

## Sandra Daggs Hosts and Performs at Jazz Pensacola's December 12 Jingle Jazz Event and Food Drive for Epps Christian Center.

**One of the area's favorite vocalists,** Sandra Daggs is sponsoring and performing at the annual Jazz Pensacola Jingle Jazz on Monday December 12 in Seville Quarter's Phineas Phogg's. Doors open at 5:30PM and music begins at 6:30PM. Backing her up will be a five piece band with **Mary Chavez**, vocalist and keyboardist; **Bob Maksymkow** saxophonist; **George Petropoulis** trumpeter; **Jimmy Roebuck** drummer; and **Steve Douglas**, bass player. This is a band of seasoned professionals who are hard to beat. **This event is free.** It is also a food drive, an opportunity to bring **non-perishable food items for those in our community who face "food insecurities"**. This annual food drive has been a long standing practice of Jazz Pensacola during the holiday season. Every year the food offerings are taken to **Rev. Sylvia Tisdale** at the Epps Christian Center where she dispenses food to a large group of people who suffer from **"food insecurities"**. Twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays the center gives food to over 400 families. This food drive is just the sort of event that thrills Sandra since she is very involved in community work and charity events. Only this last month, Sandra hosted a golf tournament in Fort Walton to raise funds for a memorial scholarship in honor of her late husband.

A native of Pensacola, Sandra Stills Daggs has been in love with

music since her father exposed her to early piano, big band sounds and jazz. Continuing her love for music, she performed in high school and college choruses. Sandra has her undergraduate and masters degree in music education and has taught music as a career also.

As a result of her late husband's career, she had the opportunity to share her knowledge of music with hundreds of students in Key West, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit, Baker and Crestview, FL. Sandra participated in several productions in the Key West Playhouse. She realized her passion by also directing musicals, mystery dramas and seasonal classics at Baker and Southside Elementary School twice a year. Teachers and parents were always very supportive with their dance, artistic and sewing skills. This made for top quality productions for the community and Sandra was voted Southside's "Teacher of the Year."

Being a pianist allowed Sandra to play for various social and civic events, accompany band members for all-county try-outs and organize the children's choir at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Sandra has been a featured vocalist with Joe Occhipinti's Big Band for over a decade and with the Lillian Big Band and the Joe Louis Trio in Mobile, AL. Sandra has performed for many social and charity events such as Downtown Pensacola's Winter Fest; Jazz in the Park Summer Series and at many restaurants, clubs and fundraisers here in the area and around the US. She was a favorite at Gino Rosaria's events. Last year, Sandra was the featured vocalist for two of Fred Domulot's recent jazz events at The District in both October and January.



Vocalist Sandra Daggs will perform at Jingle Jazz December 12, 2022.

Jingle Jazz is one of the **free** gifts that Jazz Pensacola offers to the community. Please come in your holiday sparkles and bring some non-perishable food items to share.

Jingle Jazz is also a perfect time to make an **end of the year tax-exempt donation** to Jazz Pensacola, a 501(c)(3) organization. We depend on the generosity of our members and sponsors to be able to present such events as our free Jazz Pensacola JazzFest scheduled this year for April 1 and 2, 2023.

If you would like to sponsor a Gumbo or a band for Pensacola's JazzFest, contact Carolyn Tokson at [ctokson@hotmail.com](mailto:ctokson@hotmail.com).



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## Karl Denson and His Tiny Universe Perform at Vinyl Music Hall for Jazz Pensacola's Foo Foo Fest Event

by Anthony Denaro

Karl Denson shuffled onto the stage at Vinyl Music Hall on Monday night wearing a brown sport jacket with fluorescent elbow patches and bright orange Nike shoes. Sporting a long gray goatee, Mr. Denson carried his tenor sax in one hand and his flute in the other, grinning from ear to ear.

