

FAREWELL TO GABBY

by Cay Simpson



Carole "Gabby" Barrett

Carol Barrett, longtime member of Jazz Pensacola, passed away from COVID-19 on April 16, 2020. She leaves behind a large family, numerous friends, and her Delta Airlines family.

She was affectionately known by most of us as "Gabby" with her gift of chatting up. This gift was so obvious during our annual April Jazz Fest where she always volunteered to sell any and all things Jazz Pensacola. If in town, she also was sure to join friends for a night of jazz or blues. Gabby always made a grand entrance in her stylish outfits with her larger-than-life personality.

I vividly recall a recent evening where she sashayed into the District Lounge as the Platinum Premier Band announced her arrival with "Leaving on a Jet Plane...".

As a flight attendant for over 40 years, Gabby was equally loved and respected by the Delta family. So, it was fitting that her Delta family gave her a grand send off on May 13th with an Honor Guard ceremony at Atlanta airport before her final flight to her family in Wichita.

Farewell, dear Gabby. You will be sorely missed by all of us whose lives were touched by you. 🎷

JAZZ PENSACOLA STUDENT COMPETITION IMPROVISES

by Carolyn Tokson

Roger Villines, Leader of the Student Competition and past-president of Jazz Pensacola, had to be creative to conduct the competition during the corona virus stay-at-home. At the last minute, Jazz Pensacola, in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines, cancelled the "live" performance scheduled for March 16 at Phineas Phoggs in Seville Quarter. Roger improvised, as good jazz musicians do, and requested that all finalists send in another two mp3 or mp4 recordings as they had already done for the earlier part of the competition in which applicants had submitted two tunes for the selection

of finalists. In this manner, the three judges, Rebecca Barry, Allen Beeson, and Steve Douglas were able to listen to and judge the contestants using physical distancing. We extend a grateful "Thank You" to our sponsors and JETS (Jazz Education Team Supporters) contributors. Congratulations to all our winners.

High School Instrumental

1st Place: Jon-Grayson Kerr - trombone
Fairhope High School - \$400

2nd Place: Joshua Mullikin - tenor sax
Booker T. Washington High School - \$200

3rd Place: Jesse Keenan - piano
Homeschool - \$100

Jazz Vocal

1st Place: Jane Chakraborty
Pensacola High School - \$400

2nd Place: Selena Neal
University of West Florida - \$200

College Instrumental

1st Place: Jensen Cadenhead - vibraphone
University of West Florida - \$500

2nd Place: Maximilian Levesque - bass
University of West Florida - \$300

3rd Place: Christopher Cannon - piano
Northwest Florida State College - \$150

4th Place: Duncan Miller - alto sax
University of West Florida - \$100

4th Place: Noemi Ruiz - trumpet
University of West Florida - \$100

Note: Tie for 4th Place

Jazz Pensacola endeavors to engage student instrumentalists and vocalists as a part of our mission to further jazz performance and education and to pass the jazz tradition on to the younger generation. Now in its tenth year, the Student Competition has allowed Jazz Pensacola to donate over \$25,000 in cash awards to student musicians. 🎷

WHO HAS BEEN DOING WHAT DURING STAY-AT-HOME?

by Carolyn Tokson

The corona virus has altered our lives considerably. No Jazz Jam, no Jazz Gumbo, no JazzFest! (It has been tentatively rescheduled!) What have our members been doing? Here are some of the responses I received.

From Craig Chapman: "Carolyn, I've been throwing pottery and finishing my studio. We've been doing a lot of yard work and gave my wife (Val) a rose garden for Mother's Day. We've made a big difference in our yard with all the flowers we're

"Stay-at-Home" Continued...

"Stay-at-Home" Continued....

planting and potting. I've played my tenor sax a few times and listened to a lot of Diana Krall and other jazz artists. Now that you can check out library books again, we're also reading more. We had a great Mother's Day celebration with our daughters and grandsons. We've missed Jazz Gumbo in a big way. I may have had the virus, but am feeling much better after two bad weeks. I didn't want to be caught in a hospital where it could have been worse. We had one nephew in Seattle with confirmed COVID-19, but he has recovered. We hope you and yours are doing well. Cheers."

