



# BLUE NOTES

## The Scene: Rudy's Jazz Room in Nashville

The jazz club stands apart in a honky-tonk town



Nashville isn't a city that most people would immediately associate with jazz. Until recently, the world's country music capital didn't have a single jazz club. But that changed in May 2017, when Rudy's Jazz Room opened on a quiet block in the Gulch, the trendy Nashville neighborhood that sits between Music Row and the Lower Broadway honky-tonks. Since then, the club has established itself as a destination, showcasing a formidable array of local and regional acts and drawing nationally recognized performers such as Christian McBride, Charlie Hunter, and Jason Marsalis.

<https://jazztimes.com/festivals-events/guides/the-scene-rudys-jazz-room-in-nashville/>

Editor's Note: Having relocated to Knoxville, TN, I found it intriguing that jazz has struck gold in Nashville, home to the Grand 'Ole Opry. – Pat Stucky

Rudy's founders, childhood friends Adam Charney and Michael Braden, both in their late forties, knew they were taking a risk when they left their jobs in the software industry to launch the club, soliciting investments from friends and family while raising money on Kickstarter for a Steinway grand piano. Still, they had an intuition that they were fulfilling a vital need. Nashville has always supported a sturdy, though somewhat invisible, jazz network, according to Charney. "Most of the guys backing the country artists are actually jazz players, and they're just playing country to make the money," he told *JazzTimes*. The problem, simply, was that they didn't have a local club.

Charney, a Nashville native who plays jazz guitar, felt their pain. Wanting to create a loose, casual environment in which Nashville jazzers would feel welcome, he modeled Rudy's after Smalls, the lively basement hangout in Manhattan's West Village where Charney spent a good portion of his post-college days before moving back to his hometown.

The club, which seats 85 people, is still distinctly Nashville-flavored. It's named after Rudy Wooten, a saxophonist who died in 2010 and with whom Charney played regularly. Rudy's brothers are bassist Victor, guitarist Regi, keyboardist Joseph, and drummer Roy (a.k.a. "Future Man"); all are fixtures in Nashville's music scene. Regi, a mentor to Charney, plays every Wednesday at Rudy's. Other local acts have included guitarist Robben Ford, vocalist Laura Mayo, saxophonist and Dave Matthews Band member Jeff Coffin, and drummer and Count Basie Orchestra alum Duffy Jackson.

While Braden is the club's head chef, serving Creole dishes that nod to his New Orleans heritage, Charney does the booking. Though his affinities lie with straight-ahead jazz, he seeks to feature funk, manouche, and salsa as well. On Sunday nights, Rudy's also hosts a jam session, attracting students from local universities as well as the Jazz Workshop, a local nonprofit educational institution.

Nashville's jazz musicians appreciate that they now have a place for working out ideas on stage without leaving the city. "Rudy's plays a pivotal role in enriching the presentation of Nashville's talent in jazz, blues and contemporary music in a way that has been truly inspiring and uplifting," said local tenor saxophonist Rahsaan Barber.

The club has even influenced at least one jazz musician to settle in Nashville. French guitarist and producer Jérôme Degey played at Rudy's not long ago and was so invigorated that he decided to stay put. "I felt instantly that everything was 'right' in the setting, the decoration, the mood," Degey, previously a Palm Beach resident, told *JazzTimes* in an enthusiastic email. "In my experience it's the club, the 'outlet' that actually creates the community. Musicians need a place to meet, exchange, and play."

Before opening the club, Charney thought he was aware of most of the jazz musicians in town. But over the past three years, he's been astounded by the number of performers who have come to play at Rudy's.

"I didn't even know half of them," he said. "It just brought everybody out of the woodwork."

**Executive Committee**

**Carla Page-Hays**

President

407-415-4345

[carlampage@yahoo.com](mailto:carlampage@yahoo.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Greg Parnell**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Chairman: Music and Scholarships

**Michelle Mailhot**

Recording Secretary

**Maureen DeStefano**

Treasurer/Webmaster

**Mary Uithoven**

Membership/Correspondence Secretary

**Marge Ann Coxey**

Emeritus Board Member

**Board**

Doug Glicken

Amy Wacksman

Gene Hays

Joe Young IV

Vadim Klochko

**Advertising Rates**

| Size          | # Issues / Rate |       |       |
|---------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Full Page     | 1               | 2     | 3     |
|               | \$100           | \$200 | \$275 |
| ½-Page        | 1               | 2     | 3     |
|               | \$75            | \$150 | \$200 |
| ¼-Page        | 1               | 2     | 3     |
|               | \$50            | \$100 | \$125 |
| Business Card | 1               | 2     | 3     |
|               | \$25            | \$50  | \$60  |

**BLUE NOTES**

Quarterly publication of CFJS

Pat Stucky, Contributing Editor

321-313-6444 • [pstucky60@gmail.com](mailto:pstucky60@gmail.com)

**Central Florida Jazz Society is a 501(c) (3) non-profit charitable organization.**



# President's Improv



By Carla Hays

My dear friends, in our wildest dreams, I don't think any of us ever imagined this pandemic, COVID-19, this quarantine and the terrible losses that we've suffered both in terms of lives, jobs, the economy and so much more. I have some good news to report, some not so good news due to uncertainty, and some sad news. Here we go.

