

LIFE SINCE TUESDAY JAZZ

by Gino Rosario



Gino Rosario at the piano.

It was Dec 17, 2019, when I last stepped on stage for Tuesday Jazz at Seville Quarter, hosting my 6th annual Christmas Jazz Concert featuring violinist Karen Briggs. It felt like yesterday when Kitt Lough passed that gig down to me back in 2013. When Kitt first approached me to take over that gig, I didn't want to do it. I had been gigging around town, and felt very comfortable on stage behind the piano, but I never had a gig where I actually had to talk to the audience! I was worried the audience wouldn't understand me due to my accent. Kitt finally convinced me to do the gig. The first few months were nerve wrecking. I was so nervous, just because I had to speak into that microphone. And not to mention that I had a whopping 8 to 10 people who consistently showed up. I was convinced I wasn't the right man for the job. Thankfully, I had David Shelander in my life. We would meet for our biweekly jazz piano lesson. The lesson was supposed to last an hour, but we would be there for two to three hours. And half of the time we talked about the music business. Dave opened my eyes to a lot of things about the music business I didn't know about. After all, I was used to just playing in bars and restaurants around town as a sideman to whomever hired me. Dave also encouraged me to keep Tuesday Jazz going. He taught me to trust the process and be patient and consistent.

Seven years later, I couldn't believe what Tuesday Jazz had turned into. It was amazing. It was fun. Everyone looked forward to it. Everyone knew where they needed to be on Tuesdays. I barely had to advertise it anymore, and we'd pack out the room pretty consistently. I certainly can't take all the credit. First I have to thank all the musicians who sat in with me over the years. A special thank you to everyone who helped spread the word. I'd have to give a special shout out to Miss Vivian Lamont. She brought so many people to come see me play. She was there from day one and always

encouraged us to keep up the good work. If you don't know who I'm talking about, she was the lady who always grabbed the tip jar and passed it around! Thank you to Seville Quarter for giving us a space to host the event. A special thank you to my sponsors who stepped in back in 2015 and have been consistent ever since. There is no way I could have brought Tuesday Jazz up the quality I wanted to without their financial support. And finally, huge thanks to Rickey Duffy, Chris Snowden, and Jim Green for being my rhythm section and always making me look good. These guys had to learn music every week. Tuesday Jazz really did require a lot of work every week, and fortunately I had a staff I could always count on.

In the summer of 2015 I released my latest record "Still Waters Run Deep". The project really took off. My first radio single from that record made it unto Billboard and Sirius XM the week it was released. That immediately put me on the map with the bigger names. I couldn't believe it. I started working with a booking agent who genuinely believed in me. Promoters started to call to book me for shows. Was this really happening? I had to make some decisions, because unfortunately as a single parent, my time was limited. I had to go back to my days with David Shelander. He had quit a gig that I thought was a great opportunity. When I asked him why he gave up such a great gig, he said, "There comes a time when you have to leave your comfort zone and move on. You'll know when the time is right." Tuesday Jazz was comfortable for me. "Still Waters Run Deep" was taking off. For the first time I realized how much time I was putting into Tuesday Jazz, and I knew I had to give it up to make time for new opportunities.

2020 started off great. I'm traveling and doing my shows and having fun. Then COVID hits. All my shows were postponed to the fall/winter of this year, or postponed to next year altogether. I was disappointed at first. But COVID turned into a great time to be creative. I wrote so much new music for myself and other artists. And I had a chance to spend so much time with my son since he was doing online school. He really is into music! I didn't start piano lessons till I was 12. My son is only 4. So let's see where this goes! Okay I digress. Back to COVID. This is a tough time to be a full time musician. Back to my lessons with David Shelander again...David always had passive income through real estate and other investments. I followed his footsteps in that area as well. Performing is fun, but that's not where the money is. Passive income is key for any musician, in my opinion. Having passive income has allowed me to do music because I love it, not because I want to get paid! Having passive income also allows me to reinvest my income from performing back into my music. So even as I mentioned, I don't really have a lot

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of shows these days. I do have a show coming up in Mobile AL on July 16 at the People's Room of Mobile. If you haven't been there yet, it's a really nice setting because the owner does not allow anyone to talk during the music. You have to be there to listen to the music. It's for real music lovers. Other than that, I don't have anything else coming up till the fall. And as usual, all my outlets can easily be found by just googling "Gino Rosaria".