From Steve Douglas: "I moved to Navarre from Sedona, AZ last July....I joined Jazz Pensacola right off and made the August jam session. Thanks to Matt McCarty and Michael Walker who hooked me up with gigs right away. Since March, I've been doing my civic/community duty by not going anywhere until last week. I created a 400 sq. ft. vegetable garden, planted lots of flowers and shrubs, cleared a lot of old debris and am planning the next couple of back yard enhancement phases. I get to spend more time with my wife, stay more in touch with my Arizona music friends, practice plenty of jazz and pop, exercise more and stay up a lot later than usual. My 3 dogs have never seen this much of me and our squirrels know them by sight now...."

My work in remodeling has come to a halt, all gigs are on hold and we'll see if the venues survive this downturn. I suspect most things will slowly come back but to what extent, who knows?.. Just finished judging the student jazz competition and looking forward to doing more of that. I miss playing with others so much....after 50 plus years of playing bass, I'm going into withdrawal....Everyone...stay safe and healthy."

From Shirley Burge: "I stay home with a "Color Yourself to Mindfulness" coloring book, "Color Me Stress Free" book, yard activities and highlight of the day - a drive to the beach for daily walk around the perimeter of empty parking lot. My son takes me and he does all shopping. Bob helped me set up Zoom appointment with my doctor and heard him caution me that I am a part of the vulnerable group and go with the program for 2 to 3 months, so I am. Sherri stopped by Mothers' Day. (My great-grandchild could color better than I.)"

From Knox and Holly Parker: "The Parkers have hunkered down to wait until there is a vaccine available or people will seriously follow the guidelines about wearing masks and social distancing, venturing out for groceries and medical visits as needed and otherwise immersed in hobbies and emailing friends and family." Holly has been using up yarn scraps on granny blocks for another afghan; also reading. Both are working jigsaw puzzles. Holly's glad the thrift stores have re-opened! They are fetching, their son, Claude for his June visit so they'll stay in quarantine for a while longer.

Peg Sheridan reports that she was doing taxes and trying to clear out some of her "junk" (rather unsuccessfully). She has very much enjoyed the virtual performances of Gino

Rosario and Roman Street. She walks in Admiral Mason Park and laments the loss of restaurant meals, live jazz events and going out every evening.

Ralph Knowles called to say that he and Patricia have been very pleased with their life at Azalea Trace. The Wellness Center there has tested all residents in both the Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing areas. No resident has tested positive for COVID-19. They have been eating well and have enjoyed the closed circuit television programs as well as the regular TV news and programs. They have had great entertainment and have been able to visit with friends with physical distancing. Now that they are able to go out a day or so a week, they feel they have no need to do so. Patricia has been rereading some of her old cookbooks and enjoying them and novels as well.

Brenda and Tom Bell had their son, Tommy and his girlfriend from New Orleans with them for a month at the beginning of the quarantine. Tom has been busy doing repairs on an apartment he is getting ready for a new rental. Brenda has been cleaning closets and tackling her "to do" list.

From Tom and Karen Stanmore: "The first weekend in April when the Pensacola Jazz Fest was scheduled, then sadly, postponed, we sat outside in our backyard and played all the CD's we had purchased at previous Pensacola Jazz Festivals over the years. We had our picnic lunch, glass of wine, and good jazz music. It wasn't exactly the same, but we made the best of the situation."

Unfortunately we have had deaths within our membership circle. We extend condolences to both the family of Roger Villines on the death of his father and to the family of Steve Ferry, who now lives in Austin, Texas, on the death of his mother. See the article by Cay Simpson in regard to the death of our long time member and friend, Carol "Gabby" Barrett. 🎷

CHIP SHELTON RELEASES NINTH CD IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS BOOK

by F. Norman Vickers



Chip Shelton's new CD: Plan Be Dream Music cover.

