Winter 2026

Volume 7, Issue 1

JIVE TALKIN'

FOJ awards scholarships to local college jazz bands



Thursday, Nov. 13, marked the annual scholarship awards concert by the 18-piece Fullerton College Jazz Band directed by Bruce Babad. The band played "Where's Teddy," "Out of Town," "Captain Perfect," "Havana Fire," and "Another One for Ray." The 8-voice jazz ensemble, J-Train, directed by Jamie Shew, sang "Groovin' Hard," "Brazasia,"



'Painted on Canvas," "Anthropology," and "Turn It Up."

Scholarships were presented to band students and to J-Train vocalists during the program (FC scholarship winners are top left).

On Friday, Dec. 5, Cal State University's Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, Bill Cunliffe, Director, performed jazz tunes: "Easy Money," "Ceora," "Willow Weep for Me." The second half featured the Mina Choi Orchestra ("Linus & Lucy," "What Child is This," "Secret Garden.") Twenty-two scholarships were awarded to jazz student musicians.

FOJ members Jim Harlan, Don Dyer, and Jerry Wolf awarded a total of \$30,000 in scholarship monies to vocal and

instrumental jazz students from Fullerton College and Cal State University, Fullerton, during the two concerts.





Larry & Kitty Arthur, Gregg & Cheryl Batinich, Lisa Batinich, Nick & Dottie Batinich, Kathleen Bayles, Marion Brockett, Richard & Alysha Calderon, Rob & Janie Cashion, Doug & Paulette Chaffee, Walter Clark, Helga & Dan DiNardo, Richard & Susan Dolnick, Garrison Family Trust, Randy & Bethany Goldberg, Barbara Gregory, Jim & Donna Harlan, Kaaren Hathaway, Paul & Amy Hinz, Johnny Carson Foundation, Kathie Kelley, David Klein, Jean Klinghoffer, Louis Kuntz, Rick & Carol Lansing, Bill & Jan McGarvey, Maurice Meysenburg, Mark Miller, Jim & Ellie Monroe, Mike Peak, Wilson Phelps Foundation, Eva Schneider, Andrew & Ellen Siskind, Jeff & Peggy Sotzing, Jeanie Stockwell, Mike Sullivan, Howard Vipperman, Colleen Wadsworth, Dianne Wallace, Jerry & Linda Wolf

Many thanks to all others who contributed to FOJ in 2025!

Barry Adams, Adamson family, Rod Ammari, Dennis Aigner & Camille Bertolet, Evelyn Ares, Annette Arevalos, Bruce Babad, Glenn Bautista, James Beall, Terry & Karen Blackley, Dale & Mary Botts, Ellie Castillo, Jim & Tracy Caviola, Gary & Lynn Chalupsky, Mike & Sheri Chu, Olivia Cochran, George & Katherine Connaghan, Jessie Cormier-Sayre, Paul Cosato, Bill Cunliffe, Jim Davenport & Lisa McLain, Bill & Pat Dawson, John & Mitzi Demman, Jill & Paul DeWeese, Minard Duncan, Don Dyer, Ron & Ruth Egigian, George & Beverly Ennis, Barbara Fischer, Marie Fitch, Charles Fixa, Tom Folenta, George & Janice Fontes, Alicia Franco, Jim & Christina Garner, Bonnie Gilberstadt, Tara & Scott Glenny, Manuel Gonzalez, DongDong Han, Randy & Vicky Havens, Randi Hetrick, Dylan & Carol Harlan, Charlotte Henderson, Will Jackson, Pam James, Levi Jennings, Barbara Johnson, Norm & Sandy Johnson, Gordy & Gail Judd, Jeff Klinghoffer, Mireya Krahl, Kroll Family, Shirley Laroff, Logan Leone, Debbie Lipton, Elizabeth Loza, Pete & Grace Loza, Tami McCanless, Judi McDuff, Mark Miller, Ilene Minnich, Suzette Montgomery, Farzad Moussavi, Rosalind & Victor Munoz, Betty Murphy, Lucila & Terry Myers, Rick & Pat Nash, Steve Nixt, Michael Nourmand, Armando & Jennifer Olivares, Daniel Parsons, Vicki Pedrini, Milo & Jennifer Penner, Gary Peterson, John & Kerry Phelps, Ericka Quiroz, Donn & Debby Rohrs, Joe Rothman, Tom Rybolt, Kimberly Sargent, Jamie Shew, Beverley Shook, Lisette Stebbins, Liz Stiles, Erika Sudderth, Yvette & Gil Suniga, Adrian Tapia, James Umholtz, Candy Valko, Karina Villasenor, Christian Wiles, Marilyn Yutani

