May Day! Give Big!

Finally, some warm air, and a little more room to breathe it. Pilots use the term “ceiling” when talking about the sky, and now that the grey blanket of winter has lifted, I understand the term. I also understand more clearly how the incessant lack of sunshine and blue sky can contribute to general malaise and perception of fewer possibilities. I must be seasonally affected. They ought call them the Greys, instead of the Blues.

But here we go. Even if the storm clouds come and go, there is a tomorrow, and we all get to play a role in it.

Jazz artists at the recent NEA Jazz Masters awards in Washington D.C. focused new attention from the jazz side of the aisle on political threats to end government support for arts. Meanwhile, up in New York, the always-eloquent Wynton Marsalis spiked it on CBS News, saying, “When we tell people our arts are not important, our wisdom is not important, we’re preparing our public to be more ignorant so that we can exploit them more.”

Once again, we ask everyone to remember that public funding options are essential to the work of every arts organization. Our president cannot institute sweeping changes without the approval of the Senate and Congress, and those senators and congresspeople, as elected officials, are responsible to us (We), the people. We all have a voice in the system. Please call and write to make your voice heard.

You can act locally on another important level. May 10 is GiveBIG Day in Seattle, an exciting new tradition, spearheaded by the Seattle Foundation, in which every individual can support their favorite nonprofit, at any and every level. We hope that Earshot Jazz is at the top of your list.

To stretch your donation, the Earshot Jazz Board of Directors offers a matching challenge. Our board members have collectively and generously offered to match your donation, dollar for dollar, up to $7,000. That turns your $100 donation into $200, and, fingers crossed, your $1,000 donation into $2,000. But, as they say on public radio, any donation that fits your budget is just right. Stop and think about the role this organization has played in your life, and in this community, year after year; decide on a donation that is meaningful to you, and go online to earshot.org to donate.

Your help is needed. Think about the dedication and the authenticity with which Earshot offers a steady flow of one-of-a-kind concert presentations and services to this great community. Consider this very newsletter for instance, and its singular role in documenting one of the most vibrant jazz communities in America. Like most of our programs, this publication earns only half of its cost through income from subscriptions and ad sales. The rest comes from people just like you. Your support is essential, well used, and deeply appreciated. Please, make a donation to support the Earshot Jazz magazine, and all of our other programs. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible, and, best of all, you can see and hear the result of your generosity every month of the year. Go to earshot.org now.

Thank you!!

–John Gilbreath, Executive Director
The Time is Now!
Tell your friends and support

DOUBLE-TIME!
Thanks to our board of directors, your donation will be matched note-for-note, dollar-for-dollar!

It’s Easy!
To get started, go to www.givebigseattle.org and select “FIND A NONPROFIT”

Thank you for your support!

Triple-Time? It’s possible! Please find out if your company offers a corporate gift-matching program.
Wayne Horvitz Named Jazz Journalists Association Hero

Pianist/composer/educator Wayne Horvitz was recently named Seattle’s Jazz Hero by the Jazz Journalists Association. Jazz Heroes are “advocates, altruists, activists, aiders, and abettors of jazz who have had significant impact in their local communities.” The Jazz Hero awards, made annually on the basis of nominations from community members, are presented by their local fans and friends in conjunction with the JJA’s annual Jazz Awards honoring significant achievements in jazz music and journalism.

Along with completing award-winning and commissioned works, including his 21 Pianos and Those Who Remain projects, Horvitz is an active partner in Columbia City’s Royal Room, where he leads the Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble and brings in regional and touring creative artists seven nights a week.

“We honor Wayne Horvitz as a Jazz Hero for continuing to create community, fitting his life to it through all his efforts with music and musicians in Seattle,” writes Steve Griggs.

Paul Rucker Earns Guggenheim Fellowship

Visual artist, composer, and musician Paul Rucker recently earned a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Often combining media, integrating live performance, sound, original compositions, and visual art, his work is the product of a rich interactive process, through which he investigates community impacts, human rights issues, historical research, and basic human emotions surrounding particular subject matter.

His largest installation to date, RE-WIND, garnered praise from Baltimore Magazine awarding Rucker “Best Artist 2015.” Additionally, RE-WIND received “Best Solo Show 2015” and “#1 Art Show of 2015” from Baltimore City Paper, reviews by The Huffington Post, Artnet News, Washington Post, The Root, and The Real News Network. This past fall, Rucker presented Stories From the Trees, an element from this exhibition, at the 2016 Earshot Jazz Festival. Using animation, new compositions, and live performance, the piece re-imagined horrifying vintage postcards of lynchings, in an experience that was poignant, riveting, and utterly wrenching.

This fall, Rucker’s work will be featured at the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University in its inaugural exhibition, Declaration.

“I’m honored to receive this generous award from this prestigious organization,” says Rucker. “I deeply appreciate
Deadline June 1

Earshot Jazz seeks submissions from Seattle-area individual artists and ensembles for the 2017 Jazz: The Second Century series. The series brings the progression of jazz into creative motion on the concert stage. Projects that question and expand the conventions of the jazz form are welcome.

Seattle-area individual artists or groups, in any instrument combination, are eligible. Submissions must include a recorded sample of a project that can be performed in a concert setting. We encourage applicants to include a letter that speaks to their musical interpretation of the meaning of jazz and of the next stage of jazz music.

Individual artists or ensembles are selected by a blind-jury process. Second Century artists and ensembles perform during July 2017, and are paid a competitive fee for the performance.

