

Sue Straughn will MC the July Gumbo Jazz Salute to Women Vocalists

Sue Straughn, well-known senior news anchor of WEAR TV, will be the Mistress of Ceremonies for the Jazz Pensacola Jazz Salute to Women Vocalists which will feature nine local jazz vocalists singing beloved jazz standards. **Vocalists are Donna Blackmon, Rosie Butler, Sandra Daggs, Kathy Lyon, Jo Mayo, Isabelle Peterson, Holly Shelton, Ellen Vinson and Tori Vinson.** All of these women have stellar reputations for jazz performance in Pensacola and the surrounding area. Several of the singers have had careers which took them all over the US, while some have made their reputations locally.

There are two family connections with Rosie and Jill Butler, mother and daughter performing and Ellen and Tori Vinson, grandmother and granddaughter. Tori won second place in the vocal division of the Jazz Pensacola Student Competition and she is only in high school. Isabelle Peterson, who until recently was the Music Director of the Nativity of our Lord Catholic Church and is currently the director of the Pensacola Choral Society's women's ensemble, was a repeated winner in our Jazz Pensacola Student Jazz Competition in past years. With a degree in classical

voice, Isabelle shifts easily from Gregorian chant to jazz classics. The vocalists will be performing with a **trio of Bobby Van Duesen on keyboards, Steve Gilmore on bass and Lawrence Young on drums.**

This Gumbo not only brings together some of Pensacola's best-known vocalists but also offers an extra treat with **singer**

and keyboard player Jill Butler of Lafayette, LA as a special guest. Jill is the

daughter of Ed and Rosie Butler who themselves have had an amazing musical career. Jill is popular on the intimate club and jazz cruise circuit and is known for her sultry voice and keyboard excellence. Her dad, Ed, was a Nashville/Muscle Shoals R&B producer and one of the original owners of Malaco Records, while her mother Rosie, who will also be performing has been singing jazz since an early age.

Coming from such a musical family, Jill has a long history of performance and composition. She has performed with such artists as Ellis Hall, Bob James and ECP Jazz Cruises, Dee Lucas and a plethora of other artists. You can learn more about her at www.jillbutlerjazz.com

The evening promises to be a bit different from our regular Gumbos in that it offers a more intimate cabaret-style performance with a touch of elegance. Carolyn Tokson, who has served as a board member and as Secretary to the Board of Directors, is sponsoring this Gumbo as her 80th birthday celebration.



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