

Jazz and jambalaya party a fun time for all

We loved Dave Alcantar and his Band at FOJ's Spring party, held on Sunday, May 17, at the Fullerton Elks Lodge. Fifty-five guests enjoyed dining, listening and dancing to the music from the 1940's to present-day. FOJ President Colleen Wadsworth hosted the party and introduced the new king and queen, Don Dyer and Judi McDuff.

A delicious Nawlins buffet of jambalaya, gumbo, dirty rice, rolls and salad was served by Chef Zee and his crew, with yummy bread pudding for dessert. A number of guests participated in the 50/50 drawing (thanks, Wendy) and bid on some of the fine auction items.

Thanks to all those who volunteered to make this party a fun evening. All proceeds support keeping music in the schools.



Mina Choi Orchestra: A stunning evening of jazz



On Friday, May 22, the 18-member Mina Choi Orchestra presented a fabulous jazz concert held at Faith Lutheran Church of West Anaheim. George Cables, originally scheduled as pianist, became ill and was replaced at the last minute by pianist Jon Cowherd.

Cowherd is a Grammy-nominated pianist, composer and founder of the acclaimed Brian Blade & the Fellowship Band. His remarkable career includes work with jazz legends Joni Mitchell, Norah Jones, Brandi Carlile, Wayne Shorter, and Herbie Hancock.

Most of the pieces were written and/or arranged by Mina Choi, a jazz pianist, composer, arranger, and band leader known for blending jazz with orchestral and contemporary influences. She has collaborated with a wide range of musicians across jazz, classical, and popular music genres.

The program included two pieces by George Cables, "Helen's Song" and "The Mystery of Monifa Brown," as well as charts by Horace Silver and Cedar Walton.

Friends of Jazz sponsored this delightful program.

CSUF and Fullerton College jazz musicians offer spring concerts



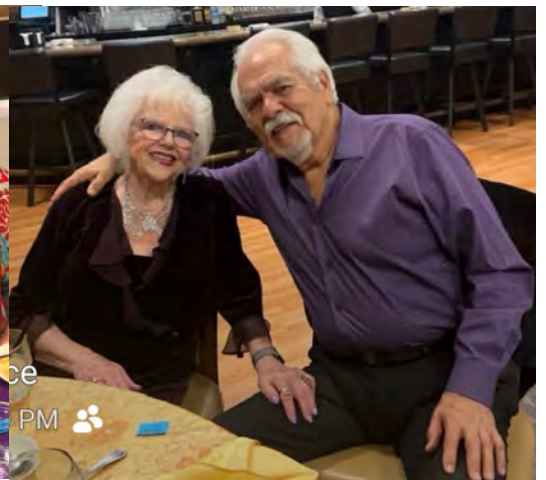
On Friday, May 1, Cal State University's Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, under Bill Cunliffe's direction, performed their spring concert. Featured was jazz saxophonist David Binney in a tribute to Dizzy Gillespie. Mina Choi's new arrangement of "The Mystery of Monifa Brown" by George Cables premiered; it featured Binney and was conducted by Choi.

On Monday, May 4, CSUF's Blue Note and Innervations, under director Teryn Re, sang



selected jazz tunes including "Love Me or Leave Me," "How Deep is the Ocean," "That Old Feeling," "The Days of Wine & Roses," "The Girl from Ipanema," "That's All," and "Summertime." Several solos featured vocal jazz majors. **Tuesday, May 5,** showcased Fullerton College's vocal jazz groups Synergy and the Jazz Lab Band.

Tuesday, May 19, marked the concert by the 16-piece Fullerton College Jazz Band. directed by Bruce Babad. The 8-member vocal jazz ensemble J-Train, directed by Jamie Shew, opened with "Groovin' Hard," "Brazasia," "Take a Little Time to Smile," "I Found a Love in You," and "Mind Trick" with the Big Band. Included were some great vocal soloists. In the second half, the band played "Runaway Hormones," "Lady Be Good," "Good Place to Be," (piano and guitar and composed/arranged by faculty member Mike Scott), an eerie Mingus tune called "Fables of Faubus," and Nove-na Fire." CSUF and Fullerton College jazz concerts are partially sponsored by the Johnny Carson Foundation.



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

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