Please send submissions electronically to 2ndcentury@earshot.org or by mail to Earshot Jazz, 3429 Fremont Place N, #309, Seattle, WA 98103. Deadline to apply is June 1. You can direct questions and comments to Earshot Jazz at (206) 547-6763 or jazz@earshot.org. A list of past Jazz: The Second Century artists and ensembles can be viewed online at earshot.org.
Stuart MacDonald: Tension with Convention

By Steve Griggs

Over tall gin and tonics in the afternoon at the Wedgwood Broiler, Stuart MacDonald slowly relayed his story. He is trying to manage the elusive balance between a creative and conventional life. His current activity centers around a two-year Master of Music in Jazz Studies and Improvised Music degree program at the University of Washington. As a Graduate Student Teaching Assistant, he teaches Music 131, History of Jazz, to 200 students in Brechemin Auditorium every morning at 10:30. He plays lead alto in the UW Big Band, studies with Cuong Vu and Ted Poor, and gigs around town with the other teaching assistants, guitarist Alex Oliverio and drummer Matt Carr. He is excited to be actively performing, composing, teaching, and studying.

MacDonald, born in 1973, is a North Seattle native who rode the school bus south to Leschi Elementary as part of the Seattle School District busing solution to racial integration. In the fifth grade, he picked up the alto saxophone because of its cool looks. On the radio, MacDonald also admired the saxophone solo by Steve Gregory on George Michael’s 1984 hit “Careless Whisper.”

At Meany Middle School, teacher Wadie Ervin switched MacDonald to baritone saxophone. Ervin’s mentoring had a lasting impact. His handwritten note of encouragement on the back of a picture of Jelly Roll Morton hangs in MacDonald’s home studio today.

MacDonald attended Roosevelt High School, where his mother taught Latin. In 1984, he joined the Stage Band, led by a young Scott Brown who had just replaced the retired legendary music educator Waldo King. During his high school years, MacDonald’s ears perked up when saxophonist Greg Sinibaldi joined the band for a semester. It was the first time he had heard live jazz improvisation. MacDonald was in good musical company in the band. The ensemble included saxophonist Mark Taylor and trumpeter Kevin Seeley. He studied with Bruce Wilson, Don Lanphere, and Hadley...
Caliman, whose sound can still be heard in MacDonald’s improvisation today. He attended the Bud Shank Jazz Workshop every summer and fell under the spell of saxophone virtuoso Pete Christlieb.

In 1990, MacDonald had an epiphany while playing John Coltrane’s “Lazy Bird” at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. His soloing skills had been acknowledged and his performance was featured on the main stage. Unable to sleep on the bus back to Seattle, MacDonald realized that a life in music, unconventional as it seemed, was a possibility.

While growing as a musician, MacDonald was simultaneously developing as a football athlete, tipping the scales at a muscle-bound 260 pounds. The same year as the jazz festival kudos, he was named Metro League Defensive Lineman of the Year. He was fierce, fast, and focused. To stand out as a badass, he had tattoos inked on his forearm.

Two doors opened for MacDonald after high school. He was accepted at Central Washington in Ellensburg to play football and won a scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston. Opting for neither, MacDonald began to ping-pong around the states, pulled by a variety of impulses. Eventually, he attended Cornish College of the Arts on scholarship for a semester in 1992. He bounced to Berklee in 1994, where he studied with Billy Pierce, George Garzone, and Joe Viola. MacDonald spent many wee hours of the night listening to jazz recordings with another Seattle saxophonist at Berklee, Marc Fendel.


MacDonald directed the 2nd and 3rd jazz bands back at Roosevelt High School from 2005 to 2015. He picked up some general education credits at Shoreline Community College, then transferred to UW to finish his bachelor’s degree. After graduation, MacDonald worked with pianist Eric Verlindé on the Queen of the West, a 120-passenger paddlewheel steamship cruising the Columbia River.

With his wife, daughter, and home in Seattle, MacDonald’s conventional local roots continue to grow. In addition to every Wednesday at Tim’s Tavern (602 N 105th St), there are many opportunities to hear MacDonald perform in May.

MacDonald in May
May 4
Vermillion (1508 11th Ave)
with Seth Alexander
May 13
UW IMPFest at Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center & Theatre (3940 Brooklyn Ave NE)
with Andrew Cyrille
May 19
Ballard Jazz Festival at Pono Ranch (4502 Shilshole Ave NW)
with Happy Orchestra
May 25
Piccola Cellars (112 W 2nd St, North Bend)
with A to Z: A Tribute to Four Brothers – Travis Ranney, Mark Taylor & Greg Sinibaldi

ART OF JAZZ
ALEX DUGDALE’S FADE QUARTET
Thursday, May 11, 5:30–7:30 pm
Saxophonist and clarinetist Alex Dugdale leads the Fade Quartet playing modern and classic jazz standards.

Presented in collaboration with Earshot Jazz.
Seattle Art Museum
1300 First Avenue
FREE and open to the public
Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.
visitsam.org/perform
Earshot Jazz Wraps Up Spring Series with Two Celebrated Pianists

**Gerald Clayton Trio *Tributary Tales* CD Release**
Tuesday, May 2, 8pm  
PONCHO Concert Hall  
$10-24

The four-time Grammy-nominated pianist/composer brings his *Tributary Tales* trio to Seattle with Joe Sanders on bass and Kendrick Scott on drums.

Gerald Clayton searches for honest expression in every note he plays. With harmonic curiosity and critical awareness, he develops musical narratives that unfold as a result of both deliberate searching and chance uncovering.

The son of beloved bass player and composer John Clayton, he enjoyed a familial apprenticeship from an early age. Clayton honors the legacy of his father and all his musical ancestors through a commitment to artistic exploration, innovation, and reinvention. His music is a celebration of the inherent differences in musical perspectives that promote true artistic synergy. Inclusive sensibilities have allowed him to perform and record with such distinctive artists as Diana Krall, Roy Hargrove, Dianne Reeves, Ambrose Akinmusire, Dayna Stephens, and John Scofield. Clayton also has enjoyed an extended association since early 2013, touring and recording with saxophone legend Charles Lloyd.

Joe Sanders has made a name for himself through his versatility, dedication, and steady pulse. He is one of the most sought-after young bass players of his generation and has played with Ravi Coltrane, Herbie Hancock, Jimmy Heath, Wayne Shorter, and Dave Brubeck, among others.