Recorder program in full swing

FOJ's fourth-grade jazz improv program began again in September. Five elementary schools participated for a total of 14 classes this Fall semester. Professional musicians teach these 10-week classes to fourth graders. Each student receives a recorder (flute), instruction book and lessons for free. Classes are 30 minutes/week, and students learn to read, improvise, and play music. A short concert is presented at the end of the 10-week session. Scheduled are: 12/8 Pacific Dr. 2pm; 12/9 Raymond, 9:15am; 12/11 Richman, 1pm; 12/15 Laguna Road, 9:40am; 12/16 Sunset Ln., 9:45am.

We're hiring teachers for this program. For information, contact Cindy Leone, cl7850@aol.com.

FOJ thanks our new and returning members

★ Ellie Castillo Gregg & Cheryl Batinich
★ John & Kerry Phelps Mike Sullivan
★ Bill & Pat Dawson Louis Kuntz
★ Beverley Shook Jean Klinghoffer
★ Logan Leone Dianne Wallace
★ Rob & Janie Cashion Randy & Vicky
★ Havens Richard and Alysha Calderon

SAVE THE DATE!

FOJ Sponsors Party Sunday, Jan. 18 5 pm Fullerton Elks Lodge

Info: (714) 525-6669



Sunday, March 8

To Our Friends & Supporters

We are now in our 26th year, but grants, donations and memberships are down. We greatly appreciate your support as we plan some fun events for 2026; high school jazz concerts Feb.-April; and our annual Mardi Gras in March 2026!

We can't do it without you. If you haven't already, please renew your membership or join as a new member. Keep in mind that memberships are not enough. If you can't join us, please consider sending a donation to help us keep music in the schools. Thank you to all who have renewed or joined as new members.

High school jazz concerts begin in February

High school jazz concerts are held at Lone Wolf Brewing Co., 18210 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, on Saturdays from 1-3pm. Dates are as follows:

Feb. 7, Esperanza; Feb. 14, Mission Viejo; Feb. 21, Trabuco Hills; Feb. 28, Los Alamitos; Mar. 7, El Dorado; Mar. 14, University; Mar. 21, Valencia; Mar. 28, Yorba Linda; Apr. 4, Oxford; Apr. 11, Northwood; Apr. 18, Eleanor Roosevelt; Apr. 25, La Serna.

All concerts are free. Reservations are recommended for families—call (714) 451-2240.

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 (949) 233-5476 **E**, **L**

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

Chris Carranza, (714) 539-0552, PT Jim Boydston, (760) 865-8578, PT Harry Bui, (714) 276-5661, PT

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



FRIENDS OF JAZZ, INC.

Keeping Music in the Schools Since 1999!

