



JAZZ & BLUES
FLORIDA
FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

DECEMBER 2012

FEATURED ARTIST

REUBEN HOCH & THE CHASSIDIC JAZZ PROJECT



**COREY CHRISTIANSEN • RUTHIE FOSTER • BELMONT & JONES
HOT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO • CHERYL BENTYNE • IKE & VAL WOODS
ERIC VLOEIMANS & FLORIAN WEBER • STONEY & THE HOUSE ROCKERS
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LEONARD EDWARD "LENNIE" KESL 6/12/26 - 11/21/12

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REUBEN HOCH

by Bill Meredith



DRUMMER REUBEN HOCH, LEADER OF the Chassidic Jazz Project, sounds genuinely surprised when he's reminded that the coming year marks his group's 15th anniversary. "Did we really start in 1998?" he asks. "Wow. I'd actually forgotten that the band formed the year after I'd moved down here."

Obviously, time flies when you're playing. And practicing, a term with double meaning considering that the Brooklyn-born, Boca Raton-based drummer also runs a private anesthesiology and chronic pain-management practice in Delray Beach. Yet Hoch, who was raised an Orthodox Jew and attended medical school in Tel Aviv from 1984 to 1988, still finds time for occasional recording sessions and frequent performances. The Chassidic Jazz Project's forthcoming appearance at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach, in fact, occurs on the first night of Hanukkah.

"I'm fortunate, because I can carve out plenty of time for playing," Hoch says. "I was in Israel over the summer, playing the Red Sea Jazz Festival with my old group Zaviot in a 20-plus-year reunion show. And the forthcoming show at the Arts Garage falling on the first night of Hanukkah seems very appropriate."

Zaviot's new release, *20 years on...*, chronicles both the quartet's 2012 reunion and Hoch's most recent recorded work. And though his schooling was more medical than musical, the drummer has worked with an impressive list of jazz stars,

including saxophonists Dave Liebman, Greg Osby and Jim Pepper; guitarist Leni Stern; pianists Joey Calderazzo and Don Friedman; and bassists Jeff Andrews and Lonnie Plaxico.

"I never officially went to music school," Hoch says, "but I studied with a lot of different people while I lived in New York. My teachers included Norman Grossman, who headed the percussion department at the Mannes College of Music, and Steve Reich, the great percussionist and neo-contemporary composer."

The Chassidic Jazz Project, which combines traditional Jewish liturgical melodies with contemporary jazz arrangements, released the 2001 CD *Live at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts*. The lineup included fellow founding member Tom Lippincott on guitar, veteran pianist Friedman, saxophonist Felipe Lamoglia, and a former member of Weather Report in percussionist Bobby Thomas Jr. The decidedly spiritual nature and origin of the music, while often celebratory, separates it from the more secular klezmer canon.

The CJP's lineup for their upcoming concert includes Hoch, Lippincott, Lamoglia, cellist Aaron Ludwig, violist Carl Larson and bassist Josh Allen. "Felipe is a great Cuban tenor player who's played with Gonzalo Rubalcaba and Arturo Sandoval," Hoch says. "Aaron plays with the New World Symphony, led by Michael Tilson Thomas. Carl works with the Cleveland Symphony and spends part of the year in Miami, and Josh is a wonderful young player who's a fresh product of the University of Miami."

Hoch's recent additional playing has included work with Georgia-born guitarist Bobby Lee Rodgers, the chameleonic player who alternates between quirky original pop material and traditional tribute shows to jazz greats at the Green Room in Fort Lauderdale. "I've done some of Bobby's jazz trio gigs," Hoch says, "and I've also played some of his originals. He's incredible, but then again, he got a classical degree from the University of Georgia; went

CHASSIDIC JAZZ PROJECT

to the Berklee College of Music to study jazz, and ended up teaching there. He's heavy brass."

