

JAZZ O'VERRE IN BEAUNE, FRANCE

by David Schmidt



David Schmidt poses in his Jazz O'Verre T-Shirt.

One of our destinations while traveling in France and Spain last fall with my wife, Becca, and friends Suzette Doyon and Gary Hazelton was to attend a jazz festival in Beaune, (Bon) France. Beaune is a lovely walled town 2 1/2 hours by train Southeast of Paris via a stop in Dijon and is the center of the Burgundy winemaking region.

We bought tickets for the three night Jazz O'Verre stateside and Suzette being fluent in French contacted the President of the event, Pierre, explaining my involvement in Pensacola Jazz, our plans to attend their festival and perhaps an opportunity to meet. Pierre was most pleased and we were graciously welcomed on opening night. The bartender, a volunteer, wasted no time filling our commemorative wine glass and introducing us to members of the committee. We gifted him with a 2019 Jazz Pensacola t-shirt and tote and he tied a Jazz O'Verre apron around my neck. Music is without a doubt the common denominator that brings people together!

Their fest is held over three nights indoors at the Ateliers du Cinema in the center of town. It's on a smaller scale than ours with approximately 400 in attendance each night. They have the event staged with the check-in, bar, and merchandise in one room, an after concert tent for food and one large hall with a state of the art sound system for the performances. Each evening there are two 90 minute concerts featuring an eclectic range of musical entertainment from Dixieland to Gypsy Jazz. After the concerts people have the option to attend the Boeuf Musical, partake in more fabulous wine, and talk with the musicians. These are reasonably priced tickets for the quality of the entertainment and food. On Saturday, a free fest is held on the various plazas and storefronts where people leisurely have lunch at the many wonderful cafés. The various cafés sponsor the Saturday outdoor concerts as they are filled with folks enjoying the music and their food. The town likes their jazz and the overall event is well-sponsored by many local organizations and businesses.

Jazz O'Verre is a small but top notch festival and one to catch should you be traveling to that region in the fall. My hope is that someday, Pierre, our "French Connection", will cross the pond to attend our Jazz Fest so we can extend the same hospitality to him as he did to us. 🎷

JAZZ PENSACOLA STUDENT COMPETITION COMING MARCH 16, 2020

by Carolyn Tokson

The March Gumbo is the Jazz Pensacola Student Competition, an evening you do not want to miss. This is a night of youthful vitality as students from local and area high schools and colleges compete in instrumental and vocal proficiency for monetary awards. This year, there has been a great outreach to students and we are certain it will be an entertaining evening with much talent. Jazz Pensacola president Fred Domulot, vice-president David Schmidt, and Board member John Link along with former president, Roger Villines have been involved in various musical activities with the bands and students in the area. The choice of judges, who are all professional musicians, is already in the works. During the competition, each student is accompanied by the professional house band. At the end of the competition and awarding of prizes, there is a jazz jam of all the finalists with the house band. Sometimes even the judges join in. Roger Villines, former president of Jazz Pensacola, is the master of ceremonies for the evening.

Many past winners are now working musicians who have completed their college degrees in music. Some continue to pursue their graduate degrees. Others have performed at Jazz Pensacola events or at the Gulf Jazz Society with bands formed from professional and student musicians.

Now is the time to make your donation of \$100 to join the Jazz Education Team Supporters (JETS). Since its inception in 2010, Jazz Pensacola has awarded over \$25,000 in prizes which have assisted student musicians in their musical education. There will be first, second and third place prizes ranging from \$100 to \$500 per student. This is a very worthwhile effort that fulfills a portion of our mission to assist young musicians and pass the joy of jazz to a new generation. You may donate by sending a check to Alice Crann Good at the Jazz Pensacola office at 3 West Garden St. Suite 418, Pensacola, FL 32502-5633. Or you may call during office hours from 8 AM to 1 PM at 850.433.8382 to pay with a credit card. Remember that all donations to Jazz Pensacola, a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible. With your generous donations, Jazz Pensacola plans to continue this event and hopes to increase awards as we go forward. 🎷

CRYSTAL JOY'S PERFORMANCE FOR GULF JAZZ SOCIETY A SUCCESS

by F. Norman Vickers



Crystal Joy performs for the Gulf Jazz Society. Photo by Tara Leigh.

