

Attracting Young People to Jazz Class Credit for Jazz Attendance

by Roger Villines, President, JSOP Board of Directors

We in the Jazz Society of Pensacola (JSOP) have discovered a great way to get college students to attend our jazz performances - attendance qualifies toward college music course requirements. The local Pensacola Junior College (PJC) offers Music Appreciation and Music History courses that require students to attend a minimum of three music performance events during the semester. Options include a variety of concerts and recitals such as the local symphony orchestra, opera, choral groups, chamber groups, musical theater and jazz performances, most recently to include jazz performances sponsored by the Jazz Society of Pensacola.

We were thrilled at the May 19 Jazz Gumbo performance when about 30 PJC students showed up to enjoy some jazz and get some class performance credit. The college representative was there to document attendance, and the students got to hear a really fine, local area big band - the Playground Big Band from Fort Walton Beach. Henceforth, the approved concert attendance list will include many of our performance events that encompass a wide range of jazz styles. With around 100 students per semester taking these courses, we expect to see quite a few at our future jazz performances. This goes a long way toward achieving one of our primary objectives - to promote and foster jazz participation by young people.

This initiative only required a little collaborative effort between JSOP and the PJC Music Department. The wheel was already invented; we just added another spoke. Similar opportunities most likely exist in any community with a college or university music program and a jazz club or society. Young people get additional exposure to the world of jazz while accomplishing course requirements - a win-win scenario.

Cindy Shaw of Gulf Breeze Elementary presents a check for \$3,931.40 to Jazz Society President Roger Villines at the conclusion of the school's "Jazzy Jellyfish Cafe" in June. The Jazz Society was chosen as one of three recipients of proceeds from this entrepreneurial project involving the school's third-graders. Joe Occhipinti provided music for the dinners.



♪ Jazz Notes ♪

► **Monday, July 21, 2008** - The July Jazz Gumbo will feature pianist Bobby Van Deusen and friends in Rosie O'Grady's room to take advantage of the house pianos (and due to schedule conflict in normal room). The Jazz Gumbos get underway at 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00 for the public and \$7.00 for JSOP members. Admission includes a free cup of gumbo.

► **Monday, August 4, 2008** - Jazz Jam at eat! (287 N. Palafox - corner of Wright and Palafox Streets). The Jazz Jams begin at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Performing musicians get in free, so bring your instrument and sign in to jam. Complimentary appetizers and bar service.

► **Monday, August 18, 2008** - The August Jazz Gumbo will feature vocalist Sandra Daggs with a medium sized band led by Don Lewis in the Phineas Phogg's room at Seville Quarter.

► **Monday, September 1, 2008** - The Annual Labor Day Picnic at Doctors Bob and Carol Andrews home in Gulf Breeze. This fun event starts at 3:00 p.m. There is an open jam session that is always lots of fun (and will take the place of the September Jazz Jam at eat!). Admission is \$20.00 per person for JSOP members and guests, free for participating musicians. Call the JSOP office at 433-8382 for reservations.

► **Saturday, September 20, 2008** - "JazzFest Goes On" - the first major fundraiser for JazzFest 2009 and a special celebration commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Jazz Society of Pensacola. This event will feature nationally-known pianist Pat Joyce with a jazz combo of area musicians from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Phineas Phogg's room at Seville Quarter. The normal third-Monday Jazz Gumbo won't be held in September because of the close time proximity to this major celebration and fundraiser. The Cost is \$20.00 per person and tickets will be available from the JSOP office, 433-8382, and other locations to be announced.

Albert Ray Groves 1924-2008

The Jazz Society of Pensacola mourns the loss of long-time JSOP member and avid jazz supporter, Ray Groves, who passed away on 5/27/08. Mr. Groves served for 28 years as a U.S. Navy officer and pilot, receiving many awards, including the National Defense Service Medal, The World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal with two stars, and the Air Medal. Mr. Groves was also active in the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel on the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

Images from Gumbos, June Jam and Picnic

Photos in this issue by Howard Martin, Norm Vickers and Roger Villines



(above and below) The Playground Big Band was a hit at the May Jazz Gumbo.



There was a nice turnout at the Jazz Society's Annual Picnic June 8th at the Pensacola Yacht Club.



Will Fink performs on violin at the June Jazz Jam at eat!

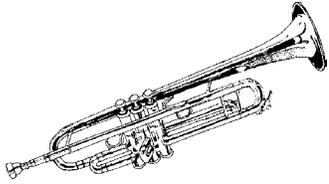


Singer Kathy Lyon was the headliner at the June Gumbo.



The Dixieland Dandies performed at the Annual Picnic.