Yet most of Hoch's current projects — the Miami Jazz Quartet, the Adrenaline Jazz trio with Hammond organist Ken Burkhart, and the Chassidic Jazz Project — involve Lippincott, who's a fingerpicking wizard on his customized eight-string guitar. "Tom has been with the Chassidic Jazz Project from day one," Hoch says. "I met him the year after I arrived here, and I don't think he's missed one gig since, so he's invaluable. We'll play our interpretations of the Jewish repertoire, including some Hanukkah carols we'll give a jazz twist to."



Reuben Hoch and the Chassidic Jazz Project perform at 8:00 PM Dec. 8 at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach. Call 561-450-6357 or visit Artsgarage.org. Hoch also will be on WLRN (91.3-FM) at 10:30 PM Dec. 3.

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RUTHIE FOSTER
BRADENTON BLUES FEST, DOWNTOWN
RIVERWALK/DEC. 1

Ruthie Foster has rocketed to blues stardom in recent years. For three years running, the rich-voiced Texas-born singer and guitarist has taken the Koko Taylor Blues Music Award for Traditional Blues Female. And her 2011 release *Live at Antone's* earned her a BMA for DVD of the Year. Nominated for a Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year Grammy in 2010, she continues to live up to the hype. For her latest recording, *Let it Burn*, Foster recruited a band of New Orleans aces: Hammond player Ike Stubblefield, saxophonist James Rivers, bassist George Porter Jr. and drummer Russell Batiste Jr. The session, which also includes guest stars such as the Blind Boys of Alabama and William Bell, finds Foster interpreting songs by the diverse likes of Adele, The Black Keys, Los Lobos, Johnny Cash and Crosby, Stills & Nash. Culling from blues, gospel and soul traditions, Foster invests everything she sings with deep feeling and groove. **BW**



BELMONT & JONES
DIVE PUB & GRUB, HIGH SPRINGS/DEC. 7
JR'S OLD PACKINGHOUSE CAFE, SARASOTA/DEC. 11
A&M THEATRE, PANAMA CITY/DEC. 14
MONTICELLO OPERA HOUSE, MONTICELLO/
DEC. 15 (w/Paul Geremia)

CAFE BOHEMIA, ST. PETE/DEC. 21
GULFPORT ON THE ROCKS, GULFPORT/DEC. 22
 Belmont & Jones is the stage moniker for the superb, Tallahassee-based country-blues duo of Charlie Engstrom and Carrie Hambry. With Engstrom deftly picking National Steel, and Hambry providing standard-acoustic accompaniment, the pair conjure early blues greats such as Memphis Minnie, Ma Rainey, Charley Patton and Blind Willie Johnson. Both partners are strong, natural singers. Their repertoire ranges from familiar staples such as Tommy Johnson's "Canned Heat Blues" and Fred MacDowell's "Shake 'Em on Down," to obscure gems such as Geeshie Wiley's "Skinny Legs Blues" and Frank Stokes' "Bedtime Blues." And their originals sound authentic enough to have emanated from the grooves of an old 78. **BW**



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STONEY & THE HOUSE ROCKERS
MALABAR MOE'S, MALABAR/DEC. 9
EARL'S HIDEAWAY/DEC. 21

Stoney & the House Rockers recall the raucous, juke-shakin' likes of the J. Geills Band and The Nighthawks. The Central Florida-based foursome definitely raise a ruckus on their latest recording, *Showtime!* Frontman Stoney blows his face out on diatonic and chromatic harps, even tackling the Magic Dick showpiece "Whammer Jammer." Guitarist Rick Fincke, who alternates lead vocals with Stoney, provides heat and texture with his stinging licks, and the band delves into a variety of settings, from charging Chicago blues to slinky late-night blues to swamp-pop. The rhythm section of bassist JT Burley and drummer Mike



Sinatra DiPaolo are at once responsive and propulsive, fluently providing whatever's required. And the band remains a Florida fave; Stoney took home the Showmanship Award at this year's Florida Harmonica Championships, and he and the guys will return to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January. BW