Kendrick Scott is an alumnus of the famed Berklee College of Music. He has performed with Pat Metheny, Joe Lovano, Terence Blanchard, and Dianne Reeves, and currently plays with the Charles Lloyd Quartet alongside Reuben Rogers and Gerald Clayton.

*Tickets are $24 general / $22 Earshot members & seniors / $10 students & military/veterans, and available at earshot.org.*

**Helen Sung Quartet with John Ellis, Boris Kozlov & Terreon Gully**
Thursday, May 4, 8pm  
PONCHO Concert Hall  
$10-24

Pianist Helen Sung is poised to take her place as one of the preeminent voices on today’s jazz scene. Anyone who caught her performance with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis last October can attest to that; she was an absolute standout. Her music has been called soulful and smart, and is characterized by irresistible grooves overflowing with a warm humanity that is both thrilling and unforgettable.

A graduate of the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance, she has worked with such
jazz luminaries as Clark Terry, Slide Hampton, Ron Carter, Jon Faddis, Wayne Shorter, and MacArthur Fellow Regina Carter. In addition to her own band, Sung can currently be seen with the Mingus Big Band & Mingus Dynasty, T.S.Monk Band, and Terri Lyne Carrington’s “Mosaic Project.”

Sung’s quartet includes John Ellis on reeds, Boris Kozlov on bass, and Terreon Gully on drums. Ellis expresses a keen intellect and easy virtuosity as both the leader of his own projects and as an in-demand sideman. Kozlov is a two-time Grammy Award-winning acoustic and electric bassist, composer, and arranger. Gully has performed with various musicians, including Christian McBride, Ron Blake, and Stefon Harris.

Tickets are $24 general / $22 Earshot members & seniors / $10 students & military/veterans, and available at earshot.org.

Coming in June
Mark your calendars! Stay home for late June as we welcome back old friends for some incredible music. It has been too many years since Ray Anderson, Gerry Hemingway, and David Murray have been here. And we’re happy to build momentum with Kris Davis, Sylvie Courvoisier, and Ambrose Akinmusire. We’re bringing it home! – John Gilbreath

Monday, June 19, The Royal Room
BassDrumBone: Mark Helias, Gerry Hemingway & Ray Anderson

Tuesday, June 20, PONCHO Hall
Ambrose Akinmusire Quartet

Saturday, June 24, PONCHO Hall
Nick Fraser, Kris Davis & Tony Malaby

Tuesday, June 27, The Royal Room
Sylvie Courvoisier Trio with Kenny Wollesen & Drew Gress

Wednesday, June 28, Columbia City Theater
Kahlil El’Zabar & David Murray

Tickets & information available soon.
SWOJO Performs World Premiere with Christine Jensen

Jensen is equally at home performing in small and large ensemble settings. The Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra received Juno awards for Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year for Habi tat (2014) and Treelines (2011).

Noted for her ability to transfer the intimate sound of a quartet into larger ensembles, Jensen’s music has been performed by ensembles around the globe, including the Frankfurt Radio Big Band (Germany), the UMO Big Band (Finland), and the McGill Jazz Orchestra (Montreal). She was honored with an Opus Award for Jazz Concert of the Year in 2006, from the Quebec Council for the Arts, for leading the 18-member Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra, with special guest Donny McCaslin.

Over the years, she has collaborated with a diverse array of musicians, including Geoffrey Keezer, Lenny Pickett, Brad Turner, Karl Jannuska, François Théberge, Gary Versace, and Steve Amirault.

This will be the first concert led by Jill Townsend, SWOJO’s new co-musical director. Townsend is a composer, bandleader, and music educator from Vancouver, BC.

SWOJO is an organization dedicated to nurturing the musical, educational, and artistic growth of individual musicians, to encouraging women to become involved in jazz performance and composition as a career or avocation, and to fostering community interest in and appreciation of jazz as an art form.

Tickets are on sale now at Brown Paper Tickets. More information at swojo.org.

—Ed., courtesy of Marge Rosen
UW’s IMPFest IX

May 12 & 13, 7:30pm
Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center & Theatre
3940 Brooklyn Ave NE

Inspired by student-driven vision, the Improvised Music Project has charted new territory in Seattle’s jazz and improvised music scene for the past nine years. The IMPFest, which groups up-and-coming musicians, faculty all-stars, and globally recognized artists, is IMP’s culminating annual event. This year, famed modern jazz musicians Andrew Cyrille and Ben Monder join Bill Frisell and UW Jazz Studies faculty and students for two nights of performance at the UW’s Ethnic Cultural Center.

Born in Brooklyn to Haitian immigrants, the notable drummer Andrew Cyrille recalls being a small child and accompanying his mother to community meetings, where the great hand drummer Alphonse Cimber would often be playing. He studied with Philly Joe Jones in 1958 and then spent the first half of the 1960s at New York’s Juilliard and the Hartnett Music School. Concurrently, he performed with artists ranging from Mary Lou Williams, Coleman Hawkins, and Illinois Jacquet to Kenny Dorham, Freddie Hubbard, Walt Dickerson, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, and Nigerian drummer Babatunde Olatunji. In

Andrew Cyrille Photo by Dominik Huber
Ben Monder Photo by John Rogers
1964 he formed an 11-year association with Cecil Taylor, a gig that brought him new acclaim and established him in the vanguard of jazz drumming. Starting in 1969, Cyrille played with many notable drummers including Kenny Clarke, Milford Graves, Don Moye, and Rashied Ali. Since leaving Taylor’s group, he collaborated with top-flight peers David Murray, Muhal Richard Abrams, Mal Waldron, and others. He was the drummer on Billy Bang’s A Tribute to Stuff Smith, notable for being the last studio session of Sun Ra.

Having served for a time as artist-in-residence at Antioch College, Cyrille is now a faculty member at The New School in New York City. His sterling work has earned him a number of grants and awards, mostly notably from Meet the Composer. Cyrille is currently a member of the group, Trio 3, with Oliver Lake and Reggie Workman.

