

# AmJazzIn™

The American Jazz Institute Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2012 • Volume 22

## AJI presents 13 concerts in Spring 2012 season and records new Ellington Saxophone Project

Plan to join us for AJI's upcoming season of concerts in Southern California's desert communities, our most ambitious lineup yet of renowned jazz artists, among them Bill Cunliffe, Gary Smulyan, Roger Kellaway, Andrew Cyrille, Peter Erskine and Tim Hagans. Read on.

Following The Ellington Saxophone Project concert in January, baritone saxophonist Gary Smulyan and arranger Mark Masters will take the band into the studio to record their interpretations of classic compositions associated with the famed Ellington sax section. See page 2.



Kirsten Edkins

*"AJI is helping to produce the next generation of jazz stars."* – Howard Rumsey

Since 2010, The American Jazz Institute, through its concert presentations in Southern California's desert communities, has raised significant funds to award scholarships for private study to dozens of high school music students. AJI's recently named Director of Community Outreach, Kirsten Edkins, is overseeing and teaching these highly motivated young musicians. Her skill as both musician and educator make a unique contribution to AJI's important "Find Your Own Voice<sup>SM</sup>" Jazz Mentoring Program.

Kirsten is one of the most exciting young saxophonists and composers working in the greater Los Angeles area. She graduated from the prestigious Eastman School of Music, where she studied composition and arranging with Bill Dobbins, and saxophone with Walt Weiskoph and the legendary Ray Ricker. Prior to her tenure at Eastman, she also studied with Bob Sheppard.

An inspired improvising jazz musician, Kirsten has performed with Arturo Sandoval, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Geoffrey Keezer, Gary Foster, Joe LaBarbera, Larry Koonse, New York Voices and Wycliffe Gordon, among others.

Kirsten is also in demand as a highly motivating music educator, including associations not only with The American Jazz Institute but also with the Stanford Jazz Workshop, Cal State Fullerton, Saddleback College, Golden West College, and her own private studio which has encouraged young musicians for over 12 years.

*Kirsten carries forward the ideals and traditions of the great improvisers with an original voice of her own.* -- Gary Foster

*... projects a deeply rich understanding of the jazz language, a beautifully complex sound while swinging every step of the way. Im her biggest fan.* -- Bob Sheppard

*... a dedicated and soulful artist. Her maturity as an improviser is expressed through her sound and her depth of musicality.* -- Clay Jenkins

### THE GOALS OF AJI

- To advance and promote jazz music throughout the world.
- To maintain a repertory jazz orchestra to perform new and archival jazz music.
- To educate and expose the public to jazz by live performances and panel discussions.
- To physically house, archive and preserve jazz music: compositions, scores, arrangements, recordings, artwork, photographs, films and other jazz works.
- To seek and attract donations of jazz works with an emphasis on original compositions, scores, arrangements and recordings.
- To make jazz works available for research, study and education.
- To support charitable endeavors that promote and advance jazz music.

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# AJI announces 7 major all-star performances in the 2012 Pete Carlson's "Jazz for Jazz Lovers" Concert Series

Desert Cities businessman Pete Carlson, owner of Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis in Palm Desert, is underwriting a series of seven not-to-be-missed jazz concerts presented by AJI during early 2012. Mr. Carlson's very deep commitment to the desert community as well as to local student musicians is evident in this second season of Pete Carlson's "Jazz for Jazz Lovers" Concert Series and in his continuing sponsorship of the Vicky's Jazz Supper Club Concert Series. Three concerts will be presented at the Palm Desert High School Performing Arts Center and four at Mr. Carlson's store in Palm Desert.



Bill Cunliffe

## THE BILL CUNLIFFE TRIO

January 6, 2012, 7:00 PM

Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis, 73741 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA

\$15, students free

*Bill Cunliffe is one of the great players of the day.* -- The BBC Review

Jazz pianist, composer and arranger Bill Cunliffe is widely known for his swinging and lyrical pianism and his creativity and invention as a composer and arranger. His first major jazz gig was pianist and arranger with Buddy Rich, touring Europe with the band while backing Frank Sinatra. He later performed with Ray Brown, Joe Henderson, Freddie Hubbard, Benny Golson, Woody Shaw and James Moody.

Bill was the 1989 winner of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Award and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has released a dozen recordings as a leader and currently performs with his own trio, the Joe LaBarbera Quintet and in a duo setting with flutist Holly Hofman.

Bill received a Grammy for Best Instrumental Arrangement for his *West Side Story* medley released on the CD, *The Resonance Big Band Pays Tribute to Oscar Peterson*. He has also been nominated for three Grammys and two Emmys as a composer and arranger, and has composed extensively for big band, chamber groups, choir and orchestra.

*Bill Cunliffe will be joined for this performance by drummer Joe LaBarbera and bassist Darek Oles*



Gary Smulyan

## Gary Smulyan and THE ELLINGTON SAXOPHONE PROJECT

January 14, 2012, 7:00 PM

The Palm Desert High School Performing Arts Center,  
74910 Aztec Road, Palm Desert, CA

\$25, students free

The Ellington Saxophone Project is a result of the musical partnership between baritone saxophonist Gary Smulyan and arranger/composer Mark Masters.

Rather than focusing on Duke Ellington's music, Masters and Smulyan decided to look to the composers inside Ellington's band, and more specifically, the saxophone section. So many legendary saxophonists, who also happened to be truly outstanding composers, passed through the Ellington saxophone section. The Ellington Saxophone Project will honor the music of Johnny Hodges, Jimmy Hamilton, Paul Gonsalves, Harry Carney and Ben Webster.

