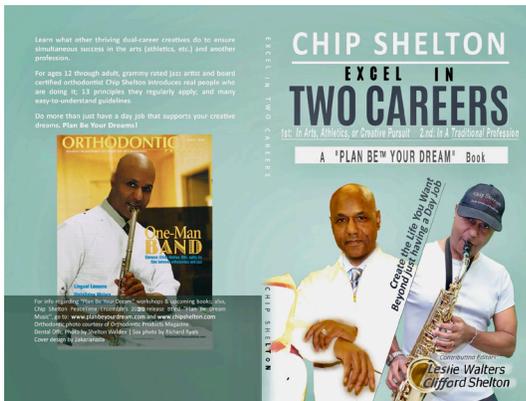


JOYS AND DIFFICULTIES OF TWO CAREERS by Chip Shelton



Chip Shelton's Book Cover

Pursuit of excellence in one career is a full time job. How many successfully pursue excellence in two careers simultaneously? The reader likely knows someone who is quietly, and joyfully, traversing this road-less-travelled. Some PENSACOLA JAZZ regulars are profiled, alongside other “co-careerists”, in the June, 2020 book-release *Excel in Two Careers...Plan Be™ Your Dream* (info@chipshelton.com). All unanimously have found: The joys far outweigh the difficulties!

An important guiding principle here is: “If others are doing it...it’s probably possible!”

It is critical to distinguish between outcomes of having a ‘day job’ out of economic necessity; versus having a so-called traditional profession (in which one has genuine interest) as backup to one’s deeply-rooted passion in music, the arts, athletics, etc.

Contributing editor Clifford Shelton shares this insightful analysis, “...artists view their ‘day-jobs’ as a nuisance and spend most of their lives hoping or wishing for the day where they could once and for all drop this hindrance... The “day-job” person’s challenge is trying to find the time to do what they want.

By contrast, co-careerists choose a second career that they find a desire to excel in and are able to draw inspiration and meaning from. This additional career path is chosen to add value to their lives. Due to their genuine interest in the field and their desire to excel, they also are able to add value towards the profession they choose to be their second.”

“Joy, rather than happiness, is the goal of life, for joy is the emotion which accompanies our fulfilling our natures as human beings. It is based on the experience of one’s identity as a being of worth and dignity.” Rollo May

My goals are to continue giving virtuoso piano performances in both jazz and classical music...” says Gino

Rosaria. He describes having always had one foot in the music department and one foot in the computer science department. Music was a gateway to computing for him. There were so many similarities between the two as there is so much math involved in both fields. And, math had always been his strongest subject in school.

By Jim Green’s last semester majoring in music at University of North Florida, he was married with a new baby on the way. “Within five minutes of learning about the new addition”, Green says he “instantly decided to go to law school in order to earn the money needed to support his new growing family”. His father had been a lawyer, so Green had grown up admiring the profession.

Up through high school, Brian Taylor describes continuing to thoroughly enjoy playing music. However, he always wanted to be an engineer too. He had an affinity for science, building things, and understanding how things work. So, when he went to college, Taylor decided he wanted to keep both things going. Nowadays he continues to joyfully pursue excellence in both professions.

Contributing editor Leslie Shelton Walters offers these summary thoughts for potential co-careerists of all ages: “So now, you my friend...what about your hopes and dreams? What are your seemingly unrelated ways of life that you are desiring to marry to create your own happiness lifestyle? If others have done it, and done it successfully, what’s stopping you from doing it too?” 

IRA SULLIVAN CELEBRATES 89TH BIRTHDAY - STILL SWINGIN'

by F. Norman Vickers

Multi-instrumentalist Ira Sullivan will be remembered by many of our longtime jazz fans. He has played Pensacola at least four times—twice for a Pensacola JazzFest, once on tour with trumpeter Red Rodney and once for my daughter’s wedding in 1987.