“There’s so much clarity in his playing,” says guitarist Bill Frisell of Cyrille. “It doesn’t swallow you up. And he strikes this perfect balance between instigating something and also responding to what’s going on around him. That’s the most amazing feeling in music, and Andrew’s got that really strong.”

A jazz guitarist and composer in the New York area for 30 years, Ben Monder has performed with a wide variety of artists, including Jack McDuff, Marc Johnson, Lee Konitz, George Garzone, Paul Motian, Guillermo Klein, and Maria Schneider. He has conducted clinics and workshops around the world, and served on the faculty of the New England Conservatory from 2002-2005. The recipient of a Doris Duke Artist Award in 2014, Monder continues to perform original music internationally with his own quartet, trio, and in an ongoing duo project with vocalist Theo Bleckmann. He has appeared on over 130 CDs as a sideman, and released five recordings as a leader: Hydra (Sunnyside, 2013), Oceana (Sunnyside, 2005), Excavation (Arabesque, 2000), Dust (Arabesque, 1997), and Flux (Songlines, 1995). In 2015 Monder recorded wispy guitar textures and abrupt chord bursts on David Bowie’s 25th and final studio album Blackstar.

For more information about IMPFest IX or to purchase tickets, visit the University of Washington School of Music website: music.washington.edu.

–Marianne Gonterman
Ballard Jazz Festival Returns for its 15th Year

May 17-20  
Various venues, Ballard

The 15th annual Ballard Jazz Festival returns to downtown Ballard Wednesday, May 17, through Saturday, May 20. Featuring live modern American music across 11 venues, the favorite four-day event is a project of Origin Records run by jazz drummers John Bishop and Matt Jorgensen. Longtime fans will be glad to find the full roster of classic events the festival is known for, delivered with a fresh feel and some choice new talent.

Per tradition, the schedule kicks off with two themed evenings at Conor Byrne Pub: the Brotherhood of the Drum on Wednesday evening (with bands led by drummers) and the Guitar Summit on Thursday (with bands led by guitarists). This year, featured Wednesday night drummers include Gary Hobbs, Greg Williamson, and Chris Icasiano, and Thursday night guitarists include Brad Shepik, Dan Balmer, and Cole Schuster. Both events are 21+ and kick off at 8pm.

Friday night brings the beloved Ballard Jazz Walk – the original solo event that the festival ultimately grew out of – starting at 6:30pm. Debuting in 2002 with five bands across five venues, the Ballard Jazz Walk now features live jazz at 10 sites across downtown Ballard, including outdoor venues Peddler Brewing Company and Pono Ranch. The Jazz Walk is always a highlight of the festival, but this year, as the festival turns 15 and Origin Records turns 20, the Walk plays a special role in featuring performances by artists that have been part of the Origin family throughout the last two decades. These include George Colligan, Gary Hobbs, the Origin Uber band, Phil Parisot, Greta Matassa, Gail Petris, Bill Anschell, Todd Bishop, Clay Giberson, Matt Jorgensen, and John Bishop.

The final day of the festival on Saturday wraps up with the annual Mainstage Concert at the Nordic Heritage Museum at 7:30pm. (The Swedish Pancake Jazz Brunch will not happen this year.) Headliners for the evening concert include the esteemed saxophonist Chico Freeman and Northwest-based group Scenes (John Stowell, guitar; Jeff Johnson, bass; John Bishop, drums; and Rick Mandyck, saxophone).

Featuring over 100 musicians, the Ballard Jazz Festival is known for bringing in a small portion from out of town, but mostly drawing from Northwest artists, particularly those based in Portland and Seattle.

“Both John and I are unabashed champions of the [jazz] scene here,” says Jorgensen. “The most important thing for us is highlighting the talent here, and augmenting that with the out-of-town artists [who then] are called upon to collaborate with the local talent. That’s what’s inspiring for us.”

Ballard Jazz Walk ticket options include an all-inclusive festival pass ($100, purchased in advance), or individual tickets to separate events (starting at $13, purchased in advance). Local sponsors include Verity Credit Union, HomeStreet Bank, TriStar Realty, and more.

Tickets and more info at ballardjazzfestival.com.

– Sara Jones
May 26-29
Couth Buzzard Books
8310 Greenwood Ave N

With a sports jacket over his t-shirt and long silver hair, topped by a fedora, Theo Dzielak, owner of Couth Buzzard Books, has the air of a true jazz guy. And he is. A long time local jazz flutist, and former writer for Earshot Jazz under Paul de Barros, Dzielak’s Seattle jazz roots go back. “Jazz is such a beautiful, evolved music,” he muses, and his love of the art form manifests on a constant basis through his bookstore.

For Theo Dzielak had a vision. Recognizing that the old model for bookshops was no longer viable, he designed Couth Buzzard Books to be a hub for community, where folks could come in for not only a vast array of both new and used books, vetted by him for taste and interest, but also for a good cup of coffee and a treat; to meet up with other locals and have a chat; to play games; to form a book club, language group, or New York Times discussion group; or, most important for the local music scene, to play and hear live music.

The model is working. After the shocking Greenwood gas explosion last year that made international news headlines, destroying four businesses and damaging many others, Couth Buzzard Books’ business just continues to grow.

Kenny Mandell, local sax player, teacher, and bandleader, says that the “store itself invites eccentric characters.” Mandell describes many coffee shops as places for people to sit by themselves with their own laptops, in their own little bubble. But Couth

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PARAGON HANG
2125 Queen Anne Ave N. Seattle

Jazz Open Mic
Every Wednesday 8-11
Hosted by Dave Desrochers and Seattle Jazz Quartet

GET YOUR GROOVE ON
Everybody’s Welcome
facebook.com/GJamJazz
Buzzard Books fosters chance meetings and forge new relationships.