*The Ellington Saxophone Project will feature saxophonists Gary Foster, Don Shelton, Pete Christlieb, Gene Cipriano and Gary Smulyan; Joe LaBarbera, drums; Tom Warrington, bass; and Bill Cunliffe, piano. Arrangements written by Mark Masters.*



Johnny Hodges, 1961

Photo by Lee Tanner from his book, "The Jazz Image."

"Hodges says what he wants to say on his horn ... and you could say that he is pure artistry."

-- Duke Ellington

"The Ellington Saxophone Project" will be recorded in studio following this concert performance. Watch for the Capri CD release by year-end.

## Premiere Performance of THE ELLINGTON SAXOPHONE PROJECT

January 13, 2012, 8:00 PM

La Verne University

Morgan Auditorium

1950 Third Street, La Verne, CA

For information, please contact La Verne University  
909-593-3511 ext 4915



Andrew Cyrille  
and project arranger Mark Masters



THE ANDREW CYRILLE 21st CENTURY BIG BAND UNLIMITED  
January 21, 2012, 7:00 PM  
The Palm Desert High School Performing Arts Center,  
74910 Aztec Road, Palm Desert, CA

\$10, students free

*A consummate modern drummer* -- The New York Times

*A great drummer, a fine writer and a wonderful bandleader; you pass him by at your peril.* -- The Penguin Guide to Jazz

Born in Brooklyn in 1939, Andrew Cyrille studied with Philly Joe Jones in the late 1950s and spent the first half of the 1960s studying in New York at Juilliard and the Hartnett School of Music. At the same time, he was performing with famed jazz artists that included Coleman Hawkins, Mary Lou Williams, Illinois Jacquet, Kenny Dorham, Freddie Hubbard, Walt Dickerson and Rashaan Roland Kirk. In 1964, he formed what would prove to be an 11-year association with Cecil Taylor that brought him new acclaim and established him in the vanguard of jazz drumming.

In addition to his recordings as a leader, Andrew has performed or recorded with such top-flight peers as David Murray, Muhal Richard Abrams, Mal Waldron, Horace Tapscott, James Newton, Irene Schweizer, Carla Bley, Butch Morris, Reggie Workman, Oliver Lake and many others.

The 21st Century Big Band Unlimited allows Andrew total freedom of expression, and provides a new and expanded tonal setting in which he can remake his compositions. Rarely has there been a project with a featured soloist who has such a diverse musical vocabulary. The results are extraordinary.

*The Andrew Cyrille 21st Century Big Band Unlimited is a 12-piece ensemble showcasing the leader's playing and his talents as a composer. Arrangements written by and project co-produced by Mark Masters.*

*This special concert will feature Gary Foster, Jerry Pinter, Dave Woodley, Les Benedict, Clay Jenkins, Stephanie O'Keefe and Putter Smith.*



Janis Mann

AN EVENING WITH VOCALIST JANIS MANN

February 11, 2012, 7:00 PM

The Palm Desert High School Performing Arts Center,  
74910 Aztec Road, Palm Desert, CA

\$20, students free

*A first class jazz singer!* -- Scott Yanow

*There's nothing middle of the road about Mann ... she's one of those rare vocalists, in any genre, whose every note has absolute conviction.* -- Kirk Silsbee, Los Angeles City Beat

At once a striking song stylist and a fearless improviser, Janis Mann is that rare artist who can sweep you away with her captivating sound. She is a true jazz singer in the manner of Carmen McRae, Betty Carter and Shirley Horn, yet with a sound all her own. An exciting and engaging performer, Janis' rich timbre, flexibility and range often invite comparisons to Sarah Vaughan. "Janis Mann continues to generate some of the best vocal music anywhere." These words from Cadence Magazine reviewer Alan Bargebuhr confirm what fans of this award-winning singer have known for years. Some of the jazz luminaries she has sung or recorded with include Roy Haynes, Diane Schuur, Jack Sheldon, Jon Mayer, Ross Tompkins, John Heard, Red Holloway and Dave Frishberg.

Janis' latest recording, *Blow Away*, was a national hit on radio, internet and cable, going to number 15 on the Jazzweek radio chart and number 5 on Music Choice.

*Accompanying Janis Mann will be Rickey Woodard, saxophone; Roy McCurdy, drums; Bruce Forman, guitar; and Bill Cunliffe, organ.*

*Continued on next page*



Peter Erskine

### Peter Erskine and THE LOUNGE ART ENSEMBLE

February 17, 2012, 7:00 PM

Pete Carlson's Golf and Tennis, 73741 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA

\$15, students free

Peter Erskine's first major professional work was with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, which he joined in 1972. After a three-year stint with Kenton and a two-year stay with Maynard Ferguson, Peter joined Weather Report in 1978. After four years and five albums with Weather Report, he played in the group Steps Ahead with Mike Brecker, Mike Mainier, Don Grolnick and Eddie Gomez. His other touring and recording credits (500 albums and film scores) include Steely Dan, Diana Krall, Chick Corea, Joe Farrell, Joe Henderson, Freddie Hubbard, Gary Burton and Pat Metheny, Joni Mitchell, Kurt Elling and many, many more.

Peter's current playing ventures include a piano trio with Alan Pasqua and The Lounge Art Ensemble with saxophonist Bob Sheppard. The LAE's most recent recording is the highly regarded *Music for Moderns*. Besides touring and recording, Peter is busy composing for theatre, dance, film and television.