Membership Categories for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Student (\$20)	Invitation to Friends of Jazz events, recognition in FOJ newsletter
General (\$50)	Invitation to Friends of Jazz events, recognition in FOJ newsletter
Friend (\$100)	All benefits of General level plus two complimentary tickets, when available, to a jazz event at CSUF or Fullerton College.
Sponsor (\$250)	All benefits of Friend level plus two complimentary tickets to the Sponsors party.
Patron (\$500)	All benefits of Sponsor level plus recognition at a student scholarship presentation.
Benefactor (\$1,000+)	All benefits of Patron level plus two additional complimentary tickets to the Sponsors party.
Gold Benefactor (\$2,500+)	All benefits of Benefactor level plus two complimentary tickets to the FOJ Mardi Gras gala dinner-dance.
	FOR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026
Category An	nount enclosed \$ Date
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Cardholder acknowledges receipt of goods set forth in the cardholder's agreement wit	and/or services in the amount of the total shown hereon and agrees to perform the obligations h issuer.
Yes, I'd like to help with fundr	raisers, scholarship awards, mailings! Please contact me.
For more information www.friendsof	n, call Jeanie Stockwell (714) 815-4320 or Jean Klinghoffer (714) 871-6342. fjazzinc.com jazz4u0522@gmail.com

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THANK YOU — Fullerton College and Cal State University, Fullerton, for providing hours of swingin' jazz concerts and music at FOJ & other events throughout the year.

THANK YOU — members, donors, guests and volunteers who make the Mardi Gras and all our parties possible.

THANK YOU — local elementary schools for giving us the opportunity to offer jazz improv classes, and to high schools for showcas-

Donate a Scholarship

Help students study and perform jazz. Donate \$500 to FOJ and we'll present a scholarship in your name. If you like, you can help award the scholarship at an FOJ event.

You can also donate in memory of someone. We have scholarships in memory of **Joe Henderson**, who headed our high school jazz program and served on the FOJ Executive Board for many years; and long-time member and supporter, **Fred Schneider**. Scholarship donations support our high school program. Call 714-525-6669 for more information.

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.

Fullerton Pops pays tribute to Johnny Carson

What better way to spend a rainy Sunday afternoon than by listening to the University Symphony and Fullerton Jazz Orchestras pay tribute to Johnny Carson. The combined orchestras played a number of tunes from the Carson years— tunes by Ellington, Arlen, Gershwin, Rodgers & Hart, Lerner & Lowe, Van Heusen, Jobim, and more—and the audience was quite enthusiastic. Kimo Furumoto and Bill Cunliffe directed; Femi Knight, Jack Wood and Ernie Watts soloed; and several CSUF students and symphony members soloed.

Many thanks to the CSUF music administration and to the University Symphony for presenting a very fun and enjoyable tribute and musical afternoon.



Join or Renew Your Membership

Your membership matters. If your membership has expired, the sooner you renew it, the better for FOJ and its mission—keeping music in the schools. (See membership application on page 3.)

Please reach out to others — 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 students. And you all get to enjoy our parties and events. Or consider volunteering.

Donations and membership dues keep us alive. Besides checks and credit cards, we accept stocks and cash; all are tax-deductible. You can write off your donations to Friends of Jazz when you itemize your 2025 taxes.

Thanks for keeping music in schools!



Friends of Jazz's talented Jennifer Hart sings at Baci Restaurant in Huntington Beach on the second Friday of each month, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Jazz vocalist Debbi Ebert, accompanied by Richard Ihara, can be heard Friday and Saturday nights from 6 to 10pm at Cedar Creek Inn in Brea. Crooner Gavin Braun sings at local venues including the Tartan Room and Keno's.

Live jazz and blues happen at Fullerton's Twisted Vine, 127 W. Commonwealth Ave, every Saturday, 3-5pm. Check out free jazz concerts weekends at Les Amis, 128 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, including The Dixiedelics Jazz Band, 7 to 9:30pm the last Saturday of each month. Ragtime is on at Half-Off Books, 114 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, and at Nixon Library in Yorba Linda (Check the OCRS website for their complete schedule). Come hear the Michael LeVan Trio, 6-9pm, Wed., Thurs., Sun., Il Gatto, La Habra.

Check out jazz house parties by CalJAS. We're looking forward to more jazz events in the new year.

Enjoy holiday music with the Pacific Jazz Orchestra, Sat., Dec. 13, 8pm, at The Alex Theatre in Glendale.