

JIVE TALKIN'

Summer 2021

Volume 22, Issue 3



Chef Richard Calderon will prepare the Italian dinner and serve it in the backyard of his Brea home for the Sept. 19 FOJ Members Party.

Get ready for a Members Party like no other

The September 19 event will feature exquisite food in a fabulous, elegant setting.

Our most recent Members Party last fall represented a step back toward normality. Our next one, coming up on September 19, will be a lot closer to what most of us think of for this event.

For this time, FOJ's 21st annual Members Party, chef Richard Calderon is allowing use of the back yard of his Brea home. Current paid FOJ members and their guests will mix and mingle, have dinner, and hear jazz performed by professional and student musicians.

Chef Richard himself will be cooking up our pasta dinner, so get ready for the kind of treat enjoyed by patrons of Los Angeles' Barrio Italian Bistro. The location, Richard and wife Alysha's home, offers ample street parking for FOJ's guests.

The party is from 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person. Dress is casual and the bar is no-host. The RSVP date is September 12, so please get your reservations in soon.

To reserve your tickets or obtain further information, please call Dottie Batinich at 714-525-6669 or Colleen Wadsworth, 714-273-7504. 🎵

Debbi E. will salute Ella F. on Nov. 14



Jazz vocalist Debbi Ebert

Local jazz vocalist and longtime FOJ member Debbi Ebert is bringing "A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald," her salute to the jazz legend, to the Fullerton Elks Lodge for our next major event – so be sure to mark November 14 on your calendars. The event runs 5 to 9 p.m. and includes opportunity draw-

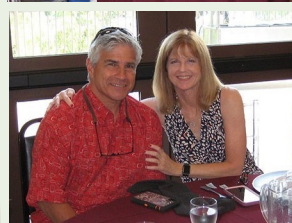
ings and dinner. Debbi has crafted her show to deliver jazz hits in the style of one of the art form's most singular talents, so prepare to be entertained and dazzled.

For tickets and more information, call Dottie Batinich, 714-525-6669, or Colleen Wadsworth, 714-273-7504. 🎵

Porter brings Nat King Cole to life



Photos by Eric Marchese



Porter Singletary has the same easygoing charm, charisma, and stage presence as the legendary Nat King Cole, as 90 guests were treated to at FOJ's July 11 party.

Muckenthaler Jazz Festival returns — and better than ever

This year's acclaimed Muckenthaler Jazz Festival came none too soon, what with patrons having waited more than a year for the signature event. For the first time, student musicians, many of them FOJ scholarship recipients, were featured as the pre-show performers.

Audience favorite Bruce Forman and Cow-Bop opened on May 13, with four Cal State, Fullerton, jazz students as the warmup act. A week later it was Larry Koonse and the L.A. Jazz Quartet. They were preceded by CSUF drummer Jacob

Wendt and professionals Gary Matsumoto on piano and Dan Kirsch on drums.

The ever-popular Barbara Morrison starred on May 27, the pre-show featuring bassist Cole Sainburg (Fullerton College), drummer Nico Vasquez (CSUF), sax player Josh Childress (Biola University) and pianist Dan Kwak (CSU, Northridge). On June 3, festival director Bill Cunliffe starred and played piano while conducting a raft of jazz all-stars, including Francisco Torres (trombone), Kye Palmer (trumpet), Brian Scanlon (sax), Jeff Elwood (sax), Will Lyle (bass) and Mark Farber (drums).

They were preceded by CSUF students Joe Terry on trumpet, Zack Caplinger on guitar, Andy Dominguez on drums, and David Reynoso on bass.

A quartet of outstanding jazz artists from El Dorado High School opened the June 10 concert starring Josh Johnson and the Holophonner. The festival concluded on June 17 with the Don Most Orchestra, a quartet of CSUF student musicians providing the exciting pre-show music. 🎵

See page three for photos of this year's exciting Muckenthaler Jazz festival!

Special Muck event salutes the legendary Doc Severinsen

On August 12, the Muck clipped off a piece of jazz history, and by doing so, also itself made history, holding an exclusive screening of the "American Masters" PBS documentary "Never Too Late: The Doc Severinsen Story" first broadcast in April. Near the insightful film's conclusion, Doc, then age 92, is seen performing on the clearly recognizable amphitheater stage in 2019.

The evening began with a reception and concert.

Using Doc's "Tonight Show" arrangements, jazz pianist Bill Cunliffe led an all-star band featuring Francisco Torres, Joe LaBarbera, Rickey Woodard and vocalist Barbara Morrison. Prior to the screening, comedian Dick Hardwick did standup comedy and related facts about "The Tonight Show." He then introduced Doc's daughter Nancy, the film's producer, and co-director and producer Jeff Consiglio, for a fascinating Q-and-A. 🎵



Dick Hardwick (left), Jeff Consiglio, former "Tonight Show" producer Jeff Sotzing, Nancy Severinsen (Doc's daughter), and Muck CEO Farrell Hirsch.



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 PO Box 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671.

www.friendsofjazzinc.com

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Jennifer Hart's Muck concert celebrates the '60s

Among the many recent events of interest to FOJ members at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center's amphitheater was the August 5 "Hart Fest" concert featuring Friends of Jazz's Jennifer Hart.