Peter was composer-in-residence at the famed Hilliard Ensemble's Coral Workshop in Germany in 2000, received a BBC commission to compose the suite *Music for Brass and Percussion*, awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the Berklee College of Music and won the Modern Drummer magazine Readers' Poll in the "Jazz Drumming" category ten times.

At present, he is the Director of Drumset Studies at the USC Thornton School of Music and Jazz Drumming Consultant to the Royal Academy of Music in London.

*Performing with Peter Erskine in The Lounge Art Ensemble will be bassist Darek Oles and saxophonist Bob Sheppard.*



Tom Scott

### THE TOM SCOTT QUARTET

March 9, 2012, 7:00 PM

Pete Carlson's Golf and Tennis, 73741 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA

\$20, students free

Saxophonist Tom Scott's professional career began as a teenager and evolved into a high-demand session musician. He has dozens of solo recordings for which he has collected thirteen Grammy nominations and three Grammys. His numerous film and television scoring credits include theme songs for *The Streets of San Francisco* and *Starsky and Hutch*. Tom has appeared on records by such diverse artists as George Harrison, Whitney Houston, Joni Mitchell, Steely Dan, Quincy Jones, Carole King and Frank Sinatra.



Tadd Dameron, circa 1947

### Tim Hagans and THE MUSIC OF TADD DAMERON

April 20, 2012, 7:00 PM

Pete Carlson's Golf and Tennis, 73741 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA

\$20, students free

Tadd Dameron, born in Cleveland, Ohio, was the most influential arranger of the be-bop era. A gifted composer as well, he wrote for bands rooted in the swing era, such as Count Basie, Artie Shaw and Jimmie Lunceford. According to Dameron, his greatest influences were George Gershwin and Duke Ellington. In the late 1940s, at the height of his career, Dameron wrote for Dizzy Gillespie's big band. Tadd Dameron continues to be an important influence on musicians who are interested in that period of jazz history, considered the "golden age" when a modern approach to playing intersected with modern jazz writing.

Joining the AJI Ensemble for this ambitious concert is another Ohio native, the internationally renowned trumpeter Tim Hagans.

Tim is the most adventurous trumpet artist of his generation, truly an original voice on his instrument and a remarkable improviser as well as composer. His early professional experience was with the bands of Stan Kenton and Woody Herman. During the late 1970s, he lived in Sweden and had the opportunity to work with Dexter Gordon, Kenny Drew, Horace Parlan and Thad Jones. As a co-leader, Tim's most highly regarded project was *Animation/Imagination* for Blue Note Records. In 2005 and 2008, he recorded for the Pirouet label, culminating in two fine recordings with pianist Marc Copland, *Beautiful Lily* and *Alone Together*. His current label, Palmetto Records, released his latest CD in 2011, the critically acclaimed *The Moon Is Waiting*.



Tim Hagans

*Arrangements written by Mark Masters. Band members to be announced.*

# Announcing the 2012 season of AJI's Jazz Supper Club Concerts

The fourth season of AJI's Supper Club Concerts is coming to Vicky's of Santa Fe Restaurant in Indian Wells. And once again, audiences are in for six memorable evenings in an intimate and elegant supper club setting: an outstanding 3-course dinner and world-class jazz vocalists and instrumentalists in concert, up close and personal. It doesn't get any better! And you'll be supporting AJI's important jazz education and community outreach program. Net proceeds go toward our "Find Your Own Voice <sup>SM</sup>" mentoring clinics in Coachella Valley junior high and high schools. Please make your reservations soon. All of our concerts sold out last season and, with this line-up, they will again.

## *The International Stars*

January 16: ROGER KELLAWAY

Return Engagement! Roger Kellaway has been described as "the most awesome jazz pianist quite possibly anywhere on earth." A world-renowned pianist, he is also a gifted and honored composer in the jazz, classical and popular music fields, and in television and film scores. Roger will perform jazz classics and his own compositions.



February 27: ANNA MJOLL

Jazz diva Anna Mjoll evokes Peggy Lee, Astrud Gilberto and especially Blossom Dearie, but fascinates with her highly personal interpretations. She knows how to caress a melody and seduce her listeners. A native of Iceland, Anna has a barely detectable accent which makes for an inimitable and charming delivery of her material.



April 9: DOLORES SCOZZESI

Dolores Scozzesi has a delightfully unique voice and approach to song. Born in New York of Mexican and Irish parents, her rich cultural heritage was a strong contributor to her intense interest in music and sounds from diverse cultures at a very young age. Along the way, while living in France, she formed a jazz group focused on traditional American blues and jazz standards.



## *The Songs and The Songwriters*

February 6: JON WEBER

Virtuoso jazz pianist Jon Weber has recorded and toured worldwide, and is critically acclaimed both as a performer and composer. Gary Burton, Roy Hargrove, Niels-Henning Ørsted Pederson and Avishai Cohen have all recorded his music. Jon lives in New York City, writes extensively for television and frequently serves as guest host for Marian McPartland on NPR's "Piano Jazz."



March 20: JOHN PROULX with JENNIFER LEITHAM and DAVE TULL

John Proulx returns to Vicky's for another unforgettable evening. John is a Grammy-winning composer with a swinging piano style and a voice recalling the young Chet Baker. Bassist Jennifer Leitham has performed with the likes of Gerry Mulligan, Joe Pass, Louis Bellson and Bill Watrous. Drummer and jazz vocalist Dave Tull has performed with Chuck Mangione, Cheryl Bentley and many others.