I was exposed to the music of Karl Denson's Tiny Universe nearly 20 years ago. During my freshman year of college, I found myself attending a few meetings about the local campus radio station and then quickly found myself hosting a weekly radio show on the local WBGU 88.1FM radio station. I stumbled across a newly released KDTU compact disc and have had him on my musical radar ever since.

Karl Denson's initial appearance made you wonder if he was going to be able to deliver a high energy performance in an intimate venue. Mr. Denson had just finished a European tour as a tenor saxophone sideman with another popular band, The Rolling Stones, but this did not

necessarily mean he had the chops to front his own group in a live setting. Within a minute or two, he gleefully counted off the first tune and my doubts immediately vanished.

My wife thought it was a good idea to experience the performance as close to the stage as possible, meaning that we had to be in the front row. The initial impact of the



Karl Denson

heavy tenor saxophone and trumpet sound, combined with heavily amplified bass drum were like getting punched in the chest in the best possible way. Karl Denson's Tiny Universe proceeded to lead us through a nearly two hour set of electric jazz funk that was dripping heavily

with contagious R&B bass lines and New Orleans influenced soul. Mr. Denson played his tenor saxophone as if it was an extension of his own body. His robust and full sound never faltered as he bounced around the stage while exploring the full range of the instrument. Mr. Denson also sang lead vocals on many tunes with a soulful and effortless approach, and often accompanied other soloists with a myriad of auxiliary percussion instruments.

Backed up by a trumpet, two electric guitars, electric piano and organ, electric bass, and drums, each member was provided with ample opportunities to stretch out on a solo and say whatever they needed to say that night. At one point during a particularly heavy funk tune, Mr. Denson started playing a melody of the microphone and into the ear of the trumpet player. He had an idea pop into his head and the

trumpet player did his best to quickly learn the challenging musical line completely by ear. Within a few seconds, a brand new addition to the song was being performed as the keyboard player continued to work through a solo of increasing harmonic and rhythmic complexity.

Mr. Denson eventually picked up his flute and displayed a variety of extended flute techniques that included fluttering tones, singing harmony pitches, and beat-boxing while playing. Mr. Denson also found time to stretch out on an extended unaccompanied solo while several band members left the stage to refresh their drinks. Meanwhile, the bottle of water sitting next to his saxophone remained untouched.

I have had the opportunity to attend some outstanding musical performances at

Vinyl Music Hall I have had the opportunity to attend some outstanding musical performances at Vinyl Music Hall over the last decade, and there is no doubt that Karl Denson's Tiny Universe was one of the finest. Mr. Denson brought his high energy set list of original tunes that left the audience exhausted as we filed outside and back into the real world. As I drove to work the next morning, I still had the music in my head. I caught a quick glance of myself in the mirror and noticed that I was grinning from ear to ear. 

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## Dr. Norman Vickers Interviews Saxophonist Lukas Ali Hein

**Norman:** Where did you grow up? Were your parents musical, if so in what way? Any siblings? Your early musical experiences. When did you become interested in jazz--- how why?

**Lukas:** I grew up internationally. I was born in Ecuador, moved to Kenya as an infant. Moved to South Carolina for 3 years, Toronto for 2, and Vancouver Island for 8. After high school I spent a year in the Marshall Islands before starting college in Portland, Oregon. Also my high school was an international boarding school with about 200 students from 30-ish countries, so I definitely had a very global childhood.

Neither of my parents were musicians but my dad loved jazz and my mom wanted us to have musical education, so I started cello at age 5. I quit at 9, regretted it at 11, and then started saxophone in the middle school band at 12. I had no intention of "being a musician" but I knew I didn't want to quit playing music again!