Crystal Joy was invited to perform for Gulf Jazz Society on Tuesday, January 14. She played keyboard and sang familiar jazz standards to a full house at Alice's Restaurant in Panama City. She was accompanied by Pensacola saxophonist Bob Maksymkow and bassist Steve Gilmore who also serves as program director of GJS. Crystal's performance of cabaret repertoire was very well received by the enthusiastic audience. She prefaced particular songs that had a special meaning to her with a brief introduction which gave the audience an appreciation for the songs and added an intimate quality to the evening. Songs such as "It Might as Well Be Spring", "Just in Time", and especially "Everything Happens to Me" brought loud applause. Her strong piano improvisations enhanced the instrumental portions of the performances and had the listeners clapping along. Her innovative vocalizations conveyed the meaning of the lyrics well and made a firm connection with the audience. Crystal was so warmly received that many from the audience came to speak to her later.

Compliments are in order for Gulf Jazz Society's tasteful presentation of the music that evening. Harley Pummell announced the program and gently suggested that this was a "listening" performance and audience should respect the performers and the audience who came to hear the music. Harley has been announcer for our Pensacola JazzFest for several years, so many of our readers will recognize him as an effective Master of Ceremonies. Amy and Larry Fletcher were gracious hosts and assured attendees appropriate seating arrangements. Alice's Restaurant staff were efficient at serving food and drink and, at the same time, moved quietly to preserve the ambiance.

Information from Steve Gilmore and Larry Fletcher indicates that Gulf Jazz Society has been meeting at Alice's for about a year. The dining area will seat approximately 90 persons and they are almost always full, so reservations are strongly advised. Their admission prices are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. They normally present two programs a month. At the time of this writing, New York

classical and jazz guitarist Gene Bertoncini is scheduled to present a program for them on Monday February 10. Thanks for bringing Gene to our area go to his longtime friend Bob Byrnes of our own jazz society. Gene will be performing for one evening on Tuesday Feb. 11 at V. Paul's Restaurant.

Attending from Jazz Pensacola were Carolyn Tokson, Jeffrey Elliot, Andrea Maksymkow and Tara Leigh. Thanks to Tara for the excellent photos.

Gulf Jazz Society arranged for both video and audio recording. Crystal Joy commented, "I'm glad that the show was recorded. There were high points that were memorable—especially some piano solos where I stretched out in a way usually reserved for personal pleasure. Also this performance was timely as it coincided with the reissue of my Fabulous Crystal Joy LP from October 1959 as a CD in December 2019!" 🎷

JAZZ PENSACOLA VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN BUSY

by Carolyn Tokson



From left to right: Jim Crumlish, Carolyn Tokson, Art Carnick, Norman Vickers, and Cay Simpson. Jazz Pensacola volunteers working a table at the annual Visit Pensacola Snowbird Expo. Photo courtesy of Art Carnick.

On Wednesday, February 5, several Sparks volunteers participated in the Visit Pensacola Inc. Snowbird Event at Skopelos Restaurant downtown. About 200 out-of-town visiting snowbirders attended the event and were introduced to Jazz Pensacola by Jim Crumlish, Cay Simpson, Norman Vickers and Carolyn Tokson. Jazz Pensacola donated two February Super Gumbo tickets which were given away during the luncheon. Volunteers distributed rack cards and business cards and a calendar with upcoming Jazz Pensacola events while Jim Crumlish gave each person who came by a free raffle ticket for several Nina Fritz lithographs. They talked up the February Gumbo with anyone who was a jazz fan. The large crowd was entertained by guitarist and vocalist Art Carnick who performed songs that fit the event's theme of Mardi Gras. During lunch, quite a few visitors joined in with his singing. After the Visit Pensacola gifts were distributed by Leslie White of Visit Pensacola, Jim Crumlish garnered more attention for Jazz Pensacola when

he awarded several lithographs donated by Nina Fritz, local artist. A large lithograph of Miles Davis was a particular thrill and one of the best prize offered at the event. The Snowbird experience had once been a regular occurrence with participation by Jazz Pensacola volunteers. We are grateful to Joyce Black for extending the invitation for us to be involved again. She remembered Jim Crumlish and his late wife Teet who had always been the guiding presence of the past Snowbird events for our organization. Snowbird or Corresponding memberships for those living more than 100 miles away are available for \$20.