April 30: Denise Donatelli

Denise Donatelli celebrated 2011 with two Grammy nominations for her latest CD "When Lights are Low." She performs at the country's leading jazz venues such as New York's famed Dizzy's Club Coca Cola at Lincoln Center and the famous Lighthouse Cafe in Hermosa Beach. For her Vicky's appearance, Denise will perform songs from the movies.



*All artists will perform in a trio setting except Jon Weber solo piano.*

Vicky's is located at 45-100 Club Drive in Indian Wells.

Jazz Supper Club Series concerts start at 5:30 in the Lounge with no-host cocktails followed by a 3-course prix fixe dinner. \$75 per person, including tax, tip and entertainment. Purchase 3 concerts and save \$25, or save \$50 on all 6.

Seating is limited. Advance reservations only. Please call 760-345-9770 for reservations and information.

Hosted by The American Jazz Institute:

Mark Masters and Alan Schultz

Produced by Bobbi Goodman

Sponsored by:

Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis, Desert Lexus, Palm Springs Life and Travel Host

# The reviewers have their say about AJI's current CDs



Farewell Walter  
Dewey Redman

The Mark Masters Ensemble  
featuring Oliver Lake  
Capri 74089-2

*This album was supposed to be a collaboration between Dewey Redman and Mark Masters. But it became a tribute album when Redman died on September 2, 2006, four weeks before this recording was made. The project went forward, with Oliver Lake on alto saxophone filling Redman's vacant chair. The other featured soloist is trumpeter Tim Hagans.*

*... Masters' achievement is to capture Redman's impulsive creative spirit in arrangements for big band. Tight, fierce Redman anthems like "I-Pimp," "Thren" and "Dewey's Tune" are projected onto a larger screen and given new weight and scale ...*

*Oliver Lake's alto saxophone cuts through the surrounding ensemble fabric like a serrated knife. His volatility, edginess and eccentric lyricism are his own, and are brilliantly appropriate to honor the Redman aesthetic ...*

*It is safe to assume that Dewey Redman would have loved this record*

-- Thomas Conrad, Jazz Times

*... Peppery and moody, invigorating and thoughtful -- that was Dewey Redman, and that's this album.*

-- Kirk Silsbee, Downbeat

*It's hard to believe that Dewey Redman isn't still around when listening to the Mark Masters Ensemble set, "Farewell Walter Dewey Redman." Masters and the group -- especially alto saxophonist Oliver Lake -- capture the soul and sound of the unsung tenor titan on this marvelously inspired recording.*

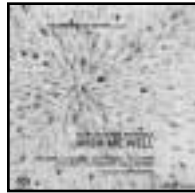
*Masters' arrangements allow the freedom for solos that are creative in the extreme, from Lake especially, and also from trumpeter Tim Hagans, trombonist Dave Woodley and multiple reedman Gary Foster ...*

*"Farewell to Walter Dewey Redman," with its beautiful sixteen-piece ensemble harmonies -- Ellington comes to mind at times -- and inspired and adventurous soloing, is jazz at its finest.*

-- Dan McClenaghan, allaboutjazz.com

*"Farewell Walter Dewey Redman" is not so much a recording that says "good bye, Dewey" but a musical experience made memorable by Masters' group and the special guests like Hagans, Peter Erskine, the recently departed Dave Carpenter and of course, Redman's clone for this project, the incomparable Oliver Lake, that make this album a must for jazz audiences and aficionados alike.*

-- Edward Blanco, eJazzNews



Wish Me Well:  
Reflections on  
Gary McFarland

The Mark Masters Ensemble  
Capri 74078-2

*... In creating "Wish Me Well," Masters took on the task of overhauling McFarland's compositions and arrangements for his own brass-heavy band. This is no mean feat, as McFarland typically used small groupings of strings and flutes and tended towards gossamer-light textures. Bringing Steve Kuhn and Gary Smulyan in as featured soloists was a stroke of genius. Kuhn's solo on "Tree Tops," the opening track, is simply breathtaking -- for my money one of the year's musical highlights. Kuhn's playing elsewhere is similarly elegant and inspired -- as on the opening to "Gary's Waltz." Smulyan, who appeared in an earlier Masters-led McFarland tribute concert, contributes blazing solos on almost every track.*

*... "Wish Me Well" is one of those rare tribute CDs that successfully captures the essence of its subject and functions as a definitive artistic statement by the musicians who created it. This is a "must-have" disc, and a superb work of art from one of America's finest jazz ensembles.*

-- Dave Wayne, JazzReview

*Mark Masters presented a concert of McFarland's music featuring baritone saxophonist Gary Smulyan in 2002 and arranged 11 of his works for this release, featuring Smulyan, pianist Steve Kuhn (who worked with McFarland), multi-reed player Gary Foster and trumpeter Tim Hagans, among others. Three of the pieces were written for Gerry Mulligan and the Concert Jazz Band: the breezy, lighthearted "Weep" and the upbeat "Kitch" (featuring Foster on alto sax), along with the Duke Ellington-influenced "Chuggin'" which showcases Smulyan. Perhaps the most striking work is "Gary's Waltz," a melancholy work recorded on numerous occasions by Bill Evans during the last few years of his life. But after Kuhn's opening piano solo, Masters transforms this piece into a rich tapestry for the ensemble, gradually increasing its tempo and discarding its somber mood, spotlighting Hagans' outstanding trumpet solo. The perfect balance of Masters' charts and the intimate sound captured by engineer Talley Sherwood combine to make this an essential CD. Perhaps Mark Masters' thoughtful exploration of Gary McFarland's compositions will stir additional interest in the late vibraphonist's work, which has been unjustly neglected.*