I got into jazz because I bought a Discman (remember those) but couldn't afford any CDs, so I borrowed from my sister's collection. The only recordings I really

Anthony Denaro currently serves as the Director of Bands at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort



Anthony Denaro,

Walton Beach. Originally from Ohio, Anthony has obtained a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio and a Master of Arts in Music Education from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to his daily teaching responsibilities, Anthony currently plays trumpet with the Pensacola Bay Concert Band and serves as a band adjudicator throughout the state of Florida. Anthony currently resides near downtown Pensacola with his beautiful wife Hannah and their four cats.

connected with were some jazz sampler things she had --- "The Best of Columbia Jazz" or something like that, which included some Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, Benny Goodman etc. It just hooked me right away---I could hear a level of musicianship and empowerment that was almost magical, and I became a voracious listener of classic jazz throughout the next decade or so.

**Norman:** Give me some examples of your musical education—what did you learn? Who were your jazz heroes?



Saxophonist Lukas Ali Hein who led Sabroso for the October 2022 Gumbo

**Lukas:** I mostly just learned by listening to recordings I loved until starting college. Then I was a music major, but quickly realized that most traditional music theory programs are very anachronistic and not particularly

helpful for becoming fluent in the language; they promote passive analysis and replication of old European music but are largely inadequate (if not counterproductive) for learning how to truly create music. This is especially true for music from the Western Hemisphere, which is a synthesis of equal parts African and European traditions. I spent a lot of time struggling to understand things better, and ultimately returned to school for a master's degree which helped tie everything together.

Too many heroes to list, but a few are Stan Getz for the sheer grace of his playing; Dexter Gordon for his maturity and sophistication; and Dizzy Gillespie, for pioneering on his instrument, helping develop the jazz language, and creating a culture of fostering talent and integrating music from around the world.

**Norman:** Marriage and family?

**Lukas:** I'm married, no children. Most of our family is on the West Coast.

**Norman:** When did you come to Pensacola? How did you happen to choose P'cola? Current activity—musical and otherwise. Do you have a regular job or is music your only livelihood? Current musical activities?

**Lukas:** We moved to Pensacola in February 2021, attracted by the sea, climate, and mix of small town with a lively arts community and people from around the country here. Music is my full time occupation. In addition to the usual freelance gigs and a few private students, I'm currently playing several times a week with Joe Occhipinti --- which is a real pleasure --- and Sundays at Felix's with Mary Chavez, another recent transplant from the Northwest. I also started a really awesome Latin Jazz Combo called "Sabroso" that played at the most recent Jazz Festival, and I hope that that group gets more opportunities to perform; it's full of fantastic players (including Jim Green, Lawrence Young and Fred Domulot) and together we sound great!

**Norman:** Your musical goals 10 and 20 years hence.

**Lukas:** I hope I continue to improve as a musician indefinitely! I also aspire to help other musicians have a better understanding of what jazz is - a practice and philosophy of inclusion, empowerment, and upliftment - and learn to take advantage of the lessons

and opportunities it has for each of us. In a nutshell, I hope to continue teaching and performing!

**Norman:** Recount a couple of musical experiences which are meaningful for you.

**Lukas:** I got to spend a month at a friend's house in Rio de Janeiro and record a Bossa Nova album with outstanding Brazilian musicians as part of my Master's Degree. I also spent three years teaching at the Saint Lucia School of Music in the Caribbean.

**Norman:** Now my last question—what should I have asked you but overlooked?

**Lukas:** I think that was a good start! Let me know if there's anything else I can offer. 

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*"When you hit a wrong note, it's the next note that makes it good or bad"*

- Miles Davis -

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## West Florida Public Libraries Expand Jazz by the Book Concerts

West Florida Public Libraries serving Escambia County is expanding the free jazz concert series **Jazz by the Book** with **Joe Occhipinti and his JazzAbouts** to include branch libraries. Normally there are **two free concerts at the main library on Spring St. on the first and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 1-3 PM.** However, **Director Todd Humble** has increased the concerts to other branch libraries so that there will be three concerts monthly. **Concerts are scheduled for December 6 and 27** at the Spring St. branch downtown. The first performance at **Bellview Library** was November 15 and the first performance at **Tryon Library will be the third Tuesday on January 17, 2023.**

Jazz Pensacola supports these concerts in cooperation with the library with

a small monthly stipend for the band. Joining Joe O. are **Roger Villines** on trumpet, **Lukas Ali Hein** on saxophone, and **John Fountain** on guitar. Often there are other guests sitting in with the **JazzAbouts.**



Local legend Joe O.  
playing his saxophone.

