

the grape vine rag

the newsletter of the
Healdsburg Jazz Festival

May 30 – June 3

Here's this year's lineup!

- Rene Rosnes Trio with Billy Drummond
- Pete Escovedo Orchestra
- Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band
- Ray Drummond Quartet
- The Heath Brothers
- Billy Higgins Sextet
- *All the Magic* – A Tribute to Lester Bowie with film & music
- *Jazz Night at the Movies* with Mark Cantor
- Festival Finale – A Salute to Billy Higgins

**Tickets
on sale
April 1!**

Look for complete Festival information in the upcoming March mailer.

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Healdsburg Jazz Festival Enters Third Season

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

The festival became part of our community's landscape in June 1999. Spearheaded by Jessica Felix, who in previous years had brought top performers to intimate downtown venues, and supported by the Healdsburg Arts Council and enthusiastic volunteers, the festival was a sold-out, three-day event. Performers included the Bobby Hutcherson Quartet and the Cedar Walton Quartet with Billy Higgins. From the outset, it was decided that music education for local youth should be an important component. As a result, Tacuma King conducted the first of his children's percussion, song, and dance workshops for area schoolkids.

The success of the 1999 festival led to an expanded, stellar program in June 2000, featuring performances by Fred Hersch and Jane Ira Bloom, Pharoah Sanders, George Coleman, Von and Chico Freeman, and the Charles Lloyd Quartet, with a guest appearance by twelve-year-old guitar virtuoso Julian Lage. There was also a gala dinner and piano concert with Fred Hersch, and a "Jazz Night at the Movies" with film archivist Mark Cantor presenting rare footage of jazz greats. Concerts expanded beyond the Raven theaters to the Rodney Strong and Geysir Peak wineries. Tacuma King was again on hand to lead children's world-music workshops and accompany a group of his students in Healdsburg's annual Twilight Parade.

Both festivals were successful not only because of increasing attendance but also due to widening community involvement. Wineries were major sponsors of both festivals, and continued support came from many other local businesses, the Arts Council, and volunteers working in various capacities. The festival has become a much-anticipated event for residents and visitors alike, and has made substantial contributions to music education at local schools.

As you can see from the lineup at left, plans for this year's festival are off to a solid start. The program currently features a Latin jazz concert and salute to drummer (and festival stalwart) Billy Higgins, among other highlights. The Education Committee has developed an expanded music program with workshops for the high school jazz band beginning in February. This newsletter itself is evidence of the growth and prominence of jazz in our community. Future

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Manassas High School alumni Harold Mabern, George Coleman and Charles Lloyd reunite at Westside School in Healdsburg to give a special performance to the students following the Healdsburg Jazz Festival 2000.



Jazz Education Program 2001

The Jazz Education Committee has been busy planning the workshops and activities which will be offered to students in Healdsburg and Geyserville this spring, lining up expanded offerings for this year's student musicians and young potential jazz fans.

The first of our monthly workshops, pairing students with professional musicians, took place on February 7. Bay Area musicians Khalil Shaheed, Ed Kelly, Ron Belcher, and Babatunde Lea will continue to work with students in the Healdsburg High Jazz Band this semester.

A proposed Jazz Week in the Schools is in the planning stages. This year's theme, "Jazz and Blues," will focus on the blues and why it is an important part of jazz. Assemblies for junior and senior high schools will include jazz and blues musicians who will lecture and demonstrate their art. Some well-known local musicians have already agreed to participate, which will make this event a truly exciting and rewarding experience for the students.

Another new program, Operation Jazz Band, will be offered to elementary schools this spring. Eight professional musicians, led by percussionists Babatunde Lea and David Frazier, will spend five consecutive days introducing students to various instruments, culminating in a performance by the entire jazz band.

Musician Gary Johnson and music teacher Randy Massallink are brainstorming a Jazz Combo Festival for high school students throughout Sonoma County. The idea is to encourage young musicians who usually learn jazz by playing big-band arrangements to form smaller groups and learn more about the musical relationships of small combos. These small groups will perform before a panel of professional musicians, who will in turn work with the students in areas needing more attention.

The inspirational Tacuma King will be returning to town, visiting a few elementary schools with his exciting presentation before beginning his popular song, dance, and drumming workshops. The after-school classes are for students aged 6-10 and 11-15, with an evening class for adults. The six-class series will start on April 11 and continue through May 23, and costs only \$40. Some scholarships are available. If you saw last year's Future Farmers parade you'll remember the electricity Tacuma and the students generated. Call 707/433-4633 for more information or to request an application.

The Jazz Education Committee welcomes those willing to help with these projects which have been so well received by schools, students and parents. Funding comes from the festival budget, individual donations, and grants from the Healdsburg Arts Council and other community organizations, foundations, and businesses. If interested, please leave a message at the festival office at 707/433-4633.

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issues will feature articles about jazz events, personalities, and the festival itself. This year promises to be another joyful celebration of jazz in Healdsburg, but support is essential to help make that promise a reality. Join us in bringing a world-class jazz festival to Sonoma County.

If you would like to participate, call the festival office at 707/433-4633 or send an e-mail to hbgjazz@aol.com. Meetings are held the third Wednesday evening of every month.



Tacuma King leads a session of his world-music workshop for Healdsburg-area children.

Support Jazz Education in the Checkout Line: Safeway Offers eScrip

Here's how you can help expand music education in our local schools. Safeway, along with many other companies, has teamed up with the National Scrip Center to make cash donations to our Jazz Education Program. Safeway will donate 4% of your grocery bill to the Healdsburg Jazz Education Program each and every time you use your Safeway Club Card. If you already participate in eScrip, you can still add our program, and the eScrip Center will equally divide the donations. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed application to register your Safeway Club Card and return it in the envelope provided. To really make this decision even easier, Sonoma Wings Foundation will cover the \$10 registration fee for you!