-- Ken Dryden, All Music Guide



Exploration

Grachan Moncur III Octet  
Capri 74068-2

*Trombonist and composer Grachan Moncur III made a memorable impact forty years ago with his challenging compositions and austere improvising style. He then maintained a very low profile for decades, teaching, recording only rarely ... Now he's made a welcome return to recording with the absolutely stunning CD "Exploration."*

*... These performances, arranged in brilliant, even startling fashion by Mark Masters, don't look back. The voicings, riffs and interludes devised by Masters, along with the absence of a chordal instrument, give "Exploration" a sound that looks forward, as Moncur always does.*

*The arrangements are played with crackling intensity by this sterling octet, and the improvisations follow suit. Suffice it to say that every solo is impressive ... Hearty congratulations are due all around, to Moncur, to the sidemen, to Masters, to everyone involved with the project. "Exploration" is a great record.*

-- Marc Meyers, allaboutjazz.com

*... It's an impressive line-up that features tenorist Billy Harper, Gary Bartz on alto and trumpeter Tim Hagans among the horns, plus the excellent rhythm section of Ray Drummond and Andrew Cyrille. Masters' empathy with Moncur's breezy, bluesy writing is obvious, and the use of French Horn (John Clark, naturally) and baritone (Gary Smulyan) allows for vibrant, broad strokes of color. Occasional Monk-ish twists or boppish ensemble lines alternate with pushy riffing or graceful parallel harmonies...*

*But what of the leader? The glories of Moncur's '60s output saw him venerated ... as the most vital trombonist in the emergent avant garde. Even then, Moncur was principally a melodic player inspired by J.J. Johnson and steeped in bop language, and that influence still shines through. Economical, funky and lyrical all at once, Moncur doesn't waste a note throughout.*

*All in all, this is a fine record. Bristling with intelligence, good humor and swing, Moncur's music stands the test of time ... Nice to see him back.*

-- Peter Marsh, BBC

*... Grachan Moncur III has been out of the limelight for decades ... "Exploration" is a fine and fitting welcome back.*

-- Dan McClenaghan, allaboutjazz.com

See The AJI Record Store for descriptions of all of our critically-acclaimed CDs. Order by mail or online at [www.amjazzin.com](http://www.amjazzin.com). Better yet, join AJI and choose up to 3 current releases at no cost.



**Porgy & Bess**  
...Redefined!

The Mark Masters Ensemble  
Capri 74069-2

... *Masters honors the composer and those who have worked wonders with the opera throughout the Twentieth Century by setting the stage for his soloists and turning them loose. Tim Hagans and Billy Harper in particular step up to the bar and release their personal feelings on the music without distraction. The orchestra supports them confidently and adds cohesive interplay. The music has been arranged to suit George Gershwin's original plans.*

... *History parades before your eyes and ears as Masters' powerful ensemble recalls timeless themes such as "It Ain't Necessarily So," "A Woman is a Sometime Thing," and "Summertime" with originality and allegiance.*

... *Highly recommended, Mark Masters' latest project honors this timeless jazz opera and its composer through musical excellence and a strikingly creative spirit.*

-- Jim Santella, [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)

*Well, they said it couldn't be done, but he did it. Arranger Mark Masters has breathed new and refreshing life into Gershwin's Porgy & Bess. Just when you thought Miles may have had the last word back in '61, Masters adds a touch of Mingus, a sprig of Kenton, and songs that you've heard a thousand times sound new and enticing.*

*As with any stage production, it sure helps to have the right cast, and Masters has a dandy. Supported by trombones and French horn, Billy Harper tears his tenor through "Summertime." Trombonist Dave Woodley evokes images of Jimmie Knepper with Mingus during the torrential rhythmic shifts. Gary Smulyan coaxes visceral emotions out of his baritone as he pleads through "I Loves You, Porgy," always backed up by flute and muted trumpets. Tim Hagans soars over delicate chordings on "A Woman Is a Sometime Thing." But the real tour-de-force is an unforgettable "It Ain't Necessarily So," with Hagans swaggering over the propulsive rhythm provided by Joe La Barbera.*

... *Big band fans and Gershwin fans alike should definitely dig around for this one.*

-- George Harris, [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)

... *How often can one go to the well before it comes up dry? In the case of Mark Masters' new take, the answer is: at least once more. ... rather than revisiting existing arrangements, Masters returned to the source: the original vocal scores. The result is a fresh look at an almost iconic work.*

-- John Kelman, [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)



**One Day with Lee**

Lee Konitz with  
The Mark Masters Ensemble  
Capri 74064-2

... *composer/arranger Mark Masters has provided a treasure trove of old and new Konitz called "One Day with Lee" featuring a prominent supporting cast that includes Gary Foster, Bill Perkins and Jack Montrose in the sax section of an all-star Mark Masters Ensemble.*

*Masters' CD is a fascinating concept: Konitz contributes new solos over orchestrated versions of his old solos going back to the early '50s. Konitz's unaccompanied alto solo on "All the Things You Are" leads to the 14-piece band playing the altoist's old "Thingin'"... For "317 East 32nd Street," Masters orchestrates a 1953 line, and after the altoman solos -- before and after Masters' additions -- Foster and Konitz exchange fours. And so the inspired concept goes throughout the album, along with solo bon-bons from trombonist Bob Enevoldsen, bassist Putter Smith, pianist Cecilia Coleman, trombonist Les Benedict and trumpeter Ron Stout.*