The community's reception has been so enthusiastic that the concerts are being expanded and will continue in the months ahead. Such an educational outreach is rare in a public library. These concerts are a result of the long-time collaboration of Jazz Pensacola and the administration of

the West Florida Libraries system. **The Jazz Room at the Spring St.** branch houses books, CDs, and beautiful art work by local watercolorist Nina Fritz and others. All library patrons from any branch are eligible to check out materials from this collection which is presently valued at over \$20,000.

Recently, the **personal jazz collection of Dr. Norman Vickers**, founder of Jazz Pensacola, was catalogued and taken to the Jazz Room for inclusion. Steve Douglas, a new member of the board of directors facilitated the move of this valuable collection from one of the country's top jazz journalists and advocates. The national Jazz Journalists Association voted Dr. Vickers as one of America's Jazz Heroes in 2021.

**Amy Horosky**, Senior Librarian, Adult Services is in charge of the Jazz Room and has been an advocate for these events. Jazz Pensacola is grateful for the assistance and participation of her staff in these concerts. Along with Amy, **Lindsey Corey** and **Mazzie Garrett** have been most welcoming to the

concert goers. They have offered free popcorn, cookies, and water to visitors at the present Spring St. concerts which attract patrons of all ages. For more information contact the library reference desk at (850) 436-5064 or Amy Horosky at (850) 436-5005.

If you would like to make a **tax-deductible contribution** to these free concerts, please contact [ctokson@hotmail.com](mailto:ctokson@hotmail.com) or send a check to Jazz Pensacola, 3 West Garden St. Suite 418, Pensacola, FL 32502. Please mark that the donation is for the **library concerts on the memo line**. Or call the Jazz Pensacola office at 850-433-8382 to make a donation by credit card. 🎷

## Save the Dates! Upcoming Events Sponsored by Jazz Pensacola

- 🎷 **Monday, December 5, 2022 Jazz Jam at the Odd Colony Brewing Co.** on North Palafox St. Music begins at 6:30 PM. A food truck in back offers food. Donations appreciated. Professional and amateur Instrumentalists and vocalists welcomed.
- 🎷 **Tuesday, December 6, 2022 West Florida Public Library at Spring St. ,Free Jazz by the Book concert with Joe Occhipiniti and his JazzAbouts** from 1-3 PM.
- 🎷 **Monday, December 12, 2022 Jazz Pensacola Jingle Jazz** with vocalist **Sandra Daggs** and five piece band of Mary Chavez on vocals and keyboards, Jimmy Roebuck on drums, Bob Maksymkow on saxophones, George Petropolis on trumpet, and Steve Douglas on bass. Phineas Phogg's in Seville Quarter. Music starts at 6:30 PM. **This is a free event and food drive. Donations are appreciated.**
- 🎷 **Tuesday, December 27, 2022, West Florida Public Library at Spring St. Free Jazz by the Book concert with Joe Occhipiniti and his JazzAbouts** from 1-3 PM.

## Jazz Pensacola would like to welcome new members:

🎷 Bill and Beth McLaughlin

## What's Jazzing

by Carolyn Tokson

Foo Foo Fest was a great way to perk up the offseason here in Pensacola. The Jazz Pensacola offering brought an enthusiastic crowd to hear Karl Denson as reviewed by Anthony Denaro.