In conclusion, COVID could have been bad, but fortunately I was well prepared. There are so many people to thank. I've had several mentors in my life. But this article, I'd have to dedicate it to the late David Shelander. If David were here I'd like to think he would be proud of me. David, thank you for being my teacher.

Keep up to date with Gino at www.ginorosaria.com. 🎷

WHO WAS DAVID SHELANDER?

by Carolyn Tokson



Gino Rosaria poses with Lucky Kelson (owner of Lucky K Recording Studio), Skye Dumont (singer with Gino on his CD "Some Other Time"), and Dave Shelander (co-producer of the project).

David Shelander was a pianist and teacher who had played with some of the great names in jazz and popular music. He had played recording sessions with Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Rick Derringer and Stevie Ray Vaughan and many others. He arranged and performed with jazz luminaries Joe Farrell, Bob Berg, Lu Marini Jr., Buddy De Franco, Dizzy Gillespie and a list of other greats. He played all the famous venues such as Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Royal Albert Hall and The Berlin Philharmonic among others. He toured Asia and often visited Brazil to research ethno-centric music. He worked locally for the last twenty years of his life for a long stint at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL with vocalist Holly Shelton. He played with the Pensacola Symphony and Jazz Pensacola. He also played and recorded with several local vocalists including Sally Rudd, Kitt Lough and Kathy Lyon. A gifted artist and teacher, he became a mentor to other young talented artists such as Gino Rosaria and James Adkins, guitarist. He died suddenly in September of 2013. Look for Holly Shelton's article about David in the August issue of the Jazz Pensacola newsletter. 🎷

MY FRIEND FREDDY COLE

by Crystal Joy Albert



Pianists Emmet Cohen (left) and Freddy Cole (right).

It was Boston, summer late 1950's...a friend was moving into a new apartment and asked me for help decorating. He had a room mate who was already there so he didn't get home before I arrived, the room mate would let me in. To my surprise, his room mate was a musician studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. The living room was strewn with folders of music and the piano was ready for a big practice session. When I picked up one of the sheets on the piano, he was delighted to discover I was a musician. And when he found out I was also a singer, we were buddies for life. He did look familiar to me, but not until I heard his voice, did I connect him to Nat King Cole only to find out he was Nat's brother Freddy Cole.

He played and sang songs I had never heard! They were songs I had to learn! I always thought my repertoire was extensive, but he was in another league!

His piano playing was fresh harmonically and rhythmically inventive. His lyrical interpretation was so enlightening... it was like hearing everything for the first time even if you had heard it many times before. I visited him several times after that and always learned so much for his easy going approach.

We stayed in touch over the years. When my husband Charles Albert had the opportunity to catch Freddy at a New York City club, he became an ardent fan. We were regulars every night for Freddy's entire engagement. We requested "Overtime" every night... not for the song so much, but for his interpretation which was so good! Charlie even bought the LP, which was unusual. It was rare for him to buy someone else's recording!

Over the years, Freddy and I played at the same venues and festivals and would remember old times. I almost brought him to Pensacola JazzFest, but budgetary restraints cancelled that. I've always regretted that Pensacola music lovers never got the chance to hear the Freddy Cole I knew. RIP. 🎷

THE PEOPLE'S ROOM OF MOBILE

by F. Norman Vickers

Jim Pennington, an Alabama native and employee of the Mobile shipyard, took a leap of faith five years ago and opened a music listening room in downtown Mobile. In a recent interview, he revealed that his inspiration was a similar place in Decatur, GA called Eddie's Attic. He reports that he is not musically talented, doesn't play an instrument, but all types of music appeal to him.

The room is located in downtown Mobile at 78 St. Francis St. opposite the Battle House. Pennington reports that the music choices are eclectic, from folk, country rock and jazz. The room is only open when there are musical artists featured. No food is served, and drinks are available--- beer, wine, soft drinks and water. Patrons are advised that there will be no conversation during the musical performances---8:30 to 10:00 p.m. with an intermission. Charge for admission is usually around \$20 to \$25.

Pensacola's Cay Simpson attended a program there before onset of our viral restrictions. She was very complimentary of the entire operation--- from the décor of the room, the musical presentations, and the available drink selections. She says she is anxious to attend again when circumstances allow. Of special interest to jazzfans, Gino Rosaria will appear with his trio on Thursday, July 16. This will be a repeat performance for Gino.

