

Arkansas Jazz Calendar

Vol. 8 No. 4 Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation Newsletter December 2000

In this issue: Winter 2000 jazz schedule, including great music at the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame - Monday Dec. 11

ARKANSAS JAZZ NEWS ...

Jazz Hall of Fame Monday Dec. 11

The Monday Jazz Project presents the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame on December 11, 2000, 8pm. Special tributes will be presented by featured saxophonist Gerald Johnson, honoring the late Art Porter, Jr., and Louis Jordan.

The event will feature appearances by the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame inductees guitarist Tonk Edwards and saxophonist Earl Hesse. Doug Stiles of the Jazz Club of Arkansas will receive the AJHF Lifetime Achievement Award, and with that induction into the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame. Joining them will be Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame member Buck Powell on piano, Joe Vick on bass, and Dave Rogers at the drums.

Hall of Fame biographies, along with other information about the artists, are posted on the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation's web site at www.arjazz.org/artists/hof

Biographies:

Clarence Aaron "Tonk" Edwards: Tonk Edwards has played with Sarah Vaughn, Dizzy Gillespie, Carmen McRae, Gerry Mulligan, Dave Grusin, Sonny Stitt, Billy Butterfield, Chet Baker, Roy Hargrove. Not bad, he says, for a guy from Nashville, Ark., where he was born as Clarence Aaron Edwards.

A guitarist, he has played every kind of music from rock-a-billy to Dixieland, and he has performed everywhere from Chaylors Starlight Club in Texarkana to the Montrose Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

(Continued on page 2-Hall of Fame)

Doug Stiles - Life Achievement Award

This year's lifetime achievement award recipient is worthy of such recognition if for no other reason than the fact that he's dedicated his entire life to absorbing as much musical knowledge and history (past and present) as one individual possibly could.

"I started out as a guitar man when I was a teenager in high school in Monroe, La.," said local bassist, band leader and music aficionado Doug Stiles, this year's recipient of the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame inductee. "My first performance was at the Hotel St. Francis with a college band. But I was the rhythm guitarist, mind you." To this day he will emphasize time and time again that he's 'closer to a talented amateur rather than a pro.'

A true Southerner, Stiles enjoys tracing the roots of jazz to its womb inside country music, where tinges of folk and borderline yodels are accompanied by jazzy time signatures and syncopated rhythms.

"I'm from Warren, Ark., a real country boy," Doug said. "And I guess you could say I got the music bug listening to bands on riverboats floating up and down the

(Continued on page 2-Doug Stiles)

AJHF held a picnic/jam with Jazz Club of Arkansas on November 5 at Capitol Keyboard, 13401 Chenal Parkway. Over 50 people enjoy fellowship, food, and a fun jazz jam. Please join us for a Christmas Party / Jam on Monday December 18 at the Afterthought.

If you are not a member, join AJHF by sending a check for \$15 individual, \$25 Family, or \$5 for Student payable to AJHF to The Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 251187, Little Rock, AR 72205-1187. Call Secretary James Thomson 663-5264 or President Cece Rich 228-9999 for information about AJHF.

- **The North Arkansas Jazz Society** presents jazz events in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Support jazz in Northwest Arkansas by sending a check for \$20 (individual), \$30 (family), \$10 (Student), \$50-\$100 (Sustaining), and \$100 - UP (Corporate), payable to North Arkansas Jazz Society, 40 East Elm, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703, or call Robert Ginsburg for information at (501) 521-1255 or 442-0990.

- **Claudia Burson (piano), Mike Johnson (bass) and Allan Gibson (trumpet)** will be at the Marketplace at Pinnacle Point (Champions Exit in Rogers) on Dec. 15 and Dec. 22 from 5:00 to 8:00pm.

- **Sassafras Restaurant** in the old Ozark Mountain Smokehouse on Dickson Street in Fayetteville is featuring Jon Barrios on guitar with Clare Starr on bass. Call for more info.