From the moment Dzielsak and Mandell met, they became instant pals, and, ironically, it was only much later that they discovered they both had had the same music teacher, Mike Davenport of Tacoma. With a musical collaboration that has grown over seven years, Mandell, a gracious host committed to fostering jazz in the local community, has succeeded at welcoming players of all ages and abilities to their bi-monthly Sunday jazz jam. They also partner in producing an on-going First Friday Jazz series, pulling in experienced groups to provide great music at an affordable price.

The upcoming second annual Couth Buzzard Books Jazz Festival is a natural outgrowth of their relationship. As Dzielsak says, both he and Mandell had been “thinking about a jazz festival for a long time.” They chose Memorial Day Weekend last year because many folk musicians, who also gather and play at Couth Buzzard Books, were busy with the Northwest Folklife Festival. And while many music lovers spend Memorial Day Weekend at the Seattle Center, plenty of others look for music in a less crowded atmosphere, and local jazz players are not involved in Folklife.

They were surprised last year with the heavy turnout to their fledgling festival. It was “more successful than we thought it would be,” says Dzielsak.

Like the bookstore itself, the festival continues to grow. This year, it offers a variety of both local and non-local musicians. They have structured it in jazz chronology, starting out on Friday night with Orville Johnson and the Swing Years, highlighting jazz from the ‘20s and ‘30s. Saturday offers a feast of vocalists, an Al Hood Tribute band, and a Thelonious Monk tribute, with not just the “everyday Monk tunes that everyone knows,” says Mandell, but some of his lesser heard compositions. Sunday afternoon sees the regular jam followed by an evening of straight-ahead jazz, finishing off with experimental jazz on Monday.

The Couth Buzzard Books motto is: “Building Community: One Book, One Drink, One Note At A Time.” And this Memorial Day Weekend, players and listeners will have a lot of “Notes” to enjoy.

Tickets are available in store, and are $30 for a Festival Pass, $15 for a Day Pass, and $8 for a single event. For more information, visit buonobuzzard.com.

—Jean Mishler

Couth Buzzard Jazz Fest Schedule

Friday, May 27
7:30pm Orville Johnson
8:30pm Birch Pereira Trio

Saturday, May 27
Saturday House Band: Al Pignataro, guitar/bass & Brad Papineau, drums
12pm Scotty Lee group
1pm Mercedes Nicole group
2pm Sheila/Mikel Rollins
3pm Yogi McCaw group
4pm Joanne Klein group
7:30pm Al Hood Tribute Band
8:30pm Thelonious Monk Tribute directed by Kenny Mandell

Sunday, May 28
1pm Kenny Mandell & students
2pm Couth Jazz Jam hosted by Kenny Mandell
7:30pm Lance Lu Quartet
8:30pm The Jump Ensemble

Monday, May 29
1pm Carol Levin/Jenny Ziefel Duo
2pm Dick Valentine/Geoff Harper Duo
3pm Jim Knodle, solo trumpet
4pm Seth Alexander Group
5pm Neil Welch, solo sax
6pm Tonal Vision: Kenny Mandell/ Curtis Dahl
Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the 2017 Bellevue Jazz & Blues Festival will host over 40 live concerts in downtown Bellevue that feature top regional artists, leading student musicians, and headlining music masters Catherine Russell and Corey Harris. The Eastside festivities take place over the course of five days, running from Wednesday, May 31, through Sunday, June 4.

This year’s four-day schedule highlights Catherine Russell and The Corey Harris Band at the Meydenbauer Center Theatre. Catherine Russell is a one-of-a-kind musician and vocalist who has toured, performed, and recorded with greats such as David Bowie, Paul Simon, and Cyndi Lauper. Russell was nominated for a 2017 Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album for her record *Harlem On My Mind*. Mastering sparkling acoustic swing and a unique vocal approach, Russell is one of the leading performers of American Popular Song.

The Corey Harris Band is best described as “Blues with all the roots & branches” – a group led by a man who has carved out his own niche in blues. Harris has recorded many old songs of the blues tradition while also creating an original vision of the blues by adding influences from reggae, soul, rock and West African music.

A handful of more Seattle favorites fill out the lineup: Grammy-nominated composer/keyboards Josh Rawlings, sultry vocalist Gail Pettis, leading sax man Kareem Kandi, 2016 Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame Inductee Bill Anschell, Pacific Northwest legend Overton Berry, Pearl Django’s revered guitarist Tim Lerch, violinist Geoffrey Castle, and rock-n-jazz monsters The Stonecutters.

Additionally, the festival presents noteworthy performances by rocking fusion soul band Radio Raheem and Mediterranean-inspired trio The Rumba Kings. Formed in 2011, Radio Raheem has been garnering accolades for their danceable genre fusion mu-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 22**
Rising Tide

Frank Kohl

Rising Tide is the fourth album of Seattle guitar godfather Frank Kohl. The record is crisp and comfortable; Kohl’s thoughtful production glides listeners seamlessly through a handful of new compositions, handpicked standards, a singular live recording, and a dessert of solo guitar to highlight Kohl’s remarkably nimble, pure tones.

Since 1990, Kohl has been a Seattle jazz fixture, while still regularly returning to New York to record and perform with his quartet. This time as a bandleader, Kohl is joined by his New York quartet: bassist Steve LaSpina, drummer Jon Doty, and pianist and brother Tom Kohl.

Rising Tide comes out of the gate with two of Kohl’s original grooves, “Rock and Roll” and the title track. This recording – like the album – floats along so nicely that the listener may be tempted to overlook the level of skill required for such convincing ease.

Rising Tide, as suggested by its name, is full of swinging swells and percussive nuance. Kohl’s album is an artful pendulum between convincing emotional inflections and masterful technique, the product of decades of musicianship.

Yielding his contemplative, vintage instrument, Kohl’s wheelhouse is in his balladry as heard on the album’s second killer set of originals “With Tears of Joy” and “Richman Poorman.” Poised throughout, Kohl’s style is subtly bluesy with hints at roots in Wes, George, and Martino.

The sidemen shine on Victor Young’s “Love Letters,” and the live recorded “My Romance” (Rogers and Hart) flaunts the rhythm section’s synergy. The two tunes border Kohl’s “Late Night,” which hosts a smooth dose of solo drums.

