

BALTIMORE JAZZ ALLIANCE

February 2017

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THE BJA NEWSLETTER

WWW.BALTIMOREJAZZ.COM



Musicians from left: Christian Hizon, Mike Benjamin, Jesse Moody, Jeff Reed, Paul Carr, Savino Palumbo

HOMEslyce Jazz Jam's Second Anniversary

By Bob Jacobson

Two years ago this month, clarinetist/bandleader Todd Marcus brought his many years of experience with jam sessions to a new venue, HOMEslyce, at 336 N. Charles Street in downtown Baltimore's Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Marcus had previously led jam sessions across the street at Copra and at Tyson's, near Fells Point. I can also remember him playing at jam sessions led by saxophonist Al Maniscalco at Louie's Bookstore, just two blocks up N. Charles Street, in 2000.

The HOMEslyce jam takes place every Wednesday, from 8 to 11 p.m. The house band consists of Marcus on bass clarinet, plus a rhythm section of piano, bass and drums. The session attracts players across a wide range of ages, experience and instruments. Many of the regulars praise Marcus's lead-

ership. "It's a very inclusive atmosphere. There can be a thousand tons of talent up there and someone with less experience is welcome. Todd treats everyone with decency and respect," says pianist Greg Small, who received his master's degree in jazz performance from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2008. Guitarist Jonathan Epley, who plays in the Army's Jazz Ambassadors, concurs. "There's no pressure, just a really good time, which fosters the kind of atmosphere where twelve- and thirteen-year-old kids can come out." (Epley is referring to sibling saxophonists Ebban and Ephraim Dorsey, who jam here almost every week.) Trombonist and Peabody Conservatory graduate Christian Hizon characterizes this jam session as "very familial." Hizon adds,

(continued on page 6)

The Baltimore Jazz Alliance is a 501(c)(3)
tax exempt organization.

The Baltimore Jazz Alliance (BJA) is a grass-roots organization of jazz aficionados, musicians and venues dedicated to enhancing and promoting jazz in Baltimore and the surrounding areas. New members sharing this passion are always welcome as the BJA continues its efforts to build a stronger and better networked jazz scene. Together we can help this music thrive in the region and reward listeners and musicians alike.

BJA Priorities

- To develop new audiences for jazz
- To strengthen communication within the jazz community
- To improve media relations on behalf of the jazz community
- To bring greater visibility to the entire array of jazz offerings in the Baltimore region
- To provide greater access to performance opportunities for Baltimore-area jazz musicians

Visit www.baltimorejazz.com
for information about our
accomplishments and future goals.

Baltimore Jazz Alliance
847 North Howard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Please direct your
questions and comments to:
webmaster@baltimorejazz.com

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JAZZ JAM SESSIONS

Where the cats congregate to groove and grow!

*** NOTE: As these events may be subject to change, it's always a good idea to CALL AHEAD for CONFIRMATION!**

MONDAYS

NEW! An die Musik Live! – Nate Hook's jam sessions every other Monday. 409 N. Charles Street. For more info contact: nathanhook7@gmail.com. Adult \$10, Student \$5. No charge for participating musicians. 7:30 pm. 410-385-2638

NEW! Taybor Ethiopian Restaurant – Clarence Ward III presents The Session at 328 Park Avenue. All are welcome to come out and express themselves. No cover, one drink minimum. Come on in and swing with us. 8:30-11:30 pm. 410-528-7234

TUESDAYS

Randallstown CC – Open Jazz Jam Sessions/Book and Poetry Readings every Tuesday at 6-8 pm. Hosted by Derrick Amin. 3505 Resource Drive, Randallstown. Musicians and vocalists are welcome. Sponsored by BJA. 410-887-0698

The Judge's Bench – Charlie Schueller leads informal jam sessions on the first Tuesday of each month from 8:30 pm-midnight. 8385 Main St, Ellicott City. 410-465-3497

WEDNESDAYS

49 West Café – FIRST and THIRD Wednesdays. "Starr's Jazz Jam" at 49 West Street, Annapolis. Hosted by John Starr and house band. Musicians and singers very welcome! Delicious and reasonably priced food and drink available! \$10 cover. 7-10 pm. Reservations 410-626-9796

