

ESCAPADE: MUSIC FOR SMALL AND LARGE ENSEMBLES- JOSEPH T. SPANIOLA'S NEW ALBUM



Pictured above: Joseph T. Spaniola

Pensacola composer, UWF Music Professor and Jazz Pensacola member Joseph T. Spaniola recently released his new album *ESCAPADE: Music for Large and Small Ensembles* to critical acclaim. Since its June 28 release, the album has received a Global Music Award (GMA) Silver Medal and has landed on GMA's Top Ten Albums of Summer 2019 list.

This is not a jazz album. It contains classical music that incorporates jazz elements and so much more. Most of you know Dr. Spaniola as the "jazz guy" at UWF. He is, but his music and his career span a much broader musical spectrum. This classically trained composer is comfortable working in any musical genre. His four decades of credits traverse diverse projects with artists and institutions such as Sammy Nestico, Rick Neilson (Cheap Trick), Renee Fleming, the Detroit Symphony Brass Quintet, Chrysler Corporation, and The White House Historical Society to name a few. Additionally, prior to joining the UWF faculty, he spent 9 years as the Chief Composer/Arranger of The Air Force Academy Band. This astonishing versatility is on full display in *ESCAPADE*.

As a composer, arranger, producer and/or conductor, Spaniola appears on approximately 50 albums, *ESCAPADE*, however, is his first release as the presenting artist. This recording has been on the composer's mind for years, but the opportunity to bring it to fruition came only recently when several of his works received GMA Silver Medal recognition. The awards caught the attention of A&R representatives from PARMA Recordings, a New Hampshire-based company. After months of discussions, Spaniola became a PARMA Recording Artist.

When asked about how the music was selected for this release, Spaniola stated, "for my first PARMA release, I wanted to present an overview of my musical output, and

to present pieces that were recorded by the individual/ensembles for whom they were written. I started with *ESCAPADE* (Band), the album's title track, as it captures, in a microcosm, my approach to music, and it is my most performed piece around the world. This piece and *THE WINDS OF THE QUADRUMVIRATE* were written for The US Air Force Academy Band. *BLOW, EASTERN WINDS*, written for the Eastern Wind Symphony, rounds out the large ensemble offerings on the album."

The album also contains three works for chamber ensembles: *DREAM* (Euphonium and String Quartet) written for Danny Helseth, *KLEMPIRIK FARMS* (Clarinet Quartet) written for Solar Winds, and *DER HEYSER BULGAR* (Xylophone, Brass and Tambourine) written for Steve Przyzycki.

Critics say *ESCAPADE*: "provides some great contrasts of ensembles that show off [Spaniola's] compositional abilities and voice" (Cinemusical); "celebrates the sheer exuberance available from small and large ensembles . . . in brilliant fashion" (Fanfare); "is a diverse and wonderfully presented collection of intricate and beautiful tracks" (Review Graveyard); "pleasurable and rewarding" (Textura).

The album is available from Amazon, iTunes, Apple Music, and other fine retailers, or stream it on Spotify. Check out the music for yourself. You will find that there is more to this "jazz guy" than meets the eye. For more information, see www.josephspaniola.com 

JINGLE JAZZ IS COMING

by Carolyn Tokson

Invite your friends to Jingle Jazz December 9! Remember that Jingle Jazz is FREE. This year's Jingle Jazz event is funded by your board members: Fred Domulot, Dave Schmidt, John Eisinger, Carolyn Tokson, Tom Bell, Dustin Bonifay, Paul Bruno, Ali Egan, and John Link.

North Pole Panic, a nine member band led by our president Fred Domulot is performing. It promises to be a night to get you into the holiday spirit and bring some Christmas cheer to Seville Quarter. Dress up, wear a Santa hat, and plan to have some fun. Jingle Jazz is a great change to bring your friends and neighbors, an opportunity to recruit new members and volunteers for our events, especially Jazz Fest. Also remember to bring canned goods which we will distribute to one of the local food pantries. 

ROSWELL JAZZ FESTIVAL

by Kathy Lyon

Yes, it's THAT Roswell, in New Mexico, famous for a 1950's "alien spacecraft crash", and yes, they certainly do love their "aliens" in Roswell! But that's not why I made my second trip to the Annual Roswell Jazz Festival... it was to sing as part of the line-up of wonderful musicians!

