

# JAZZ & BLUES

SEPTEMBER 2011

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

## RETURN TO FOREVER



JB SCOTT'S SWINGIN' ALLSTARS



ZACH BARTHOLOMEW TRIO

PLUS...

SOUTH FLORIDA BOOGIE  
WOOGIE PIANO FEST

SOUTH FLORIDA  
JAZZ ORCHESTRA

MIAMI JAZZ ORCHESTRA

HARMONICA BLOW-OFF



MELTON MUSTAFA



NICOLE YARLING



MATT WALSH



DADDY MACK

# WINNING SPINS

by Bill Meredith

## RETURN TO FOREVER'S OFF-AND-ON

30-year trek makes more sense when considering its shape-shifting leader. Keyboardist Chick Corea, who turned 70 in June, initially released the tuneful, Latin-tinged albums *Return to Forever* and *Light as a Feather* under his own name in 1972. Recording under the Return to Forever moniker, Corea and bassist Stanley Clarke turned to more aggressive rock-and-funk-oriented fusion with drummer Lenny White and guitarist Bill Connors on 1973's *Hymn of the Seventh Galaxy*.

Connors' replacement, Al Di Meola, helped RTF realize its commercial apex. But the band

Clarke's somber "La Canción de Sofia," revisited here, initially appeared on his 1995 CD *Rite of Strings* with Ponty and Di Meola. The bassist's bowing on this track argues that his upright playing might just eclipse his vaunted electric work. Corea's "No Mystery," the title track from RTF's 1975 album, is transformed by White's intricate, swinging ride cymbal patterns. And "Señor Mouse," from Corea's 1972 *Crystal Silence* duo album with vibraphonist Gary Burton, ignites into a rousing gospel rave-up.

Disc two veers into electric terrain with guest stars in the studio. Corea wastes no time



called it quits after several incarnations — and several Grammy Awards — following 1977's *Musicmagic*. A 2008 reunion CD (*Returns*) and tour led to the new *Forever* double-CD by Corea, Clarke & White — and a fourth RTF incarnation, now touring with violinist Jean-Luc Ponty and guitarist Frank Gambale.

Disc one of *Forever* is a live acoustic set recorded during the trio's unplugged 2009 tour. Corea displays his influences throughout. Opening with the standard "On Green Dolphin Street," the pianist echoes Bud Powell, Bill Evans and Thelonious Monk. He further pays tribute to an idiosyncratic touchstone with the playful original "Bud Powell." Corea directly salutes Evans with an elegant read of "Waltz for Debby," and Monk with the frenetic "Hackensack," both of which feature their composers' trademark lyricism and unorthodoxy.

signaling the transition with his electric-piano intro to "Captain Marvel." Brief yet inspired, it leads to another lengthy reading of "Señor Mouse," this one featuring Connors with Clarke now on electric bass. The guitarist feeds off White's and Clarke's energy and trades beautifully with Corea, revealing this lineup's special bond. Before the live, acoustic trio closer — RTF songbook staple "500 Miles High" — veteran R&B vocalist Chaka Khan showcases her jazz phrasing on Corea's "High Wire - The Aerialist." Ponty guests on several cuts, the best of which are from *Hymn of the Seventh Galaxy* and also feature Connors. Clarke's "After the Cosmic Rain" spotlights solos by both the violinist and the guitarist that sing and sting. Meanwhile, Corea's "Space Circus" provides a funky vehicle for the keyboardist's uncanny improvisations, Clarke's thumping electric bass and White's

# WINNING SPINS

knack for unifying the proceedings through his own use of space.

Displaying the chemistry of the band's three long-standing icons, Forever provides a preview of the current RTF tour. Gambale's playing will recall the group's mid-'70s salad days with Di Meola, and Ponty's best work has always occurred when he was pushed by superior talent. Opening act Zappa Plays Zappa — led by guitarist Dweezil Zappa to honor his late father, Frank Zappa — is an exacting, road-tested unit that's likely to challenge and inspire the headliners.