Kohl wraps up his work with a solo take of another Young classic, “Beautiful Love.” Elegant in its simplicity, this recording – like the album – floats along so nicely that the listener may be tempted to overlook the level of skill required for such convincing ease.

The power trio led by Alex Chadsey (piano/keyboards/compositions) reflects the depth of Latin influences in Seattle, particularly the Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian with bossa and samba rhythms. Chadsey’s compositions are musically diverse, expressing a deep humility and revealing his quest for genuine musical connection. I found myself singing along to the vocal harmonies on “For the Rekkerd,” and was stopped momentarily in contemplation listening to the beautiful “Salif.”

A stroll down a back alley, the percussion reflecting the sounds of the busy streets fill “Michel” and “Rio Pescadores,” and with a few brush strokes Jeff “Bongo” Busch directs us from the cool blue Nordic-inspired jazz and warm chanting of “Forgotten well” to beautifully lyrical bass solos by Farko Dosumov. Dosumov departs to the funk outer-world in “Funkination” where 808’s and sub-bass combine modern urban pop and hip-hop elements, which set the stage for the R&B-forward “Razzle Dazzle.”

Chadsey, Dosumov, and Busch are Seattle music. Don’t miss this album.

– Edan Krolewicz
MONDAY, MAY 1
CC EntreMundos Jam, 9:30pm
MQ Marco de Carvalho Trio, 7pm
MT Triangle Pub Jam, 9pm
NL Mo Jam Mondays, 8:30pm
RR Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble, 7:30pm
RR The Salute Sessions, 10pm
TU Steve Messick’s Endemic Ensemble, 7:30pm

TUESDAY, MAY 2
BU Adam Kessler Trio, 8pm
CB West Coast Swing Social, 9pm
EL Paul Richardson, 6pm
JA Bill Charlap Trio, 7:30pm
MQ The Black Clouds, 8pm
NC Daniela Spielmann w/ EntreMundos Quinteto, 9pm
NL Bazooka Picnic & Unsinkable Heavies, 8pm
OW Jam w/ Eric Verlinder, 10pm
PO Earshot Jazz Presents Gerald Clayton Trio: "Tributary Tales" with Joe Sanders & Kendrick Scott, 8pm
RR The Suffering F*ckheads, 10pm
SB Rippin Chicken, 10pm
TU Joe Doria Presents, 10pm
TU Tim Kennedy Group, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
EL Paul Richardson, 6pm
JA Bill Charlap Trio, 7:30pm
MK Jeff Ferguson’s Triangular Jazztet, 7pm
NC Jazz Jam w/ Darin Clendenin Trio, 7:30pm
NL VIEUX FARKA TOURÉ with Clinton Fearon and DJ Darek Mazzone, 7:30pm
PG Jazz at Paragon, 8pm
RR Roxy Coss: Chasing the Unicorn CD Release, 7:30pm
SB Rippin Chicken, 10pm
TL Anat Cohen, 7:30pm
TU Smith/Staelens Big Band, 7:30pm
UC Helen Sung Quintet, 7pm
VI Bar Tabac, 9pm

THURSDAY, MAY 4
BC Adam Kessler & Phil Sparks, 9pm
BD Annie Eastwood and Friends with Larry Hill, Tom Brightton and Beth Wulf, 6pm
EL Paul Richardson, 6pm
EU EuroJam Session, 8:30pm
JA Eliane Elias, 7:30pm
NC Frank Anderson, 7pm
PO Earshot Jazz Presents Helen Sung Quartet with John Ellis, Boris Kozlov & Terreon Gully, 8pm
SB Aqua Soul, 10pm
TE Los Buhos, 7:30pm
TU Ann Reynolds’ Clave Gringa, 7:30pm
VA Casey MacGill, 5:30pm
VI Sidecar, 9pm

FRIDAY, MAY 5
BT Live Jazz Trio, 7pm
CH Seattle Composers’ Salon, 8pm
CM The Caroena Matus Trio at the Crossroads Market Stage, 7pm
CZ Jazz First Fridays: Seth Alexander & Tonal Vision, 7:30pm
JA Eliane Elias, 7:30pm

3 ROXY COSS: CHASING THE UNICORN CD RELEASE

Musician/composer Roxy Coss has become one of the most unique and innovative saxophonists of her generation. Originally from Seattle and now a fixture on the New York scene, Coss has performed extensively around the United States, Canada, and Europe. Coss recently released her third album as a leader, and first release on the Posi-Tone Record label, Chasing the Unicorn. It features her on tenor and soprano sax and bass clarinet, alongside her working quintet. In addition to six original compositions by Coss, the album includes tunes by Wayne Shorter and Joe Henderson, a Paul McCartney tribute, a Willie Nelson adaptation, and a Lionel Loueke original. $10-20

SATURDAY, MAY 6
BT Live Jazz Trio, 7pm
CH Seth Nehil + Cameron Shafii + RM Francis, 8pm
CM ChoroLoco, 7pm
JA Eliane Elias, 7:30pm
MQ Paul Green Jazz/Blues Quartet, 9pm
NC LaVon Hardison, 8pm
SB 700 Saturdays, 10pm
SB Jazz Brunch, 12pm
SH SWOJO featuring Christine Jensen, 7:30pm
TU Susan Pascal Quartet w/ Marc Seales, Chuck Deardorff, Mark Ives, 7:30pm
VI The New Triump, 9:30pm
VI The Tarantellas, 6pm

SUNDAY, MAY 7
AB The Beaver Sessions, 9pm
CC Parlour Snakes, 6pm
CR Racer Sessions, 8pm
CZ Choro Music Open Jam w/ Stuart Zobel, 2pm
DT Darrell’s Tavern Jazz Jam, 8pm
FB Seattle Jazz Vespers: Eugenie Jones Jazz, 6pm
HA Dina Blade Bossa Nova, 6pm
JA Eliane Elias, 7:30pm
MC Grayfish Boil w/ Marc Smason & Friends, 12pm
MV Jazz LIVE: The Dmitri Matheny Group w/ guest vocalist Holly Pyle, 5pm
RR Garfield High School Choir, 4:30pm