Jazz Pensacola is opening the holiday season with the **December Jazz Jam on Monday December 5 at 6:30PM at the Odd Colony Brewing Co.** on North Palafox. **Note the change to Mondays.** Roger Villines, past president, who has for years led Jingle Jazz thought that we had a larger turnout of jammers on Monday. The board recently approved a return to our former schedule of Jazz Pensacola musical events on the first and third Mondays. Loss of our venue during the pandemic required us to shift to Wednesday night. Now we are back to our schedule which has been the pattern for many years in the past. Roger will be playing trumpet and flugelhorn with **Andrew Gregg** on keyboard, **Steve Douglas** on bass and **Jimmy Roebuck** on drums. It's a great place to sip a brew and have a nosh from the food truck while listening to some great jazz.

Make sure you come to the **free Jingle Jazz event and bring a non-perishable food offering**. That should be a treat! Pensacola and the surrounding area has so many events to keep you in the holiday spirit that it would be impossible to list them all. Remember the free library concerts as well. Visit our website for a calendar of jazz events featuring musicians from all over the area.

Jazz Pensacola member, **Willie Panama, was the Master of Ceremonies for the Pensacola Latino Festival** held recently. Willie is a Panamanian international artist,



Jazz Pensacola member, Willie Panama, is MC for the Pensacola Latino Festival 2022.

singer, composer, musician and movie actor, an all-around artist in the genres of salsa, calypso, reggae, kompa and Latin jazz. Willie is a United States Marine Veteran and former United States Justice Department Detention and Deportation Officer. He and his wife **Rena Sang**, a classical pianist, relocated to Pensacola from south Florida in 2021. Willie and Rena sat in at one of our Jazz Jams during the summer to the delight of all the attendees.

**The Belmont DeVilliers Heritage Festival** offered a variety of music with the **Glen Parker Band**, **Cheryl Jones with Jones and Co.**, saxophonist **Antoine Knight** and the **Booker T. Washington Band**. That festival and the Latino Festival did a great deal to brighten up a gray cool Saturday before Thanksgiving Week. The history of our city is varied and rich and these two festivals bring that fact to our attention in the most positive way.

Sunday morning brunch is a good time for jazz with a holiday touch. **Mary Chavez** and **Lukas Ali Hein** are at **Felix's Restaurant**

and **Oyster Bar** at the Quietwater beach. **Curt Bol** and his band are at the **Five Sisters Blues Cafe**. **McGuire's** offers **Al Alvarado** on saxophone. If you're in the mood for a drive, **Dauphine's** in Mobile has a jazz brunch. The **Guffman Trio** is at **Emeril's** in Miramar Beach and **The Dharma Beats** are there also for the Coastal Brunch.

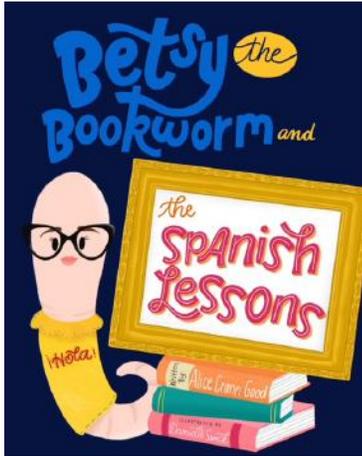
**Alice's Gulf Coast Cuisine and Wine Bar** has music several nights of the week with **Joe Occhipinti and his JazzAbouts** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, **Art Carnrick** on Thursday, and with **Jim Andrews** on Friday and Saturdays. You can catch Jim at **Cactus Flower** on Thursdays. **Melodius Allen** fills Seville Quarter's **Lili Marlene's** on Tuesday Nights with his **Funkheads**. **Austin Paul Jr.** will be at **The District** every Wednesday through December with vocalist **Ginelle Gordon**. You can find jazz further afield at Gambino's in **Fairhope, AL** with **The Wise Guys**. On Thursdays, **Rebecca Barry** is at **The Cigar Bar** in Daphne, AL. **The Shrimp Boat Restaurant in Panama City** offers live jazz in Panama City and **Jones and Company** plays at **Bric à Brac in Destin** on Friday nights. Saturday mornings, **Joe O. is at The Drowsy Poet** and **The Shrimp Boat** offers more jazz on Saturday evenings.