Return to Forever perform at the House of Blues in Orlando on Sept. 9, with opening act Zappa Plays Zappa. Call 407-934-2583 or visit [Hob.com](http://Hob.com). The tour will also stop at Mizner Park Amphitheater in Boca Raton on Sept. 10 ([Ci.boca-raton.fl.us/mizneramphi](http://Ci.boca-raton.fl.us/mizneramphi)), and at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater on Sept. 11 ([Rutheckerdhall.com](http://Rutheckerdhall.com)).



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**MATT WALSH  
BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/SEPT. 2  
BEACH SHACK, COCOA BEACH/SEPT. 3**

Matt Walsh is among a crop of young blues hellions who could provide the soundtrack for a bar brawl. The 34-year-old North Carolina native's 2007 recording, *Hard Luck*, reveals roots in Delta and Chicago blues, as well as jukebox-jumpin' rockabilly. Walsh's nasty, knife-edged guitar work and deep-chested vocals have earned him rave reviews and opening spots for blues greats such as Buddy Guy and Taj Mahal. His talents also caught the attention of another North Carolina resident, Bob Margolin, who has played with, championed and undoubtedly influenced the younger artist. Margolin also introduced Walsh to his



current bandmates, bassist Matt Hill and drummer Chuck Cotton. As a teenager, Walsh listened to classic blues records he borrowed from the library. It's easy to hear how much he absorbed from LPs by Johnny Shines, Jimmy Reed and T-Bone Walker, among others, on his way to forming his own bare-knuckle sound. **BW**

**HARMONICA BLOWOFF  
CHEERS, FORT LAUDERDALE/SEPT. 4**

The South Florida Blues Society showcases some of the region's top harpists with their annual Harmonica Blow Off. For its ninth edition, the event will feature stalwarts such as Jack Bluni, Billy Burns, Cadillac Chuck, Clay Goldstein and Nick Trill in a battle for harp supremacy. Having established themselves for decades as sidemen and band leaders, these cats are first-rate musicians and entertainers. They'll be facing off against some strong young talents in the form of Josh "The Pitbull of the Blues" Rowand and Guillermo "Willy" Lojo, an Argentine-born blues fanatic with formidable skills. For inspiration, the combatants need look no further than special guest Madison Slim,



who will also perform. Slim boasts a résumé that includes Reverend Raven, the Legendary Blues Band, the Sam Lay Band and Jimmy Rogers. All comers will be backed by Willy Lojo's band, LowDown 13, featuring guitarist Mario LaCasse. Doors open at 2PM, and the action starts at 3PM. For the full lineup, visit [Soflblues.org](http://Soflblues.org). **BW**

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*Harry Allen Quartet and Bucky Pizzarelli, Guitar*



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# S P O T L I G H T

**DADDY MACK BLUES BAND  
EARL'S HIDEAWAY, SEBASTIAN/SEPT. 4  
CHEF JOHN'S, JUPITER/SEPT. 10**

With a voice that recalls Albert King and Big Jack Johnson, and a chugging, stinging guitar sound, Daddy Mack Orr is a longtime Memphis blues fave. For more than a dozen years, he and his band have been the houseband at the Center for Southern Folklore on Beale Street. Despite gigs all over the U.S. and Europe — and admirers such as Keith Richards and Ron Wood — Orr still holds onto his day job running Mack's Auto Repair. So, album titles such as *Fix it When I Can* and *Slow Ride* stem from actual experience. The latter recording featured the group, with harmonica wizard Billy Gibson, putting a Memphis soul-blues spin on classic rock tunes. The band is also in excellent form on last year's *Blues-finger*, a set of hard-driving blues and soul. Their rendition of The Bar-Kays' instrumental classic "Soul Finger," the album's title track, adds some roadhouse flavor to the horn-fueled fingerpopper. Daddy Mack and the gang head to Sebastian this month to help Earl's celebrate their 12th anniversary. **BW**



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**SOUTH FLORIDA BOOGIE WOOGIE PIANO FEST  
SATCHMO/FRITZ & FRANZ BIERHAUS/  
FORT LAUDERDALE/SEPT. 9-11**