HOMEslyce – Todd Marcus leads jazz jam sessions every Wednesday. Musicians and singers welcome. 336 N. Charles Street. 8-11 pm. 443-501-4000

THURSDAYS

The Place Lounge – Jam session/open mic hosted by Spice. 315 W. Franklin Street. Musicians and vocalists are welcome. 7-10 pm. 410-547-2722

If you know of local jam sessions, please share the information with our readers by emailing the details to the editor at: jazzpalette@gmail.com

**If any of the jazz jam sessions listed are discontinued,
PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR at: jazzpalette@gmail.com**

**Help us support live jazz in Baltimore
by becoming a member of BJA. See page 11.**

Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society



LOUIS HAYES and THE CANNONBALL LEGACY BAND featuring Vincent Herring

Sunday, February 26, 2017 5 pm



Louis Hayes, drums / Vincent Herring, alto saxophone / Jeremy Pelt, trumpet
Dezron Douglas, bass / Rick Germanson, piano

Louis Hayes is one of the chief architects of modern jazz drumming. He's provided the rhythmic support for historic recordings by Horace Silver, Cannonball Adderley, and Oscar Peterson. As a leader or a sideman on well over 100 albums, Hayes has been proud to be part of history. The Cannonball Legacy Band, which pays tribute to an unmistakable legend in music, also features Vincent Herring, saxophone virtuoso with a uniquely intense and vigorous musical voice.

\$35 General Admission | \$33 BMA Members/Seniors | \$10 Students

VOCALIST JACKIE RYAN

Sunday, March 26, 2017 5 pm



Jackie Ryan, vocals / Harry Allen, saxophone / Bill O'Connell, piano
Lee Smith, bass / Jason Tieman, drums

Jackie Ryan draws out the very essence of a song just by singing the lyrics and the notes with unadorned sincerity. Described as a versatile, expressive singer, Jackie Ryan has been profiled as the featured artist for NPR, Voice of America, Primetime A&E and CNN TV en Español and has filled premier venues both here and abroad. "One of the outstanding jazz vocalists of her generation and, quite possibly, of all time..." (Jazz Times).

\$35 General Admission | \$33 BMA Members/Seniors | \$10 Students

LINDA OH: SUN PICTURES

Sunday, April 30, 2017 5 pm



Linda Oh, bass

Linda Oh, composer for various ensembles and short films, participant in the BMI Film Composers Workshop and Sundance Labs at Skywalker Ranch, has performed with Joe Lovano, Vijay Iyer, and Kenny Barron and others. Nominated in 2010 for the *Jazz Journalist's* Awards for Up and Coming Artist of the Year, recipient of No.1 Acoustic Bass Rising Star in the *DownBeat* Critic's Poll. Oh's understated yet highly sophisticated style characterizes these records, as well as her third release as a leader on Sun Pictures. She is now a member of Pet Metheny's most recent quartet project.

\$35 General Admission | \$33 BMA Members/Seniors | \$10 Students

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More info at: www.baltimorechamberjazz.org

Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society
P.O. Box 16097 Baltimore, MD 21218
(410) 385-5888



BJA Members receive a \$2 discount off the general admission price! Just indicate your affiliation when ordering tickets.

The Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society is a non-profit organization and is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.



Liam Flynn's Closes

By Gail Marten / Liz Fixsen

In January 2016 Liam Flynn's Ale House closed for good, following a highly publicized effort to avoid eviction last July. The Irish/Scottish pub at 22 W. North Avenue opened in summer 2011 as one of the first tenants in the revitalized North Avenue Market. It quickly became known for its live music, including free jam sessions that drew dozens of musicians and many music lovers. With the help of online contributions and a last-minute silent auction, the owner was able to raise enough money to postpone the eviction and stay in his location until the end of 2016.

Sadly, the closing of Liam Flynn's leaves four different music jams without a home. The Monday night Gypsy jazz jam, hosted by Michael Joseph Harris, has already relocated to Joe Squared, across the street from Liam's (still Monday nights 8 to 11). However, the straight-ahead jazz jam, hosted by Ben Grant, has not found a new location. The Tuesday night bluegrass jam and the Wednesday night Celtic-Irish traditional jams also must relocate.

Patrons expressed sadness on Facebook about the closing and thanked Flynn for what he created.