**If you are a musician and want your gig listed on the Jazz Pensacola calendar, send complete information regarding event date, beginning and end of event times, location, cost and contact information to [info@jazzpensacola.com](mailto:info@jazzpensacola.com).**

Congratulations are in order for **bassist, Dr. Bob Andrews** on his upcoming retirement from his 30 years in an OB/GYN practice. Many Jazz Pensacola members remember the fantastic summer picnics at his former home at the beach. He also donated a baby grand piano to the society when he sold his home there. That piano now resides at the West Florida Public Library on Spring St. Dr. Bob was playing with Joe O. and his JazzAbouts at Alice's for former board member, **Peg Sheridan's** recent birthday party attended by a large group enjoying Alice's half

price appetizers on last Wednesday night. Happy birthday, Peg!

Congratulations are also in order for the **Gulf Jazz Society** for their successful 21st annual three-day Veterans Day weekend festival, **Jazz by the Bay** at St. Andrews Oaks by the Bay Park.



Kudos go to Jazz Pensacola administrator, **Alice Crann Good** on the publication of her fourth children's book in the Betsy the Bookworm series. In "**Betsy the Bookworm and The Spanish Lessons**," Betsy uses Spanish

phrases in the story and provides real information on Spanish-speaking countries. Great for children ages 3 to 9, give or take, this new Betsy adventure is full of fun and makes learning Spanish seem exciting and doable for kids — not an easy feat! In her distinctive way, Betsy takes children on a rollicking, educational, international romp, broadening their horizons about different countries, cultures, traditions and the Spanish language. She starts at a place close to home, the library. A librarian, Betsy loves libraries and knows that once children learn how to use libraries, the doors to learning are always wide open. The story unfolds when a new family moves into a house on Betsy's street in Bookville. They speak Spanish, but where are they from? Find out in "Betsy the Bookworm and The Spanish Lessons." Learn about the author and all Betsy the Bookworm books, which are available worldwide from bookstores, Amazon.com, and on Betsy's own website: [betsythebookworm.com](http://betsythebookworm.com)

Best wishes to drummer, **Ricky Duffy** who has opened his own **Duffy Drum Maintenance** and is ready to tackle any

problem in terms of maintenance on drums for you drummers out there.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving, the Suchcicki family lit their display of 25 Santas. In 1998, as a joke, the family put up one blow mold Santa in the yard. Twenty five years later, they have 25 Santas. This year they hosted a lighting with cookies and goodies for the visitors.



Suchcicki Santas circa. 2021

**Joe Suchcicki** does the formatting for our Jazz Pensacola newsletter and has been managing our website with the assistance of our administrator Alice Crann Good and board member Ali Egan. Before Joe did this task, his father Mike who worked for the PNJ did website management and designed our festival fliers. One year, he won our poster contest. This cheerful holiday tradition is something you may learn more about by visiting [www.suchcickisantas.com](http://www.suchcickisantas.com)

Hopefully, you and yours will enjoy the multitude of meaningful holiday activities leading to the New Year 2023! The downtown holiday lights are up already; it reminds me of the sight I treasure from one Christmas long ago standing under the Arc de Triomphe looking down on the white lights of the Champs Elysees in Paris with the snow falling ever so lightly. **Pensacola's Winterfest** is in full swing. Visits with Santa and the Grinch are already a daily event. The Christmas tree is lighted. There will be a menorah lighting later. Look for news of more celebrations in your local paper and in social media. Let us all be grateful and mindful of others at this special season. **Happy Hanukkah, Happy Solstice, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa! May this season of peace and love bring you joy.** 🎵