

Arkansas Jazz Calendar

Vol. 8 No. 1 Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation Newsletter March 2000

In this issue: Astral Project and Heath Brothers play in Little Rock, Tommy Flanagan scheduled for Fayetteville

ARKANSAS JAZZ NEWS ...

New Orleans's own Astral Project

Monday March 27, 8PM

An outstanding New Orleans jazz group, known as the **Astral Project**, will be at the afterthought in Little Rock on Monday March 27, 8 PM, tickets \$10.

Astral Project is considered by many to be the best working band in their hometown. They've played together since 1978, and have been around for a number of Jazz and Heritage festivals, playing a brand of jazz that's cohesive and creative. Astral Project was the first group that Bobby McFerrin ever sang with. They're one of New Orleans' favorite bands, and a band that, according to Down Beat magazine is "one of the most distinctive and cohesive quintets in jazz of the 90's."



Astral Project

JazzTimes proclaimed Astral Project as "one of the more adventurous working units in modern jazz today." They describe the players on the CD *VooDooBop* in exemplary terms: "An undulating, syncopated groove by drummer Johnny Vidacovich ... authoritative, thumping upright basslines of James Singleton. ... strategically placed chordal voicings by pianist David

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Heath Brothers at the Arts Center

The legendary Heath Brothers, featuring Sir Roland Hanna will perform a March 30 show at the Arkansas Arts Center.



Heath Brothers

The Heath Brothers, three Philadelphia-born jazz artists with more than 150 years experience between them, will be in concert with Sir Roland Hanna, a pianist and composer with more than 50 albums to his credit, Thursday, March 30, 7 PM at the Arkansas Arts Center, 10th and Commerce Streets, Little Rock. Tickets, \$15 for Arts Center members and \$20 for nonmembers, may be reserved by calling (501) 372-4000.

Brought to the Arts Center by Cypress jazz Associates, the Heath Brothers and Sir Roland Hanna have played individually with such top names in jazz as Charlie Parker, J. J. Johnson, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Thelonius Monk, Dexter Gordon, The Crusaders, Sarah Vaughn, Carmen McRae, Al Hibler, and Benny Goodman.

Percy Heath, 77, bassist; Jimmy Heath, 73, writer, arranger and sax player, and Albert "Tootie" Heath, 65, drummer, pick and choose their venues these days. Although they primarily perform as solo artists, they have joined and recorded such titles as the Heath

(Continued on page 3- Heath Brothers

- **The Jazz Club of Arkansas** regularly meets on the first Sunday of each month at the American Legion Post #1, 315 E. Capitol, Little Rock, from 2 to 5 PM. If you are interested in membership and upcoming activities call Doug Stiles at (501) 663-5414.

- **The Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation** Board of Directors met February 26 at Capitol Keyboard, Little Rock. The main order of business was the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame, membership certification, the Monday Jazz Project, and a new proposal to start a monthly student jam session. Renewal notices were sent out to membership requesting all forms be returned for membership and address verification. Call James Thomson (501) 663-5264 for information. Nominations for this year's Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame are being taken through Mon. Feb 17. Submit nominations to Cece Rich, President AJHF, c/o Capitol Keyboard 13401 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211 or call (501) 228-9999.

- **The Charlie Parker Symposium 2000**, March 23rd through 25th at the American Jazz Museum and Gem Theatre 18th and Vine St, Kansas City, MO. Featured artists include Billy Taylor Trio, Cecil Payne, Jimmy Heath, Roy Haynes, the Kansas City Divas, Straight Ahead, and Dee Dee Bridgewater. Call Rowena Stewart (816) 474-8463.

- **The Arkansas River Blues Society** presents their weekly Blues Jam at Juanita's, 9 p.m., \$3 general admission Every Tuesday evening in Juanita's Cantina Ballroom, 1300 S. Main, Little Rock. Sign-up with Jeff Weeden at the event to participate in the Jam. Call (501) 374-3660 for more information.

- **The North Arkansas Jazz Society** presents jazz events in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Support jazz in Northwest Arkansas by sending a check for \$20 (individual), \$30 (family), \$10 (Student), \$50-\$100 (Sustaining), or \$100 - UP (Corporate) payable to North Arkansas Jazz Society, 40 East Elm, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703, or call President Robert Ginsburg for information at (501) 521-1255

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Torkanowsky,... fleet-fingered unison lines by saxophonist Tony Dagradi and guitarist Steve Masakowski..."