-- Harvey Siders, *Jazz Times*

... *these are vibrant charts that literally jump off the page. Masters has clearly done his homework ... Everyone solos with confidence and a clear understanding of the material, but the star of the show is, of course, Konitz himself. With a tone that is warmer and at times grittier than in his youth, he just seems to get better and better ... With exceptional arrangements of classic material, a big band to die for, and a captivating guest soloist, what more can one ask?*

-- John Kelman, [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)

*Having heard "The Clifford Brown Project" and now "One Day with Lee" ... I can hardly wait to hear what the Mark Masters Jazz Ensemble and its sponsor, the American Jazz Institute, plan to do next. If these aren't two of the finest big-band albums of the past year, they surely belong on anyone's Top Ten list. While Konitz plays marvelously in any framework, he seems especially invigorated and at ease when surrounded, as he is here, by a large group of blue-chip musicians who breathe new life into five of his elaborate compositions, another by mentor Lennie Tristano and one of Lee's signature themes, the standard "Lover Man" ... The highlights are almost too many to mention but must include the wonderful charts by Masters, exemplary work by the ensemble ... almost everyone in the band is given one or more chances to shine, and no one comes up less than sparkling.*

-- Jack Bowers, [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)



**The Clifford Brown Project**

The Mark Masters Ensemble  
featuring Tim Hagans  
Capri 74059-2

*This warm and energetic tribute to the late trumpet virtuoso Clifford Brown (who died tragically in 1956 at the age of 26, having single-handedly changed the way jazz trumpet was heard and understood in the United States) is ... a celebration of musical genius and creativity that looks backward while taking the music forward. Bandleader Mark Masters achieves the latter by taking such classic and beloved Brown compositions as "Joy Spring," "Sandu" and "Bones for Jones" and arranging them for a large ensemble that includes no fewer than five trumpets, four of which perform newly harmonized arrangements of Brown's own solos from his early-'50s recordings. The effect is both lushly beautiful and, on tracks like the upbeat "Sweet Clifford" and "Joy Spring," electrifyingly intense. Highly recommended.*

-- Rick Anderson, *All Music Guide*

*The main event: Masters' arrangements of Brown's solos for a trumpet choir consisting of Marc Lewis, Ron Stout, Kye Palmer and Ron King. Lewis transcribed the solos, and Masters tucks them into burning arrangements for an 11-piece band. In a sense, Clifford Brown is a soloist along with trumpeter Tim Hagans, baritone saxophonist Gary Smulyan and trombonist Dave Woodley. An added attraction: Jack Montrose, whose arrangements of "Joy Spring," "Daahoud" and "Bones for Jones" originally appeared on "The Clifford Brown Ensemble Featuring Zoot Sims" and are "reissued" here. Montrose is also in excellent form on tenor sax on "Sweet Clifford," "LaRue," "Sandu" and "Bones for Jones." ... The band swings furiously in its own right, but what lingers is the inimitable, songlike quality of these classic trumpet solos, breaking out of unison into opulent four-part harmony at just the right moments.*

-- David Adler, *Jazz Times*

... *Mark Masters has created a fond tribute to a wonderful musician. He has been aided in no small way by fellow arranger Jack Montrose, who was responsible for three of the arrangements revived here which also appeared on one of Brown's original recordings in 1954. Together with members of the ensemble, they keep the spirit of that music alive. Trumpeter Tim Hagans is the featured artist among a wealth of excellent soloists...*

-- Paul Donnelly, [ejazznews.com](http://ejazznews.com)

# The AJI Record Store

ORDER BY MAIL OR ONLINE AT [www.amjazzin.com](http://www.amjazzin.com).  
**BETTER YET ... take your choice of our current CDs or Lee Tanner's  
 "The Jazz Image" book when you become an AJI Member!**



**Farewell Walter Dewey Redman** The Mark Masters Ensemble  
 The music of the late saxophone giant, arranged by Mark Masters and meant to be recorded by Redman himself, is performed as a loving memorial by an all-star ensemble featuring Oliver Lake, Tim Hagans, Peter Erskine and Dave Carpenter. Also Gary Foster, Don Shelton, John Mitchell, Bob Carr, Scott Englebright, Les Lovitt, Les Benedict, Dave Woodley, Charlie Morillas, Stephanie O'Keefe, Milcho Leviev and Cecilia Coleman.



**EXCLUSIVELY FOR AJI MEMBERS!**  
**Perfect Circularity: The Gary Foster/Putter Smith Duo**  
 Woodwind and bass masters Gary Foster and Putter Smith showcase their long and amazing musical association. This is the inaugural disc in a limited-release series for AJI members documenting important jazz collaborations.



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 In response to the increasing use of electronically generated music, this great new T-shirt proudly says it all. High quality, all cotton, black with light gray lettering front only. \$20 each, \$10 tax deductible. With your order, please enclose a separate sheet specifying short or long sleeves and sizes S to 3XL.

**Wish Me Well: Reflections on Gary McFarland** The Mark Masters Ensemble  
 Gary McFarland, the too-long-neglected composer and arranger of the '60s, receives deserved recognition of his brilliant and unique style in these arrangements by Mark Masters for an all-star ensemble featuring Steve Kuhn, Tim Hagans, Gary Smulyan, Gary Foster, Darek Oles, Dave Woodley and Joe LaBarbera.