For further information see www.thepeoplesroomofmobile.com or contact Jim Pennington at 251-367-4599. Jim Pennington's e-mail is JPenn7777@gmail.com. 

WHAT'S JAZZING AROUND TOWN

by Carolyn Tokson

Here we are still in the time of the coronavirus and making the adjustments that life requires us to make. Hearing some live jazz in a few places would be a good way to navigate the new life if you can do it. Please be safe, wear a mask and practice social distancing to stay well.

Here's a short guide to finding live jazz in the area. Sunday Jazz Brunch at McGuire's offers Al Alverado at 11AM. Later in the afternoon at 4 PM you'll find Jones and Company at AJ's Seafood and Oyster Bar at 116 Harbor Blvd. in Destin. Tuesdays there's Joe Occhipinti and the JazzAbouts at Calvert's at 320 E. Cervantes St. in East Pensacola Hgts. from 6-9 PM. Thursdays from 6-10 PM Rebecca Barry is performing at the Cigar Bar at 1714 Main St. in Daphne, AL. Here in Pensacola, you can find saxophonist Jim Andrew's at the District on Thursdays; he's performing at Alice's Restaurant on Barrancas Ave. on Fridays and Saturdays from 6-9 PM. Some evenings he has been at Cactus Flower on 12th also. Fred Domulot has been appearing at Harborwalk Village in Destin with Band of Revival and at Rosemary Beach with Au Revoir Feet and The Village Brass

Band which wowed us at the 2019 Foo Foo Fest. James Burt Kimberl is at the Magnolia Grill in Ft. Walton on Thursdays and Saturdays from 5-9:30 PM.

The Brighton St. Band with Denise D'Angelo, Art Carnrick and Doug Chambers offered Fourth of July celebratory music at the District. Upcoming, Thursday, July 16, Gino Rosaria presents a show at The People's Room at 78 St. Francis St. in Mobile. For reservations call 251-367-4599. Tickets are \$25. The Marcus Johnson Jazz Camp is scheduled from July 27-31 at Central Presbyterian Church at Daphne and Ann Sts. in Mobile. Call 251.478.4027 for information. Check the Jazz Pensacola calendar at www.jazzpensacola.com for up-to-date postings of the current opportunities to hear live jazz in the city and surrounding towns. You might also want to call the venues just to be certain events are on as planned because of the constant changes due to the virus situation.

Larry Fletcher from Gulf Jazz Society reports that their Board of Directors have cancelled live events because of the increase in coronavirus cases. They will be restarting when it is deemed safe and have set the date for the Jazz by the Bay Festival for Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4, 2020. Mark your calendar for that one. A crew of us went down last year and enjoyed a lovely afternoon and early evening.

Sheila Green, jazz impresaria at It's Personal by Sheila, held her 60th birthday party with a live performance by smooth jazz pianist Nathan Mitchell with major safety precautions of only 80 tickets available when she normally can seat 175. Temperatures were taken at the door and masks required. Just as elegant as the lady herself, her events are always a success and usually sold out long in advance. Happy birthday to this creative businesswoman who does so much for jazz here in the city.

When you can't get out to hear live jazz, it is marvelous to be able to hear some jazz online or to head for the recordings. I've noticed that so many artists have gone online with creative ideas. Rossano Sportiello, who performed at our Jazz Fest a few years ago, offers a Muted Late Night Piano Series with a virtual tip jar at Paypal. He has played through a long list of jazz classics and done a few tributes to fellow musicians like trumpeter Joe Wilder, stride pianist Ralph Sutton, Teddy Wilson, Hank Jones and Barry Harris. He includes short remembrances of his times with these artists and it provides some interesting reading with the short piano performance. He offered an Eventbrite live Zoom concert in mid-June for his Woods Hole fans.

Emmet Cohen (pictured with Freddy Cole) offers at Live at Emmet's Place on Facebook at 7:30 PM EST on Mondays. It's amazing the quality of jazz the trio of musicians is able to present from a small living room in New York City. A few weeks ago, Emmet outfitted his studio for video for Vail Jazz's new project, Jazz Interludes. Visit www.vailjazz.org

for more information. Emmet won the Phillips Piano Competition (now defunct) which used to be a collaboration with Jazz Pensacola; he appeared at our JazzFest the year

"Jazzing" Continued...

