

Friends of Jazz celebrates its 22nd anniversary

We're ringing up more than two decades of achievements, raising funds and helping thousands of students learn and perform music, many making it their life's work.

So much has happened over the past year, to which all of us can attest. Something that went by almost unnoticed is that Friends of Jazz quietly went from celebrating its 21st anniversary to moving into its 22nd year.

We're celebrating, all right – and we certainly have a lot to cheer about.

Going back to our inception, more than 20,000 college, high school and elementary school students have received FOJ funds. In that time we've received countless letters from students of all ages, many that we've published here, relating that without the help they got from us, they wouldn't have been able to continue with their music.

FOJ's college and high school programs shine bright

Through membership dues and various fundraising events, we've been able to award scholarships not only to individuals – those who play instruments and vocal jazz students – at Fullerton College and Cal State University, Fullerton, but also to the jazz studies programs at both of these schools.

Through our high-school jazz band program, countless student musicians at more than a dozen area high schools have gotten a leg up from FOJ. At each performance at Steamers and Florentine's, we've handed out one check to a talented, gifted musician and a second one to the school's band program itself.

We've lost count of how many of these talented teens have gone on to music-related professions. Some are high school band directors or music educators at the college level. Many are teaching in the



Friends of Jazz awards annual scholarships to talented student jazz musicians and singers from Cal State University, Fullerton (above), and Fullerton College. The next presentation is at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center on April 25. *Photo by Patrick O'Donnell*

FOJ and colleges will provide live jazz for Muck's April 25 Arts and Music festival

Mark April 25th on your calendars and save the date, because that's when you'll be able to hear live jazz performed by extremely talented college musicians at Muckenthaler Cultural Center. That's when the Muck is holding its annual Arts and Music Festival, and Friends of Jazz is providing the music.

From noon to 4 p.m., students from Cal State Fullerton and Fullerton College

will perform a variety of jazz with their big bands, combos and jazz vocalists. Each band will have two hours on the Muck's outdoor amphitheater stage. At the halfway point between CSUF's and FC's concerts, Friends of Jazz will present scholarships to select students from each of the schools.

The Muck's CEO, Farrell Hirsch, expects 3,000 to 4,000 to attend the annual community event, which is free to the public. ♪

universities where they themselves were once students. Many have become professional performers or recording artists – and in some cases, both.

Putting younger kids onto the road to music for the first time

At the grade school level, we've gone directly into the classrooms of area

schools and essentially taught music from the ground up to thousands of fourth-graders.

We've used funding coming directly from you to provide the children with instruments (recorders) and instruction booklets, then taught them not just about jazz – including skills like improvisation – but

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22nd anniversary is a milestone

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about music itself, including basics like note-reading.

In doing so, Friends of Jazz has provided an invaluable service by offering education in an area where the public school systems have come up short over the past two decades.

How our mission could be at risk...

We come to our 22nd year with a lengthy record of accomplishments and achievements very few non-profits can point to, but facing the realities of the past 11 months has placed us in the position of having come up short in continuing to bring in the funding we so desperately need.

Right after our Mardi Gras Ball last March, the pandemic forced us to shut down everything that we had put on our schedule for calendar year 2020. We could not continue with live events without risking the health and safety of our members. The result placed FOJ in a hole. We're now at a crossroads, unable to move forward without help from our members.

♪♪♪♪ Quarter Notes ♪♪♪♪



We note with sadness the passing of Carol Bankhead, who joined Friends of Jazz in its early years. A longtime member, Carol supported our events and overall mission. She will be greatly missed.

CSUF's Bill Cunliffe is a Grammy Award winner, and now two CSUF graduate students have received 2021 Grammy nominations: Alex Flavell is part of the ensemble that's up for Best Latin Jazz album; Giancarlo Anderson played on a different entry, in the same category, that was arranged and music-directed by CSUF faculty member Francisco Torres. Be sure to see the Grammys on Sunday night, March 14, on CBS. ♪

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.

friendsofjazzinc.com

Eric Marchese, Editor. 714-836-1104



Fullerton College jazz musicians receive annual scholarships from FOJ. The next presentation is at the Muckenthaler on April 25. Photo by Eric Marchese

...and how you can help

Even if your membership doesn't expire until later this year, the sooner you renew it, the better for FOJ and its mission.