Jazz Pensacola members are likely familiar with New York dental specialist/flautist Chip Shelton from his several guest appearances here. He is younger brother to our own jazz

activist, Ron Shelton. Chip has been guest artist for some of our programs including Jazz Extravaganza and his most recent visit was last fall when he appeared at a Jazz Jam. Chip and Ron had just returned from a jazz cruise where Chip was a performing artist.

The current CD, number nine released under Chip's leadership, is entitled, Plan Be Dream Music. That CD features Pensacola pianist Gino Rosaria and several Chip's New York musical collaborators. Most of the compositions are Chip's originals with one by Gino and a few by his other performers namely Tom Charlap (bass) and Roy Meriwether (piano).

Of the thirteen selections, well over an hour of excellent music, Chip exhibits his melodic virtuosity on a variety of instruments—saxophone family includes tenor, alto, soprano and sopranino; bass clarinet; flute, bass flute and piccolo; vocals and various percussion. Chip even sings on several numbers. In all, a very pleasant listening experience. For me, it was an interesting exercise in listening to determine exactly which instrument Chip was performing on. Gino's composition, Gino's Groove, was a delightful piece featuring his piano artistry and Chip accompanied on flute.

The CD was prepared to be released in conjunction with Chip's book entitled, Excel in Two Careers...Plan Be Your Dream. The book is an explanation and exploration of the possibility of having a two-career life. I had opportunity to review an early copy where Chip gave details about how his career as a dental specialist and musician could be mutually beneficial and rewarding, with each facilitating the other. Interestingly, Chip gives some similar examples from Pensacola of people who have both musical and other professional careers. Chip informs me that the book is undergoing some minor revisions and will be available soon.

For further information and ordering the book, CD or both, see www.chipshelton.com and click the shop category.



GRUNDY'S MUSIC ROOM

by Thom Botsford

Perhaps Pensacola needs a version of Grundy's Music Room.

This downtown Birmingham venue, founded by clarinetist and pianist Jerry Grundhoefer, devoted itself to live jazz and deserving local musicians from 1978 through the mid 1980s. Buddy Rich and Maynard Ferguson were among the pros who performed at Grundy's, which was just the right size for an intimate performance, seating up to 200 people.

Other nationally known artists to appear included Gary Burton, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Buddy DeFranco, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Herb Ellis, Urbie Green, the Heath Brothers, Milt Jackson, and Clark Terry,

An oasis for jazz lovers, Grundy's was unique. No other night club in the city or state provided such a service to musicians and serious fans. And, uncharacteristically for the time or place, the audiences were diverse: a mix of old

and young, black and white, lower and upper classes.

In appreciation for his work, Grundhoefer was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 1980.

If the name "Grundhoefer" sounds familiar, you may be thinking of Jerry's son Danny Grundhoefer, a well-known Pensacola architect and something of a music impresario like his father.



Danny Grundhoefer on piano.

Danny plays keyboards, sings, and leads Infusion, a pop-jazz band based in Pensacola. Until the coronavirus crisis interrupted everything, Grundhoefer and Infusion performed at least once a month at Five Sisters Blues Café. Every Christmas, the band offers a holiday concert at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola and periodically plays private parties.

Like his dad, Danny loves music so much he almost considered it for a career. He dropped out of architecture school at Auburn for a year to tour with Menagerie, a rock band that developed a following for party and dance music in the Deep South in the '70s.

But Danny knew that making a living as a musician has always been risky. The older Grundhoefer knew that too. A top manager for a food equipment company in Birmingham, he opened Grundy's only after most of his eleven children had moved away for jobs and college.

He told a Birmingham magazine his intention was never to make a lot of money, just to cover expenses and stay healthy as a business. He discovered a community of jazz lovers in Birmingham, but they were not the kind of folks who spend much time or money on live music or the other arts.

Also complicating business was the stinginess of the jazz audience. Some would nurse one beer for the whole night, as folks are known to do in Pensacola.

Born in 1930, the older Grundhoefer grew up on the big bands and popular jazz of the day. Benny Goodman and Woody Herman were influences. He took up the saxophone later, when jazz audiences no longer expected a leader with a clarinet in his hands.

"As a self-taught pianist, he excelled," Danny remembers. "I couldn't keep up with him!"