Dean Vanderhoof (left) and Robert Windt (right) at the Volunteer's Coffee. Photo by Norman Vickers.

Jazz Pensacola Board member Paul Bruno opened his restaurant, V. Paul's Italian Ristorante, to prospective volunteers at a coffee on Saturday, February 8. Fred Domulot, president of Jazz Pensacola Board of Directors, greeted those present and Alice Crann Good, administrator, explained the various opportunities for volunteering at JazzFest and in regular monthly activities. Ali Egan, Board member clarified some of the duties in more detail while Robert Windt, our new coordinator of volunteers, asked volunteers to sign up and share contact information. Dave Schmidt, vice president, with his wife Becca, Carolyn Tokson, secretary, Fred, Paul, Ali and Alice each chatted with the new volunteers and enjoyed the coffee and scones. Founding members Norman Vickers and Joe Occhipinti were there also to share in the welcome. If you would like to volunteer for JazzFest, April 4 and 5, or for our Jazz Jams or Gumbos, please contact Robert Windt at rswindt@aol.com or at 603-213-0312. It's a excellent chance to help the community, have fun, and make new friends. 🎷

SOME JAZZ ANECDOTES

by F. Norman Vickers

As a serious amateur musician, I've always been interested in "musician stories."

In fact, New York bassist Bill Crow has a column in *Allegro*, the newsletter of New York Musicians Union #802. His book, also entitled *Jazz Anecdotes*, is available in the Jazz Room of our downtown West Florida Public Library.

Here are a couple of items from his column in the current

issue of *Allegro*.

Steve Herberman gave me this story from guitarist Mundell Lowe about playing with Charlie Parker: "Bird called me in 1950 to do this concert with him up in Harlem," remembered Mundell. "We played 'Just Friends,' and he played the first and second chorus. Then he motioned for me to play. I knew the tune, so I jumped in. I played a chorus, and he motioned to me to continue. Five choruses later he resumed playing. Later, I asked him, 'Why did you have me solo so much?'" He smiled at me, showing his gold tooth, and said, 'I just wanted to know how deep the water was, baby!'"

Steve also told me about a gig his friend bassist Larry Kinling had in Baltimore with a part-time drummer and band leader whose day gig was being a judge at the city courthouse. The judge's sense of time wasn't up to par, and half-way through the first tune, Albert Dailey, the pianist on the gig, leaned over to Larry and said, "Someone ought to give the judge time!"

This reminds me of a story told me by my friend, the late record producer Gus Statiras. Gus used to bring a group of outstanding musicians for a Southern tour each year. There was a physician who was also an amateur pianist. The doctor liked to arrange a concert at which he would play along with the visiting professional musicians. He paid well, so Gus would arrange to accommodate him.

In the middle of the concert when the doctor's rhythm was considerably less than desirable, bassist Bob Haggart leaned over to trumpeter Billy Butterfield and asked, "How'd you like to have that doctor take out your gallbladder?" To which Butterfield replied, "I think he's doing it right now!" 🎷

LIBRARY JAZZ BOOK AND CD SALE A SUCCESS

by F. Norman Vickers

Jazz Pensacola volunteers participated in the Friends of the Library book sale on Saturday January 25. Carolyn Tokson, Jeffrey Elliot, Justine Ward, Joe Occhipinti and Norman Vickers sold jazz books and CDs, welcomed customers and spread the good news about the Jazz Society programs including the jazz room. Interestingly, about one third of the patrons indicated that they had seen the jazz room upstairs in the main library and many had also checked out books and CDs from the collection. Our profit from the one-day sale was just over one hundred dollars, but it would have been worthwhile just to spread the gospel of jazz. 🎷