Ira grew up in Chicago and was taught trumpet by his father and saxophone by his mother. He was active in the Chicago area and had opportunity to play with jazz artists who were traveling in the area. He traveled briefly with Art Blakey.

He said that his move to South Florida was multifactorial. He liked the area and wanted to be able to raise his family under more normal circumstances. How many children of musicians have said that they barely knew their father?

Ira was longtime friends with trumpeter Red Rodney. Jazzfans will remember that Rodney was an early performer with Miles Davis. Ira and Red had played together in Chicago and then had gotten together again in the ‘80s to tour. So,

“Ira Sullivan” Continued...

"Ira Sullivan" Continued...

Pensacola jazzfans got to see a marvelous performance of Red and Ira at Seville Quarter on a delightful Sunday evening. Betty and I have opportunity to dine with Red while Ira and others dined with other jazzfans.



Ira Sullivan on Trumpet.

Ira came to our jazzfest in 1987 for the second time and I contracted with him to come back a couple of months later for my daughter Marie's wedding. He played alto flute during the ceremony. For the reception and dancing, we had a group which included Ira on trumpet and saxophone, Joe Occhipinti, Ray Parker on piano and Jimmy Gillis on guitar. Then on Sunday, Ira was guest artist at a jam session at Seville Quarter— a free event and my treat for jazzfans. Ira had so many instruments that he always drove rather than by air. So, on the way home, he played a Monday night for an event in Destin. Speaking of driving, on the way to Pensacola, he played a gig on Friday night in Orlando with Nat Adderley's group, arriving in Pensacola near daylight on Saturday.

I had written Ira a birthday greeting, and he called me a few days later. We talked about the two-hour birthday party session which was broadcast on YouTube. One of the things I learned was that his wife is a graphic artist and she's working on a biography of Ira. During that video, Ira is accompanied by his guitarist-son who is famous primarily in rock circles. Ira is a committed Christian who continues to be active in his church but lets his actions speak rather than being "preachy." For example, Ira's first song on the two-hour birthday broadcast was Amazing Grace.

Good wishes, Ira, on your birthday and wishing you many more happy ones!

Search YouTube for Ira's two-hour 89th birthday celebration. There are many more, and shorter ones, in addition. On the internet, in addition to the usual biography, there is a longer interview with Ira by a Miami paper which gives more details about his experiences and career. 

HOW ARE WE DOING OUR NEW "NORMAL"?

by Carolyn Tokson

So many members answered our query about what they had been doing during the stay-at-home that I thought we might continue with some comments that came in later. As we slowly open to a new "normal", we still face the challenges of the coronavirus. For many of our older members who are particularly vulnerable to the virus, life still has a "locked down" quality. For those who are stronger and younger, many facets of life return but with modifications. Let's keep in touch in whatever ways we can until we see each other face to face.

From Nancy and Marty Holmes in London, Canada

"Greetings from the Great White North ... where, unbelievably, we still had a few snow showers in mid-May! However, the temperatures have warmed and we are gratefully safe and well, following the health emergency guidelines to physically distance, frequently wash our hands and wear our masks. We were so sad that we had to cancel our annual visit to Pensacola in April, missing our beloved white beach and of course all of you! Every year, Marty so looks forward to playing the fine golf courses in your area and was excited when our local courses finally opened on May 19th. Until then, he kept busy readying our lawn and gardens for Spring planting, and, like many, we've both been spending more time in the kitchen, trying out new dishes. Nancy's housing management company is classified as "essential", so she remains at work. Travel anywhere seems unlikely in the foreseeable future, but we are hopeful that we will be able to see you all again, in Spring 2021!"

During the stay-at-home, Myrl Eisinger cleaned every single closet or drawer in her home and John supervised the building of the concrete slab for one of his daughter's carports. John's out shopping about every other day, but says they will be keeping close to home in an abundance of precaution.