True to the original spirit of jazz, Astral Project creates real tunes — memorable melodies — while giving the musicians freedom to incorporate influences from all sources. Like a flock of birds in flight, the group shifts direction with an ease so uncanny it seems to verge on telepathy. It's an ease that can come only from special individuals who have spent 20 years improvising together. "If I close my eyes," says James Singleton, "I can learn more, I get more. You find it's a transcendent experience. It's a spiritual experience in a way. Because you find you become part of a larger thing. It reinforces your faith - in God and existence, human existence. It heals you."

Astral Project will play at the AfterThought on Monday March 27, 2000, at 8pm. Tickets are \$10, available in advance at the Afterthought (663-1196) or Capitol Keyboard (228-9999).

Other Monday Jazz Project dates include: April 3 - **The House Trio w/ Buck Powell** on piano, April 10 - Dixieland with the **Happytimes JazzBand**, April 17 - Saxophonist **Seab Allen**, April 24 - **Open Jazz Jam Session** (\$3 cover), and May 1 - **May Day Jazz Fest**.

Every month the Monday Jazz Project hosts a Jam Session for local and regional players. We are fortunate to have many players that have progressed through the years on jam nights.

On May 8, two of our loyal jammers, guitarist **Joe Milligan** and flute/saxophonist **Michael Murphy** will present their own sets.

Joe Milligan is currently a student at UALR studying guitar under Mike Carenbauer. He plays with the UALR Jazz combo, studio 101, and the guitar ensemble. Professionally he plays with the Stardust Jazz Orchestra which is based out of Hot Springs and performs regularly at the Arlington Hotel. Joe was born and raised in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Joe Says, "His parents bought my brothers and I each musical instruments one year for Christmas. I'm

(Continued)

the only one still at it. I'm Proud to say my Grandmother was the first person to tune my guitar. Since Then I've picked up a tuner, it's a lot easier to carry around."

Michael Murphy plays flute, saxophone, and keyboards. He graduated and later taught at Henderson State University. Michael says "I grew up with jazz. My father was a band director and saxophonist. We both used to play in the Style Masters." Michael's dad is none other than saxophonist David Murphy.

May 15, **The Tom Cox Trio** returns to the Monday Jazz Project. This group features Tom Cox on piano, Joe Vick on bass, and Brian Brown on drums.

May 22 is the **Italian Jazz Festival** featuring a group from Little Rock's sister city Ragusa, Italy.

May 29 is Memorial Day, and the Afterthought will be closed.

All dates are \$5 cover unless otherwise advertised. The Monday Jazz Project is sponsored by The Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation, the Afterthought, Capitol Keyboard, and the Little Rock Hilton. Performances start at 8 PM every Monday evening at the Afterthought, 2721 Kavanaugh, Little Rock, (501) 663-1196. □

or 442-0990.

- The Pine Bluff Jazz Club meets every 3rd Sunday 2 to 5 p.m. of each month. For location and date for their next meeting call (501) 879-2059 for further information.

- The Star Dust Dance Band with vocalist Shirley Chauvin performs monthly in Hot Springs. Call for Schedule (501) 767-5482.

- The Hot Springs Jazz Society supports jazz programming in the Spa City including the annual Hot Springs Jazz and Blues Festival in Hot Springs, Arkansas. To join send a check for \$25 to The Hot Springs Jazz Society, PO Box 972, Hot Springs, AR 71902-0972. For further information contact Shirley Chauvin at (501) 767-5482.

- On behalf of Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation the Arkansas Jazz Calendar expresses our sadness for the recent lose so many of Arkansas jazz community. We honor the memory of pianists Charles Thomas, Dottie Paul, and Maurice DeClerk, bassist Jim Gann, and trumpeter/band leader Ralph Porter, Sr.

The next calendar deadline is April 17th, 2000. Please reply with jazz happenings to The Arkansas Jazz Calendar, c/o The Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation, PO Box 251187, Little Rock, 72225-1187. FAX your info by dialing (501) 228-8915, when machine answers transmit or call James Thomson at (501) 663-5254, or Cece Rich at 228-9999. You may visit us at our website www.arjazz.org or e-mail to ajc@arjazz.org Write us with events, a letter to the Editor, an ad, and/or just jazz news, today! □

The Jazz Community Loses Two Jazz Legends



Charles Thomas

Charles Thomas, of the Memphis jazz school, passed away on Tuesday 23 November 1999 at 64 years of age. An extraordinary jazz pianist, he had played with greats around the world, and was touted as one of the best pianists in the South. Thomas was born in 1935 in Memphis, TN, where he grew up playing piano and organ in local churches. He was a classmate of Phineas Newborn. As an adult he studied and mastered the playing styles of Budd Powell, Thelonius Monk, and the compositional rhetoric of Duke Ellington. His mastery of the Oscar Peterson style has earned much acclaim. Thomas lived quietly, splitting his time between his job at the Holiday Inn in Little Rock and his hometown of Memphis. He was honored at Memorial Jam Sessions at the Afterthought by local and out-of-town Little Rock musicians.

