on December 4 (see page 7 article).

Photo by Eric Marchese

Not too late to attend recorder concerts

You might have missed some of the performances given this fall by local grade school students as part of Friends of Jazz's Fourth-Grade Recorder Program. Many Fullerton elementary schools, including Beechwood, Commonwealth, Golden Hill and Sunset Lane, are regular participants in this program, which teaches grade-school kids not just about jazz music and such basics as improvising, but about all music in general.

December's concerts are at Hermosa Drive Elementary 9:30 a.m. Monday Dec. 10 and at Raymond Elementary at 11:35 a.m. on

Wednesday morning Dec. 12. The classes are taught by Jennifer Hart and Steve Alaniz, who also conduct the concerts.

Many parents and family members enjoy watching the kids rehearse their performance before the actual concerts, so the rehearsals are open, and anyone interested is welcome to attend. Rehearsal for the Hermosa Drive concert is at 8:15 a.m. and for the Raymond concert at 10:50 a.m.

For more information and details about FOJ's recorder program, contact Jennifer Hart, hartsong3@gmail.com. ♪

Welcome to our new and returning members

A hearty welcome to these new Friends of Jazz members, and welcome back to our returning members:

John and Mary Ackerman
Sheri Chu

Sharon Lambert
Gene and Shirley Laroff
Hedda Marosi
Kerry and John Phelps
Eddie Sheldrake

Save the dates for these upcoming Friends of Jazz events!

November 30, 2018	Membership reception, Meng Hall, CSUF
December 4, 2018	Scholarship night concert, Fullerton College
January 2019	Sponsors Party, Wolf residence (date TBA)
March 10, 2019	Mardi Gras Ball, Embassy Suites Hotel, Brea

Friends of Jazz remembers Gil McFadden

Gil McFadden, a longtime Friends of Jazz member, board member and for many years the administrator of FOJ's annual Mardi Gras Ball, passed away on August 22 at the age of 88.

The news brought sadness for all who knew Gil, who had twice in the preceding year become injured in falls and endured long months of rehabilitation – all amidst his celebrating the Mardi Gras Ball as this year's reigning king, with Judy, his wife of 65 years, as queen.

Gilbert H. McFadden was born in 1930 and was an accomplished athlete in two sports: baseball and track and field while studying at Occidental College. In fact, he's one of only four people since 1937 to be inducted into the college's Hall of Fame in two different sports.

After he and Judy married in 1953, Gil was a Chartered Life Underwriter who forged a career in the insurance and financial services industries. A longtime resident of Fullerton, he was a member of the Sunny Hills Racquet Club from its earliest years through its closing in 2006 due to dwindling membership.

Gil's activities within and dedication to Friends of Jazz are well known to all those who knew him. He and Judy have served on the board for years, and Gil found a comfortable and productive niche as administrator of the annual Mardi Gras Ball, FOJ's key fundraising event. Daughters Karen, Kathleen and Kristen were frequent guests at the McFaddens' table at Mardi Gras each year, and they were present at this year's ball when their parents were crowned king and queen.

Gil, though, was unable to attend due to his injury, so he was given a special coronation ceremony at FOJ's All That Jazz party at Los Coyotes Country Club on May 20.

FOJ co-founders Jean and Bill Klinghoffer summed up the organization's sense of loss in saying "Gil will be greatly missed. He was a most giving man, and he and wife Judy have not only been King and Queen of Mardi Gras, but have been the event's leaders in making sure we have the best-ever Mardi Gras Ball each year."

"I was so impressed with Gil's leadership and the energy he invested in running the Mardi Gras Committee every year," FOJ's Barbara Fischer said. "He knew the staff well at Embassy Suites and was meticulous in getting the dinner entrees and desserts up to top standards. He ran the Mardi Gras meetings efficiently and right to the point, with little time wasted. He was a great leader."

Jim Harlan, who runs FOJ's high school jazz band series, noted that Gil played a huge role in the program by working as a judge at multiple performances each year. As Jim noted, "Gil simply loved supporting the students and FOJ."

Jim said he also "found out that (he and Gil) had a connection in the world of hockey – the NHL. When we weren't analyzing the high school jazz programs, we were discussing the national hockey league. He will be greatly missed in the judges booth this year and in coming years."

Eric Marchese, who edits the newsletter and runs RagFest each year, recalls Gil's rock-solid support of the festival and its sister organization, the Orange County Ragtime Society: "Gil and Judy attended our performances frequently and often donated funds out of their own pockets." He said nothing better illus-




Above, at 2016's Mardi Gras Ball, Gil and Judy and, below, with their three daughters. At left, Gil is crowned this year's Mardi Gras king at a special ceremony held at the May 20 All That Jazz party.

Photos by Eric Marchese and Patrick O'Donnell



trates Gil's desire to help than the instances where RagFest was held at Muckenthaler Center: "A couple of us were on the Muck's east lawn in the morning doing set-up for the event – and here was Gil, well into his 80s, setting up chairs in the hot sun and asking if we needed any other help."

Upon hearing of Gil's passing, Friends of Jazz gained a new member who joined at the Sponsor's level in Gil's memory, while two other existing members sent in renewals also in memory of Gil.

