

JIVE TALKIN'

Spring 2021
Volume 22, Issue 2

Scholarship awards and performances carry the day

FOJ's first major event since last spring puts the spotlight on the two local colleges, whose students provided continuous live jazz for the Muck's 2021 Arts and Music Festival.

By Eric Marchese

Those who love live jazz performances and have keenly felt their absence for more than a year must have rejoiced on Sunday, May 2.

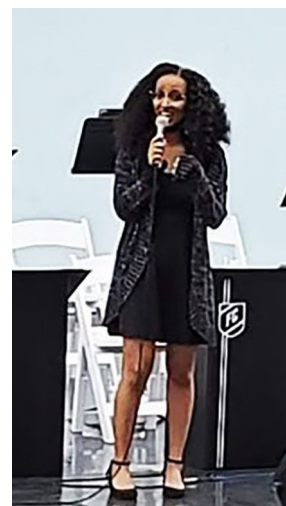
That was the day Friends of Jazz's efforts to showcase the two local colleges' jazz bands in live performance came to fruition.

The location: Muckenthaler Cultural Center. The event: The Muck Annual Arts and Music Festival. The venue provided the art exhibits along with some craft fair booths, and FOJ had its own table and a display area with our banner, thank-yous from grateful student recipients (some on page two), and membership sign-ups for anyone wanting to join.

But more importantly for FOJ, Fullerton College's jazz band and J-Train singers and Cal State University, Fullerton's jazz ensemble and a smaller jazz combo provided near-continuous music from noon to 4 p.m. on the outdoor amphitheater stage.

After Fullerton College wrapped up, and again when CSUF had concluded, FOJ's Nick Batinich and Colleen Wadsworth took the stage to present a total of 23 students with scholarship checks. It was the first time in many years that these presentations didn't occur in December, when they would coincide with semester-ending concerts.

Also for the first time, the program was called The Bill Klinghoffer Scholarship Awards. It was Bill Klinghoffer who in 1999, in conjunction with Nick Batinich,



Photos by Judi McDuff and Sam Ricchio



realized his goal of providing ongoing tangible support for local young people devoted to studying jazz.

During the first half of the day, the Fullerton College Jazz Band, directed by Bruce Babad, and the J-Train singers, led by Jamie Shew, alternated sets to provide a continuous change of pace.

The jazz band opened with two Glenn Cashman pieces that originally premiered on the Muck amphitheater stage.

"Blues In the Tunnel" and "I've Got Your Rhythm," and unfurled a set list that included Charlie Parker's "Just Friends," harmonized for five saxes; Cashman's

What Dolphins Say"; and the Charlie Mingus number "Moanin'," featuring Eric Cortez on baritone saxophone.

J-Train's leader and conductor, Jamie Shew, said that two weeks earlier, its members got to rehearse in person for the first time in more than a year. Jeremy Siskind, FC's director of jazz piano, accompanied the vocalists, whose opening number was Kerry Marsh's arrangement of the 1945 hit "Give Me The Simple Life" (a reference to the much-prevalent pandemic fatigue). While the full choir carried the sets with selections like "My

Please see AWARDS on page 3



♪ Quarter Notes ♪

Friends of Jazz is happy to announce an influx of new members and membership renewals from this past spring. Between March 1 and early May, our membership dues increased by more than \$10,000. We'd like to thank everyone who either made the effort to renew ahead of schedule or who have become members for the first time.



If you love the music of Nat King Cole, you'll want to join us on Sunday, July 11, for a special Friends of Jazz event: Porter Single-terry performs the music of Nat King Cole.



Porter is one of our most talented members and a wonderful singer. The event, at Fullerton Elks Lodge from 5 to 9 p.m., includes dinner (of southern cuisine), desserts, a silent auction and opportunity drawings. For more information, contact Dottie Batinich (714-526-6669) or Charlotte Henderson (714-870-9067).

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

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Scholarship winners express their gratitude

Funny how gratitude can be a two-way street. Anyone at the Muck on May 2 must have felt grateful for the opportunity to hear live jazz performed by some supremely skilled college students.

During the day, following their performances, those students received endowments from Friends of Jazz – funds we hope will encourage them to continue to keep jazz alive.