Ralph Porter died during the week of January 24, 2000. He was 87. He was a well known trumpet player and band leader in the era of Count Basie. He was born in Hot Springs and raised in Detroit, Michigan, where he learned to play trumpet. Porter had his own band in Arkansas in the 1930's, and later in 1935 he joined the Jeter-Piller territory band. He played with them for five years, ending in St. Louis where Porter met Fate Marable and joined his band playing on river boats between St. Louis and Pittsburgh. After this, he returned to Arkansas where he headed his own band and worked in clubs. He returned to Hot Springs and organized a dance band in 1933. A memorial jam session for Ralph Porter was held on Monday January 31.

Both were members of the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame and will be missed by the community. More information on these artists can be found at the AJHF web site, www.arjazz.org

Brothers/Jazz Family (1998) and the Heath Brothers As We were Saying (1997). Both CDs are available on the concord Records label. Sir Roland Hanna is featured on piano on the cut "As We Were Saying".

Hanna ranks among the major artist in jazz today, and is viewed as one of the most versatile pianist of any generation. After Graduating from high school in Michigan and spending time with the U.S. Army Band, he studied music at Eastman School of Music and The Julliard School. He is a prolific writer with more than 400 compositions to his credit and has recorded 50 albums. Most recent releases include Sir Roland Hanna: Duke Ellington Piano Solos (1991), Roland hanna Plays Gershwin (1993) and Sir Roland Hanna, Maybeck Recital hall Series Vol. 32 (1994). He is currently a professor at the Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens college, the City University of New York.

MONDAY JAZZ PROJECT

at

THE AFTERTHOUGHT

Monday Evenings

Cover charge
8 p.m.

2721 Kavanaugh
Little Rock

663-1196



HELP SUPPORT JAZZ IN ARKANSAS!

For only (\$15 individual / \$25 family/ \$5 Student/ \$50 Jazzman / \$100 Corporate / \$500 Corporate) you become a member of the Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation and help support "America's classical music" in Arkansas. Your application fee entitles you to membership privileges for one year. These privileges include regular newsletters (The Arkansas Jazz Calendar) about upcoming jazz performances in and around the state, and the right to help the Foundation decide which musicians and programs it will sponsor. The Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the general public about the historical significance of Arkansas's musical heritage. It sponsors jazz performances by musicians with Arkansas connections and educational clinics for high school and college musicians throughout the state.

Please give us the following information, so we can keep you informed about upcoming jazz performances and educational clinics.

Check the Following: New Membership Renewal

Name _____ Jazz Society Affiliation _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Are you a musician _____ instrument(s) _____

Type of Membership _____. What types of jazz do you most like? _____

What jazz musicians or groups would you most like to see perform in Arkansas? _____

_____ College _____

Please make checks payable to *Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation* and send to: Arkansas Jazz and Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 251187, Little Rock, AR 72225. For further information call (501) 228-9999, 225-2133 or 663-5264.

