

# In Tune

Official Publication of Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.

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## CCJS 2023-2024 CONCERT SEASON PREVIEW



### October 9, 2023- Ruben Caban - Latin Jazz Quintet

Kicking off our 2023-2024 season, we welcome trombonist **Ruben Caban**. Born on the Island of Puerto Rico, Ruben began his career at a young age performing in the Central Florida area. He has an extensive career touring and recording as a sideman and soloist with an array of internationally renowned artists, such as Frankie Valli, Jon Secada, Raul Diblasio, Ed Calle, The Platters, The Stylistics, and many more. Ruben has earned his reputation as a talented musician, performer and educator.

### November 13, 2023- Dave MacKenzie & John DePaola - Dizzy and Bird

**David MacKenzie** is originally from the Atlantic City area. After a tenure of lounge and show work he relocated to the Orlando area in 1989. He has since played and arranged for such groups as Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band and the Orlando Jazz Orchestra. His latest projects include teaming with the great John DePaola and his own Mind Meld Quintet featuring his original compositions.

**John DePaola** has been a full time freelance trumpeter for over 35 years. He lives in Orlando, FL where he has been a musician at Walt Disney World and a member of the Rosie O'Grady's Jazz Band. John has performed with entertainers such as Ray Charles, Sammy Davis Jr., and Bob Hope, just to name a few.





### **December 4, 2023- Corrine Manning - A Very Jazzy Christmas**

Kick off the Holiday Season with **Corrine Manning** and her band of some of the merriest musicians Florida has to offer. Corrine is a bandleader, vocalist, and songwriter. She has performed with many recording artists including Gloria Gaynor, Harry Connick Jr., Darlene Love and Liza Minelli, to name a few. Her nine-piece orchestra, Vertigo, has played high society events all over New York City, from the Waldorf Astoria to The Met and celebrity events across the country. Come join her for a cool yule show.

### **January 8, 2024- Danny Basher Quintet**

Ring in the New Year with **Danny Basher**. He is an award-winning singer, saxophonist, songwriter and entertainer in the fullest sense of the term. He not only is a master of the demanding soprano sax, but combines his virtuosity on the instrument with a talent for comedy and narrative storytelling. He's a smooth and cool individual who makes hot jazz and pop, cut from the cloth of the great Louis Prima and Mel Torme. Basher swings with pizzazz, scats and sings with a smoky voice, all adding to his compelling stage presence.



### **February 12, 2024- Michael Andrew and the Atomic Big Band**



In February, we will be welcoming **Michael Andrew and The Atomic Big Band** performing the music of the American Songbook in the style of iconic singers like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Bobby Darin. For 2 years, Michael was the headline singer and bandleader at the world famous Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center in New York City. He was the band leader and singer at Merv Griffin's Coconut Club in The Beverly Hilton in California. Michael is a composer, lyricist and author and has created shows paying tribute to the writers of the America Songbook including Johnny Mercer, Sammy Cahn and the Gershwins.

March 11, 2024- Miami Jazz Consort- "Remembering Ira"

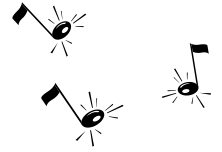


In March we welcome **The Miami Jazz Consort** to our stage. This quintet was formed in 2016 by Miami-based saxophonist Peter Brewer to provide a vehicle to showcase the myriad Jazz musicians that live and work together in the Miami area, offering a creative outlet for them. This quintet is comprised of musicians who are all graduates of the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and are longstanding music educators.



April 22, **2024**– Benny Benack

Trumpeter and singer Benny Benack will close out our 2023-2024 concert season. This Emmy-nominated performer has proven to be that rarest of talents: not only a fiery trumpet player with a stirring command of the post bop trumpet vernacular in the vein of Kenny Dorham and Freddie Hubbard, but also a singer with a sly, mature, naturally expressive delivery in the post-Sinatra mold, performing standards and his own astute songs with a thrilling sense of showmanship. Benny has toured globally as a bandleader and has appeared as a trumpet soloist alongside Josh Groban, Ben Folds, Isaac Mizrahi, Ann Hampton Callaway and more.



## Notes from the President's Desk

Welcome back everyone for the 2023-24 season of the Charlotte County Jazz Society. We have an exciting lineup in store for you this season beginning on October 9th with Ruben Caban and his quintet from the Miami area. They will provide an evening of Latin jazz to kick things off.

This year all but our final concert will be at CPAC. This means we have room to expand our numbers. Our current membership income covers only about half of our expenses for just the concert series. That leaves organizational expenses, scholarships and education programs to come from donations and endowment funds. Even with the increased membership fees over the last couple years we have failed to make up for the loss of membership resulting from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian. At \$80 for seven concerts, we offer the least expensive ticket in the region for high quality entertainment. That's not including the seven jams, \$10,000 of scholarships and educational programs for our public schools that are included with membership. If we could double our membership, it would allow us to continue to keep our fees low. We have approximately 900 seats available at CPAC. Let's see if we can fill it up this season.

We also have a few openings on the Board of Directors. This group contributes in many ways to our arts community and supports the musical programs in our public schools. If you would like to join us please drop me an email at [president@cc-jazz.org](mailto:president@cc-jazz.org).

Aaron Lucas  
CCJS President

## 2023-2024 JAZZ JAMS UPDATE

Our Jazz Jams this season will continue to be hosted at **The Grill at 1951**. We would like to thank proprietor Dave Eger for his continued support of CCJS and for his support of live music in our community.