Vocalist Vivian Lamont had spent the "stay-at-home" recuperating from surgery during the winter. Just as life was beginning to open again, Vivian suffered a heart attack and spent a week in West Florida Hospital. She came home with a portable defibrillator and has been resting as much as possible. Gratefully, her extended family was there to assist her. Her many friends wish her a recovery to health and a return to her former energetic self.

Our administrator, Alice Crann Good, sent us news of her life. "Staying busy is never a problem for me since I am a wild multi-tasker with various interests. Since I am the only person at the Jazz Pensacola office, I have continued working during the pandemic, writing grants and keeping up with regular operations.

When indoors at home, I have been tweaking my third children's book and approving illustrations for the first, which will be published in the near future. This has been a wonderful, fulfilling, creative project. The books promote

the importance of reading books, going to libraries and bookstores. The books brim with humor and action — even mystery. I greatly enjoy working with illustrator Mike Suchcicki. Mike and I are long-time friends and have worked/collaborated on many things as journalists. We both worked for Gannett and the Pensacola News Journal for many years — me as a writer/editor; Mike as a writer, graphic designer, web master, etc. Mike now works full-time at Pensacola State College in Marketing and is Jazz Pensacola’s web master.”

Alice continues, “But being outside is what has really helped me beat stress and worry. My new friend: a battery-operated pruner! It’s common for me to spend entire days outside working in the our East Hill home’s gardens, weeding, landscaping, pruning trees and shrubs, putting down mounds and mounds of mulch, spreading bales of pine straw, filling clay pots with annuals, painting outdoor furniture, pressure washing — all with ice cold beer breaks, of course.” We wish Alice all the best with her literary projects.

As soon as the restaurants were allowed to open, Joe Occhipinti and his JazzAbouts were out and playing at Calvert’s in East Pensacola Hgts. on Tuesday evenings from 6-9 PM. Justine Ward, Peg Sheridan, Cay Simpson and Frances Hinely were a few of our members who came. Joe had a good crowd of listeners hungry for good food and jazz. Calvert’s has a small dance floor and another room where visitors can practice physical distancing and still hear the music.

Gino Rosaria held his first gig in a long time at downtown Casks and Flights Wine Tasting Room, Sunday afternoon, June 7th. Seating was limited to provide physical distancing. His fans are eager to hear him again.

Crystal Joy Albert has spent a lot of time listening to one of her favorite pianists, Emmet Cohen, who played here at our JazzFest several years ago.

Larry Fletcher of the Gulf Jazz Society sends news that they are returning to performances with Susanne Stewart performing with a jazz quartet at 6:30 PM June 16 in St. Andrews at Alice’s on Bayview.

It’s always good to hear news of our members. We do hope to see you again soon at a musical event with the appropriate precautions. Visit our website at www.jazzpensacola.com to see our calendar of musical events in the area. 🎷

JUST IMAGINE: CLASSIC JAZZ AT CLASSIC PIANOS; THE REBECCA KILGORE TRIO CD REVIEW

by F. Norman Vickers

This is a delightful trio album with Rebecca Kilgore providing vocals and occasional guitar, Dan Barrett and trombone and Paolo Alderighi on piano. Since I was already a fan of all three, when I read about the album, I ordered it immediately.

Of the fifteen selections on this album, most will be familiar to the average jazz fan—examples: Oh, Look at Me Now; Daddy, Won’t You Please Come Home and Cry Me a River. Whereas, some are less so—as Ellington’s Serenade to Sweden, I’m in a Lowdown Groove.



Rebecca Kilgore Trio CD Cover

Paolo plays Three Coins in the Fountain as a delightful solo on the Bosendorfer piano in the studio. And as a surprise, the final piece is entitled Mis’ry and The Blues as duet by Paolo and Dan Barrett on twin Bosendorfers.

All three performers were favorites of mine already. I had seen Becky and Dan frequently at jazz parties around the country and both had appeared previously at Pensacola events. Although I’d read about Paolo and knew of his training in Milan, his interest in early jazz and his romance and marriage to American pianist Stephanie Trick, I didn’t see him in person until this February when they were featured artists at the Ragtime and Jazz Festival at Miss. State U. in Starkville.