IKE & VAL WOODS
CREST THEATER, OLD SCHOOL SQUARE,
DELRAY/DEC. 14

There's no shortage of gifted guitar-slingers on the South Florida blues scene. Ranking high among their number is Ike Woods. Whether he's delivering a deep slowburn on Hendrix's "Red House" or ripping into John Lee Hooker's "Boom, Boom, Boom," Woods injects great emotion into his solos. With a vast vocabulary at his fingertips, Woods commands B.B. King-to-Hubert Sumlin-styled blues licks, Stax and Motown riffs, Island grooves and George Benson-styled jazz. And, man, can this cat sing, his smoky tenor vocals perfectly suited to blues and soul. Of course, Woods also accompanies his wife, the sultry, self-determined vocalist Val Woods.



Ike & Val's original contemporary-blues tunes are showcased on their very fine 2008 CD, *Miami Blues*. They've opened for the likes of Buddy Guy and Ramsey Lewis, and gigged all over the world. But SoFla is home, and they'll be found wherever blues folks come to party, including Miami's Tobacco Road, where they recorded a superb live CD in 2009. BW

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TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT

ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN, ENGLEWOOD/DEC. 20
The Schnebelen siblings were literally born into the blues. Their folks are Kansas City (Mo.) blues musicians who imparted their love of the music to guitarist/vocalist Nick, bassist/vocalist Danielle and drummer Kris, a.k.a. Trampled Under Foot. Together now for more than a decade, TUF took the top band title at the International Blues Competition in 2008, where Nick also copped the Albert King Award for best guitarist. And the accolades didn't end there. TUF were nominated again for Band of the Year at the 2012 Blues Music Awards, and they won that same honor for the 2012 Blues Blast Music Awards. Their most recent recording, 2011's *Wrong Side of the Blues*, provides ample reasons why TUF has built



such a devoted fanbase. Powerful vocals, strong grooves and expert musicianship are displayed on a dozen uncompromising blues-rock originals that are at once deeply rooted yet forward-looking. Now TUF are appealing to fans through Kickstarter to finance their next record. If judged by past efforts, it should be worth the investment. **BW**

COREY CHRISTIANSEN

MAINSTAGE THEATER, HCC YBOR CITY CAMPUS/DEC. 2
Guitarist Corey Christiansen's clean tones and soulful sense of swing are products of an East Coast/West Coast musical education, something he's since paid forward as a teacher and clinician as well as performer. The Utah native earned his bachelor's degree from Utah State University, then traveled to Tampa to earn his master's from the University of South Florida in 1999. From 2000 to 2007, Christiansen's title of senior editor and guitar clinician for Mel Bay Publications allowed him to straddle teaching and touring. The guitarist made his recording debut with *Awakenings* on Mel Bay Records, and has since moved back to Utah to teach at his alma mater (along with Indiana



University, the Atlanta Institute of Music, and Broadway Music School in Denver). Christiansen will play selections from his latest CD, 2010's soul-jazz outing *Outlaw Tractor*, plus material from a forthcoming 2013 release, recorded with bassist Jeremy Allen, pianists Steve Allee and Zach Lapidus, and drummer/frequent collaborator Matt Jorgensen. **BM**

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HOT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO LARGO CULTURAL CENTER/DEC. 9

Hot Club of San Francisco founding guitarist Paul Mehling named his group in honor of the legendary Hot Club of France band, led by guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli in the '40s. But the bandleader didn't decide upon Gypsy jazz without exploring other options. Growing up, Mehling took up guitar because of The Beatles, but decided he didn't want to play rock. Or classical, after taking lessons. Or bluegrass, after being inspired by David Grisman to learn violin and mandolin. Mehling's circuitous route also included playing Dixieland; viola with the Santa Cruz Symphony; violin on the streets of Paris; and guitar for five years with Dan Hicks' post-Hot Licks band



the Acoustic Warriors. Since 1993, the Hot Club has released a dozen albums, including 2012's *Live at Yoshi's* in the band's hometown. Also featuring violinist/mandolinist Evan Price, string-bassist/horn player Clint Baker, guitarist/vocalist, Isabelle Fontaine and guitarist Jeff Magidson, the group evokes its namesake via standards and Mehling originals. **BM**