UPCOMING EVENTS

TBD

Jazz Jam

Online Only - Stay Tuned for
Details

"Jazzing" Continued...

he won and is a favorite pianist of Crystal Joy Albert, past-president of our society. Emmet often collaborates with Veronica Swift who Crystal reports is the daughter of Hod O'Brien, a friend of Crystal's from the NY City days. O'Brien played at JazzFest in 1999 when Veronica was only a baby. Now she is one of the top young jazz singers.

Another online streaming event is coming from the Hartford Jazz Society on Monday evenings from 7-8 PM (that's 6-7 PM our time here) when they offer the 2020 Paul Brown Monday Night Jazz Schedule. They have a lively lineup which you can check out on their website at www.hartfordjazzsociety.com

Hot Springs Jazz Society (AR) is offering their first Block Party Jazz, Friday July 17 at 7 PM (CST) on Facebook@Hot Springs Jazz Society. Check their site for other dates in the works.

Jazz singer Donna Blackmon's talented children are blazing musical paths in NY City. Nicki Richards, Donna's daughter, is on the faculty of the New School and has been teaching a Background Vocals Workshop and a class in Story, Song and Stage. A singer, songwriter and producer, Nicki has been singing with top US musical stars for many years. Philip Richards, Donna's son is also a singer/songwriter based in NY City who is writing new songs with a album to be released this year. 

As the newsletter was being finalized we learned of the death of two Jazz Pensacola members. It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of Ralph Knowles, a long time member and supporter, and of Wilda Novak, a faithful attendee at our events. We will have memorial articles next month.

INTERNET JOYS

by F. Norman Vickers

A couple of pleasant things have happened to me recently and, I think, are worth sharing.

My family is a longtime Cox Cable subscriber, both internet and TV. Got a call from Cox indicating that they wanted to send their technician by for a no-charge upgrade to my TV service. Cox representative arrived and replaced my old

cable-box with a new Contour box. With this new apparatus, there are some free movie channels and it can also receive YouTube offerings. Well, one might say that because you have been able to get YouTube on the cellphone and on the computer screen, what's the big deal. Well, the big deal, for me, is that seeing/hearing on the big computer screen is much more enjoyable—bigger picture, better sound and, best of all, can relax in my easy-chair to enjoy. And, all of this at no additional cost. Joyfully, I wrote, Cox headquarters a love-letter.

Some regular readers of this newsletter may recall mention of trumpeter/saxophonist Glenn Zottola's Music Minus One recordings which are available for check-out in the Jazz Room of downtown West Florida Regional Library. Glenn, now in his early 70s, has begun to post some of his life's work on the internet in the form of YouTube offerings and podcasts. Glenn is the only child of musical parents. His father was trumpeter, bandleader, and maker of specialty trumpet mouthpieces. Glenn was a child prodigy getting gigs and TV appearances beginning at age eleven. In his postings, Glenn reports that, although he reads music, he is mostly an "ear" player. In one of his podcasts, he tells about his work with saxophonist/bandleader Bob Wilber. He talks about the band Wilber put together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1938 Benny Goodman jazz concert at Carnegie Hall. This, incidentally, was the first time that jazz was performed there. My wife Betty and I traveled to New York for that concert and heard Glenn play the trumpet solo on Benny's rendition of Sing, Sing, Sing.

I have attended several jazz parties at which Glenn has been featured, including the famous Dick Gibson's parties. And, it has been several years back that Glenn offered us the gift of his Music Minus One Recordings. So, the instrumentalist can play the horn part from the accompanying sheet music/recording or just relax and hear Glenn play the parts behind a great studio band. One of the video clips available was a TV show in which Glenn solos on trumpet at age eleven. On that clip, Duffy Jackson, about the same age as Glenn, leads a youth band. At one point, Glenn is bandleader for vocalist Suzanne Somers and there are several clips from that portion of Glenn's life.

So, search for Glenn Zottola on the internet and the YouTube and podcast offerings will come up. We are pleased that Glenn has been a friend of Jazz Pensacola for several years and has gifted the jazz room with his recordings. 

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW MEMBERS FROM JUNE 2020

Ann and Ray Bohon