Another plus for this album are liner notes by Michael Steinman whose jazz blog is likely familiar to many who will read this review. The mystery is why it took so long to get this delightful item into public view. It was recorded in December 2013. Hope we won’t have to wait that long for the next one. 🎷

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3, 2020 **Jazz Jam ***
5 Barrel (121 S. Palafox St.)
6:00pm-8:30pm

*With the uptick in COVID-19 cases in Florida and Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, we may have to make changes in our plans for venues or events. Please check our website at www.jazzpensacola.com and look for Jazz Alerts from the office to keep up with the latest news of our jazz events. Jazz Pensacola is eager to be back in business and offering live performances. At the same time, we seek to be cautious and offer our events in line with health guidelines from the municipality and state.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Now that our lives are returning to a more “normal” coming and going, some of our steadfast volunteers of the past may not be able to be out and about as much as they would like. Our older members are unfortunately still very endangered by the corona virus and are staying closer to home. A solid group who have taken admission for years are now unable to do so. We need younger volunteers to staff our admissions desk at the door when we have an event. It has been the custom to let those who volunteer to sell tickets and handle the door to attend free of charge. This practice will continue. Volunteers need to arrive early for each event and be prepared to sell tickets and collect money or handle the credit card machine. If you are interested in doing this task, please contact Bob Windt at rswindt@aol.com with a subject heading of “Volunteer” or call him at 603-213-0312. We will provide training for you.

THANKS TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS FROM MAY 2020

John Melcher Jr.
Adriane “Cookie” Kichler

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

by Carolyn Tokson

Thanks to our team of “Door” volunteers who have so faithfully staffed our admission desk in the past. Due to the danger of the corona virus and weakened immune systems, many of our team are unable to continue in this role. Thanks to Knox and Holly Parker, Cay Simpson, Myrl Eisinger, Paul and Marliese Herrick, Jim Crumlish, Tom and Brenda Bell, Jeffrey Elliot and Carolyn Tokson, Ron Shelton, and Peg Sheridan. A small crew remains and we are seeking volunteers to assist in this task.

Thanks to our 2020 Nominating Committee comprised of Fred Domulot, Dave Schmidt, Suzette Doyon and Jack Zoesch who met to plan for any vacancies that could arise among the Board of Directors before our next election in July 2021. Their meeting and discussing prospective board members provides us with a plan in case it is needed, and we are grateful for their participation in this endeavor. Our present board has nine members and is at capacity.

Ali Egan is the board member who does the valuable behind the scenes formatting of our monthly newsletter. It would not get out without her efforts and skills and the writers/editors are grateful for her support. 

ARTICLE FROM OPEN CULTURE ON “HOW JAZZ HELPED FUEL THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT”

by Carolyn Tokson

Mike Lynch, Jazz Pensacola member, sent me a link to an article I found particularly relevant at this time. It’s from Open Culture, a site that offers free cultural and education media. In an article by Josh Jones entitled “ How Jazz Helped Fuel the Civil Rights Movement”, Jones explores the impact of specific jazz songs of that time. He also notes that at the first Berlin Jazz Festival, an address written by Dr. Martin Luther King was used as the opening. This was in 1964 and while Dr. King was not present there, his words as to the importance of jazz in the movement remind us to look at the words in the songs of some of the musicians who were speaking out then. A list of those songs is given below. They are readily available through the web and offered on the site Open Culture in an article dated June 4, 2020. Josh Jones is a musician and writer from Durham, NC.

Charles Mingus: Fables of Faubus
John Coltrane: Alabama
Max Roach: We Insist! Freedom Now Suite; Speak Brother Speak; Lift Every Voice and Sing
Nina Simone: Mississippi Goddam
Sonny Rollins: Freedom Suite

<https://bit.ly/2BnQT8U>