ERIC VLOEIMANS AND FLORIAN WEBER CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH/DEC. 11

The term "chamber jazz" seems paradoxical, since it indicates a blending of strictly notated classical music with improvisation. But in the hands of Dutch trumpeter Eric Vloeimans and German pianist Florian Weber, the hybrid finds firm footing. As evidenced by the duo's 2011 document from Amsterdam, *Live at the Concertgebouw*, the dialog between the European masters ranges from delicate to fiery. Vloeimans studied classical trumpet at the Rotterdam Academy of Music, then relocated to New York to study jazz with trumpeter Donald Byrd and to play in the big bands of Frank Foster and Mercer Ellington. Weber took a different route, eschewing a 1999 scholarship to the Berklee College of



Music to study math, physics and biology. Yet Weber's studies with modern-jazz-piano giants Joanne Brackeen and Paul Bley led to gigs with Pat Metheny and Lee Konitz, even as he continued to work in the classical realm. In this Tigertail Productions presentation, Vloeimans and Weber will continue their honest, emotive musical conversation. **BM**

Katt Hefner

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- 24 Solo w/Matt Bolullo on keys
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- 6, 13, 27 Katt Hefner Group
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CHERYL BENTYNE

LET'S MISBEHAVE: THE MUSIC OF COLE PORTER BROWARD CENTER, FORT LAUDERDALE/DEC. 12

Vocalist Cheryl Bentyne is best-known for being a member of the multi-Grammy-winning vocal quartet the Manhattan Transfer since 1979. But she's also released a dozen CDs under her own name since starting her solo career with the 1992 debut *Something Cool*. The Transfer's success delayed Bentyne's solo followup until 2000, but *Dreaming of Mister Porter* foreshadowed the soprano singer's output since. Sure, she's sprinkled in tributes to Bill Evans and George and Ira Gershwin, but that original cast album to her well-received musical revue of the music of Cole Porter has since led to *The Cole Porter Songbook* in 2009, and her

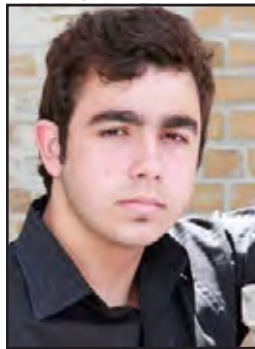


latest, the 2012 release *Let's Misbehave: The Cole Porter Songbook*. In this Gold Coast Jazz Society presentation, Bentyne will showcase the wit, wisdom and sophistication of Porter classics such as "Love for Sale," "Night and Day" and "Just One of Those Things." And she'll do so in the company of pianist Shelly Berg and his trio. **BM**

ANTONIO MADRUGA TRIO

ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/DEC. 22

Pianist Antonio Madruga was likely influenced to become a musician before he was even born. His parents, trumpet-playing father Omar and mother Cora, placed headphones on her abdomen during her pregnancy to offer prenatal exposure to jazz, blues and classical music. Mission accomplished. The Pembroke Pines-born 18-year-old started piano lessons at age five; attended UM's "Keyboards for Kids" program a year later, and was profiled in *Jazziz* magazine at age 11. He's also studied with Bill Charlap; appeared onstage with Danilo Perez and Esperanza Spalding — as well as at the Miami International Piano Festival in Italy and Dizzy's Club Coca Cola in New York City — and



graduated from the acclaimed music program at the New World School of the Arts in Miami. Adept at styles from Bach, Chopin and Mozart to Oscar Peterson, Fats Waller and Charlie Parker, Madruga will play both jazz standards and his original compositions with trio partners Russell Hall on bass and Harvel Nakundi on drums. **BM**