Surviving Gil are wife Judy; daughters Karen, Kathleen and Kristen; son-in-law Andy; and grandsons Will and Kevin. Donations can be made in Gil's memory to Friends of Jazz by going to FOJ's website (FriendsOfJazzInc.com). 

Oktoberfest lends Alpine flavor to the fall season

FOJ's ever-popular autumn event creates a festive fall feel through its authentic German cuisine and music.

Story and photos by Eric Marchese

Friends of Jazz's Oktoberfest celebration has become one of its most popular annual pre-Mardi Gras parties, and this year's was no exception.

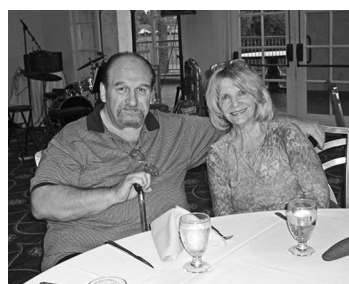
FOJ members packed one of Los Coyotes Country Club's banquet rooms on Sunday evening, Oct. 21, with the 5 to 6 p.m. cocktail hour for socializing and a scrumptious traditional German buffet dinner at 6.

Throughout the evening, patrons were entertained by the Main Street Oom-Pah-Pah Band, which played traditional fare like "The Happy Wanderer," "Beer Barrel Polka" and "Edelweiss" along with more pop-oriented pieces like "Route 66," "Rock Around the Clock," "Moon River" and "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White."

Of course, the band's leaders took time out to offer toasts to the guests – in German.

Of course, they played "The Chicken Dance" after dinner and encouraged us to jump onto the dance floor and bust the moves of this fad dance that first became popular in the 1950s.

Of course, those who purchased raffle tickets and won opportunity drawing gifts were happy. And – of course – everyone felt the coming of the fall season, lent a distinctly Alpine flavor from this most enjoyable of all of Friends of Jazz's yearly gatherings. 🎵



Members Party puts spotlight on student performers

Up-and-coming jazz musicians from Cal State Fullerton and Fullerton College are focus of the annual outdoor gathering for new and returning FOJ members.

The annual membership party was again hosted by Nick and Dottie Batinich in the backyard of their beautiful Fullerton home.

While food and drink were, as always, popular – last year's acclaimed taco bar was brought back again – the real focus was the live music.

A total of 10 student musicians – seven from Fullerton College, three from CSUF – set up by the pool and began playing almost as soon as the first guests arrived, and continued long into the night.

Playing from Fullerton College: sophomore Randy Carvion, drums; sophomore Cameron Chavez, digital piano; junior Brandon Downs, trombone; junior Alex Grant on electric bass; senior Madison Holland, guitar; junior Josh Montoya, trumpet; and sophomore Scotty Piper, electric bass.

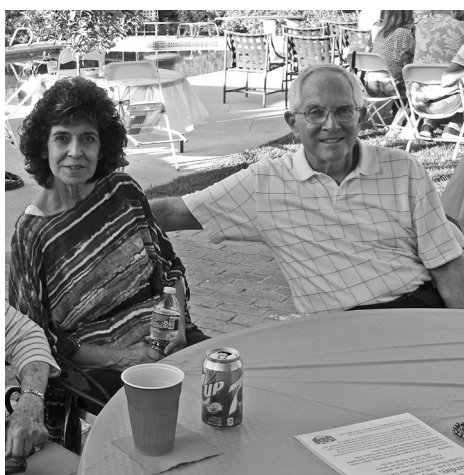
Representing Cal State Fullerton: grad student Brian Clemens on piano; junior Michael Lin on drums; and grad student Christian Lissner on trumpet.

Joining them as guest artists were Fullerton College's Bruce Babad (saxophone) and Jamie Shew (vocals), party host Nick Batinich on sax, Michael LeVan on piano, and vocalists Jennifer Hart and Debbi Ebert.

Special guest Shep Shepherd provided vocals, too, for three selections: "Make Someone Happy," "When You're Smiling," and "Where or When." 🎵



Photos by Eric Marchese



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.

FOJ's scholarship nights are right around the corner

End-of-year college concerts culminate in cash awards for talented student musicians.

Friends of Jazz's annual scholarship presentation nights are coming soon to Fullerton College and Cal State University Fullerton. These are major events on our annual schedule requiring member support through your attendance – and both are free of charge to all FOJ members.

The first of these is at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 30, at Meng Hall at CSUF, with a performance by the Fullerton Jazz Orchestra that will feature jazz pianist Tom Ranier as special guest.

The concert is preceded by FOJ's annual

Member's Meeting, a special wine and cheese reception that starts at 7 p.m. to which all Friends of Jazz members are invited and encouraged to attend. The reception is FOJ's way of showing its appreciation for the ongoing support of its membership.

During the 8 p.m. concert, Friends of Jazz will distribute scholarship funds to CSUF students who have focused on jazz as their primary area of study.

Special guest Ranier, who attended high school in Garden Grove and is an alumni of CSUF's music department, plays piano as well as saxophone and clarinet. He's not only a Southern California music educator, but performs regularly with Tony Bennett and can be seen and heard

on the TV show "Dancing with the Stars" as head of The Tom Ranier Trio.