The RJF just completed their 14th annual festival, and the background is very interesting. How did an unlikely New Mexico city like Roswell become a Mecca for some of America's top jazz musicians and fans? Retired educator Frank Schlatter of Roswell had kept in touch with his friend pianist and symphonic composer Dr. Roger Dickerson of New Orleans ever since they served together in the 33rd U.S. Army Band in Heidelberg, Germany. In Sept. 2005, Schlatter got a call from his old friend, who had evacuated his home in New Orleans due to Hurricane Katrina. Dickerson's home, his grand piano and many of his manuscripts had been destroyed. Schlatter invited Dickerson to come to Roswell and take refuge in his home. The visit sowed the seeds of what would become a world-class Jazz Festival over the next few years.

Last year, I had sat in with a New Mexico friend, Rich Chorné, who is a guitarist who lived in the Washington DC area when I lived there. The 2018 Roswell Jazz Festival line-up was impressive, including Harry Allen (sax), Houston Person (sax), Ken Peplowski (clarinet/sax), Chuck Redd (vibes), John Allred (trombone), Richard Simon (bass) and about 25 other top-flight jazz players. I had met many of them over the past few years, on board The Jazz Cruise, as well as some who had performed at the Pensacola JazzFest in past years. Many of those same players also were in the line-up for this year's Festival, plus vocalist Rebecca Kilgore and others. In addition to the artists named above, the line-up over the years has included other Pensacola JazzFest performers such as Nicki Parrott (bass/vocals), Rossano Sportiello (piano).

Michael Francis played piano in Chorné's group when I sang last year, and he also serves as the Artistic Director for the Roswell Jazz Festival. I was delighted to be asked to be part of the line-up for the 2019 festival especially because I had completed a recording project with Houston Person in April and would have my brand new CD to share with the attendees and the other musicians!

I arrived on Wed. Oct. 16 for the 4-day festival, and as I checked into the hotel, was running into some of the headliners that I met last year. That's one of the things I love most about festivals: the friendly vibe, and the chance to "hang" with fellow jazz fans and musicians over several days! The festival's opening show was actually a Blues show, featuring Chorne, Francis, vocalist Hillary Smith, and 4 other fine players. The venue, a popular coffee shop on Main St., was sold out, and the enthusiastic audience was a pleasure to sing for.

Thursday's line-up included a workshop and Q&A by

several of the top headliners for high school and college students. The evening performance included four 45-minute sets, with various combinations of the musicians. The venue, for the first time, was the Roswell Civic Center... in previous years, shows were held in venues around downtown, but it was hard finding restaurants or clubs with enough room! I liked the venue, because it was full of people who were listening, so you could really hear the artistry of the musicians, without the background noise of a restaurant.

Friday was a picture-perfect New Mexico day, with mild temperatures, lots of sun and fresh air. All the headliners gathered on the steps of the County Courthouse for a "showcase", which was free to the public, and everyone got to perform a song or two. I was grouped with an outstanding group, featuring Houston Person (sax), Ted Rosenthal (piano), Eric Unsworth (bass), and Butch Miles (drums). The audience was responsive, and the warm response of my fellow musicians to my singing was priceless. Later that day, I was part of another sold-out show with Rich Chorné, Hillary Smith and the rest of the Wed. group on the patio of Peppers Grill & Bar... more blues, along with great Mexican food and margaritas! Following our set, I really enjoyed a trio from El Paso, with Curt Warren (guitar), bass Eric Unsworth (bass), and Ricky Malichi (drums). Afterwards, it was back to the Civic Center for another great show, in a similar format of 4 45-minute sets, preceded by a 1/2 hour set by one of the most amazing solo pianists I've ever heard, Barron Ryan.

Saturday was a "day off" for me, but was still packed with music. There was a V.I.P. reception at a lovely art studio, with musicians taking turns jamming. I was pleased to be invited up to sing a few songs during the jam! The afternoon had a program of Latin Jazz and Salsa, and the evening was once again a full 4-set show.