"You had a good run, and you provided untold numbers of people with a convivial place to gather, for all kinds of events, musical and otherwise," writes Myron Bretholz.

"So many wonderful memories," notes Nell Ziehl.

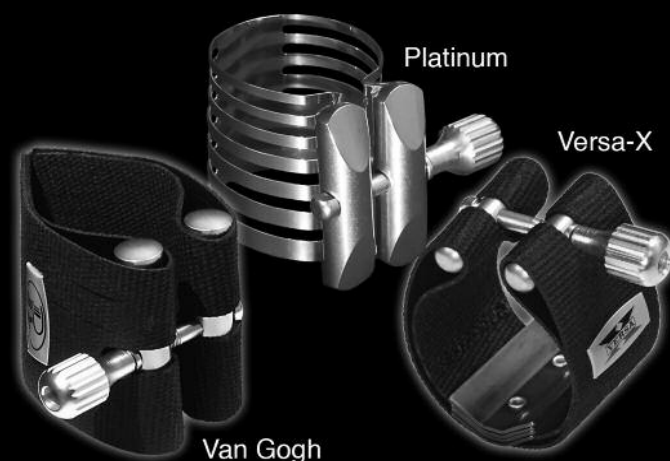
"Truly a community-making spot. The neighborhood and groups throughout Baltimore will miss it," contributes Philip Rink Jr.

The message for Baltimore jazz fans is clear: get out there and support the live music in our city!

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March Events Celebrate Women in Jazz

By Paula Phillips

Gifted, courageous and often possessed of indomitable spirit, women co-create the jazz idiom as vocalists, instrumentalists, bandleaders and teachers, aided by venue and radio hosts, festival organizers, publicists, agents and attorneys.

March events showcase contributions of many talented women – those found on the bandstand and those working behind the scenes.

Concert: March 17 at 8 PM

Philadelphia-based vocalist Kristin Callahan is featured at Montpelier Arts Center in Laurel with The Thad Wilson Quartet. Callahan has performed in numerous East Coast cities with leading instrumentalists. The young singer's mesmerizing voice exudes charm and elegance as she delivers traditional jazz in great style. Trumpeter Thad Wilson is joined by Allyn Johnson on piano, Blake Meister on bass and John Lamkin III on drums. Call 301-377-7800 or visit instantseats.com for tickets.

Concert: March 24 at 8 PM

New York composer, saxophonist and flutist Laura Dreyer leads the Manhattan-Rio Connection at Montpelier Arts Center. Raised on the West Coast, Dreyer has pursued her passion for Brazilian music for two decades while also cutting a strong career path in American jazz. A founding member of legendary all-female Diva Jazz Orchestra, she is often the only woman in male led Latin Jazz bands.

She has headlined at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival and Syracuse Jazz Festival. In NYC, she has appeared at the Blue Note, Cornelia Street Cafe, Birdland and Zinc Bar. She frequently tours the West Coast and performs in Brazil.

Her top-flight quartet includes pianist Tim Murphy and Rio-born rhythm players Leonardo and Alejandro Lucini. Hear beloved Brazilian jazz classics and Dreyer's own contemporary Brazilian jazz compositions.



Laura Dreyer

Panel Discussion and Reception: March 26 from 2-4 PM

"Women in Jazz: From Classrooms to Careers" also takes place at Montpelier Arts Center. This free event explores the unique path of girls and women aiming for careers in jazz – the challenges they face, careers they can attain and what it takes to succeed.

Panel moderator Candy Shannon is on the faculty of Howard University in the School of Communications. As host and producer of WPFW's "The Morning Brew-Friday Edition," she will share her vast experience in TV and radio.



Shannon Gunn

Panelist Shannon Gunn leads Shannon Gunn and the Bullettes, an all-women jazz orchestra based in the D.C. area. Gunn will discuss pedagogy, the different ways girls and boys are taught and their different learning styles. Her

research is useful for young women in high school and college and for adult professionals. Parents, teachers and bandleaders may find the panel helpful in coaching young women to reach their highest potential.

Musician Laura Dreyer is also a panelist. When she decided to play saxophone, there were no significant female role models on the instrument. She broke into the San Francisco and New York jazz scenes when few female instrumentalists were doing so. Expect an informative and sometimes humorous program!