I am really sorry to tell you that the Kramer2 & Parnell Fundraiser / "Name That Tune" concert which we re-scheduled from April to Sunday, July 12th, is canceled. We plan to present it as one of the first few concerts of our 2020-2021 season. Greg Parnell confirms that everything is so up in the air, we don't know exactly what our schedule will be. Because we still have no idea exactly when things will open up and when the social distancing will ease, we have not been able to put together our 2020 - 2021 season. While the current social distancing is required, the Blue Bamboo is limited to 7 musicians. We will keep you posted on our dates and our concert groups.

On a happier note, we were able to rent the Altamonte Chapel from 9 AM to Noon on Saturday, July 11th to hold our Scholarship Competition. We hope some of you will attend this exciting event. Your presence is an encouragement to the competitors, who will likely jam at the end of the competition. Lots of fun to be had, and who couldn't use some these days?

We had scheduled our annual fundraiser and kick-off party "All That Jazz" for August 23, 2020 but have had to cancel it because of the COVID-19 situation. So disappointing!

And now more sad news. It grieves me to report that our long-time Golden Patron and past board member William "Bill" Boardman passed away on May 7, 2020. Bill was 94 years old. All of you who knew him remember that he was an avid jazz fan. As a member of our board, he had forward thinking ideas and was always anxious to help in any way he could. His wife, Carol, has requested that any donations should be made to the Bill Boardman Jazz Fund for scholarships through [centralfloridajazzsociety.com](http://centralfloridajazzsociety.com).

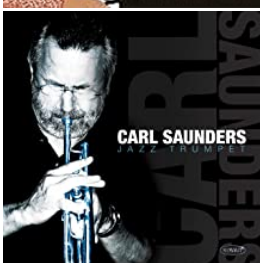
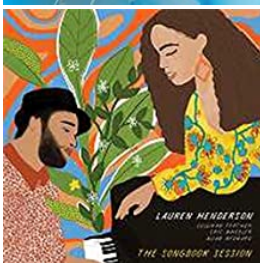
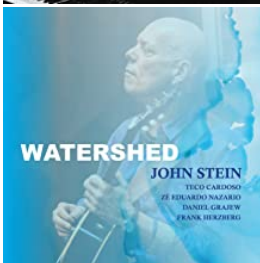
We are anxious to get up and running again and we will as soon as humanly possible. We are dedicated to you and our cause to keep jazz alive and provide scholarships to talented young musicians. But, in the meantime, any and all contributions would be welcome. As you know, we run on a very thin line financially and having to cancel shows and *All That Jazz* has been devastating.

We are looking forward to spending Sunday afternoons with you again. Take care and stay safe.

God bless you and God bless America!

Cheers, Carla

## Top of the Charts!



From left: drummer Brian Blade, bassist Christian McBride, saxophonist Joshua Redman, and pianist Brad Mehldau

The members of the original Joshua Redman Quartet reunite with the **July 10, 2020 release** of *RoundAgain*, the group's first recording since 1994's *MoodSwing*. The album features seven newly composed songs: three from Redman, two from Mehldau, and one each from McBride and Blade. PRE-ORDER at <https://www.nonesuch.com/albums/roundagain>.

In the intervening decades, each has played with one or more of the others on various occasions, but all four had never properly reunited. "I knew it would happen, but I didn't know when," Redman admits. "We were all so busy, and we needed the space, both in our schedules and in our creative development."

"We would have done it ten years ago if it were up to me," Mehldau insists. "Josh, Christian, and Brian are all my heroes. It's like playing with The Avengers."

Blade adds, "This band is like a turntable where the stylus was lifted but the turntable is still spinning. We just had to drop the needle, and there we were with all of the information we had gathered. It has gotten deeper because of life itself, and because Joshua, Brad, and Christian plumb the depths every day."

"These guys have grown exponentially," McBride insists. "They are super-monsters now and playing with them gave me a hard look at myself. And when you're intimate creating art, even if you don't play together for twenty years, you only need two bars to realize what the feeling is about, because the feeling never leaves."

# BLUE BAMBOO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

We are OPEN!

*We can't wait to welcome you back to the Blue Bamboo!*

To ensure the safety of performers, staff, and customers, we will be operating at 25% capacity for the immediate future. Tables have been separated using the State of Florida guidelines for restaurants. Staff will wear masks and areas are marked off for social distancing. Tables are first come, first serve (*sorry, but table reservations will no longer be taken*). We will take staff temperatures upon arrival. Guests are required to wear masks until seated and when purchasing beverages at the concession area. Shows will now consist of one 70-minute set per seating (*no intermission*). There will be multiple seatings for most shows. Going forward, we will only accept online ticket sales (*sorry, we can no longer accept ticket sales at the door*). **Credit cards only will be accepted for beverage purchases (no cash).**

An online version of many shows will continue to be available, including streaming and/or DVD options.