When Grundy's moved to a bigger space—its second location—Danny was starting his architecture career

"Grundy's" Continued....

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10, 2020

Annual Members Meeting
Zoom Online Video Meeting
5:30pm-6:30pm

RSVP Required. Please email
ctokson@hotmail.com with the
subject "Annual Meeting RSVP".

"Grundy's" Continued...

in Birmingham, so he was glad to serve as a bartender from time to time. His preferences, however, were for the commercial music of the late '70s, the kind of music he had played in Menagerie.

"I didn't sit in [at Grundy's] much but, of course, enjoyed the music."

Later, in the last years of Jerry's life, the two did play together more. "We started listening to each other's music and felt more comfortable," Danny said.

Jerry Grundhoefer was no jazz Nazi. He enjoyed Grover Washington and other easy-listening artists, though perhaps not as much as Miles, Monk, Trane, and the like. Danny thinks Jerry would like much of what his own band, Infusion, plays today.

Infusion began as a strictly instrumental group about a decade ago playing the "crossover" music that made its debut in the 1970s. This style became what we call "smooth jazz" today.

About five years ago, Infusion added singer Resia Williams and expanded the repertoire. The playlist still includes music from Weather Report, Herbie Hancock, and Dave Brubeck, but the main fare is pop and R&B classics from the '70s and '80s made famous by Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Chicago, Carol King, Average White Band, Steely Dan and others.

Personnel can vary, but current members include Jim Armstrong (guitar), Thom Botsford (sax), Walt Kattner (bass), Tony Noles (percussion), and Jack Wolverton (drums).

Again, like his dad, Danny enjoys mixing pop music and jazz. He agrees with what Jerry told Birmingham magazine back in 1978:

"I've played my share of pop and whatever else the paying customers wanted to hear, but even if you're not playing your favorite tune...you've got to play it like the only song that was ever written. When you start putting yourself into it, it can become jazz. Everybody knows that jazz is improvisation, but people don't really understand what improvisation is. That's when a musician makes a tune its own."

Jerry Grundhoefer passed away in 1997, at age 66. 

UWF'S JAZZ COMBO KEEPS ON MAKING MUSIC

by Dr. Joseph Spaniola

I am sending you this gift of music to bring a little light into the darkness. The UWF Jazz Combo continues to make music through the mandatory social distancing without physically coming together to play. We were unable to perform for you at our regularly scheduled UWF campus concerts, at Jazz Pensacola's JazzFest or Jazz Pensacola's Collegiate Band Jazz Gumbo, but we wanted to let you know we are still thinking of you.

Please listen to this 3'48" performance of Inch Worm. If you are interested in how we accomplished this video, then read on. If not, simply enjoy the music. Our students and instructors are making the most of time together despite our physical distance from one another. We are all in this together, and this situation will pass. In the meantime music certainly continues to brighten our lives. Shine brightly!

<https://youtu.be/zKlTcFAdu6Q>

"The Details"

"This is a final project created by the University of West Florida Jazz Combo. The process took approximately 2 weeks to accomplish. We approached it as closely as possible to the way we would if we were meeting face-to-face. As a group we selected the piece. We also determined: how we would approach it stylistically; who would solo and the order in which they would occur; what type of gestures to use and length of the introduction and ending. We never rehearsed the piece face-to-face or virtually. I created a click track using the specifications the group defined and emailed it to all of the players. Using only a lead sheet (which contains the melody of the tune with chord symbols = the form) and the road map the group devised for navigating the form (other than the melody no one had a part containing notes or rhythms), each member of the group recorded a track of their part. Other than recording their parts separately, this is the normal way we work on pieces in the combo. The other big difference is that the players could not hear what their bandmates were playing--they could not respond to or play off of each other.

Everyone emailed me their track. Because not everyone could record quality video, we only used audio. After I synced the tracks (no easy task), I mixed them to create a balanced whole. I then added still photographs of the group from our February concert as well as a few screenshots of our google meets sessions. Everyone in the group was amazed at the final result. Congratulations to our student musicians!" 