



Take it from the top

Rain or drought, feast or famine. These thoughts come to mind as I reflect on the jazz scene in our area. September and October are so overflowing with opportunities to hear great jazz you'll have to pick and choose carefully. I don't mean to imply that there's been no jazz in the past few months. We should recognize, or better yet patronize, our regional heroes like Keefe Jackson, Clare Starr, Claudia Burson, Allan Gibson, Jack Martin, Wes Bowlin, Steve Wilkes, Dave Rogers, Jim Greeson, Mike Johnson, Joe Vick, Joe Cripps, Charles Thomas, and many more too numerous to list. These musicians are on the front lines, scratching and scraping for gigs and an audience! I hope this issue of the Messenger will help to remedy the relative obscurity of these cats and their gigs. Check out the In Our Area section on page 2.

The fact remains that the high profile dates are heaped tall during the next five weeks, with jazz to suit everyone's taste. This concentration of events is partly the result of "festival season" being upon us, and partly the luck of the draw. We've tried to provide as complete a schedule as possible, with contacts, phone numbers, emails and web sites so you can pursue your musical muse. Updates and additions are always welcome.

In less temporal realms, Allan Gibson has completed the recording of his new CD. It features Allan on trumpet with Lee Tomboulion on piano, James Greeson-guitar & bass, Darren Novotny-drums, Gerald Sloan-trombone, Betty Tomboulion-vocals, Mike Johnson-bass, and Larry Cangelosi-saxophones & flute. This Cd represents some of our finest regional talent combining forces on all original tunes. Al put forth a great effort in gathering musicians and funding for this project. The Arkansas Arts Council, Bank of Fayetteville, and The North Arkansas Jazz Society were among the project contributors. More info on where to purchase this CD as soon as it's available.

Finally, as a result of overwhelming commitments, the NAJS annual Potluck Jam Session has been postponed. This yearly members event has always been a blast for everyone involved. We've concluded that our time needs to be spent promoting and making arrangements for the September 25, Latin Jazz concert, *Orquesta de Jazz y Salsa Alto Maiz* at the Jones Center (see article on this page). We have scheduled the NAJS potluck for Thurs., October 22 at 6:30 p.m. at The North Forty. Check to see if your NAJS membership is current so you can attend.

Keep Swingin'! Robert Ginsburg, NAJS President

Call (501) 521-1255 or email me at <<RSGinskins@aol.com>>

The Down Beat CALENDAR

Hot Springs Jazz Festival

Sept. 11, 12, 13

Hot Springs AR

Terence Blanchard, Tom Cummings 4-tet, Shirley Chauvin & the Shades of Blue Airforce Jazz Ensemble, more. (501) 767-5482

Eureka Springs Jazz Festival

Sept. 17-20

Eureka Springs, AR

Herbie Mann with Bruce Dunlop, Dave Rogers Trio, Angela Hagenbach & Musa Nova, New World Funk Ensemble, Grady Nichols
Contact Jack Holly (501) 253-7788 or 253-6258.
web site: www.eurekaweb.co

The John Adams Quartet

Wednesday, Sept. 23

University of Arkansas Fine Arts

Concert Hall, Fayetteville, AR

Contact Dr. James Greeson (501) 575-4190

Orquesta de Jazz y Salsa Alto Maiz

Friday, Sept. 25 at 8:00 pm

The Harvey and Bernice Jones Center
Springdale, AR

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$9 at the door
Contact NAJS for more info (501) 521-1255
Purchase tickets (Visa, M.C. Amex, Disc.)
(501) 442-0990 (50¢ charge per ticket)

Kurt Elling Quartet

Friday, October 2 at 8:00 pm

Walton Arts Center, Starr Theater
Fayetteville, AR

Tickets \$8 general admission • \$15 table seating
Call (501) 443-5600



Jazz and Salsa? Let's Dance!

The North Arkansas Jazz Society will present the Latin Jazz group, *Orquesta de Jazz y Salsa Alto Maiz* at the Harvey and Bernice Jones Center on **Friday, September 25, 1998 at 8:00 pm**. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$9 at the door and can be purchased at Uncle Sam's Safari Outfitters in Evelyn Hills Shopping Center, Fayetteville, or by calling (501) 442-0990.

