

Mardi Gras 2023 — Special Edition

JAZZ NOTES

The good times rolled at Mardi Gras 2023!



About 100 guests had plenty to celebrate at this year's Mardi Gras Ball, held March 19 at the Velvet Rose in Orange. And it was all for a good cause: keeping music in the schools since 1999.

And boy did they celebrate! Plenty of dancing, parading, eating, drinking, bidding on auction items and just plain merriment.

At 5pm, doors opened for cocktail hour, and guests were greeted by the CSUF Titan Ramblers (Bill Cunliffe, director). They were served delicious hors-d'oeuvres, given a drink ticket, beads, a colorful mask, and a ticket for a free photo while the band entertained. They also got their first look at the array of 75 silent auction items beautifully displayed in numerous baskets, and they bought tickets for a 50/50 drawing and the wine wheel (which included a chance for dinner at the Summit House).

Dressed in their finest clothes, masks and costumes, guests joyfully joined in

the krewe parade led by FOJ's dragon and Fullerton College's Lemon Street Stompers (led by Director Bruce Babad on sax) throughout the venue, dancing and waving beautifully decorated parasols, while the krewe played "When the Saints Go Marching In."

In the ballroom, the CSU Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, directed by Bill Cunliffe, provided some great entertainment for listening and dancing. Of course, what ball would not be complete without the 2022 king and queen, Nick and Dottie Batinich, whose reign began at the 2020 Mardi Gras ball. Then FOJ President Colleen introduced the **new royal couple for 2023: Bob and Doris Muschek.**

While at dinner, guests were treated to the vocal jazz group, Fullerton College's own J-Train. Later on, their director, Jamie Shew, sang several crowd-pleasing jazz standards with the CSU Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, along with local crooner Gavin Braun and surprise vocalist Mark Miller. And lots of dancers were swinging and swaying to the music. After collecting their auction items, guests were given a commemorative bag with a ballpoint pen and a small notebook to take home.



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2023 Jazz Festival begins soon!

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center announces its 18th Annual Jazz Festival. Here is the lineup:

May 11	Rodolfo Zuniga, Femi Knight & CSUF Jazz Orchestra, under Director Bill Cunliffe
May 18	Roy McCurdy Quintet
May 25	New West Guitars
June 1	John B Williams Tribute to Ray Brown
June 8	Ernie Watts Quartet
June 15	Poncho Sanchez

Concerts are held Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30pm. Contact The Muck for information & tickets (714) 738-6595 or info@themuck.org.

High school jazz bands swing!

High school jazz band concerts are being held at Rembrandt's Kitchen and Bar in Placentia. Nine weeks of high school jazz bands are sponsored by Friends of Jazz and the Johnny Carson Foundation. A senior from each school receives a \$500 scholarship, and a \$500 stipend is awarded to each band by Jim Harlan, FOJ's HS Jazz Band Coordinator. These

Saturday concerts start at 1pm. Doors open at 12:30pm. The remaining dates are as follows:

April 15 Irvine HS
April 22 Katella HS
April 29 Yorba Linda HS

Concerts are free to the public and lots of fun. Reservations for families are recommended. Call (714) 203-1353.



Friends of Jazz, Inc.
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To Our Friends & Supporters

We are now in our 24th year and in full swing.

But grants, donations and memberships are down. We greatly appreciate your support as we plan some fun events for 2023: high school jazz concerts at a new venue, Rembrandt's Kitchen & Bar in Placentia, February through April; a special event in June; a members party in September; scholarship awards; and Mardi Gras 2024!

We can't do it without you. If you haven't already, please renew your membership or join as a new member. If you can't join us, please consider sending a donation to help us keep music in the schools. A big thank you to all who have renewed or become new members.



If you'd like to join FOJ or want to know more about us and upcoming events, check out our website:



Condolences to Norma Jones and family on the passing of Dick Jones, longtime member of Friends of Jazz. He will be missed.

*Judi McDuff, Editor, (714) 271-0647
Call/text me with comments or questions.*

This publication is produced by Friends of Jazz, Inc., an educational, Orange County-based, all-volunteer, nonprofit corporation. Please write to PO Box 5671, Fullerton, CA 92838-0671.

Upcoming Jazz Events!

48th Annual Fullerton College Jazz Festival, April 21-22

**FOJ High School Jazz Bands, Saturdays, 1pm, Apr.15-29,
Rembrandt's Kitchen & Bar, Placentia**

**CSUF Fullerton Jazz Chamber Ensemble & Latin Ensemble,
Tuesday, April 25, 8pm, Meng Hall**

Christian McBride's New Jawn Quartet, April 29, 8pm, Barclay Theatre, Irvine

CSUF Jazz Singers, Sunday, April 30, 3pm, Meng Hall

CSUF Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, Friday, May 5, 8pm, Meng Hall

Fullerton College Jazz Band & J-Train, May 9, 7:30pm, Campus Theatre

Debbi Ebert, 6pm, Fridays & Saturdays, Cedar Creek Inn, Brea

Pilgrim's Coffee House, 7:30-9pm, one Friday/month, Fullerton

Thanks to these new & returning members—

**Rees Olson, Carolyn DeBerard, Kip Berry, Lesley Haney,
Steve & Judy Swytak, Maria Lozano, Benjamin Morenus,
Dave Robbins, Khrist Pallone, Victor Zonni, Jaime Griffin,
Garret Kallenberger**