Having been notified in advance of these awards, dozens of jazz students from Cal State University, Fullerton, and Fullerton College sent thank-you cards to FOJ. Here are some of their comments:

Thank you so much for your support towards the Fullerton College jazz program and jazz in general. You have helped me to get lessons, books and gear so I can keep playing.

– Cameron Chavez, F.C. jazz band

My deepest thanks and appreciation for such a generous scholarship, (which) will be put towards my tuition at CSULB, where I will be studying vocal performance in jazz at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music.

– Jake Gutierrez, F.C. J-Train

I appreciate everything Friends of Jazz does for the young jazz community of Fullerton. This will definitely help me continue down my path of playing this music we all deeply love!

– Nico Vasquez, CSUF jazz ensemble

This program is giving students like me opportunities to succeed and give us hope to keep on pursuing their careers.

– Spencer Bowie, F.C. jazz band

I've been accepted into CSULB as a vocal performance major, and this award is going to be very beneficial in paying for my tuition there. Thank you so much!

– Calvin Hsu, F.C. J-Train

With this scholarship, I can spend more time making music and less time worrying about paying for my classes.

– Christine Curran, CSUF jazz ensemble

Thank you for recognizing me and the hard work I have put into my music. I truly love playing the guitar, and times like this make it worth it.

– Maximus Gomes, F.C. jazz band

I am grateful for the continued support ... and plan to use (this gift) to purchase music software and to fund my summer music camp tuition.

– Shreya Pujari, F.C. J-Train

This generous gift, as well as your support of local high school jazz programs (I went to Valencia H.S. under Pete Perez), changes young jazz musicians' lives for the better. I'll never forget the impact it's had on me!

– Alex Flavell, CSUF jazz ensemble

This scholarship is going to do me very well as I get ready to transfer schools and live on my own. I love that Friends of Jazz shows every year, even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. Your kind hearts and love for the music and its students don't go unseen.

– Chris Panameno, F.C. jazz band

Thank you so much for your generous donations to all of our music students! I am about to start my second year as a graduate jazz student at Cal State Fullerton and I am looking forward to playing, learning and growing with my peers when we resume classes in the fall.

– Jacob Wendt, CSUF jazz ensemble

I will (soon) be transferring to Cal State Northridge for my B.M. in Jazz Studies / Performance. This money will help put a down payment on a rental house close to CSUN. You're helping me grow as a musician, so I can't thank you enough for helping to make my dreams come true!

– Eric Cortez, F.C. jazz band

Your support will enable me to cover my tuition at CSULB in addition to being able to purchase performance equipment I will be using to gig with over the summer.

– Miriam Adhanom, F.C. J-Train

Welcome to the newest members of FOJ

We're happy to see these new members come on board!

Bettina Bond

Dr. John Dymond

Alison Garcia

Christina Garner

Sawyer Klein

Dale and Ruth Pregoner

Lawrence and Lisa Selkow



Photos by Eric Marchese and Judi McDuff



AWARDS, continued from page one

Romance” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” Miriam Adhanom, Judy Davila, Henry Dubon and Lila Zook were featured in solos.

As Muck technicians cleared the stage, the Muck’s CEO, Farrell Hirsch, took the microphone to praise Friends of Jazz and describe the value and importance of its activities and programs. Hirsch, saying that “Beauty and the Beast” was produced to generate interest in theater within young people to keep theater alive well into the future, made an analogy with FOJ: “What ‘Beauty and the Beast’ did for theater, Friends of Jazz is doing for jazz.”

FOJ’s Nick Batinich and Colleen Wadsworth then handed out checks to 14 Fullerton College jazz students – seven J-Train, seven jazz band.

Nick underscored the vital importance of FOJ’s college scholarship program: “We help jump-start their careers, and today, we’re giving out \$20,000.”

Here are the 23 recipients of the 2021 Bill Klinghoffer Scholarship Awards (listed alphabetically by last name):

Fullerton College Jazz Band: Spencer Bowie, alto sax; Cameron Chavez, piano; Eric Cortez, bari sax; Maxximus Gomes, guitar; Chris Panameno, alto sax; Alex Santiago, trumpet; Andrew Yanes (drums).

Fullerton College J-Train (six of these seven performed at the Muck on May 2): Miriam Adhanom, alto; Judy Davila, alto; Henry Dubon, tenor; Jake Gutierrez, tenor; Calvin Hsu, bass; Shreya Pujari, soprano; Lila Zook, soprano.