Do you have a birthday coming up? A great way to celebrate is to host a Jazz Jam on the first Monday of the month or a Jazz Gumbo on the third. We've had some terrific parties sponsored by members. The cost is \$300 for a Jam and \$400 for a Gumbo. Plan ahead and see if this would be a pleasant way to celebrate some special event and support Jazz Pensacola at the same time. Remember that a donation to the society is a tax-deductible expense. It's a win-win situation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 17, 2020** **Super Jazz Gumbo**
Corporate America
Phineas Phogg's
6:30pm-9:00pm
- Mar. 2, 2020** **Jazz Jam**
The Vineyard on 12th Ave.
6:30pm-9:00pm
- Mar. 16, 2020** **Student Jazz Competition**
Phineas Phogg's
6:30pm-9:00pm
- Apr. 4 & 5, 2020** **37th Annual Pensacola JazzFest**
Seville Quarter
Sat. 10:00am-7:00pm
Sun. 10:00am-6:00pm
- Apr. 4, 2020** **Pro Jazz Jam**
Upstairs at The District
7:30pm-10:00pm

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: VERANDA OF PENSACOLA

by Carolyn Tokson



Veranda of Pensacola, located at 6982 Pine Forest Rd., is one of the finest retirement communities in the Northwest Florida area. It offers independent and assisted living for persons over age 62 where one can participate in an active life-style and age in place in a community with luxurious apartments and fine dining. Veranda offers an indoor heated swimming pool, a fitness center, wi-fi in community rooms, a gazebo, a koi pond in a lovely garden area, a barber and beauty shop, a theater, and a well-stocked library. Jazz Pensacola is grateful to Veranda for its support of our JazzFest for the last two years. 🎷

GET YOUR GIG POSTED ON THE JAZZ PENSACOLA WEBSITE

Are you a working musician? Did you know that you can have your gig posted on the Jazz Pensacola website calendar by contacting our office by email at info@jazzpensacola.com or by calling the office at 850-433-8382. This service by Jazz Pensacola offers a place for local residents and out-of-town visitors to learn about jazz events in the area as well as gives musicians free publicity for their gigs. 🎷

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF JAZZ PENSACOLA?

You might ask the question as to why your membership is important. First of all, keeping a jazz society functioning costs money. There is the office to maintain, a salary for our administrator, insurance, monthly musical events which require us to hire bands and pay for the gumbo that is served, payment for the videographer who films our Gumbos, and we haven't even gotten to the Student Competition or the Jazz Fest, that fantastic FREE two-day festival in Seville Square. This year we are going to present the 37th annual JazzFest. Did I mention FREE? That is a really important factor for you to consider. Thousands of visitors from all over the US and the Gulf Coast bring their lawn chairs and sit enraptured for hours on end? And they don't pay a penny for all that jazz. Think about it. Secondly, being a member means you are a part of all that. You are a person who has invested in our mission of passing on jazz to the hundreds of young musicians who participate. You are not just a bystander anymore. You belong to that society which has chosen to foster America's special music and pass it on. You have ownership in what Jazz Pensacola does. You are a part of the dream. Join today. 🎷

ATTENTION STUDENT JAZZ MUSICIANS!



You are invited to submit an entry to the

2020 Student Jazz Competition

- College Instrumental
- High School Instrumental
- Jazz Vocal

- Three finalists from each Division will perform in the live finals at Phineas Phoggs in Seville Quarter on Monday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. This event, which will be the March Jazz Gumbo, is free and open to the public.
- Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each Division, ranging from \$100 to \$500, will be presented at the conclusion of the event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, February 21, 2020

Ask your band/chorus director for an application, or go to jazzpensacola.com to download a PDF.



Questions?
Send email to info@jazzpensacola.com
or call (850) 433-8382
Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.