While this star vocalist performed standards like "That Old Black Magic" and "Blue Skies," she focused on the songs of the 1960s and '70s — in particular, "easy listening" hits like "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," "Downtown," "Laughter in the Rain," "I Say a Little Prayer for You,"



Jennifer Hart entertains at the Muckenthaler amphitheater.

"Clouds" and "Happy Together" as well as more lively hits like "I'm So Excited" or "That'll Be the Day" (a '50s song re-covered in the '70s).

Jennifer was backed by the

talented quartet of drummer Jimmy Ford, guitarist Benjamin May, Don French on keyboard, and sax player Paul Navidad, who also provided backup vocals. 🎵

Gallery of memorable moments from Muck Jazz 2021



Bruce Forman leads his band, Cow-Bop



Guitarist Larry Koonse (right) and friends



Barbara Morrison, a Muck fan favorite



Bill Cunliffe played piano and conducted his all-star orchestra of Francisco Torres, Kye Palmer, Brian Scanlon, Jeff Elwood, Mark Farber and Will Lyle.



Josh Johnson, on sax, leads his jazz band



Don Most: from "Happy Days" to Muck stage

"Doc" Hirsch announces the special August 12 event



Farrell Hirsch, Don Most and John Mongiardo with Anson Williams, who joined Don for an onstage duet



Festival producers Bill Cunliffe and Jeff Sotzing

New members join and others renew

FOJ welcomes its new members and thanks all those who recently renewed:

New members:

Jeanette Reese

Returning members:

Bonnie Castrey	Anne Key
Gail and Mike Cochran	Doug and Ann Myles
John and Janet Davis	Bruce Rubin and
Bill and Trudy Durette	Marlene Burnett
George Ennis	Joy Shepherd
David and Julie Hodge	Tom Short
Jan and Pierrette Jordan	Mike Sullivan

Help FOJ by shopping at Ralphs

Friends of Jazz members who shop at Ralphs and have a Ralphs Rewards Card can help FOJ receive funds every time they shop. The program is called Ralphs Community Contributions, and here's how it works:

Call 800-443-4438 and hold the line until a Community Contributions operator comes on. Tell them you want to register with the program set up for Friends of Jazz, Inc. Give them our name (Friends of Jazz), your name, and your rewards card number (on the back of your card beneath the bar code).

This will link your Ralphs Rewards Card to FOJ. Each time you shop at Ralphs and use your card, between 1% and 4% of your eligible purchases (most everyday food items) will be donated as cash to FOJ. Be sure to renew your participation in this program after one year.

Friends of Jazz, Inc.

Now In Our 22nd Year!

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September 19, 2021:
21st annual Members Party
Home of Richard and Alysha
Calderon, Brea
(4 to 8 p.m.)

Upcoming Events:

September 19: Members Party, Calderon home, Brea

November 14: Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald starring singer
Debbi Ebert, 5-9 p.m., Elks Lodge, Fullerton



One of Doc Severinsen's typically colorful "Tonight Show" costumes was on display August 12 at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center. For details of the special event devoted to Doc, see the article on page two.

AROUND TOWN



If you've never heard phenomenal jazz pianist Ron Kobayashi, or haven't attended any of his performances for a while, he's in Newport Beach weekly and downtown Fullerton twice a month. Ron is at Bayside Restaurant every Thursday and Friday night starting at 6 p.m., accompanied by jazz sax players Jerry Mandel and Craig Springer and drummer Bryan Cabrera. Bryan provides the vocals, and every Friday night, the combo hosts guest vocalists. You can also hear Ron at Les Amis Restaurant on W. Wilshire in Fullerton on the first and third Saturdays night of each month, from 7 to 10 p.m., where he plays in combination with bass player Baba Elefante and drummer Steve Dixon. Ron appears at The Drake in Laguna Beach, providing the piano music for a wide variety of vocalists on a rotating basis. His next performance is Sunday, August 22, starting at 5:30 p.m.; details of his upcoming appearances can be found at thedrakelaguna.com/events.

All summer long, the Sunset Jazz at Bistango series has been keeping jazz alive with a stellar lineup of weekly supper club concerts at the Irvine restaurant's open-air outdoor patio. The John Pizzarelli Trio has consecutive shows on August 24-25. On August 31 and September 1, jazz trumpet player Byron Stripling and jazz organist Bobby Floyd team with guitarist Bruce Forman and drummer Jeff Hamilton. Barbara Morrison celebrates her birthday with a Sept. 8 concert. Accompanying her vocals is The Peak Experience: Mike Peak on bass, Rickey Woodard on tenor sax, Kendall Kay on drums and the ubiquitous Ron Kobayashi on piano. The Ken Peplowski-Chuck Redd Quintet will make a swingin' evening of September 13. Vocalist/violinist Calabria Foti and the Christian Jacob Trio will appear on September 20, the final concert of the summer series. All concerts start at 6 p.m. and tickets range from \$55 to \$75. For tickets and/or information, go to sunsetjazzatnewport.com, email westcoastjazzparty@att.net or call 949-759-5003