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The Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame Inductees



Tonk Edwards



Doug Stiles



Earl Hesse

But his first love is jazz. He has accompanied Sarah Vaughn many times, winning praise from critics like Leonard Feather of Downbeat. It's hard to believe but Tonk was an established musician playing all over Texas, Louisiana and Southwest Arkansas before he learned to read music.

But he recognized his shortcomings and moved to Texarkana to enroll in Texarkana Junior College where he studied music, developing a taste even for classical music. To pay bills, he drove a dry cleaners delivery truck in the daytime and played in clubs at night. That was when he started singing, which he says "brings a new flavor to the gig."

After completing junior college, he moved to Lubbock and enrolled in Texas Tech University. And he kept playing, mostly country music, traveling to Las Vegas, El Paso, North Dakota. Tonk owes his nickname to Country music. He was playing with Mary and Betty Kirby and had just finished Bill Doggett's "Honky Tonk," a real crowd pleaser in Texarkana. Betty started to introduce him but forgot his name so she yelled, "Way to go, Honky Tonk." The crowd roared and the name stuck.

But Tonk wanted to concentrate on jazz, so when he got a call to come to Denver, he packed up his family and moved. He played with Dizzy Gillespie and later he accompanied Sonny Stitt at the Senate Lounge in Denver. He even opened a club of his own.

In a couple of years, he moved to California where he met Dave Grusin, who hooked him up with Gerry Mulligan and Quincy Jones. One night with Jones at the Bel Air Country Club, Sarah Vaughn stepped up and sang with the band. She complemented Tonk's playing and shortly after that he was in her band.

Salt Lake City was Tonk's next stop; he taught guitar at the University of Idaho for four years. He has made other jazz festivals besides Montrose. He played with a group called "New Generations" at the Newport Beach Jazz Festival, and organized his own band to play at the North Sea Jazz Festival. He has also played in Belgium, Paris, Genoa, and Victoria, Spain.

In 1996, Tonk moved back to Nashville, Arkansas. He's made a record celebrating his return home, "Back to My Roots with Jazz." He teaches at a branch of the University of Arkansas at Hope, and he and his wife, Barbara, whom he taught to play electric bass, perform three times a week at a restaurant in Texarkana. Tonk also gives private lessons at his home in Nashville.

Earle Hesse: Probably no one has ever done more to interest Arkansas young people in jazz than Earl Hesse. He could do it because he is not only a teacher of jazz but a performer who can improvise and play any book with any band in the land.

Hesse, who was born in Stuttgart in 1934, moved with his family to Memphis, where his first public performances were in jazz bands on Beale Street while he was a high school student. A music scholarship took him to Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, where he earned his bachelor and masters degree. He later received a doctorate of arts at the University of Mississippi.

His first teaching jobs were as band director in

Mississippi River. My parents would take me to Star City when I was about 4 or 5 years old and they'd let me sit next to the guitar player. I would pick up his broken strings."

But to persuade Stiles to discuss accomplishments and milestones throughout his career is not unlike pulling teeth; he'd much rather offer visitors a tour of his home's musical library while spinning records from his collection, which easily numbers in the thousands. Or he'll waste no time whatsoever describing the characteristics and elements to be found in the various genres of popular music. He may even tell the listener who he considers to be among his most influential performing artists.

He will, however, tell anyone who asks what he believes to be his finest achievement in the music realm. "The pinnacle for me? Watching the Fuller kids," Doug said. "My most successful piece of work was writing for and training those guys," referring to The Fuller Brothers Band, who played to a nationwide audience on ABC in mid-1960s and survived three incarnations before disbanding in 1972. "They did what I never did; they rehearsed."

His tenure as a local jazz bassist has stretched nearly half a century, but his command of the music's history spans much further, as one visit to his home will prove. He can rattle off facts and artists' names artist from any given genre - especially ones he's experienced. Doug's services have been sought after for decades - from writing and arranging numbers for dozens of artists, to serving as house bassist at countless galas, balls, weddings - practically any gig imaginable.

His most recent job was last Wednesday's luncheon at the Gov's mansion, defying his doc's advice to minimize his physical activity. But above all, Stiles has earned the respect and admiration of the musicians he's trained, taught, coached, encouraged, inspired and supported. His wife, Arlene, has served the music community along with her husband as well. She, too, also deserves a note of thanks and recognition for tireless participation in all her and Doug's endeavors.