Secondly, we need you to help us in reaching out to others and asking them to join – so we're asking every current member to find at least one family member, friend, co-worker, neighbor or acquaintance and urge them to join us.

Once they hear about Friends of Jazz's positive influence within the community, they'll want to be part of our helping young people.



Fourth-graders perform recorder concerts at each annual Mardi Gras Ball, which lets members see the fruits of the program. Photo by Patrick O'Donnell

Membership dues and donations are FOJ's life blood

Our annual membership drive is coming soon, but even before that happens, we want to implore you to reach out to those around you to help us generate new memberships.

Donations over and above membership dues are the life blood that keeps us going, so you can also help there.

Page three of this issue is a membership form that can be used to become a first-time member, to renew membership, or to make a donation.

We're in a new year, so let's take this opportunity to kick-start FOJ back into high gear after nearly a year of the slumber that has been imposed upon it – and, as always, we thank you for your ongoing support and dedication. ♪

FRIENDS OF JAZZ, INC.
Second Decade of Keeping Music in Our Schools
Membership Categories for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

- 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.
- 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.
- 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, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

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, EIN # 33-0863268.

Friends of Jazz, Inc.

Now In Our 22nd Year!

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April 25, 2021:
FOJ college scholarship presentations
Muckenthaler Cultural Center

Muckenthaler Jazz Festival concerts:

- May 13: Bruce Forman and Cowbop
- May 20: The LA Jazz Quartet, featuring Larry Koonse
- May 27: Jazz vocalist Barbara Morrison
- June 3: Jazz pianist, arranger and composer Bill Cunliffe
- June 10: Jazz multi-instrumentalist & composer Josh Johnson
- June 17: The Joe LaBarbera Quintet



Friends of Jazz

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News & Notes

Bill Cunliffe has been incredibly busy in keeping music front and center. Now he's using Zoom to present musical performances every Tuesday, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., through May 11. Of note: L.A. drummer Gene Coye (March 9); Grammy-nominated trumpeter Tim Hagans (March 16); Grammy-winning trumpeter and composer John Daversa (March 23); rapper, singer, songwriter and saxophonist Terrace Martin (April 6); guitarist Zack Caplinger, a CSUF alumnus (April 13); bassist Mike Gurrola (April 27); and drummer Joe LaBarbera (May 11). You can access all performances by going here: <https://fullerton.zoom.us/j/9313113471>



AROUND TOWN

After months of scarcely a live performance to be found the Muckenthaler Cultural Center has scheduled two upcoming jazz events you can attend in person. First is the Arts and Music Festival on Sunday, April 25, for which Friends of Jazz is playing a major role in providing the music by coordinating the performances of students from Fullerton College and Cal State University, Fullerton. Fullerton College is fielding a combo of talented jazz instrumentalists under the direction of Bruce Babad, while some of the area's most gifted jazz vocalists will be heard under the guidance of Jamie Shew. Conducting CSUF's all-star student jazz orchestra is Bill Cunliffe, who not only teaches and conducts but is also the school's Coordinator of Jazz Studies and a Grammy Award-winning pianist, arranger and composer. CSUF and FC will each have two hours of stage time. In-between their concerts, representatives of Friends of Jazz will announce and present its scholarship awards to individual students and will also make a donation to the jazz studies programs of both schools. The combined concerts and scholarship award presentation (and entire festival) are from noon to 4 p.m. All of the afternoon's events are free to the public.

The Muckenthaler Jazz Festival unfolds on the outdoor amphitheater stage. Bruce Forman and Cowbop boot up this year's fest on May 13. May 20 stars the LA Jazz Quartet featuring acclaimed jazz guitarist Larry Koonse. Barbara Morrison brings her soulful, legendary three-and-a-half octave range voice to the stage on May 27. On June 3, Grammy winner Bill Cunliffe reimagines a classic Oliver Nelson album. Josh Johnson of the Herbie Hancock Institute is featured on June 10, and the Joe LaBarbera Quintet will take us home on June 17. All six Thursday evening shows start at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and information: 714-738-6595 or info@themuck.org.