**Exploration** Grachan Moncur III Octet  
 The preeminent post-bop/free-bop jazz trombonist of the early '60s returns in a brilliant performance of his own compositions arranged by Mark Masters for a stellar octet of Tim Hagans, Gary Bartz, Billy Harper, Andrew Cyrille, Ray Drummond, Dave Woodley, Gary Smulyan and John Clark.

**Porgy & Bess...Redefined!** The Mark Masters Ensemble  
 The most famous of all folk operas receives a newly definitive presentation in these adventurous arrangements by Mark Masters, performed by an ensemble of superb musicians featuring Billy Harper, Tim Hagans, Gary Smulyan, Dave Woodley, Ray Drummond, Joe LaBarbera and Cecilia Coleman.

**One Day with Lee** Lee Konitz with The Mark Masters Ensemble  
 The elder statesman of the alto in a memorable performance of his own compositions arranged by Mark Masters. Featuring Bill Perkins in a final recording, Gary Foster, Jack Montrose, Dave Woodley, Bob Enevoldsen, Steve Huffsteter, Ron Stout, Cecilia Coleman, Putter Smith and Kendall Kay.

**The Clifford Brown Project** The Mark Masters Ensemble featuring Tim Hagans  
 A critically-acclaimed tribute to the legendary trumpet player, with Brown's solos played by a stellar trumpet quartet supporting the improvisations of Tim Hagans. Arranged by Mark Masters and Jack Montrose. Featuring Montrose, Gary Smulyan, Dave Woodley, Cecilia Coleman, Putter Smith and Joe LaBarbera.

**The Jimmy Knepper Songbook** Jimmy Knepper with The Mark Masters Jazz Orchestra  
 The classic recording of a singular voice on the trombone, performing his own compositions arranged for the big band by Mark Masters. Featuring Gary Foster, Johnny Coles and Ralph Penland.

**Priestess** Billy Harper with The Mark Masters Jazz Orchestra featuring Jimmy Knepper  
 An adventurous big band interpretation of the compositions of John Coltrane, Chick Corea, Billy Strayhorn and Billy Harper. Arranged by Mark Masters.

**The Jazz Image: Masters of Jazz Photography** by Lee Tanner  
 From renowned photographer Tanner, an unprecedented collection of over 150 stunning duotone photos by famed jazz photographers of legendary artists from Louis to Miles, on stage and behind the scenes. Introduction by Nat Hentoff. Hardcover, 176 pages, 10" x 12."

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<i>Farewell Walter Dewey Redman</i>	_____ x \$14.00	_____	
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<i>Porgy &amp; Bess...Redefined!</i>	_____ x \$14.00	_____	Sales Tax: Add 9.75% for CA addresses _____
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# AJI invites your membership

Supporting, preserving and creating jazz is what The American Jazz Institute is all about. In the past several concert seasons at Claremont McKenna College, we have presented such varied programs as *Porgy and Bess...Redefined!*, *The Music of Ornette Coleman*, *An Evening with Dewey Redman*, *The Music of Jelly Roll Morton* and *Sketches of Spain*. Essential to our mission, we have recorded over fifty individual oral histories of major jazz artists as well as an extensive collection of group histories, including *The Ellington Legacy* and *The Singers Unlimited*. Since 2002, we have recorded six critically acclaimed CDs: *The Clifford Brown Project*, *One Day with Lee*, *Porgy and Bess...Redefined!*, *Exploration*, *Wish Me Well* and *Farewell Walter Dewey Redman*.

To continue pursuing our mission, we need the support of those who share our commitment to this music. Your tax deductible membership or contribution in any amount will be deeply appreciated by The American Jazz Institute and the jazz artists that perform for you.

## Patron

\$50 Annual Membership

- **Choice of 1 AJI CD**
- AmJazzIn newsletter: AJI news and schedules of upcoming concerts and special events
- Special "meet the musicians" after-concert receptions

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"The Jazz Image: Masters of Jazz Photography" by Lee Tanner

## Join AJI and take your choice of these gems

Descriptions on The AJI Record Store page



"One Day with Lee"  
Lee Konitz and  
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"Wish Me Well:  
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Gary McFarland"  
The Mark Masters Ensemble



"The Clifford Brown Project"  
The Mark Masters Ensemble



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"Porgy & Bess... Redefined"  
The Mark Masters Ensemble

"Farewell Walter Dewey  
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The Mark Masters  
Ensemble



"Exploration"  
Grachan Moncur III Octet

**The American Jazz Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated solely to the enrichment and enhancement of the appreciation of jazz music. AJI seeks to preserve this national treasure as well as expand upon it by spotlighting America's great jazz composers, arrangers and musicians -- both firmly established and newly discovered, and from traditional to avant garde.**

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 For further information, phone the AJI office at 626-795-6413

# Memorable moments from AJI's 2011 concert season

Special thanks to Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis and to Vicky's Restaurant for their generous support of our jazz education and community outreach programs.



## PERFECT CIRCULARITY: THE GARY FOSTER-PUTTER SMITH DUO

Gary Foster, a musician of many gifts and master of flutes, tenor and alto saxophones, and stellar bassist Putter Smith appeared at Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis on January 18.



## ROGER KELLAWAY

Roger is a living legend, a renowned pianist, prolific Grammy-winning recording artist and sought-after composer for TV, film and theatre. He appeared at Vicky's jazz club on May 2, accompanied by John Leftwich, bass, Allen Goodman, drums, and joined by popular jazz vocalist Denise Donatelli. Roger will return to Vicky's on January 16, 2012, and Denise will make her Vicky's debut on April 30.