The eScrip program includes other merchants in Northern California and nationally who will also donate a percentage to this program. If you register your credit card, every time you charge at participating merchants a percentage will automatically be donated to us.

For more information, call Liz Keeley at 707/433-9464.

Volunteers of the Month: *Pat and Frank Carrubba*

When fundraisers were needed for this year's Jazz Festival, Pat and Frank Carrubba volunteered for the job, stepping up from their previous duties on the hospitality and festival production committees.

Frank comes from a background in computer science and electronics. Prior to his retirement in 1997, he worked for IBM, Hewlett-Packard, and Philips Electronics. Working with sound, lighting, and staging was a natural use of his talents in producing last year's festival, and he has done a superb job.

Pat and Frank use a team approach. Pat searches out prospective sponsors, makes the initial contact, and ensures that the presentation package is ready to go. Frank then makes the call, gives the presentation, and explains the many benefits to the prospective sponsor.

"We have embarked on a new approach to our campaign this year," says Frank. "It is far more professional in organization and purposely structured to show the significant return a sponsor gets on its investment.

Further, the importance of our Jazz Education Program in the Healdsburg/Geyserville schools is made clear through the use of a supporting video which shows students, teachers, parents, and invited musicians participating in the year-long program."

Ticket sales alone are not enough to fund the festival and its Jazz Education Program. The bulk of this funding comes through sponsorships, with additional funds coming from individual and business donations, state, federal and foundation grants, ticket sales, e-Scrip memberships, and other donations. "If we make our goal

from sponsorships," says Frank, "then whatever we collect from other areas will be icing on the cake, which will be used to further enhance our Jazz Education Program and to help fund the launch of next year's jazz festival."

It was their love of jazz music that attracted the Carrubbas to work on the festival in the first place. Last year, the success of the Jazz Education Program inspired them to do more.

"Youth education is really important to us, and many of our donations of time and money are aimed at supporting the arts and art education," Frank concludes. "Whether it's a museum, the opera, symphony or whatever, our intent is to promote and sustain the art form, so that future generations of children can participate and enjoy the best our world has to offer. Art is something that cannot be allowed to die a slow death; it must be sustained, enhanced, and above all supported."

To that end, programs such as the festival's in-school Jazz Education Program are paramount in helping sustain a unique indigenous American art form, jazz!



Photograph: Courtesy of the Carrubbas

"Youth education is really important to us, and many of our donations of time and money are aimed at supporting the arts and art education..."

Be a Corporate Sponsor!

Sponsorship benefits are numerous, and produce returns far exceeding a company's investment in the festival. These returns come in the form of television and radio coverage, exposure in local newspapers and nationally distributed magazines like *Down Beat*, and *JazzTimes*, and in all official festival mailings. Also included are year-long Web site listings and a hospitality package that provides Gold Circle seating, free and discounted tickets, and access to jazz artists at special receptions.

If your company would like to be a festival sponsor, call 707/433-4633.

Be a Festival Volunteer!

Want to help? Then become a volunteer. Join a committee such as hospitality, stage production, marketing, event coordination, newsletter, education or fundraising. We also need many other enthusiasts around the time of the festival itself for a variety of tasks. Attend our meetings the third Wednesday evening of each month to hear what the various committees are up to and learn more about how you can participate.

Call 707/433-4633 or email for more information at hbgjazz@aol.com.



www.healdsburgjazzfestival.com

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Nonprofit Organization

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Healdsburg, CA

Permit No. 42

Announcing this year's lineup!
Jazz Education Program 2001
Volunteers of the month

The Third Annual Jazz Festival Needs Your Support

A generous grant from the Healdsburg Arts Council provides a start, but the real angels are the many individuals, families, and businesses who continue to support us through their contributions. If you have not already done so, please consider making a tax-deductible donation by sending it in the enclosed remittance envelope.

Want to receive this newsletter by e-mail?

Just give us your address. Do you know someone else who'd like to receive the electronic version? Let us know, and we'll put them on the list. Our e-mail address is hbgjazz@aol.com.

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Jazz at Felix & Louie's ~ February & March 2001

Wednesdays 6-10 pm
Sunday Brunch 11-3 pm
No cover, all ages welcome

Felix & Louie's

On the Plaza
106 Matheson Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Phone 707/433-6966

Sunday Brunch, February 25
(note special time: 11-2 pm)
BENNETT FRIEDMAN TRIO

Wednesday, February 28
SUGAR SOUL FEATURING ERIC WILEY

Sunday Brunch, March 4
BENNY BARTH TRIO

Wednesday, March 7
YLONDA NICKELL QUARTET

Sunday Brunch, March 11
BJ PAPA BAND

Wednesday, March 14
KAHLIL SHAHEED QUARTET
WITH ED KELLY

Sunday Brunch, March 18
GREG HESTER & FRIENDS

Wednesday, March 21
CANNONBALL SEXTET

Sunday Brunch, March 25
SWING STREET QUINTET WITH
PHILLIP VAN GELDER

Wednesday, March 28
STEVE WOLFE'S JAZZ CRUISERS

Jazz listings are free on a space-available basis. To list a jazz concert in the Healdsburg or Geyserville area send information to: Jazz Listings, c/o Healdsburg Jazz Festival, P.O. Box 266, Healdsburg CA 95448, or email hbgjazz@aol.com