*If you missed a recent event, it may be archived over on our [video page](#) the very next day. Please check it out.*

<https://bluebambooartcenter.com/calendar>

## New Smyrna Beach Jazz Festival 2020

September 24-27, 2020 (Pending)  
Check back for updates...



June 19, 2020

It is with deep regret that I am announcing the 2020 New Smyrna Beach Jazz Festival, "The Intimate Indoor Event," scheduled for September 24 -27, 2020 is cancelled. After much thought and discussion, the decision was made to follow recommendations to avoid large gatherings.

In our 19-year history, the Festival was postponed only one time. That was the year of the hurricanes in 2004.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors, venues, host hotels, volunteers and especially the many jazz fans for supporting the Festival for almost 2 decades.

Please keep checking the web site, [nsbjazzfest.com](http://nsbjazzfest.com) for future updates.

Sincerely,

Marc Monteson  
Producer, New Smyrna Beach Jazz Festival



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Is this membership a Gift?  Yes  No

If yes:  Anonymous

Giver's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H/W/M) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

|                                |              |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Youth Member (25 and under)    |              | \$5                |
| Newsletter Only (Non-Resident) |              | \$20               |
| Individual                     |              | \$30               |
| Couple                         |              | \$55               |
| Golden Patron                  | \$300 Single | \$500 Couple       |
| Corporate                      | \$500        | \$1000 <b>GOLD</b> |
| Publication (Blue Notes)       |              | \$350              |
| Venue                          |              | \$600              |
| Music                          |              | \$500 up           |
| (Event _____)                  |              |                    |



**Welcome New Members!**

(no new members 😞)

## Members Who Renewed

Luis Gandia  
Linda Hennig  
Dell Shadgett  
Micah Silverstein  
Steve and Hitomi Silverstein  
Kay Stevens  
David & Mary Wright

## Golden Patrons

Carol Boardman  
Douglas Glicken  
Ray Greeley  
Gene Hays  
Alice & Richard Joossens  
Lynne & Jerry Rickman  
Don Rogers  
Loyd & Jeanie Warren

## Lifetime Honorary

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mildred Bowman          | Dolores Neville    |
| Marge Ann Coxey         | Roxanne Faye Noles |
| Bess Doggett            | Ginger Robinson    |
| Alyce Francis           | Louis Shader       |
| Barbara & Howard Gold   | Jack Simpson       |
| Michael & Sheila Kramer | Dutch Uithoven     |
| Moe Lowe                | Mary Uithoven      |
| Sonja Marchesano        | Gregory Winters    |

**Keeping Jazz alive!**

### MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE

Many people have told me they no longer wish to receive the printed copy of the Blue Notes – they are enjoying the colorful version online each quarter! If you would like to discontinue the mailed version, call or send me an email and I'll be glad to make that change.

Have you lost your membership card? Is something misspelled or incorrect? Are you not receiving your requested Blue Notes newsletter or monthly phone message from Carla Hays? (Carla sends a message at least once a month before each concert.)

Have a suggestion or question?

**Mary Uithoven can help:**  
**407-719-0521 or CFJSMemberships@gmail.com**



ADDRESSEE



# Adieu, Sweet Lorraine

March 12 1936 - June 10 2020



## Lifetime Honorary member Lorraine Simpson

passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at the age of 84. She was, of course, jazz aficionado Jack Simpson's beloved life partner and leading lady. She was a woman of strong faith, love, and laughter who brought joy and comfort to so many during her wonderful life.

Jack recalls hearing Lorraine sing "Moody's Mood" as a young woman and thinking, "Hey Lorraine Wisnewski, I've gotta marry you!" They married in 1956, and more than 60 years later the spark hadn't diminished.

One of Jack's favorite songs was, he felt, a tribute to his "Sweet Lorraine."

*I've just found joy  
I'm as happy as a baby boy  
With another brand new choo-choo toy  
When I met my sweet Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorraine*

*She's got a pair of eyes  
That are brighter than the summer sky  
When you see them, you'll realize  
Why I love my sweet Lorraine*

*Now when it's rainin', I don't miss the sun  
Because it's in my baby's smile  
And to think that I'm the lucky one  
That will lead her down the aisle*

*Each night I pray  
That no one will steal her heart away  
I can't wait until that lucky day  
When I marry sweet Lorraine*

*Now when it's rainin', I don't miss the sun  
Because it's in my baby's smile  
And to think that I'm the lucky one  
That will lead her down the aisle*

*Each night I pray  
That no one will steal her heart away  
I can't wait until that lucky day  
When I marry sweet Lorraine*