Concert: March 26 from 7-9:30 PM

Vocalist Marianne Matheny-Katz presents "Rebirth of the Cool" at O'Callaghan Annapolis Hotel. One of Baltimore's most accomplished vocalists and jazz presenters, Matheny-Katz has performed in the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, New Jersey Jazz Festival, Patterson Park concerts, Artscape, Eubie Blake, Germano's, The Carlyle Club and many other venues. Her 2014 CD *Somewhere in Paradise* received significant national airplay and critical praise. She is co-founder of Jazzway 6004, named by *DownBeat* as one of the finest house concert venues in the country.

Her band includes pianist Vince Evans, saxophonist Craig Alston, bassist Tom Baldwin and drummer Eric Kennedy. Her program focuses on the years 1959 through the 1960s, which ushered in the cool jazz era. Enjoy works by Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Charles Mingus, Ornette Coleman, Dave Brubeck, Horace Silver, Cannonball Adderley and Antônio Carlos Jobim. Call 410-269-0777 for reservations.

Montpelier Arts Center is located within 20 miles of Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The multi-faceted arts facility offers free and easy parking.

For more events visit:
www.jazzbeyondborders.com

HOMEslyce Jazz Jam's Second Anniversary

(continued from front page)

"Other jams can be a wall of sound, where you're just a cog in the wheel. Here you can feel confident. It's a great place to show your stuff." Electric bass player Alex Meadow, who moved here from New York City one-and-a-half years ago, has a different slant on the HOMEslyce jam. "This jam has been essential for me. Almost every single gig I've had has happened because of the people I've met here. This is the big one." HOMEslyce is where he first encountered bassist Jeff Reed, with whom he quickly took some lessons and through whom Meadow met other useful contacts.

As is typical of jam sessions, the house band plays the first set on its own. Marcus happened to be on vacation the night I attended, leaving the session in the capable hands of DC-based tenor saxophone master Paul Carr, with seasoned veterans Jesse Moody on drums, Alex Weber on bass and Savino Palumbo on piano. Carr took them through a high-powered set of jazz standards: "Bittersweet," "Autumn Leaves," "I'll Remember April," "Whisper Not" and "The Eternal Triangle." After a well-deserved break, Carr began calling up the musicians who had signed in to jam in twos and threes. That night's cast of jammers included two saxophonists, one trombonist, one trumpeter, three guitarists, two bass players, two pianists and one drummer. Band size never exceeded six, except on the last tune of the night, played by ten musicians. In the past I have seen jammers bring written music, but there was none in sight on this particular night.

HOMEslyce's menu is focused on a wide variety of pizza options, along with a small selection of other dishes. The restaurant also features a full-service bar, with many choices of beer, including local ones.

Congratulations to both HOMEslyce and Todd Marcus on the second anniversary of this jam session. May it continue for many years!

Like writing—like jazz?

BJA is always looking for writers for reviews, editorials, interviews and more. Our readership reaches a large targeted jazz market and a constantly growing audience, so writing for us guarantees your work will be seen by many human eyeballs.

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Gail Marten, BJA Newsletter Editor

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Kelsey Israel

Young Students Participating in Randallstown Jazz Workshop

By Rena Sweetwine

In April, 2016 we wrote about the weekly jam session/workshop at Randallstown Community Center. Among the musicians we profiled were the two youngest jammers, alto saxophonist Donovan Medley and trumpeter Kelsey Israel. We thought our readers would be interested to know what Donovan and Kelsey have been doing since then.

Donovan, 13, has made first chair in the Sudbrook Middle School Band. He likes his newfound position because it enables him to mentor his fellow musicians, just as he has been mentored at the Randallstown workshop. In fact, when his teacher, Andrew Mitroff, divides the class into groups, Donovan will be his assistant.

Kelsey, inspired by Alicia Keys to start playing piano at

age six, added trumpet later on. Now 13, she plays in the wind ensemble and jazz band at Northwest Academy of Health Sciences Middle School (formerly Old Court Middle School). In January, 2017, Kelsey auditioned for Carver Center for the Arts and Technology. She has maintained honor roll status. Her father, Rohan Israel, believes that Kelsey's involvement in music is one source of her academic success.

At the tender age of 13 both students are dedicated to playing jazz and they play it well!