Fullerton College's combined concert and FOJ scholarship night, also free to Friends of Jazz members, is on Tuesday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Campus Theatre. The concert will feature the student musicians from the college's two primary ensembles: the Jazz Band and the J-Train vocal group.

As a highlight of the evening, students from both groups will receive recognition and scholarship funds from key FOJ board members.

Both of these special events are free to FOJ members – just tell the box office staff you're with Friends of Jazz. 🎵

RagFest No. 18 scores in its second time at Curtis Theatre

RagFest 2018, the 18th time the event has been held, scored big in its second time with Curtis Theatre as its venue.

Unlike most venues, the Curtis offers two separate stages with pianos, providing the musicians more performing time and giving the audience more options.

The theater staff also enhanced the event with features that made RagFest a more immersive experience. Fans were encouraged to wear ragtime-era attire, and the winning costumes received free tickets to upcoming Curtis events. Guests were given free ragtime-era dance lessons and free popcorn, and Birch Street featured an array of vintage Model T Fords.

On stage, tried-and-true acts like Evans &



Rogers were supplanted by new ones like The Out-of-Tuners banjo band. Solo pianists like Michael Chisholm, Johnny Hodges and Andrew Barrett abounded, and the revue finale featured 15 festival performers (seen above in a photo by Art Pazornik).

Even better, RagFest 2018 brought in more than double what FOJ budgeted to produce it, making the event a winner in more ways than one. 🎵

SHEP SHEPHERD

Continued from page one

Shep then briefly related how he "came to Southern California from San Francisco" in 1964. "I got a chance to see California. I dig California!" Decades later, he and Joy met and married, he became friends with FOJ's Jennifer Hart, and he joined Friends of Jazz – and has been an integral, and historic, part of FOJ ever since.

After Shep took his seat, to further applause, Jazz Band, J-Train and the Jazz Cadre, a stellar collection of the college's talented faculty jazz musicians, did eight additional selections, including "Cute,"



FOJ's executive board presented the award to Shep "in recognition of your outstanding musicianship, dedication to music, and support of music in the schools."

"The Luckiest," "El Cantador" and "Come Together."

The final number was "Limehouse Blues," aptly described by Bruce as "Shep's fifth birthday song" since in 1922, the year it came out, Shep was just five years old.

Compared with the rest of the evening's performers, Shep was onstage for a mere handful of minutes. Yet this was clearly his night – and one to be savored and remembered by everyone present, and jazz fans everywhere, for honoring the living legend known respectfully, affectionately and often in awe as "Shep." 🎵

**January 2019:
SPONSORS PARTY at the
Fullerton home of Jerry and
Linda Wolf (date TBA)**

Upcoming Events:

November 30	Membership party, Meng Hall, CSUF
December 4	Scholarship night, Fullerton College
January 2019	Sponsors Party, Wolf residence, date TBA
March 10, 2019	Mardi Gras Ball, Embassy Suites, Brea



Friends of Jazz

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

News & Notes

The Synergy Vocal Jazz and Lab Band at Fullerton College performs at the Campus Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 20. The concert is free to all FOJ members – just mention FOJ at the box office.

Cal State Fullerton's Jazz Small Groups also has a near-semester's-end performance: It's at 8 p.m. Thursday, December 13, in room 119 of the Clayes Performing Arts Center, and is also free to FOJ members.



AROUND TOWN



Fullerton College's Synergy Vocal Jazz and Lab Band combines to deliver one of the last performances of the fall in the Campus Theatre on Tuesday night, November 20, at 7:30 p.m. in a concert that's free to all FOJ members.

Get ready to celebrate a "Latin Jazz Christmas" with Dr. Bobby Rodriguez on December 2 at Irvine Barclay Theatre. The 2018-'19 jazz series continues on Friday night, January 18, with Miles Davis and The Blue Flame Incident. Fans of Mike Peak and his Peak Experience will be able to catch this vaunted jazz ensemble at the Barclay in the show "At Last" on Thursday night February 7, and on March 29, John Pizzarelli delivers a tribute concert to Frank Sinatra. For information or tickets: 949-854-4646, extension 1 or tickets@thebarclay.org. Spaghettini in Seal Beach presents a Sweet Soul Christmas on Friday night, December 7, with jazz and soul arrangements of seasonal music by trumpeter Greg Adams and singer Darryl Walker, and Gordon Goodwin and his nine-piece jazz ensemble Little Phat Band will be featured on December 22.

Andrea Miller mines the Great American Songbook in weekly Tuesday-night performances (starting at 7 p.m.) at the venerated Tartan Room on North Tustin Avenue in Orange, with Ron Kobayashi on piano and Mike Peak on bass. Jazz singer Debbi Ebert, accompanied by Richard Ihara on piano, performs at Cedar Creek Inn in Brea every Friday and Saturday night, 6 to 10 p.m. Debbi's one-woman show "Divalicious," which celebrates famous women in jazz, has just been nominated by Broadway World in the category of Best Cabaret Artist.