Last year, Piano Bob Wilder convened a summit of jukehouse giants for his inaugural Boogie Woogie Piano Fest. This year, he'll reprise the event with a sprawling lineup of piano whompers. Florida is well-represented, from Key West's Barry Cuda to Jacksonville's Jim McKaba, and points in between (including Cocoa's Rev. Billy C. Wirtz). Now residing in Memphis, Victor Wainwright, a.k.a. "The Piana From Savannah," will be radiating the 88s, as will Charleston, South Carolina's Shrimp City Slim. New England-based piano king David Maxwell will display his Otis Spann-inspired style. And it wouldn't be a true piano party without a couple of cats from New Orleans, so Piano Bob recruited C.R. Gruver and "English Bob" Andrews. The host will prove he can barrelhouse with the best of 'em during nightljam. The event will be held at the new Fort Lauderdale outpost of Satchmo/Fritz & Franz Bierhaus. Check our listings for a full lineup and performance times. **BW**



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**JB SCOTT'S SWINGIN' ALLSTARS  
EUROPEAN STREET CAFE, JACKSONVILLE,  
SEPT 12**

The busy musicians in JB Scott's Swingin' Allstars thought they could take some time off this summer, but the folks who frequent their monthly Mardi Gras Mondays at European Street Cafe demanded that the party continue through the steamy months. And after hearing the band's spirited reads of Dixieland classics on 2007's *Just Swingin'*, it's easy to see why. When they dig in on tunes such as Jelly Roll Morton's "Milenburg Joys," Fats Waller's "Your Feet's Too Big" or the traditional "Just a Closer Walk With Thee," listeners are instantly transported to a New Orleans street parade or corner bar in the French Quarter.



Fronted by University of North Florida faculty member Scott on trumpet, and vocalist/educator Lisa Kelly, the band features Ken Calhoun on banjo and guitar; Jim Snyder on clarinet; Dave Steinmeyer on trombone; Rick Ravelo on bass and Eric Mason on drums. The Kelly/Scott Quintet will also perform at the Savannah Jazz Fest on Sept. 24. **BW**

**MIAMI JAZZ QUARTET  
RIVERWALK SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH,  
FORT LAUDERDALE/SEPT. 4**

While the name may sound generic, the quality of the Miami Jazz Quartet is strictly top shelf. MJQ bassist Don Coffman recently performed with guitarist Bobby Lee Rodgers' trio in a six-month concert series saluting jazz greats from Ellington to Coltrane. As associate chairman of the jazz department and professor of jazz bass studies at the University of Miami, he's also taught bassists from Ben Brown (Dizzy Gillespie) to Mark Egan (Pat Metheny). Cuban-born tenor saxophonist Carlos Averhoff, also a prominent Miami-based educator, brings the influence of his native country to the proceedings. Boca-based drummer Reuben Hoch



has explored Jewish liturgical music in modern-jazz settings, and his bands have crafted some excellent traditional jazz recordings. One of Hoch's frequent collaborators, Hollywood guitarist Tom Lippincott, plays an eight-stringed instrument that pushes the limits of jazz guitar. The four are likely to play jazz standards that will be anything but standard fare. **BM**

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# S P O T L I G H T

**NICOLE YARLING**  
**THE ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/SEPT. 10**

Whatever Nicole Yarling does, she does well. And when it comes to music, she does practically everything. The singing violinist displays a soaring, Ella Fitzgerald-influenced voice and a playful, Stuff Smith-inspired instrumental tone that have been featured on stages and recordings with Dizzy Gillespie, Ira Sullivan, Randy Bernsen and Jimmy Buffett, not to mention her own stellar collection of standards and original arrangements: *Joe Williams Presents Nicole Yarling Live at the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild*. Having planned to take Yarling on tour to promote her and the CD, former Count Basie vocalist Williams died shortly after the recording. As an author, Yarling returns the



favor with her book *Here's to Life*, which chronicles Williams' influence and is being considered by several publishers. When she's not performing, with her own group or friends like Iko-Iko, she's an instructor at the University of Miami and Florida Memorial University. Expect an infectious performance by this true South Florida jazz treasure. **BM**