This season we will be moving our Jazz Jams to **Saturdays**. This helps to accommodate the restaurant's staff as well as our musicians. Lunch begins when the restaurant opens and the music will still be from 1:00-4:00. We are anticipating more participation from our local school music programs this year. After we re-started our Education Program last year the students (and directors!) are both thankful for our help mentoring their kids and providing them with real-world performance experience. We will be announcing themes for our Jazz Jams soon.

Dates of Jazz Jams this season:


October 21  
November 18  
December 16  
January 20  
February 24  
March 23  
April 13



## EDUCATION UPDATE

Our Education Program is off and running. This year we are very grateful to be the recipients of a \$19,000 grant through the Department of State to fund our “Jazz in the Schools” education plan. This will provide tutors in the local schools all through the year, guest performances, clinics, and improvisation workshops from local as well as visiting musicians. The first group to be featured in the schools is the Jalen Baker Quartet from Houston, TX. Jalen is a prolific vibraphone player and composer. For a taste of what Jalen and his fellow musicians are like you can check them out at [www.JalenBakerMusic.com](http://www.JalenBakerMusic.com).

Community Partners

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**CCJS on the Web!**  
[www.ccjazz.org](http://www.ccjazz.org)

- \* Check the concert schedule
- \* Join the jazz society
- \* Preview upcoming concerts and events
- \* Check out the local Jazz scene

**LIKE us on Facebook**  
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Charlotte County Jazz -CCJS

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**In Tune** is published **four** times a year. We welcome pertinent articles, letters and news items space permitting. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the CCJS.

Don't forget to take advantage of our CCJS email list. We send out reminders for events by email. Please send your name and email address to Emilie at [intunejazz@gmail.com](mailto:intunejazz@gmail.com)

Mission Statement of CCJS

The Mission of the Charlotte County Jazz Society is to increase the availability of Jazz music in our county and to foster the study and appreciation of this original American art form, especially among the youth of our community.

We seek to continually develop and improve upon our monthly concert series which showcases some of the finest jazz performers from throughout the state of Florida. We strive to broaden exposure to jazz among the general public through live performances at community festivals and other local events which reach a wide audience.

CCJS works to serve as a source of information about jazz activities throughout our area by informing local news media, publishing a Society newsletter, and providing a telephone hotline.

We seek to provide continuing aid to middle school and high school students furthering their jazz education and awarding college scholarships on a competitive basis to promising students.

We strive to further expose our area youth to jazz music by admitting local students free of charge to our monthly concert series and jazz jams.

## Charlotte County Jazz Society

### Renewal/New Member Application Form

Membership is good for the concert year October through May

PLEASE PRINT:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Renew: \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 per person (\$80 after October 1, 2023)

Name: (First, Middle, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name at Same Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Resident? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If "No", dates at Florida Address: From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Musician interested in playing at the jam sessions? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

What Instrument (s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.** (a non-profit organization)

Mailing Address: Charlotte County Jazz Society  
P.O. Box 495321  
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-5321

#### Become a CCJS supporter:

Our membership fees cover less than half of the cost to produce our concerts. We undertake various fund-raising efforts during the year to supplement these but inevitable we need to use assets from our endowment to balance the budget. We strive to keep our membership fees as low as they are to allow those with limited incomes to enjoy our shows. If you are fortunate enough to afford it please consider additional donations to our endowment fund. You may earmark your donation for support of our jazz performances or for the support our educational/scholarship programs.

Endowment: \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship/Educational Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2023-2024 Concert Season

Oct 9- Ruben Caban-Latin Jazz Quintet

Nov 13-Dave MacKenzie/John DePaola-Dizzy and Bird

Dec 4-Corrine Manning-A Very Jazzy Christmas

Jan 8-Danny Basher Quintet

Feb 12-Michael Andrew and The Atomic Big Band

March 11-Miami Jazz Consort

April 22-Benny Benack

\*\*All concerts will be held at CPAC (Charlotte Performing Arts Center) EXCEPT the April concert, which will be held at The Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum

## CCJS 2023-24 Officers

Aaron Lucas, President  
Jordan Aquila, President Elect  
Dan Cobb, Treasurer  
Pam Koontz, Secretary

### Directors

Chris (Brown) Fitzgerald  
Les Kraus  
Shawn Marren  
James Mashburn  
Tom Osborne

Herb Bruce, Concert Coordinator  
Emilie Deskins, Administrative Assistant

Messages for individual board members can be sent via our email address or through the CCJS hotline number.

**CCJS HOTLINE: 941.766.9422**

**[www.ccjazz.org](http://www.ccjazz.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety](https://www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety)**

**Email: [intunejazz@gmail.com](mailto:intunejazz@gmail.com)**

## YOU CAN BECOME A LEGACY SUPPORTER

Charlotte County Jazz Society is deeply grateful to former members Marjorie Jean Biermann, Helen Langdon, Donatella and Ken Neumann, and Roberta Gasparri. Their generous bequests now play a major role in helping fund the outstanding jazz artists brought to our community by CCJS. They have also been instrumental in supporting our commitment to pass on our love of jazz with the awarding of annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors. We invite you to join us in our mission to preserve, promote and present live jazz by including CCJS in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy, or with a donation to CCJS in honor or memory of a fellow jazz lover. For more detailed information, please contact any CCJS officer or director as listed on the last page.

## Charlotte County Jazz Society

A 501 (c) (3) Non-profit Organization

### Membership

Don't forget to notify us if there are changes to your name, street address, phone number or email address!

Due to rising costs in printing and postage, we will no longer be mailing newsletters or special events notices. Your correct email address is critical in allowing us to stay in touch and keep you current on all our activities. The Charlotte County Jazz Society will never share your personal information with any other entity.