

Mardi Gras 2025 — Special Edition

JIVE TALKIN'

Spring 2025

Volume 6, Issue 3

## Good times rolled for annual Mardi Gras

**FOJ's biggest event of the year offered great music, fun games, delicious food and fine auction items.**

Friends of Jazz has some fun events but the best is the king of all major fundraisers, the party celebrating Fat Tuesday. This year's Mardi Gras Ball was held March 9 at the Fullerton Elks Lodge and it was great.

More than one hundred guests had plenty to celebrate at this year's Ball. And it was all for a good cause: keeping music in the schools.

And did they celebrate! There was plenty of dancing, parading, playing games, eating, drinking, bidding on auction items and just plain merriment.

At 5pm, doors opened for cocktail hour, and guests were greeted in the New Orleans Room by a Fullerton College quintet. They were served delicious hors-d'oeuvres, given a drink ticket, beads, and a ticket for a free photo while the group entertained. They also got their first look at the array of 80 silent auction items beautifully displayed in numerous baskets, and they bought tickets for a drawing and for bottles of wine (which included a chance for dinner at the Summit House).

Of course, what ball would not be complete without the appearance of the reigning 2024 king and queen, Jim & Donna Harlan. Then FOJ President Colleen introduced the newly chosen royal couple for 2025: Paul and Amy Hinz.



Paul and Amy Hinz, the new king and queen, were crowned by 2024's MGB King and Queen, Jim and Donna Harlan (below).

Photos by Steve Manivong

Following the coronation was an authentic, New Orleans-style Mardi Gras krewe parade, led by FOJ's colorful dragon and Fullerton College's Lemon Street Stompers. Guests paraded joyfully throughout the venue complete with beads and twirling parasols while Barbara Johnson sang and the krewe played "When the Saints Go Marching In."

In the main ballroom, the CSUF Jazz Orchestra, directed by Rodolfo Zuniga, provided some great entertainment for listening and dancing. A delicious dinner was served while the band played. (*Mardi Gras Ball continued on page two*)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Friends of Jazz*  
**Spring Jazz Party**  
**Saturday, May 17**  
**5-8pm**  
**Fullerton Elks Lodge**  
Info: 714.525.6669



Friends of Jazz  
March 9, 2025



Friends of Jazz, Inc.

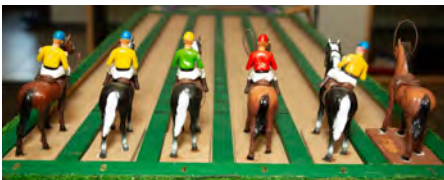
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### ♪♪ Quarter Notes ♪♪

Friends of Jazz noted the passing of some members and supporters going back many years.

We pay our respects to Gene Laroff, Joe Henderson, Judy McFadden, and Anne Key. These fine members supported FOJ through their time and funds, served on FOJ's board, or volunteered at various special events. Some made sure to show support by attending the many functions on the calendar throughout the year. Some made monetary donations or gave us items for use in silent auctions and opportunity drawings.

Each held Friends of Jazz in a special place in their heart, and we hold them in our hearts with affection, respect and fond memories. ♪



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 714-273-7504, PO Box 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671, or jazz4u0522@gmail.com. [www.friendsofjazzinc.com](http://www.friendsofjazzinc.com)

Judi McDuff, Editor. 714-271-0647

## Recorder classes began in January

The fourth-grade recorder program began in January. Students from participating elementary schools learn to read and improvise music on recorders (flutes). Concerts may be performed at the end of each 10-week period of classes and are free to the public. Students and their families enjoy seeing Friends of Jazz members in the audience who show support and encourage and cheer them on. The FOJ Recorder Program served 400

students, 12 classes in 4 elementary schools in Fall 2024. About 200 students, 6 classes in 2 schools are taking these classes this Spring. Teaching these free classes is Ilene Minnich.

You can learn more about Friends of Jazz's recorder program by emailing Cindy Leone, who runs the program for FOJ and provides classroom instruction for the young students. Her email is [cl7850@aol.com](mailto:cl7850@aol.com). ♪

## FOJ welcomes new and renewed members

Friends of Jazz is happy to announce these members who **recently joined or renewed**:

Marilyn Yutani, Farzad Moussavi, Rod Ammari, Howard Vipperman, Steve Nixt, Dongdong Han, Adrian Tapia,

Evelyn Ares, Christian Wiles, Levi Jennings, Annette Arevalos, Barry Adams, Donn & Debby Rohrs, Mireya Krahl, Jessie Cormier-Sayre, Jim & Tracy Caviola, Jean Klinghoffer, Jim & Bev Umholtz

### MARDI GRAS BALL *(continued from page one)*

Guests were given a program and a small book of sticky notes.

During and after dinner, CSUF soloists sang a few standards with the Fullerton Jazz Orchestra. And plenty of dancers were swinging and swaying to the music. After collecting their auction items at the end of the ball, guests received a ballpoint pen and a key fob as remembrances of the event.

It was a fun-filled evening that raised money to keep music in the schools.

Many thanks to our volunteers: Wendy & Caitlyn Pitts, Chris, Leah, Catherine, Bridget and Jack Arthur, Terry Stillman, Denis Wallace, Blake Maillet, Dottie Batinich, Judi Carolan.

Kudos to our Board and Mardi Gras committee members, especially to Mardi Gras Directors Larry & Kitty Arthur; Colleen Wadsworth, FOJ President; Don Dyer, decor; Paul & Amy Hinz; Ellie Castillo; Kaaren Hathaway, her daughter Mary and granddaughter Sienna; Dianne Wallace, Jerry & Linda Wolf; Judi McDuff, Jeanie Stockwell, and the National Charity League.