Sunday morning's "Worship In Jazz" service was held at Roswell's First United Methodist Church. The church's choir sang on several songs, and a fine 5 piece horn section, along with piano, bass and drums, performed a number of songs that fit the theme of the sermon, "Improvisation". What a great theme for a jazz service. Fellow vocalist Hillary Smith has an amazing big voice, and delivered the perfect gospel feeling. She and I harmonized on several tunes, and on the final number, "When the Saints Go Marching In", I got the opportunity to scat a chorus!

The festival included a variety of jazz styles, including straight-ahead, Dixieland, Latin and Blues, with a nice balance of all the styles in each show. The caliber of the headlining musicians was excellent, and once again, I was struck by the friendliness of all the players. I'm often "accused" of being "nice", but from what I see at Jazz Festivals and cruises, it's a common trait among world-class touring jazz artists!

Elated and exhausted from four days of music, I was happy to unwind and do some traveling out west since I was already out there. What a trip! After leaving Roswell, I saw the Meteor Crater, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite,

and San Francisco, where I visited friends I hadn't seen in years. Saw temps from 13° to 93° in the same day, plus amazing scenery of all types. But for as much as I love road trips, it's always nice to get home and catch up with (and sing for) my Pensacola Jazz friends. 🎷

THE UWF JAZZ COMBO AND UWF JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES

by Carolyn Tokson

Keep your eyes on the schedule on the UWF website for the next performance or the UWF Jazz Combo and UWF Jazz Ensemble directed by Dr. Joseph T. Spaniola. At their performance of October 22, they lighted up the auditorium with some fantastic jazz music. The four piece combo featured Nate McManus on trumpet, Andrew Gregg on piano, Max Levesque on bass and Jensen Cadenhead on drums and vibraphone. Jensen had played two nights earlier at the October Gumbo with Isabelle Schrack and her band performing the music of Nora Jones. Presently a student at UWF, he had been a student of Fred Domulot at North West Florida State College when he competed in the 2018 College Instrumental portion of the Jazz Pensacola Student Competition. The combo played eight pieces ranging from Herbie Hancock to Miles Davis to Antonio Carlos Jobim.

The larger Jazz Ensemble played a very lively set with several barbeque themed numbers including Barbeque Ribs by Carubia, Cannonball Adderly Memorial BBQ by Wolking, and Struttin' With Some Barbecue by Armstrong, and Raye and Tomaro. Then the group shifted into a gentle haunting mood with Don't Forget (Renato's theme). Vocalist Kelly Pohl, a new member to Jazz Pensacola, sang The Best is Yet To Come, followed by another piece, Just Friends featuring vocalist and pianist, Selena Neal. Finishing out with Tell Me Something Good by Wonder and Tomaro and a seasonally appropriate Halloween themed, The Happy Cemetery by Daniel Barry, the ensemble finished to a standing ovation. Members of the Ensemble in addition to those mentioned above are Duncan Miller and True Graham on alto sax, Michael Lett and Mike Jones on tenor sax, Garsche Roble, clarinet, and Jeremy Judge on baritone sax in the reed section. On trombone were Allen Westerkom, Zach Wolfrom, Jonathan Neff, and Cameron Gordon. On trumpet were Noemi Ruiz, Kael Land, and Joseph Herring on Flugel horn. The Rhythm section included Adin Ballard on bass and others mentioned earlier. The next scheduled performance is Sunday November 24 at 3 PM in the Mainstage Theatre. There is no fee for the event, but tickets may be required. 🎷

JAZZ PENSACOLA'S MUSIC IN THE NOVEMBER AIR

by Carolyn Tokson

Jazz Pensacola's November calendar started with a major musical week. For the first time the organization was part of the Greater Gulf Coast Arts Festival, Saturday November 2 and Sunday November 3. The day began with Holly Shelton's vocal talents backed by Board Member John Link on keyboards and Dr. Bob Andrews on bass. They were

sponsored by International Paper. Jazz Pensacola provided three bands, Nobius, Isabel Schrack, and Rhythm Express. All performances were at the Museum Plaza behind the TT Wentworth Museum. Luckily the weather was superb both days.