Orquesta Alto Maiz plays a wide range of Latin musical styles, including *merengue, samba, cha-cha, salsa, calypso*, and *Afro-Cuban*. The 11-piece band's lively mix of music includes compositions by Eddie Palmieri, Tito Puente, Dizzy Gillespie, Ruben Blades, Pancho Sanchez and Willie Colon, that are guaranteed to get you on your feet and dancing.

The eleven piece "Orquesta" includes piano, two trumpets, trombone, saxophone, guitar, bass, four percussionists, with

"If your body doesn't move when you hear these guys, you should check your pulse to see if you're alive."
— Victor Mendoza

Continued on page 5

Jazz on the Radio

KUAF 91.3 fm Jazz Programs for **SEPTEMBER** listening

Fridays, 10:00 pm to 12 am: Shades of Jazz with Robert Ginsburg

Fridays, 12:06 am to 1 am: Jazz Smithsonian

Saturdays, 10:06 pm to 11 pm: Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz

September 5: Nneena Freelon has emerged into the jazz scene as a world-class talent.

12: Henry Mancini, the late composer-conductor introduced jazz in films with his music.

19: Randy Weston settled in Morocco in the late 60's. He has absorbed Africa so deeply that it flows from his fingertips.

26: Max Morath In the 60's, he was responsible for the revival of interest in ragtime and stride piano playing.

Saturdays, 11:06 pm to 12 am: JazzSet with Branford Marsalis

September 5: Jim Hall with Brass and Don Byron's Bug Music at Monterey.

12: Gerald Wilson Orchestra premieres *Theme for Monterey*.

19: *Coltrane: A Love Supreme* from the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band for the composer's birthday.

26: Conrad Herwig's *Latin Coltrane* at Stanford Jazz Workshop.

Saturdays, 12:06 am to 1 am: Jazz Profiles

September 5: Mose Allison says he writes three kinds of songs: "slapstick," "public service" and "personal crisis" songs.

12: Roy Haynes, one of the most respected artists in jazz, hasn't stopped since.

19: Jay McShann "Hootie" to his friends, this bluesman supreme has been a living legacy of Kansas city jazz for over 60 years.

26: Johnny Mandel, a gifted songwriter for over 30 years, he has had one of the most exciting and productive careers in music.



In Our Area . . .

WHO

John Behling Trio

Claudia Burson, piano

Keefe Jackson & Friends

Clare Starr's Insurgent Stock Pot

Pam Nelson

WHEN

Fri. & Sat. evenings
6pm - 10 pm

Sat. evenings 6pm - 8:30pm

Wed. evenings 7:30pm to 10:30pm

Tues. evenings 10pm to 1am

Sundays 10:30am - 2 pm

Sundays 6pm - 9 pm

WHERE

Watson's Bistro
119 E. Walnut, Rogers

Otis Zark Restaurant
Hwy. 16 East, Durham

Arasaga's North-Fayetteville

Chester's in Fayetteville

Holiday Inn Brunch

Powerhouse Seafood Restaurant

no cover

no cover

no cover

no cover

Free

\$6/\$3

Free

\$5/\$3

Free

\$5

\$3.

The NSU Jazz Lab in Tahlequah Oklahoma is back in full swing.

Mary Kay Henderson
and the Lab House Band

Thur., Sept. 17, 8 pm

An Evening on Ellington

Fri., Oct 2 8 pm

NSU Jazz Combo

Wed., Oct 7 8 pm

Violinist, Jimmy Gyles Quartet

Thur., Oct 8 8 pm

Mary Kay Henderson
and the Lab House Band

Tue., Oct. 20 8 pm

Monday Jazz is the weekly jazz presentation by the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation.

Pat Henry Group

Sept. 14 8 pm

The AfterThought

\$5

Doug Stiles and Friends
(good traditional sextet)

Sept. 21 8 pm

2721 Kavanuagh (corner of Beechwood and
Kavanuagh), Little Rock, (501) 663-5264

Open Jam Session

Sept. 22 8 p.m

\$3.

This is the monthly jam session with our out-of-this-world house band, Buck Powell on piano, Joe Vick on bass, and Dave Rogers at the drums. Jammers sign up at the door.



Jazz Web Site



The Arkansas Jazz And Heritage Foundation, Little Rock has established a web site with local and regional information regarding jazz events, education, the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame, and much more. Visit their site at: <www.arjazz.org> or contact them at 5406 A Street, Little Rock, Ar. 72205. Phone (501)-663-5264



Supporting Jazz,
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(501) 444-4444

Member FDIC

Jazz Vocal Star at the Walton Arts Center

Grammy nominated, Blue Note recording artist Kurt Elling and his group will be appearing at the **Walton Arts Center on Friday, October 2, 1998 at 8 pm in the Starr Theater**. Appearing with Elling will be his trio of Laurence Hobgood on piano, Robert Amster on bass, and Michael Raynor on drums.