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December 14
Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks



December 9 Tyrone Wells

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with Norm Kubrin/piano & Marty Campfield/drums

Fridays 8:00-11:30PM

THE SWITZER TRIO

Music and dancing

Saturdays 7:30-10:30PM

THE NORM KUBRIN TRIO

Sundays 7:30-10:30PM

JAZZ PARTY AND JAM

with The Susan Merritt Trio



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Valentin*



Sensual, heartwarming vocals from a mesmerizing new talent. Gigs, info, booking at lourdesvalentin.com

Season's Greetings

JAZZ MARKET

Saturdays - 8am-12:30pm

LIVE JAZZ at the GAZEBO

Saturday, December 1 - 9am-noon

Along the Indian River waterfront in Fort Pierce. Funds raised support educational programs & local scholarships.

HOLIDAY FLING & A RING-A-DING-DING with BIG BAND SWING

Wednesday, December 19 - 7-10pm

FDO...the 18-piece swingin' band

Endless Summer Winery

Fort Pierce - \$15 / 113 members

Reservations 772-460-5299



WWW.JAZZSOCIETY.ORG



JAZZ BRUNCH

Sunday, December 9 - 1-4pm

Gator Trace Golf & Country Club

Fort Pierce - \$13.95

Reservations 772-464-7442

JAZZ JAM

featuring

James Hayward & Steve Ahern

Tuesday, December 18 - 7-10pm

Sunrise Black Box Theater - Fort Pierce - \$10

NORM KUBRIN

Tuesday, January 1 - 7-10pm

Sunrise Black Box Theater - Fort Pierce - \$10

JAZZ JAMS

Tuesdays December 4 & 11 - 7-10pm - \$5 cover

Sunrise Black Box Theater - 117 S. 2nd Street, Ft. Pierce - Cash bar

Alt. Wednesdays December 12 & 26 - 6:30-9:30pm - \$3 cover

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens - 2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd., Port St. Lucie - Wine & beer available

SUPERB ARTISTS & EVENTS PRESENTS



Latin jazz-blues-rhythm-n-soul

ORIENTE
www.OrienteBand.com

12/8: CALDER CASINO Twin Spires Tavern, 10pm
12/9: UPSTAIRS @ THE VAN DYKE CAFE, 9pm
www.thevandykecafe.com
12/11: SE FINANCIAL Downtown Miami Jazz, 12N
www.miamijazzsociety.com
12/18: BLUE JEAN BLUES Mambo Jazz, 8:30pm
www.bluejeanblues.net
12/22: BOOKS & BOOKS Coral Gables, 7pm
www.booksandbooks.com

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The Sunshine Jazz Organization, Inc.
"In Our 26th Season"

As Miami's oldest Jazz service organization, The SJO has been dedicated to promoting and fostering Jazz appreciation, education, accessibility, performances and excitement throughout our community since 1986.

MUSIC IN THE PARK Friday Dec 7th, 6:30-9:30pm
Free Jazz Concert w/ George Tandy, Jesse Jones Jr. and The Florida Memorial University Jazz Band.
Betty T. Ferguson Rec. Complex Amphitheater
3000 NW 199 St., Miami Gardens, FL 33066
Hosted by Commission Barbara Jordan with SJO
Call 305-474-3011 for more info

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Steve Wilson & Wilsonian's Grain

January 25 at 7:30pm
University of Florida Gainesville



Hailed by NPR as "one of the finest saxophonists in the business," Steve Wilson combines his jazz expertise with respected artists to form the group Wilsonian's Grain. The quartet has been featured on NPR Live from the Kennedy Center and headlined at the 2011 Detroit Jazz Festival. He also serves on the faculties at Juillard, the Manhattan School of Music and the SUNY Purchase College Conservatory of Music.

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JAZZ & BLUES
FLORIDA

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