Then on Monday night, November 4, as part of the Foo Foo Fest, Jazz Pensacola had its first performance at Vinyl Music Hall with president Fred Domulot's Village Brass Band which delighted the audience and whetted their musical appetites with some jovial music and antics. Thanks to their opening, the spectators were ready for the energetic performance of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy which followed. The large audience responded eagerly with cheers and danced with great pleasure. It was a night to celebrate and be remembered!

Jazz Pensacola is grateful to Art, Culture and Entertainment, Inc. for a major Foo Foo Fest grant and is excited to be a Friend of the Greater Gulf Coast Arts Festival. 🎷

ANOTHER BENNY GOODMAN JAZZ ANECDOTE

by F. Norman Vickers

Benny Goodman was notorious for his eccentricities. One was that he would sometimes focus on one player and critique him during the performance. This incident occurred with a small group and George Duvivier was the bassist. George (8-17-20 to 7-11-85) was a native New Yorker who originally studied violin. He switched to string bass while still in school. In the 1940s he toured with Coleman Hawkins and Lucky Millinder. After a time in the military, he accompanied Lena Horne on a European Tour in the 1950s. In addition to performing with Goodman, he had played with Basie, Frank Sinatra, Clark Terry and many others.

I was fortunate to hear him on a trip to New York. It was a dinner-dance at an upscale hotel. It was a trio with Derek Smith on piano. Bucky Pizzarelli on guitar and Duvivier on bass. Later, I was told this story by Bucky.

The event was a small group led by Goodman with Duvivier on bass. Goodman focused on George that night, feeling that the bass sound was too prominent. Several times he commented to Duvivier that he was playing too loudly. Eventually, George was going through the motions as before without ever plucking the strings but Goodman persisted in criticizing his performance. After the event, Duvivier packed his instrument and gear and made a hasty exit. Goodman sent word by one of the other musicians that he wanted to talk with George. The reply was, "That's impossible because George is now about half-way home." Per Bucky, Duvivier never played with Goodman thereafter and wouldn't respond to calls from Goodman's secretary.

Of course, musicians respected Goodman for his musicianship and accepted his eccentricities. For a more favorable review, see the comments of clarinetist Ken Peplowski who played with Goodman in the early 1980s when Goodman assembled a younger group with whom to perform. 🎷

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 18, 2019 **Jazz Gumbo**
Isabelle Schrack does Nora Jones
Phineas Phogg's
6:30-9:00

Dec. 9, 2019 **Jingle Jazz**
Sponsored by the Jazz Pensacola
Board of Directors
North Pole Panic
Phineas Phogg's
6:30-9:00

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: MEDIA SPONSORS

by Carolyn Tokson

Jazz Pensacola is grateful to our media sponsors with whom we contract through EW Bullock. When the Jazz Society of Pensacola decided to take over sole responsibility—fiscal and administrative—of Pensacola JazzFest after WUWF announced in early 1998 that they would no longer be a sponsor or administrator of JazzFest, Ellis Bullock offered the assistance of his advertising agency. He and his staff have been extremely helpful in assisting with helping the Jazz Society in dealing with the various media connections. While Jazz Pensacola pays a specific amount for services, we receive a much larger amount in trade value. This arrangement allows us to publicize our April JazzFest and reach a much larger audience than possible without the media assistance from WEAR-TV, Cox Cable, iHeart Radio WMXC-Mix 99.9, WUWF FM, Cumulus Radio Pensacola and its stations WMEZ- Soft Rock 94.1FM, WRRX - Magic 106.1 FM, WJTQ - Jet 100.7 FM, WCOA-News Talk 1370 AM. Lamar - Digital Billboard is also part of the package that allows drivers all over town to know about our JazzFest. Jazz Pensacola is grateful for the continued support of our media sponsors. 

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Would you like to sponsor a Jazz Gumbo? For \$400 you can be a sponsor and be the life of the party. It's a novel way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any special event. For \$300 you can sponsor the Jazz Jam. Call Alice Crann Good, our administrator for details at info@jazzpensacola.com or at 850-433-8382.

Jazz Pensacola is seeking volunteers for Jazz Fest April 4 and 5. If you would like to join in the Jazz Fest fun, contact Tom Bell, our Point Person for Volunteers. Tom's email is thomasjbell@bellsouth.net.

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Thank you to our new members from October 2019

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Susan Scott and Andre Alonzo