Thanks so much to Chef Z, Esteban and the staff at the Fullerton Elks Lodge.

Heartfelt thanks to you, our members, for helping to keep music in the schools by supporting this worthy annual event. Hope to see you at this year's parties and events and next year's Mardi Gras!



# High school jazz band program is swingin' at Lone Wolf

Friends of Jazz's high school band program is in full swing in 2025. The first two concerts featured Esperanza HS and Mission Viejo HS Jazz Bands.

On Feb. 22, La Serna High School's two jazz bands performed. Jacob Gonzalez won a scholarship playing alto sax and Milo Penner won for trombone. Matt Rohrs directed.

On March 1, University High School's two jazz bands under directors Diane Lee and Christine Maneewongwathana played. Abel Yu won the scholarship for the alto/soprano sax and Parker Medvitz for the trombone.

March 15 was El Dorado High School with 2 bands. Scholarship winners were Logan Johnson, alto sax, and Owen Krahl, drums. Eric Samson directed.

Valencia High's jazz band played on March 22.

Scholarships were awarded to Caleb Wong, drums, and Jonah Griffin, tenor/sop sax. Rudy Arevalos directed.

Yorba Linda HS was March 29—Camelia Adams (trumpet) and Angelo Messina (bass) received scholarships. Bincins Garcia directed.

Friends of Jazz awards two scholarship winners in each band \$500 each. All performances are at Lone Wolf Brewing Co., 1802 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, 1 to 3 p.m. Doors open at 12p.m. Reservations are suggested. Come early before the patio fills up!

<b>Here's the remaining schedule:</b>	
April 5	Los Alamitos HS
April 12	Northwood HS
April 19	E. Roosevelt HS
April 26	Oxford HS



University Scholarship Winners



Esperanza Scholarship Winners



Yorba Linda Scholarship Winners



Valencia Scholarship Winners



El Dorado Scholarship Winners



Photos by Jim & Donna Harlan

## A Note from a grateful student

Dear Friends of Jazz,  
Thank you so much for your support of my high school's music program and my education with the scholarship award! I am very grateful that I have gotten the privilege to perform for you over the last few years and receive the scholarship this year. I plan to continue playing jazz in college alongside earning my degree, and I hope that Mission Viejo will continue to work with Friends of Jazz for many years to come, and there will be many more great performers coming your way!

Thank you,  
David Parsons  
MVHS Lead Trumpet

## Don't miss these upcoming CSUF and FC events!

- 4/22 Fullerton Jazz Chamber & Latin Ensembles, 8pm Meng Hall, CSUF
- 4/25-26 50th Annual Fullerton College Jazz Festival, (Vocal, Fri., Instrumt., Sat.)
- 5/2 Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, Terrell Stafford, guest, 8pm, Meng Hall, CSUF
- 5/5 CSUF Jazz Singers, 8pm Meng Hall, CSUF
- 5/13 Synergy & Jazz Lab Band, 7:30pm, Campus Theatre, Fullerton College
- 5/14 Fullerton Jazz Combos, 7:30pm, Campus Theatre
- 5/20 Jazz Band & J-Train, 7:30pm, Campus Theatre, Fullerton College

**THESE EVENTS ARE FREE TO FRIENDS OF JAZZ MEMBERS.**





# More Mardi Gras photos



Photos by Steve Manivong, Kaaren Hathaway, Don Dyer, Judi McDuff





## Fullerton College celebrates its 50th annual jazz festival

The Annual Fullerton College Jazz Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, 2025. 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.

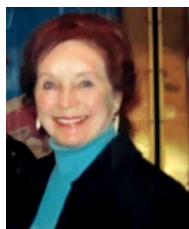
The festival features jam-packed days filled with school performances, outdoor concerts, awards ceremonies, and master classes by stellar clinicians. Their premiere, award-winning jazz ensembles will be performing at the featured noon concerts in the Campus Theatre: J-Train on Friday and The Fullerton 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). 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](mailto:music@fullerton.edu).

### News & Notes

*Condolences to the family and friends of **Anne Key** on passing. She was very supportive to FOJ and a long-time member.*



*Condolences on the passing of **Judy McFadden**. A long-time member and a good friend, Judy helped make the Fourth-Grade Improv program very successful.*



### Upcoming Events:

- April 5-26** High School Jazz at Lone Wolf Brewing Co.
- April 25-26** 50th Annual Jazz Festival, Fullerton College
- May 17** FOJ Spring Jazz Party, Fullerton Elks Lodge
- May 21** Yorba Linda HS Jazz Jam, El Dorado PAC
- Sept. 7** FOJ Members Party, Paul & Amy Hinz Home



### AROUND TOWN



The talented Jennifer Hart sings at BACI Restaurant in Huntington Beach with Mark Massey on piano the second Friday of the month. Jazz pianist Ron Kobayashi works his keyboard magic Thursday and Friday nights at Bayside Restaurant in Newport Beach. Vocalist Debbi Ebert, accompanied by Richard Ihara, can be heard Friday and Saturday nights from 6-10pm at Cedar Creek Inn in Brea.

Sunset Jazz at Bayside-Spring Supper Club Series runs Tuesdays through May 6, 6-8:30pm, Newport Beach. Advance reservations required: (949) 759-5003 or [joe.rothman@cox.net](mailto:joe.rothman@cox.net).

Check out free jazz concerts on weekends at Les Amis, 128 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton. Also, Jack Wood sings the Great American Songbook at Vittorio's Restaurant in Huntington Beach.

Ragtime is on at Half-Off Books, 141 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton (May 24, June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25) at 2pm; and at the Nixon Library on some Sunday afternoons at 2pm. Free