Calendar Key
SATURDAY, MAY 13
BT Live Jazz Trio, 7pm
CH Gamelan Pacifica: Lou Harrison at 100 Years: The Seattle Connection, 8pm
CM Brendan Wires, 7:30pm
EF Gustavo Alonso López & Special Guests present Punto Lejano, 8pm
JA Spyro Gyra, 7:30pm
NC Eric & Encarnacion, 8pm
RR Plan B, 5pm
SB 700 Saturdays, 10pm
SB Jazz Brunch, 12pm
SO Frank Clayton, 8pm
TU Bill Anschell Standards Trio w/ Jeff Johnson & D’Vonne Lewis, 7:30pm
VI Jerry Zimmerman, 6pm
VI Kareem Kandi, 9:30pm

13 GAMELAN PACIFICA: LOU HARRISON AT 100 YEARS: THE SEATTLE CONNECTION

Gamelan Pacifica honors the centenary of the great American composer Lou Harrison, widely considered one of America’s most original musical innovators. This rare chance to experience a live performance of Harrison’s works for gamelan and percussion will feature Gamelan Pacifica, Pacific Rims Percussion Quartet, and special guests Jennifer Caine Provine (violin), Heather Bentley (viola), Paul Taub (flute), Bonnie Whiting (percussion), Maria Scherer Wilson, cello. $5-15

SUNDAY, MAY 14
AB The Beaver Sessions, 9pm
CC FADE Quartet, 6pm
CM Sunday Brunch w/ Red & Ruby, 12:30pm
CR Racer Sessions, 8pm
CZ Racer Sessions, 8pm
DT Darrell’s Tavern Jazz Jam, 8pm
HA Dina Blade Bossa Nova, 6pm
JA Spyro Gyra, 7:30pm
MC Clayfish Boil w/ Marc Smason & Friends, 12pm
SB Cephalopod, 9pm
SE Art of Jazz: Alex Dugdale’s FADE Quartet, 6:30pm
SO Frank Clayton, 8pm
SB Jazz Brunch, 11am
SB 700 Saturdays, 10pm
RR Salute Sessions, 10pm
NL Mo’ Jam Mondays, 8:30pm
MT Triangle Pub Jam, 9pm
CC EntreMundos Jam, 9:30pm
AB Beaver Sessions, 9pm
CR Racer Sessions, 8pm
DT Darrell’s Tavern Jazz Jam, 8pm
HA Dina Blade Bossa Nova, 6pm
SY Victor Janusz, 10am
SB Funky 2 Death, 10pm

FRIDAY, MAY 12
BT Live Jazz Trio, 7pm
CH Zachary Watkins: High Vibration Resonance, 8pm
CM Phantoms of Soul, 7pm
JA Spyro Gyra, 7:30pm
LA Happy hour w/ Phil Sparks, 5pm
NC Rod Cook & Toast, 8pm
RR Ray Skjellbred’s Yeti Chasers, 5pm
SB Funky 2 Death, 10pm
TU En Canto, 8:30pm
VI Kate Olson Ensemble, 9pm

TUESDAY, MAY 16
BU Adam Kessler Trio, 8pm
CB West Coast Swing Social, 9pm
EL Paul Richardson, 6pm
LA Happy hour w/ Phil Sparks, 5:30pm
JB Bob Hammer, 6pm
BU Adam Kessler Trio, 9pm
EL Paul Richardson, 6pm
VI Ron Weinstein Trio, 9:30pm

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CURTAIN CALL
weekly recurring performances
MONDAY
CC EntreMundos jam, 9:30
MT Triangle Pub Jam, 9
NL Mo’ Jam Mondays, 8:30
RR Salute Sessions, 10

TUESDAY
BU Adam Kessler Trio, 8
CB West Coast Swing Social, 9
EL Paul Richardson, 6
OW Jam w/ Eric Verlinde, 10
SB Joe Doria Presents, 10

WEDNESDAY
EL Paul Richardson, 6
MK Jeff Ferguson’s Triangular Jazztet, 7
PG Jazz at Paragon, 8

THURSDAY
BC Adam Kessler & Phil Sparks, 9
BD Annie Eastwood & Friends, 5:30
BB Adam Kessler Trio, 8
BU Adam Kessler Trio, 9
EL Paul Richardson, 6

FRIDAY
BT Live Jazz Trio, 6
LA Happy hour w/ Phil Sparks, 5
SB Funky 2 Death, 10

SATURDAY
BT Live Jazz Trio, 7
SB 700 Saturdays, 10

SUNDAY
AB Beaver Sessions, 9
CR Racer Sessions, 8
DT Darrell’s Tavern Jazz Jam, 8
HA Dina Blade Bossa Nova, 6
SY Victor Janusz, 10am

VI Ron Weinstein Trio, 9:30
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17
EL Paul Richardson, 6pm
JA Edmonds-Woodway High School Jazz Ensembles, 6:30pm
MK Jeff Ferguson’s Triangular Jazztet, 7pm
PG Jazz at Paragon, 8pm
RU Piano Starts Here: Earl Hines/Mary-Lou Williams, 7:30pm
SB Unsinkables, 10pm
TU Greenblatt Generations Band, 7:30pm
UC Matt Wiener Quartet, 7pm
VI Brad Gibson Presents, 9pm

THURSDAY, MAY 18
BC Adam Kessler & Phil Sparks, 9pm
BD Annie Eastwood and Friends with Larry Hill, Tom Brighton and Beth Wulff, 6pm

FRIDAY, MAY 19
BT Live Jazz Trio, 7pm
JA Shemekia Copeland, 7:30pm
LA Happy hour w/ Phil Sparks, 5pm
SB Funky 2 Death, 10pm
SW Susan Carr Ensemble, 7pm
TU Dave Peck Trio w/ Dave Captein & Eric Eagle, 7:30pm
VI Max Wood Trio, 9pm