Stiles is in the holiday spirit this year. "I've got my Bose speakers on the front porch and my CD player with Glen Miller Christmas tunes blaring," he said laughing. "My neighborhood seems to like it. And I go to bed fairly early."

Of those riverboat days as a young fan, Stiles said of performers he witnessed, "I wish I knew who they were." But the odds suggest that those very musicians he experienced as a boy could be found lurking somewhere in his ever-expanding, countless stash of music recordings.

- **Folly Jazz 2000-2001 Season** - Celebrating 100 Years of American Music in Kansas City. Saturday, March 3, 8 PM., T. S. Monk Sextet. Saturday, March 24, 8 PM., The Dave Holland Quintet. Friday, May 11, 8 PM., Claude "Fiddler" Williams with special guest, pianist Eldar Djangirov. For ticket information call the Folly Theatre Box Office in Kansas City at (816) 474-4444. Tell them the Arkansas Jazz Calendar sent you.

- **The Blue Room**, 1600 East 18th Street on the Corner of 18th & Vine, Kansas City, features live jazz Monday - Saturday nights.

- **The Arkansas River Blues Society** presents their weekly Blues Jam at Juanita's, 9 PM., \$3 admission every Tuesday evening in Juanita's Cantina Ballroom, 1300 S. Main, Little Rock. Sign up with Jeff Weeden to participate. Call (501) 374-3660 for more information.

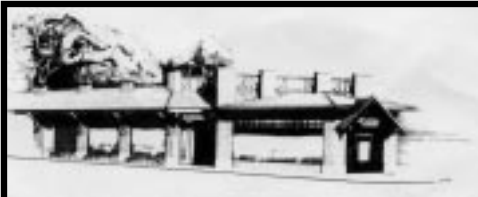
- **The Pine Bluff Jazz Club** meets Monday Evenings 5 to 7 PM., Monday after the 3rd Sunday of the month at Fuh Meis Restaurant, 921 Main St. Contact Tyson Travis at (870) 536-4500 for further information.

- **The Hot Springs Jazz Society** supports jazz programming in the Spa City including the annual Hot Springs Jazz and Blues festival. For information send inquiry to The Hot Springs Jazz Society, PO Box 972, Hot Springs, AR 71902-0972 or call Shirley at (501) 767-5482.

The next calendar deadline is December 26, 2000. Reply with jazz happenings to The Arkansas Jazz Calendar, c/o the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation, PO Box 251187, Little Rock, AR 72225-1187.

FAX your info to Arkansas Jazz Calendar by dialing (501) 228-8915. When the machine answers hit transmit, or call James Thomson at (501) 663-5264 or Cece Rich 228-9999.

Visit our web site www.arjazz.org or send email to ajc@arjazz.org - write us with events, letter to the editor, an ad, and/or just news today!

THE AFTERTHOUGHT
 Monday Jazz 8 pm
 2721 Kavanaugh, Little Rock
 663-1196



Crowell & Cisco, Texas, and at Goddard High School in Roswell, NM

In 1970, he came home, becoming a professor of music --he taught applied woodwinds-- at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia until he retired in 1997. He was the director of Henderson's prize-winning Collegiate Jazz Band for 15 years. Hesse also was an adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Ouachita University in Arkadelphia.

Since his retirement, he is in demand as a studio musician, soloist, lecturer, clinician and adjudicator. Hesse was a member of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra for 14 years, and still performs with symphonies in Pine Bluff, El Dorado and Tupelo, Mississippi.

He also holds the principal saxophone chair of the Arkansas Wind Symphony, where he was judged the best soloist of 1997 for his rendition of "theme and Variations for Soprano Saxophone."

But his real love is popular music, especially jazz. He has performed with such well-known musicians as Ella Fitzgerald, Buddy Rich, Buddy DeFranco, Lou Rawls, Eddie Fisher, Donald O'Connor, Bob Hope, Pattie Page, Brenda Lee, Al Hirt, Chet Atkins, Boots Randolph, Ace Cannon, B. J. Thomas, Robert Goulet, and Harry Connack Jr.