Kurt Elling's debut Blue Note album, **Close Your Eyes**, released in spring, 1995, heralded the arrival of a young and dynamic jazz singer. His singular approach, though it drew on such sources as scat singing, vocalese and poetry, was unlike anything heard before. Following that well-received, Grammy-nominated premiere came *The Messenger*. Here, Chicago-born-and-based Elling took his unique gifts a step further, offering selections that continued to set a standard for new directions in jazz vocal performance.

Elling was destined to be a great jazz singer. Born on November 2, 1967, he started singing in church, then studied violin and French horn. He discovered jazz when he was a student at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, where he majored in history, minored in religion. A friend turned Elling on to Dave Brubeck, Dexter Gordon, Herbie Hancock and Ella Fitzgerald. "It seemed natural to start singing that music," he says, "and I started scat-singing almost the day I started singing jazz."

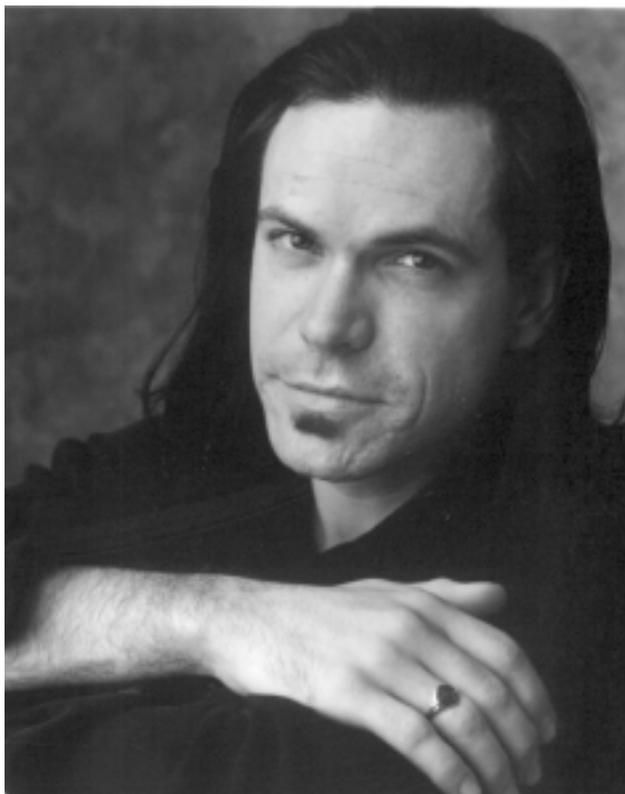
Elling was soon singing in the college jazz orchestra. After graduating, music began to take hold. Elling discovered jazz singer Mark Murphy and was entranced by his mixture of singing and employing beat poetry. Then he started to work, doing anything from weddings to appearing with Chicago sax legend Von Freeman and saxophonist Ed Petersen who led a band at that jumping joint, the Green Mill.

For the next two years, Elling worked sporadically as a singer while taking a variety of day jobs, from bartender to mover, to make ends meet. Then, in late 1993, Petersen gave Elling some advice. "I had been scating all the time, and had made real progress," he says "But Ed took me aside and told me, "Every musician can scat. But when you make up your own lyrics when you're singing, that's cool. That's your strength." Elling has in two brief years become an internationally recognized and critically regarded jazz vocal artist, a musician who has worked such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall and has been profiled on CBS Sunday Morning.

"Kurt Elling is arguably the most interesting and innovative jazz singer to come along in years. He puts his personal imprint on each song. That's what it takes to be a jazz star." — Artie Shaw

This Time It's Love is Kurt Elling's third album. It appears destined to be his best so far. At first glance, **This Time It's Love** seems to be the Chicago singer's paen to America's great songbook of standards. Elling delivers a mix that may get listeners to spend a little more time on the dance floor and less snuggled in their armchairs. In fact, the style of this 30-year-old singer, who loves Beat poetry and modern jazz, is to reinvent *My Foolish Heart*, *The Very Thought Of You*, *Too Young To Go Steady* and *Every Time We Say Goodbye* making these chestnuts smell like they just left the tree. "I like what Cootie Williams had to say in this regard: 'The material is immaterial'."