## THE LARRY KOONSE QUARTET

Guitarist Larry Koonse, currently a member of Billy Child's landmark chamber sextet, tours worldwide and records with the likes of Lee Konitz, Alan Broadbent, Ray Brown, Bill Perkins and Charlie Haden. Larry fronted all-stars Gary Foster, woodwinds, Tom Warrington, bass and Joe LaBarbera, drums at Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis on April 9.



## DON SHELTON QUARTET

Truly a musical phenomenon, Don Shelton is a wonderful woodwinds player (alto and soprano saxophones, clarinet and flutes) and a terrific singer (with the famed Hi-Lo's and Singers Unlimited). Don appeared with Jim Fox, guitar, Kirk Smith, bass, and Allen Goodman, drums at Palm Desert High School on January 29.



Thanks to Larry Redman for the photos on this page, and to Terry Lewis for his photos in numerous newsletters over the years. The AmJazzIn newsletter is designed and edited by Scott Evans.

## AJI honors Howard Rumsey at scholarship awards ceremony

The occasion was the awarding of AJI's 2011 jazz study scholarships to desert community high school students at Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis, the perfect opportunity to honor legendary Howard Rumsey for his lifetime devoted to jazz, both as an accomplished bass player and the owner of iconic



Southern California jazz clubs The Lighthouse in Hermosa Beach and Concerts by the Sea in Redondo Beach, home to West Coast jazz artists and fans for decades. An added bonus of the event, scholarship winners were able to meet a true jazz icon and ask him questions one on one. Memorable!



## AJI is on the move

The American Jazz Institute is pleased to announce that we have resettled into office and archive space in Palm Desert. Not only are we closer to the concerts and educational programs we conduct throughout the desert communities but also, in an even broader sense, we can now offer a range of services to accommodate the area's growing interest in jazz music.

Our extensive archives and research materials are readily accessible to students, educators and the public.

Available to area schools are several thousand printed arrangements for use by their jazz ensembles and small groups.

In common to all musicians, regardless of musical genres, is the need to listen as much as possible to the innovators and certainly to top professionals who play their instrument. To that end, our collection of over 6,000 Lps and compact discs is available to students on a lending library basis as a

valuable learning tool.

The office also has a large lending library of books on a wide variety of jazz topics.

In the near future, our collection of priceless recorded oral histories by jazz luminaries will be available for research by music scholars.

The American Jazz Institute is proud of our new office and we look forward to making our archives available to the seriously interested. We are located at 74818 Velie Way, Suite 2, Palm Desert, CA 92260; phone 760-610-2586. Please call ahead and we'll be pleased to show you around.

(Note that we also continue to maintain our home office at PO Box 5716, Pasadena, CA 91117; phone 626-798-3127.)

## AJI is on the air

Longtime radio station owner and manager and AJI board member Alan Schultz has led The American Jazz Institute into the age of internet radio.

Alan, who most recently owned jazz radio station KRML in Carmel, California -- the station that was the setting for the film *Play Misty for Me* starring Clint Eastwood -- has created AJI's internet radio site. It broadcasts 24 hours a day

and currently generates over 1,400 listener hours per month. Check it out at AJI's website, [www.amjazzin.org](http://www.amjazzin.org).

Alan is also one of several hosts on the Sunday night show, *Jazz for Jazz Lovers*, on KJZZ (102.3 FM), sponsored by jazz enthusiast Pete Carlson, owner of Pete Carlson's Golf & Tennis in Palm Desert. The show currently has the second highest radio listenership in the desert communities.

## AJI announces the 2012 All-Star High School Honor Jazz Band

Once again in 2012, The American Jazz Institute will sponsor the Desert Communities All-Star High School Honor Jazz Band.

Rehearsals in March and April will culminate in a concert at Cathedral City High School, hosted by band director Greg Whitmore, on April 19. The band will be open to all students in the Coachella Valley. Auditions this year will be held at each of the high schools. The band will offer students

the opportunity to rehearse, interact and perform with other students who have the same passion and commitment for music. The band will provide an outlet for students who want to broaden their exposure to jazz. They will have the opportunity to prepare music in a situation that challenges them by having to respond quickly in an unfamiliar setting.

The band and a featured professional guest soloist will present a concert to the public on April 19.

Featured in this issue:

13 AJI concerts in Spring 2012 season (pages 2 thru 5)

AJI private study program for scholarship students (page 1)

New offices and archive library, new internet radio site (page 11)

**AJI presents season 4 of Vicky's Supper Club Concerts, season 2 of Pete Carlson Concerts**

January through April 2012 promises to offer the most highlight-filled season yet of AJI concerts in Southern California's desert communities. Here's just a sampling of our ambitious lineup of great jazz vocalists and internationally renowned jazz instrumentalists. The details fill much of this issue. Come join us for these sure-to-be memorable evenings.



Bill Cunliffe  
January 6



Gary Smulyan  
January 14



Roger Kellaway  
January 16



Andrew Cyrille  
January 21



Peter Erskine  
February 17



Tim Hagans  
April 20

**AJI needs you**  
See page 9

As an incentive to join AJI or renew your annual membership, we have a very appealing bonus: your choice of AJI's critically acclaimed CDs and Lee Tanner's spectacular book, "The Jazz Image." Your support is important, appreciated and tax deductible.

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