**MELTON MUSTAFA**  
**OLD DILLARD MUSEUM, FORT LAUDERDALE/ SEPT. 15**

Trumpeter Melton Mustafa's hard-bop style bears the imprint of touchstones such as Dizzy Gillespie, Freddie Hubbard, Clark Terry and Nat Adderley. The latter is most appropriate this month, as Mustafa presents another "Cannonball Jazz Series Concert." The show salutes Adderley's brother, saxophonist Cannonball Adderley, who briefly taught at Fort Lauderdale's Dillard High. Miami native Mustafa grew up idolizing the Adderley brothers. His older brother, also saxophonist Jesse Jones Jr., convinced him to play trumpet so they could emulate the Adderleys. Since then, Mustafa has played with the big bands of Jaco



Pastorius, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Woody Herman; put out three CDs with his own big band; and performed at jazz festivals around the world. He also hosts the annual Melton Mustafa Jazz Festival at Miami's Florida Memorial University, where he's director of jazz studies. His salutes to Cannonball usually include brother Jesse in the title role. **BM**

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	<b>November 12, 2011</b> <b>TROY ANDERSON and The WONDERFUL WORLD BAND</b>	
	<b>November 26, 2011</b> <b>FEDERICO BRITOS</b>	
	<b>December 10, 2011</b> <b>PAULETTE DOZIER</b>	
	<b>December 24, 2011</b> <b>OTHELLO MOLINEAUX</b>	
	<b>January 14, 2012</b> <b>ED CALLE</b>	
	<b>January 28, 2012</b> <b>WENDY PEDERSEN</b>	

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## SOUTH FLORIDA JAZZ ORCHESTRA GUSMAN HALL, UM/SEPT. 19

Composed of 17 of the best musicians and educators in the Sunshine State, the South Florida Jazz Orchestra boasts a sound that's at once cerebral and muscular. Bassist Chuck Bergeron anchors the ensemble. An instructor at the University of Miami, he's honed his skills on bandstands with Buddy Rich, Stan Getz and Woody Herman. Bergeron locks in with drummer John Yarling, a fellow UM instructor and one of South Florida's most versatile musicians. Pianists Brian Murphy and Doug Bickel provide harmony for the group's 13 horn players. Those include noted saxophonists Gary Keller, Gary Lindsay and Mike Brignola, plus a trumpet section led by Angie Haas




and a trombone section headed by John Kricker. The orchestra's self-titled 2008 debut CD features original material by Bergeron and Lindsay; performances by guest horn players Arturo Sandoval and Ed Calle; and cameos by vocalists Kevin Mahogany, Dana Paul and Nicole Yarling on standards arranged by Bergeron, Lindsay and trumpeter Alex Norris. **BM**

## ZACH BARTHOLOMEW TRIO MOCKINGBIRD CAFE, TALLAHASSEE/SEPT. 20

Based in Tallahassee, the Zach Bartholomew Trio is giving the piano-trio format a fresh coat of paint. Their youthful approach is attracting attention in the college town, home to both Florida State and Florida A&M universities. Also featuring bassist Brandon Robertson and drummer Miles Bozeman, the two-year-old group has become a favorite in Florida's capital, and a frequent topic of the FSU newspaper FSView. The reasons center on Bartholomew's ability to fuse influences from stride-piano giant James P. Johnson to 20th-century piano trio leaders Bill Evans and Oscar Peterson. YouTube clips also show nuances of modern pianistic bandleaders like Brad Mehldau and






Marcus Roberts. And Bartholomew's band mates are hardly wall-flowers. Bozeman's playing is textural and supportive, and Robertson even injects hip-hop elements to attract new jazz ears. Moreover, the trio rehearses every tune. This enables them to play selections without sheet music, thus emphasizing improvisation and spontaneity. **BM**



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[bradfordvilleblues.com](http://bradfordvilleblues.com)

## Jazzonian Young Jazz Leaders Scholarship Fundraiser

Saturday, Sept. 24, 12:30-3:00pm  
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Proceeds benefit Young Jazz Leaders Scholarship Fund and Jazzonian educational cultural arts community outreach initiatives.



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[www.jazzonian.org](http://www.jazzonian.org)  
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Jazz Museum of Florida, Inc. (dba Jazzonian and South Florida Jazz Summit) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity organization.





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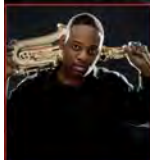


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