In just the last five years, Hesse has been a sideman in orchestras named for Jimmy Dorsey, Nelson Riddle, Jan Garber, Tommy Dorsey, Les Elgart, Russ Morgan and Benny Goodman. He frequently plays on the riverboat Mississippi Queen and for the Jan Garber and the Dick Jurgens orchestras on American Queen cruise ships. Most Arkansans know him as the short fellow with the gray beard who in the 1980's and 1990's played with the very popular Happy Tymes Jazz Band at concerts and parties in Little Rock and around the state.

Hesse has made dozens of records for others as a studio musician but never one for himself. His wife and four children have been pestering him for one, and he has finally done it. It's a CD called simply "Hesse." In an attempt to please family and friends, there's quite a variety of tunes - even a couple of religious and country songs. He hasn't decided yet whether to try to sell it. Many hope he will.



HELP SUPPORT JAZZ IN ARKANSAS!

For only **(\$15 individual / \$25 family/ \$5 Student/ \$50 Jazzman / \$100 Corporate / \$500 Corporate)** you become a member of the Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation and help support "America's classical music" in Arkansas. Your application fee entitles you to membership privileges for one year. These privileges include regular newsletters (The Arkansas Jazz Calendar) about upcoming jazz performances in and around the state, and the right to help the Foundation decide which musicians and programs it will sponsor. The Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the general public about the historical significance of Arkansas's musical heritage. It sponsors jazz performances by musicians with Arkansas connections and educational clinics for high school and college musicians throughout the state.

Please give us the following information, so we can keep you informed about upcoming jazz performances and educational clinics.

Check the Following: New Membership Renewal

Name _____ Jazz Society Affiliation _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Are you a musician _____ instrument(s) _____

Type of Membership _____. What types of jazz do you most like? _____

What jazz musicians or groups would you most like to see perform in Arkansas? _____

College _____

Please make checks payable to *Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation* and send to: Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 251187, Little Rock, AR 72225. For further information call (501) 228-9999, 225-2133 or 663-5264.