The Kurt Elling Quartet will be appearing at the Walton Arts Center on Friday, October 2, 1998 at 8 pm in the Starr Theater. Tickets are available by calling the WAC at 501-443-5600. Seating is limited to 220 people so don't wait too long to get your tickets.



"...Elling has it all: A warm baritone, respect for jazz tradition and a desire to move the art of jazz vocalese forward."

— Stephen Phillips - The Cleveland Plain Dealer

John Adams Quartet at the U of A

On **Wednesday, September 23** the John Adams Jazz Quartet will perform in the U. of Arkansas Fine Arts Center Concert Hall at 8 pm. Bassist, John Adams leads this world class ensemble. John toured with the Woody Herman Band, and he's played with Randy Brecker, Chet Baker, Kenny Werner and many others. Drummer Ed Soph, is known to our area from a great concert here about 8 years ago. Ed teaches drums at the U of North Texas and has toured with Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Henderson, and many others. Pianist Joe LoCascio has played and recorded with jazz greats Chet Baker, Freddie Hubbard, Ernie

Watts, and others. His two recent CD's (with Adams and Soph) have received national airplay and high praise from critics. Trumpeter Dennis Dotson was trumpet soloist with the Woody Herman Band for 3 years, and has played with Joe Henderson, Joe Lovano, Buddy Rich and others.

The concert is free to students with an ID from any school, and for non-students a \$4 admission will be charged. *The concert's proceeds go to the North Arkansas Jazz Society's scholarship program to support students attending the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Workshops next summer.*

Letters from NAJS Scholarship Recipients

NAJS Jazz Society,

The week long Jamey Aebersold Jazz workshop I attended in Chicago provided a great opportunity to see and hear great jazz music and musicians.

I began playing jazz vibraphone as an undergraduate at Hofstra University and I am working on my Masters Degree here at the University of Arkansas. I play vibraphone in the University Jazz Band and occasionally at gigs around town.

For me, the most beneficial aspect of the workshop was that it focused primarily on performance and applying the concepts taught directly to your instrument. Another aspect that was both educational and enjoyable was the evening performances by the faculty. These concerts were a great example of how the faculty had mastered the concepts being taught and were able to apply them in a musical context. I would like to thank you for making this experience possible and allowing me to further my studies in jazz.

Todd Nasife



Dear NAJS Jazz Society,

My name is Tim Dodd and I attended the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshop in Louisville, Kentucky during the week of July 4, and let me tell you, it was quite an experience. There was so much information given to me that week that I left the camp feeling both hungry for more knowledge and exhausted. The high level of instruction and the intense abilities of the performers made for an experience that I will always remember.

I am currently a student at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, in the fourth year of my Music Education degree. I began playing percussion in middle school, and continued playing in the band in high school. I picked up drum set playing my freshman year in high school, playing mostly rock but slowly trying to play more jazz as my listening habits changed. I went on to college studying percussion and decided my sophomore year to get into the jazz band just to see what was going on.

While I enjoy playing the keyboard and concert percussion instruments that I am studying here at the U of A, I have always felt most comfortable playing the drum set. Being in the jazz band here has opened up the world of set playing for me, and in a way, the world of music.

The jazz camp in Louisville took this learning to an even higher level. The instructors were top notch and the facilities were great. I was taught basic concepts of jazz theory that I had no idea about, given instruction on playing my instrument to the best of my abilities, and given many insights on what should really go on in small group playing. The ideas that the instructors were piling onto us were extremely helpful and at times even mind-blowing. I learned so much about playing jazz, improvising, and communicating with other players that it is hard for me to even describe it here. Most important, I learned about the music itself that we all are trying to play, and from that gained even more appreciation for jazz.

The workshop was a great opportunity to learn, as well as hear some truly amazing playing. I would like to personally thank the members of the NAJS for making it possible for me to attend this great event.

Tim Dodd

To the Jazz Society,

My name is Ely Yale and I am a Music Major at the University of Arkansas and a student of Dr. James Greeson. I play bass in the North Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Fort Smith Symphony, University Symphony Orchestra, the Jack Terry Big Band, U of A Jazz Band and in the "So What" Jazz Combo.