CSUF Jazz Ensemble (and Cal State Fullerton Combo): Christian Alva, saxophone; Josh Cahill, bass; Christine Curran, drums; Alex Flavell, piano; Jake Landrum, guitar; Jake Petmecki, trumpet; Daniel Rowe, tenor sax; Nico Vasquez, drums; Jacob Wendt, drums.

As the CSUF Jazz Ensemble took the stage, the two colleges’ program leaders, Bruce Babad and Bill Cunliffe, teamed for a wonderful piano-sax duet of the jazz standard “Out of Nowhere.” CSUF sax player Christian Alva then took over as de facto bandleader and spokesman, announcing

selections that included “Stella by Starlight” and “Airegin” (“Nigeria” spelled backwards). The Cal State Fullerton Combo (piano, bass, drums) then wrapped up the performance, joined by FC sax player Spencer Bowie, after which nine CSUF jazz students received checks. ♪

Friends of Jazz, Inc.

Now In Our 22nd Year!

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**July 11, 2021:
Porter Singletary sings the
music of Nat King Cole
Fullerton Elks Lodge
(5 to 9 p.m.)**

Upcoming Events:

May 27: Barbara Morrison, Muck Jazz Festival, Fullerton
June 3: Bill Cunliffe and Francisco Torres, Muck Jazz, Fullerton
June 17: Don Most Orchestra, Muck Jazz Festival, Fullerton
July 11: Porter Singletary sings Nat King Cole, Fullerton Elks
September 12: Membership Party, Batinich home, Fullerton



Friends of Jazz

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News & Notes

Friends of Jazz has started to rev back up again. Our college scholarships were distributed on May 2. Next up is a concert celebrating the music of Nat King Cole, on July 11. We've tentatively scheduled our annual Membership Party for Sept. 12 and will be releasing more details in the coming months. And toward the tail end of this year, at some point in November, we'll be having a party that will most likely have a patriotic theme to tie in with Veterans Day, with a tentative date of Nov. 14. We'll keep you posted with details as these events develop.



AROUND TOWN



This year's Muck Annual Jazz Festival offers six performances, on consecutive Thursday nights, from May 13 to June 17 in the outdoor amphitheater. Featured are Bruce Forman and Cowbop (May 13); Larry Koonse and the L.A. Jazz Quartet (May 20); the Barbara Morrison group (May 27); Bill Cunliffe and co-stars Kye Palmer, Brian Scanlon, Jeff Elwood, Mark Ferber and Francisco Torres (June 3); Josh Johnson and Holophonor (Mike Cottone, trumpet; Miro Sprague, piano; Dave Roberts, bass; Jonathan Pinson, drums (June 10); and the Don Most Orchestra (June 17). Most is well-known as a regular cast member of the '70s TV show "Happy Days" (where he was billed as Donnie Most). Tickets are \$35 per person per performance or \$150 for a season pass (all six shows). Call 714-738-6595 for additional info./tickets, or go to this link: <https://themuck.org/programing/2021-jazz>

See the Nick Mancini Trio live from Tulsa, OK, in an online concert on May 20 (7 p.m. PDT). To RSVP, follow this link: <https://www.universe.com/LAJSPresentsNickMancini/>. At 6 p.m. May 25, six-time Juno award nominated jazz vocalist and pianist Carol Welsman appears at Bayside Restaurant in Newport Beach. Carol and her quartet will pay tribute to the Great American Songbook in a supper club edition of the Sunset Jazz series that combines dining, jazz and cabaret. Seating is limited, so call 949-759-5003 for more details.

Friends of Jazz gets back into full swing with a special event on July 11 at the Fullerton Elks Lodge, where Porter Singletary sings the music of Nat King Cole. The 5 p.m. event features live music, dinner, a silent auction and opportunity drawings. To order your tickets or find out more, contact Dottie Batinich at 714-525-6669 or Charlotte Henderson at 714-870-9067. FOJ's Jennifer Hart will be the featured vocalist on Thursday, August 5, at the Muckenthaler's outdoor amphitheater, backed by Eric Bell (keyboards), Jimmy Ford (drums) and Paul Navidad (sax). Tickets are \$30 (general), \$20 (students and seniors) and \$15 (Muck members). For tickets and information, call 714-738-6595.