THE JAZZ RADIO CALENDAR OF ARKANSAS

- **KABF 88.3 FM Community Radio(Little Rock):**
Sunday 9 am- noon *The Quiet Storm* w/Griff
Monday-Friday 9 am-12 noon *The Jazz Venue*
Saturday 7-10 pm. *Cool Jazz*
Call (501) 433-0088.
 - **KUAR 89.1 FM / NPR (Little Rock):**
Sunday 6:30-7 pm. *Jazz Revisted*
7-8 pm. *Swinging down the Lane* w/ David Miller
8-9 pm. *McPartland's Jazz Piano*
9-12 midnight *52nd Street Jazz* w/ John Cain
Monday 8-9 pm. *Jazz Classics*
9-10 pm. *Four Queens Jazz*
Tuesday 8-9 pm. *Jazzset* w/ Branford Marsalis
9-10 pm. *Worldwide Jazz*
Wednesday 8-9 pm. *Jazz Profiles*
9-10 pm. *Jazz from Lincoln Center*
10-11 pm. *Harlem Hit Parade*
Call (501) 569-8485 for select show info.
 - **KUAF 91.3 FM / NPR (Fayetteville):**
Monday-Friday 12:30-1 pm. *Noon jazz show*
9 pm.-midnight *Shades of Jazz*
Tuesday 9 pm.-midnight *Jazz Show*
Wed. 9-10pm. *Four Queens Jazz Night from Las Vegas*
10-11 pm. *Jazz Classics* and
11-midnight *Jazz from Lincoln Center*
Thurs. 9-10 pm. *Marion McPartland's Jazz Piano*
10-11 pm. *JazzSet* w/ Branford Marsalis,
11-midnight *Jazz Profiles*
Call (501) 575-2556 for info.
 - **KTXK 91.5 FM / public radio (Texarkana):**
Sunday 1-2pm *Jazz Profiles* with Nancy Wilson
2-3-pm *Jazz from Lincoln Ctr* with Wynton Marsalis
3-4pm *Jazz Scene*
Monday thru Friday 6:30-7pm *Jazz Tonight*
Monday 7-8pm *Piano Jazz* with Marian McPartland
Call (903) 794-6135 for info.
 - **KASU 91.9 FM (Jonesboro):**
Something Blue show with Hairy Larry.
Mon-Fri 1pm *Afternoon Moods* with Marty Scarbrough and Terri Pratt
Mon 9:30pm *Jazz at the Kennedy Ctr* with Dr. Billy Taylor
Tue 9:30pm *Jazz Profiles* with Nancy Wilson
Wed 9:30pm *Piano Jazz* with Marian McPartland
Thu 9:30pm *When Swing Was King* with Russ Dixon
Fri 9:30pm *Smithsonian Jazz* with Lena Horne
Sat 7pm *When Swing Was King* with Russ Dixon
8pm *Jazz from Paradise* with Marty Scarbrough
Call (870) 972-3070 for more info.
 - **KIPR 92.3 FM (Little Rock):**
Sunday 10 am-2 pm. jazz format.
Call (501) 663-0092.
 - **KYFX 99.5 FM (Little Rock):**
Sunday 5 am-2 pm. jazz format.
Call (501) 666-9499.
 - **KFFB 106.1 FM (Fairfield Bay):**
Wednesday & Friday 10-11pm.
Saturday 7pm.-midnight
- Send revisions or new entries to:
- The Jazz Radio Calendar of Arkansas,
c/o the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 251187
Little Rock, AR 72225-1187
- Email: ajc@arjazz.org, or
Phone: (501) 663-5264

Schedule for Spring 2000

Monday Jazz at *The AfterThought*

2721 Kavanaugh, Little Rock, AR (501) 663-1196

Every Monday night at 8PM!

• MARCH

- March 6 - Vocalist Roseanna Vitro w/ Adrian D'Souza, 8 PM, \$10.
- March 13 - The Dave Rogers Quartet. \$5
- March 20 - Jam Session. Jazz players are invited to come in and sign up to play several tunes. \$3
- March 27 - The Astral Project. Tickets \$10.

• APRIL

- April 3 - House Trio with Buck Powell on piano. \$5
- April 10 - The Happytymes Jazz Band. \$5
- April 17 - Saxophonist Seab Allen w/ House Band. \$5
- April 24 - Jam Session. \$3

• MAY

- May 1 - May Day Jazz.
- May 8 - Jammers' Showcase w/ Joe Milligan on guitar and Michael Murphy on saxophone/flute. \$5
- May 15 - The Tom Cox Trio, \$5.
- May 22 - Italian Jazz Festival. Features a jazz band from Little Rock's sister city Ragusa, Italy. \$5
- May 29 - Closed for Memorial Day.

The Monday Jazz Project is a presentation of the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation (www.arjazz.org), the AfterThought, and the Hilton Inn. General Admission Seating on a first come, first serve basis. Tables may be seated as space warrants. Jam session players please register at the door.

Send **Arkansas Jazz Calendar** entries to
c/o AR Jazz Calendar P.O. Box 251187
Little Rock, Arkansas 72225

www.arjazz.org

ajc@arjazz.org

Tommy Flanagan to play in Fayetteville

Tommy Flanagan has been hailed as the greatest bebop pianist of our time. Evidence of his stature can be readily found in his recordings with Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis, Tony Bennett, and Sonny Rollins to name a few.

Flanagan's legendary status is well deserved. His longtime cohorts, bassist Peter Washington and drummer Lewis Nash, professors of telepathy as well as music, bring along their talents in blending as one with Mr. Flanagan. This is a jazz of the highest order, and a truly rare opportunity to hear one of the true geniuses of the form.

Tommy Flanagan and his trio will perform at the Walton Arts Center's Baum Walker Hall on Thursday, April 6, 2000 at 7:30 PM.

Ticket are available for \$14 by calling (501) 443-5600 during business hours.

Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation Board of Directors

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ARKANSAS JAZZ HERITAGE FOUNDATION

<http://www.arjazz.org>

email: info@arjazz.org

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P. O. Box 251187

Little Rock, AR 72225-1187