SATURDAY, MAY 20
BT Live Jazz Trio, 7pm
CM Northwest Folklife: Kouyate Arts, 6:30pm
CU Lil Sara & the Night Owls, 7:30pm
EB Annie Eastwood and Chris Stevens Duo, 7pm
JA Shemekia Copeland, 7:30pm
RR Coffee Shop Jam, 10:30am
SB 700 Saturdays, 10pm
SB Jazz Brunch, 12pm
ST JAZZ UNLIMITED presents Yoginis World Jazz Group, 7:30pm
SW Balkan Night, 7pm
TD René Marie, 7pm
TU Dave Peck Trio w/ Chuck Deardorf & Eric Eagle, 7:30pm
VI Birch Pereira & Friends, 9:30pm
VI The Tarantellas, 6pm

20 RENÉ MARIE

James Gore’s “Jazz in the City” presents vocalist René Marie. In a span of two decades, 11 recordings and countless stage performances, Marie has cemented her reputation as not only a singer but also a composer, arranger, theatrical performer and teacher. Guided and tempered by powerful life lessons and rooted in jazz traditions laid down by Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington and other leading ladies of past generations, she borrows various elements of folk, R&B and even classical and country to create a captivating hybrid style. $35-45
sic. The band is made up of leading Northwest musicians and fronted by Seattle jazz, soul, and gospel mainstay Josephine Howell. The Rumba Kings are producer/bassist Johnny Bacolas, guitarist George Stevens, and guitarist Teddy Adams. Sharing a vision of writing and recording soulful Mediterranean-inspired music, the trio creates a passionate and romantic style that is infused with Flamenco, Spanish, Greek, and Italian styling.

Since year one, the festival has also hosted a non-adjudicated student showcase to feature high school and middle school ensembles from around the Puget Sound. Schools playing this year include Edmonds-Woodway High School, who was selected to perform at the Essentially Ellington Competition & Festival in NYC, and Bellevue High School, who recently performed at Hot Java Cool Jazz at Seattle’s Paramount Theatre. A total of 12 schools perform between the final two days at the Bellevue Arts Museum. Celebrating community and the creative power of live jazz and blues music, Bellevue’s premier annual music showcase is Seattle’s excuse to venture past the lake. Festival events are produced in part by non-profit organization Bellevue Downtown Association and sponsored by the City of Bellevue, Microsoft, Washington Federal, Bellevue Arts Museum, KNKX 88.5 FM, Bellevue Reporter, 425 Magazine, and Gravity Creative.

For tickets and full lineup see online at bellevuedowntown.com/events/bellevue-jazz-blues-festival or call 1-800-838-3006.

–Halynn Blanchard

Notes, from page 4

for its fifth annual composition contest, this year a drum feature. The winning compositions will be performed and recorded live by SWOJO with special guest Sherrie Maricle of DIVA. Submission deadline is June 18.

The contest was created to encourage the composition and performance of the highest quality jazz ensemble literature. This project is supported in part by Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, 4Culture, and the Seattle Foundation.

Visit swojo.org for contest details and online application.

Write Earshot Jazz

The Earshot Jazz magazine reflects and shares the many ways that jazz intersects with lives in the Northwest. Earshot Jazz is seeking submissions from writers: Please email story pitches, comments, news and announcements to editor@earshot.org.

Help the Jazz Around the Sound Calendar

Please email news and announcements about jazz gigs, concerts and community events to jazzcalendar@earshot.org.
In One Ear, from page 4

david utevsky; giant steps with john pai. the caravan with john gilbreath is back on mondays at 7pm. a rotation of programmers (gordon todd, john midgley, and megan sullivan) host “the sound of modern jazz,” tuesday mornings at 1am. more about jazz on kwcs at kwcs.fm.

91.7 ksvr mount vernon, doctor dee hosts two nights of jazz, fourth corner jazz, featuring recordings of live performance in northwest washington, sundays, 6-7pm, and the doctor’s den, mondays, 8-10pm.

this support and your continued interest in my work.”

jazz radio

88.5 knkx hosts saturday jazz matinee, jazz sunday side up, ken wiley’s the art of jazz, and jazz northwest, in addition to its weekday npr and latenight and prime-time jazz programs.

abe beeson hosts the new cool, sundays, 3pm, featuring 21st century jazz inspired and informed by the sounds of today, hip-hop, funk, electronic & punk rock, followed by robin lloyd’s jazz caliente, 5pm, where jazz meets latin rhythms.

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90.3 kexp, late-night sundays, features jazz theater with john gilbreath, 1am, and sonarchy, midnight, a live-performance broadcast from the jack straw productions studio, produced by doug haire. full schedule information is available at kexp.org and jackstraw.org.

sonarchy’s may schedule: may 7, big crinkly trio, an ideal trio balance in a jazz music setting, with pete turner (drums), doug lilla (electric bass), and jim knodle (trumpet); may 14, rahikka, meditative atmospheres through electronics; may 21, paul kikuchi’s bat of no bird island, a new ensemble piece inspired by a family memoir and a 78rpm record collection, with tari nelson-zagar, maria scherer wilson, eyvind kang, bill horist, stuart dempster and rob millis; may 28, vicki ray scot ray, 20th century new music for prepared piano, slide guitar looping, and fine-tuned listening.

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hollow earth is seattle’s freeform online radio station that supports the local music communities in the pacific northwest and tries to create an open, encouraging stage for underrepresented voices. more at facebook.com/blackrootsradiojl and hollowearthradio.org.

open to all - free

15th season!

seattle jazz vespers

100 minutes of professional jazz
family friendly concert / free parking

seattle first baptist church
1111 harvard avenue
(seenga and harvard on first hill)
seattle, wa  (206) 325-6051

www.seattlejazzvespers.org/go/sjv

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