The Randallstown Recreation Center offers a weekly Jazz Workshop on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. The door is open to all who want to play their instrument of choice. All ages are welcome.

East River/Be Mo Jazz Fitzgerald-Gillespie-Monk Legacy Series

By Gail Marten

During 2017, jazz promoter and curator Vernard Gray, director of East River Jazz and Be Mo Jazz, will be presenting the Fitzgerald-Gillespie-Monk Legacy Series, celebrating the legacy of Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk, all born one hundred years ago, in 1917. The series will be funded in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. More than fifteen artists have been gathered to create projects in DC honoring these artists. A series of programs is already slated from February to June for a number of libraries in the DC area. One series, "From the Drum to BeBop," aimed at both youth and adults, is designed to introduce young people to jazz culture. Gray intends to connect the program with local Boy Scout troops as a means of earn-

ing a merit badge in music, and Gray has decided to offer the program for non-scout youth as well. (see <http://www.eastriverjazz.net/>).

Gray, who is on the board of the Baltimore Jazz Alliance, is interested in establishing partnerships to present similar programs in the Baltimore metropolitan area, with the goal of introducing Baltimore jazz history to young people. Ideal venues might be jazz clubs and concert halls, colleges and universities, libraries, schools, churches, community centers, museums, art galleries and cultural centers. Anyone with a connection to any such venues may contact Vernard Gray at vernardgray@gmail.com.

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Michael Formanek, *director*

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Peabody Jazz Combo Series

Gary Thomas, *director*

Thursday, April 6 at 7:30 pm

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or visit peabody.jhu.edu/events.



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KINGS OF CROWNSVILLE is a six-piece band that plays polished yet rootsy tunes with vocal harmonies and New Orleans-style horns. Kings performs its mix of New Orleans-influenced jazz and blues primarily at outdoor concerts/festivals throughout the DC/Baltimore metro area. The Kings of Crownsville were finalists in the last Baltimore Blues Festival Competition.

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MIKE McCORMICK keyboards
ROB CREATH drums
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ED JUSTICE trumpet

Contact: Steve Johnson at stevejohnson100@mac.com or 301-873-3090
Website: kingsofcrownsville.com
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BJA Member Notes

WELCOME!

We welcome new members Joshua Espinoza, Rosalind Little, Mitchell Mirkin.

The Perfect Gift for Jazz Lovers . . . Membership in BJA

The gift that keeps on giving!

See page 11 or visit our website: www.baltimorejazz.com

BJA Member Benefits

Your support is crucial to the success of the Baltimore Jazz Alliance! When you join, membership benefits include receipt of our monthly newsletter, discounts on BJA merchandise, advance notice about all BJA events, and of course the satisfaction of being a part of Baltimore's best source of information and advocacy for Jazz.

But that's not all! The following venues and other businesses offer discounts to BJA members:

- An die Musik offers 10% discount for BJA members for music purchases at the An die Musik record store.
- Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society offers BJA members a \$2 discount off the general admission price. Just indicate your affiliation when ordering tickets.
- Eubie Live! at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center at 847 N. Howard Street offers a discount to BJA members on rentals of its performance and events spaces.
- Jazzway 6004 offers BJA members a \$5 discount on performances at their venue.
- Germano's Piattini often offers discounted tickets to specific events for BJA members, announced by email.

**Help us to promote LIVE JAZZ in BALTIMORE.
by becoming a member of BJA.**

REVIEWS: CD/DVD/GIG/VENUE

BJA members may submit their commercially produced jazz CDs or DVD for review consideration to the editor.

If you would like to have a gig or venue reviewed, please contact the editor.

Please note that we're less likely to review bands or venues that have been covered in previous issues.

Contact the editor at: jazzpalette@gmail.com

Save the Date: "Jazz in Bloom"

**Did you know that April
is Jazz Appreciation Month?**

To celebrate J.A.M., BJA will be co-sponsoring
Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance's
monthly happy hour.

**Thursday, April 20th, 6-8 p.m.
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Thank you for joining! Your membership makes a difference!

BJA has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS. Anything pledged above the basic \$25 membership is tax deductible and greatly appreciated!



847 North Howard Street
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February 2017

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2/11 Syleena Johnson
2/12 Jeff Bradshaw
2/23 Angie Stone

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