I am a senior this semester, and it was a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to attend the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshop in Louisville, Kentucky this past July. I feel that this workshop has had a tremendous impact on my musical education in more ways than one. It was amazing and beneficial for me to see and talk with some of the top-notch jazz artists at this workshop. I felt inspired to practice and play more jazz music since returning. I also feel that this workshop has given me specific goals to work for and accomplish. I am so very glad to have been a part of the workshop and would love to return in the future to gain even more inspiration and growth.

P.S. Being a bassist, I couldn't help but think that my favorite part of the week was seeing Rufus Reid play and give a master class. He is truly a spectacular player and a marvelous teacher as well.

Many Thanks, Ely Yale

Orquesta

Continued from page 1

all members sharing the vocal duties. The group was formed 1986 as a project for the College Hills Arts Festival at the University of Northern Iowa. Over the past 12 years they have developed a large and faithful following of dancers and fans whose support has encouraged their exploration of "Salsa" and Latin jazz. Orquesta Alto Maiz has three CD's to their credit which will be featured on 91.3 fm, KUAF Radio's Friday night jazz program, "Shades of Jazz" from 10:00 pm to 12:00 am.

For tickets call (501) 442-0990, and wear your dancing shoes! Thanks to the Harvey and Bernice Jones Center for their generous support in producing this concert.

For more information call (501) 521-1255 or email RSGinskins@aol.com



"A truly unique ensemble that brings together the best of Latin American and Caribbean music with the best elements of jazz music. The result is a brand of music so irresistible your feet won't stay still."

— Iowa Arts Council

Eureka Springs Jazz Festival

The Eureka Springs Jazz Festival is now in its 14th year of bringing world class music to the Ozarks. This year's Festival takes place **September 17th through the 20th**. Renowned Jazz Flutist Herbie Mann will headline the event with a concert in the historic Eureka Springs Auditorium, Saturday evening Sept. 19th at 8pm.

In 1996 Herbie Mann was voted Number One Jazz Flutist in

JAZZIZ and Number Two in **JAZZ TIMES** magazines. This follows a run of 13 years as **DOWNBEAT**'s Number One Flutist starting in the late 50's. Mann will perform a duo



concert with guitarist Bruce Dunlop.

Angela Hagenbach and Musa Nova, a six piece jazz ensemble whose repertoire covers a wide range of music from within the Latin idiom will open for Herbie Mann. Hagenbach's lush contralto spans a range of nearly three octaves and her rich life experience contributes to her original compositions and lyrics.

Friday Sept. 18th at 8:00pm the Basin Park Hotel Ballroom will feature Grady Nichols and Moments Notice. In addition, Dave Rogers Trio will be up from Little Rock to perform. Saturday

night, September 19th from 8:30 until 1:30 The Eureka Springs Jazz Society will present "The Party After" featuring The New World Funk Ensemble, a nine piece band with a four piece horn section, performing sophisticated and grooving originals with African, Cuban, and Australian influences, as well as New Orleans funk and modern jazz.

Tickets for the Herbie Mann concert are \$25 each. The premier concerts in the Basin Park Hotel Ballroom, Friday and Saturday night are \$12 each.

Tickets are on sale now at the City Auditorium, The Chamber of Commerce and Rogers' Records or by calling (501) 253-7788 or 253-6258. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

More information about the 14th Annual Eureka Springs Jazz Festival can be found at: www.eurekaweb.com



Member's Potluck Jam

Thursday, Oct. 22 • 6pm

The North Forty Bed & Breakfast

This event is FREE to current NAJS members.

Live music will be provided by regional musicians.

Bring a dish to share. Cash Bar.

Cost to non-members is simply to join!

\$20 Individual / \$30 Family

For more information call 521-1255



NORTH ARKANSAS JAZZ SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Business) _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS: Big Band /Swing Bebop

Dixieland Fusion Modern Cool Latin

Avant Garde Other (Please specify) _____

Additional contribution for the Jazz Scholarship Fund \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual (\$20) Family (\$30) Student (\$10)

Sustaining (\$50 to \$100) Corporate (\$100 and Up)

MAIL with payment to: North Arkansas Jazz Society,
311 E. Prospect, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

For more information contact: Robert Ginsburg, NAJS Pres.,
40 E. Elm, Fayetteville, AR 72703, 501/521-1255 or 442-0990,
RSGinskins@AOL.com

NAJS MEMBERS Add your name to our growing membership list . . . and help promote and support more great jazz in North Arkansas!

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still on
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SEPTEMBER 1998