The President Blows His Horn



It Was A Very Good Year

By Roger Villines

JSOP's fiscal year 2007-2008 season has come to a close, and I must say, it was a very good year. We put on a great, but somewhat damp, Pensacola JazzFest 2008. The 25th annual featured great jazz from Butch Thompson's Big Three, the Shelly Berg Trio, saxophonist Bob Maksymkow, the Jazz Guardians big band, vocalist Holly Shelton, the Guffman trio, the Dixieland Dandies, college big bands from UWF and PJC, the Escambia High Jazz Band and a special presentation about making movie music by Alan Hewitt. Jazz Jam@eat! reached its first year of first-Monday jam sessions with enthusiastic enjoyment by musicians and listeners. Monthly Jazz Gumbos were highlighted by Martha McDowell-Fleming's birthday gumbo and the special celebration of Rosie O'Grady's 40th anniversary, and then of course, there was Jingle Jazz adding a jazz touch to the Christmas season. The February Diva Extravaganza featuring vocalists Sandra Daggs, Kathy Lyon, Josephine Mayo and Holly Shelton in one grand show backed by the Joe Occhipinti Big Band highlighted the two "JazzFest Goes On" fundraisers. Norman Vickers masterfully led a well attended series of video plus discussion presentations at the West Florida Public Library. Our finances got a big boost when JSOP was selected to be one of the three recipients (along with the Autism Society of the Panhandle and the Family Freedom Foundation) of a check for \$3,931.40 from the proceeds of the "Jazzy Jellyfish Café," a marvelous entrepreneurial project by the 3rd grade class of Gulf Breeze Elementary School led by teachers Leslie Jolly and Cindy Shaw. We were grateful, happy and surprised! Joe Occhipinti helped this cause by providing the jazz music for the café; thanks to Joe for all he does for JSOP. Also thanks to all the volunteers, donors and sponsors who made this past year a success. As icing on the cake, JSOP productions earned the Best Jazz Music Award in the Pensacola News Journal "Best of the Bay" series, aptly recognizing our pivotal role in the Pensacola jazz scene. Last but not least, JSOP has over 500 members and a fair amount of money to start the next fiscal year.

Next June thru July fiscal year should also be very good with many Jazz Jams and Jazz Gumbos and the 26th Annual Pensacola JazzFest on April 4 and 5, 2009. Two notable upcoming big events will be the Labor Day Picnic at Doctors Bob and Carol Andrews home in Gulf Breeze - always a grand afternoon of jazz and food with friends - and the first JazzFest Goes On at Seville Quarter on September 20. Nationally known pianist Pat Joyce will be featured with excellent regional musicians in a special celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Jazz Society of Pensacola. So, start marking JSOP events on your planning calendars and look forward to a great 2008-2009 season of friends in jazz.

JSOP's fiscal year 2007-2008: It was a very good year.

Renewing Members

Ronald and Valmae Besser - Pensacola

Ron and Dolly Berthelot - Pensacola

John and Carolyn Brick - Pensacola

Donald and Phyllis Clay - Normal, IL

Oronzo F. Colaizzo - Lillian, AL

Cynthia S. Craig - Pensacola

Charles and Dot Fail - Orange Beach, AL

John Harbolt - Pensacola

Mark and Marie Hlubek - Gulf Breeze

Nancy Hodgkins - Pensacola

Bob Holmes - Pensacola

Dian Parsley and Will Johnson - Pensacola

Leora L. Jones - Gulf Breeze

Robert and Marie Kohler - Tallahassee, FL

Kurt and Dee Krueger - Pensacola Beach

Peter and Mary Lee - Pensacola

Ray Leskovec - Pensacola

Harriet Major - Pensacola

Bryan and Lucy Newkirk - Pensacola

Mary Newman - Pensacola

Norman and Dorothy Perrin - Milton

David and Anne Price - Pensacola

Gerri Redfield - Pensacola

William Sanders - Williston Park, NY

Lee Seeley - Gulf Breeze

Martha Smith - Gulf Breeze

David and Bettie Lee Sundstrom - Pensacola

Marcus and Barbara Todd - Pensacola

New Members

Noraly Asbell - Pace

Richard and Terry Aymes Brent - Pensacola

Helen Galloway - Pensacola

Betty M. Gossom - Pensacola

Robert Kennedy - Pensacola Beach

Ernest and Fannie Marvin - Cantonment

Herman and Valerie Rolfs - Gulf Breeze

Martha Westfall - Pensacola

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Founding Member - American
Federation of Jazz Societies

Member - Arts Council of
Northwest Florida

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Membership is open to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. The purpose of the Society is to promote jazz, encourage jazz scholarship and have periodic meetings where jazz may be performed for the members and the general public. Membership is \$35 per year; \$50 for couples; \$5 for students. Corresponding membership (outside 100 miles) is \$20 per year. Additional membership packages are available as follows: Partner - \$150; Patron - \$250; Benefactor - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000. Call the Jazz Society of Pensacola office or go to www.jazzpensacola.com for details.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Mail with payment to:

Jazz Society of Pensacola
P.O. Box 18337
Pensacola, FL 32523-8337

*Make check payable to **Jazz Society of Pensacola***

Visa, MasterCard & American Express accepted - call 433-8382

Website: www.jazzpensacola.com

Please check the expiration date on your mailing label. Half of the memberships expired in March. It saves us time and money if we don't have to mail notices. We hate to lose any members, but we can't afford to continue mailing to those who don't support us financially.