**Planning a Party? Need your Piano Tuned?
Want Music Lessons? Call FOJ Musicians!**

Richard Abraham & Debbi Ebert, Jazz/Piano/Vocals (714) 323-1426 E

Bruce Babad, Jazz Sax (714) 992-7275 E, L



Jan Jordan, Jazz/Classical/Pops Piano
714) 803-5780 L

Ron Kobayashi, Jazz/Classical/Pops Piano
(714) 289-0364 **E**

Jennifer Hart, Jazz/Pops Vocals Piano
(714) 533-8833 (949) 233-5476 **E, L**

South Coast Quartet (Dennis Aigner), Vocal Jazz (949) 497-7134 E

Michael Le Van, Jazz/Pops/Vocals/Piano
(562) 714-4415 **E**

Chris Carranza, (714) 539-0552, PT
Jim Boydston, (760) 865-8578, PT

Key: E= Entertainment, L = Lessons
PT = Piano Tuning



Fullerton College celebrates its 48th annual jazz festival



The 48th Annual Fullerton College Jazz Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, 2023. High school jazz bands, combos, vocal jazz, gospel choirs and a cappella groups compete in the annual festival. The two-day event begins each day at 8am and continues until 6pm.

The festival features jam-packed days filled with school performances, outdoor concerts, awards ceremonies, and master classes by stellar clinicians. Their premiere, award-winning jazz ensembles will be performing at the featured noon concerts in the Campus Theatre: J-Train on Friday and The Fullerton College Big Band on Saturday. Each day's event will conclude with a concert featuring the college's Faculty Jazz Cadre, featuring Jamie Shew (vocal), Bruce Babad (saxophones and flute), Jeremy

Siskind (piano), Mike Scott (guitar), Lyman Medeiros (bass), and Matt Johnson (drums). If you go, consider staying for the entire day to support the many performers and take part in the many opportunities this festival offers.

The college is grateful to the various music directors for the wonderful contributions they've made to jazz music in our schools. They spend countless hours rehearsing their students and other behind-the-scenes preparations in order to take them to festivals, workshops, community events, and concerts. They have a lot of options to choose from, and the college is genuinely thankful for and appreciative of their continued support and loyalty to this educational festival. The jazz festival is sponsored by the Fullerton College Music Department. For information and tickets, call (714) 992-7142 or email music@fullerton.edu.



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Many thanks to the National Charity League gals, their moms and FOJ member Nancy Nehring for helping make the event a success. Kudos to Larry Arthur, MGB Director; Colleen Wadsworth, Assistant Director; Pam Appleman, Auction Chair; Don Dyer and Colleen Wadsworth, Emcees; and to the Mardi Gras Ball committee for tirelessly putting it all together. Thanks to you, our members, for helping to keep music in the schools by supporting this worthy event. Hope to see you at other fun events this year and next year's Mardi Gras! Friends of Jazz is supported by the Johnny Carson Foundation.



Grammy Award-Winner Bill Cunliffe's World Orchestral Premiere is featured at Lincoln Center this month



Temple University Jazz Band will perform a one-night only classical-jazz concert April 16 at Lincoln Center. The band will be joined onstage by its sister groups as well as its Faculty Sextet. The program includes the world premiere of *Rainforests* by Bill Cunliffe, as well as the New York premiere of Billy Childs's *Labyrinth*.

According to Terell Stafford, Director of Jazz Studies and Chair of Instrumental Studies at Temple University, this concert is a milestone in Temple University's history. "For the first time ever, two of Temple's top instrumental groups as well as jazz faculty members will be performing on one stage in New York City. This is a great way to hear the future of classical and jazz music which rest assured is in good hands!"

The evening's cornerstones are two commissioned works for TU's Studio Orchestra by Grammy Award-winning artists. Pianist/composer Bill Cunliffe celebrates one of the world's most important and special places, *Rainforests*. This large swinging piece is peppered with Latin rhythms, consistent with Cunliffe's acclaimed compositional style. *Rainforests* is the latest collaboration in a

decade-long friendship between the composer and Temple University. In 2012, his *Overture, Waltz and Rondo* was released on Temple's label, BCM+D Records, featuring Stafford and the TUSO. It awarded Cunliffe a Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Composition.

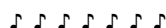
The world premiere of Bill Cunliffe's *Rainforests* will be performed by the Temple University Studio Orchestra, with Terell Stafford, trumpet; Dick Oatts, saxophone; Bruce Barth, piano; Tim Warfield, saxophone; and Jose Luis Dominguez, conductor.

Cal State Fullerton Professor of Music Bill Cunliffe is a jazz pianist, composer, Grammy Award-winning arranger and record producer. He is known for his work in blending jazz with the classical and pop genres based on a deep knowledge of and a lively curiosity about musical styles. As a solo artist and bandleader, he has more than a dozen albums to his name, and wearing other hats, including as a sideman, he appears on numerous other recordings.

In addition to teaching full time at Cal State Fullerton's School of Music, Cunliffe is a longtime faculty member of the Skidmore Jazz Institute and the Vail Jazz Workshop.

For information and tickets to the April 16th concert, contact 212.721.6500 or visit JAZZ.org.

(excerpts from April Thibeault, NY, and CSUF website)



We're Looking For Fourth-Grade Recorder Teachers for Fall 2023

Teach children in local elementary schools how to read music and improvise their own melodies by playing the recorder. We play the music of Ella, Satchmo, The Duke, and Count Basie and show children the fun of making music with the hope that they'll want to join the band in the 5th grade. The program lasts 10 weeks each semester, 30 minutes per classroom per week.

If you're interested, please contact Cindy Leone, cl7850@aol.com





More Mardi Gras Photos on page 6





Thanks to all who contributed photos in this newsletter: Linda Duarte Wolf, Don Dyer, Anne Kang, Judi McDuff, Steve Manivong