JAZZ RADIO CALENDAR OF ARKANSAS

- **KABF 88.3 FM Community Radio(Little Rock)**
 Sunday 9:30am-noon *The Quiet Storm* w/Griff
 Monday 9:30am-noon, with Al White
 Tuesday 9:30-noon, with Gary Anderson
 Wednesday 9:30am-noon with Russel Carpenter
 Thursday 9:30am-noon, with Tom McInnes
 Friday 9:30am-noon, with John Cain
 Friday 9:30pm-midnight *The Jazz Venue*
 Saturday 8:30-10 pm *Cool Jazz*
 Call (501) 433-0088
 - **KUAR 89.1 FM / NPR (Little Rock)**
 (94.5FM Monticello, 94.7FM Batesville & Forrest City, 106.9FM Hope)
 Sunday 7-8 pm *Swinging down the Lane*, David Miller
 8-9 pm *McPartland's Jazz Piano*
 9-12 midnight *52nd Street Jazz* John Cain
 Monday 9-10 pm *Riverwalk*
 10-11 pm *Billy Taylor Jazz*
 Tuesday 9-10 pm *Jazzset*, Branford Marsalis
 11-12 pm *Beale Street Caravan*
 Wednesday 9-10 pm *Jazz Profiles*
 10-11 pm *Jazz from Lincoln Center*
 11-12 pm *World Wide Jazz*
 Call (501) 569-8485 for select show info
 - **KUAF 91.3 FM / NPR (Fayetteville & Ft Smith)**
 Friday
 7 KUAF's *New Blues & Beale Street Caravan*
 9 *Blues Show*
 10 *Shades of Jazz*
 Midnight - *Jazz from Lincoln Center*
 Saturday 9-10 pm *Marion McPartland's Jazz Piano*
 10-11 pm *JazzSet* w/ Branford Marsalis,
 11-midnight *Jazz Profiles*
 Call (501) 575-2556 for info
 - **KTXK 91.5 FM / public radio (Texarkana)**
 Sunday 1-2pm *Jazz Profiles* with Nancy Wilson
 2-3pm *Jazz from Lincoln Ctr* with Wynton Marsalis
 3-4pm *Jazz Scene*
 Monday thru Friday 6:30-7pm *Jazz Tonight*
 Monday 7-8pm *Piano Jazz* w/ Marian McPartland
 Call (903) 794-6135 for info
 - **KASU 91.9 FM (Jonesboro)**
Something Blue show with Hairy Larry
 Mon-Fri 1pm *Afternoon Moods* with Marty Scarbrough and Terri Pratt
 Mon 9:30pm *When Swing was King*
 Tue 9:30pm *Jazz Profiles* with Nancy Wilson
 Wed 9:30pm *Piano Jazz* with Marian McPartland
 Thu 8:30pm *JazzSouth*, profiles of musicians
 9:30pm *Worldwide Jazz*
 Fri 9:30pm *Rhythm: Sweet & Hot (Swing)*
 Sat 7pm *Beale Street Caravan*
 8pm *Blues After Hours*, Bob Brown
 10pm *Something Blue*
 11on *Blues Overnight*
 Call (870) 972-3070 for more info
 - **KIPR 92.3 FM (Little Rock)**
 Sunday 10 am-2 pm jazz format
 Call (501) 663-0092
 - **KYFX Foxy 99.5 FM (Little Rock)**
 Mellow Mike 10am-2pm
 Dave Koz 2pm-4pm
 Call (501) 666-3699
 - **KFFB 106.1 FM (Fairfield Bay)**
 Wednesday & Friday 10-11pm
 Saturday 7pm - midnight
- Send revisions or new entries to:*
 The Jazz Radio Calendar of Arkansas,
 c/o the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation
 P.O. Box 251187
 Little Rock, AR 72225-1187
 Email: ajc@arjazz.org, or
 Phone: (501) 663-5264

Winter 2000 Holiday Jazz Schedule

Monday Jazz Project at *The AfterThought*

2721 Kavanaugh, Little Rock, AR (501) 663-1196

Every Monday night at 8PM!

DECEMBER

- 11 **Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame** with saxophonist Gerald Johnson featuring tributes to Art Porter, Jr. and Louis Jordan.

Special guest appearances by 2000 inductees Doug Stiles, Earl Hesse, and Tonk Edwards!

Also featuring Monday Jazz Project trio Arkansas Hall of Famer Buck Powell on piano, Joe Vick on bass, and Dave Rogers at the drums.

Starts 8 PM. Tickets \$10 available from the Afterthought 663-1196 and Capitol Keyboard 228-9999.

- 18 **Monday Jazz Christmas Party / Jam.** 8 PM, \$3 / \$1 Jammers.

25 Closed! Merry Christmas.

- 31 **New Years Eve.** It's on Sunday and the Afterthought is featuring **Lee and Betty Tomboulian.** Cover \$10, couples \$15. Call (501) 663-1196 for tickets.

JANUARY

1 Closed! Happy New Year.

Send **Arkansas Jazz Calendar** entries to
c/o AR Jazz Calendar P.O. Box 251187
Little Rock, Arkansas 72225

www.arjazz.org

ajc@arjazz.org

A Tomboulian New Years Eve

The AfterThought will offer a special and fun jazz New Year's Eve. Don't miss Lee and Betty Tomboulian, formerly from Little Rock, who will be in town to perform at the AfterThought. You'll hear a mix of jazz standards, Latin tunes, original music and more, and it's a great way to welcome in the New Year with old and new friends. Music will be from 8-12 pm, with a \$10 cover per person, or \$15 per couple. Call the AfterThought at 663-1196.

ARJAZZ Web Page offers CD Sales

Looking for a particular CD? You can buy CDs as well as books and other items through the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation web site (www.arjazz.org) because of a special arrangement with Amazon.com, the online bookstore. ARJAZZ gets a small share of each purchase, so it's another way for you to support jazz in Arkansas!



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