

The top section of the poster features a collage of images: a man in a white suit and hat on the left, a saxophone in the center, and two palm trees on the right. The text 'JAZZ & BLUES' is written in large, stylized letters with a gradient. Below it, the word 'FLORIDA' is written in a spaced-out font. The date 'FEBRUARY 2014' is positioned near the palm trees.

**JAZZ & BLUES**  
F L O R I D A  
FEBRUARY 2014

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURED ARTIST

*JONATHAN  
BATISTE*

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# JONATHAN BATISTE

by Bill Meredith



**JON BATISTE IS A RISING STAR OF THE JAZZ** world. At age 27, the singing pianist has appeared on the HBO series *Treme* — which was partially based on his family's Crescent City legacy — and has earned raves from *The New York Times*, NPR, *Esquire* and, of course, hometown music magazine *OffBeat*. He also just received the "Satchmo" Legacy Award from the Apollo Theater.

Batiste has earned that success, in part, through his ability to break down barriers between performer and audience. His prime directive lies in the name of his quartet, Stay Human, and their latest CD, *Social Music* (Razor and Tie). Batiste's keyboards and vocals are bolstered by alto saxophonist Eddie Barbash; tuba and trombone player Ibanda Ruhumbika; and drummer Joe Saylor, and augmented by the sound of thunder (on "D-Flat Movement") and the voice of Jelly Roll Morton ("The Jazzman Speaks"). "I love the idea of incorporating an environment to portray a narrative," Batiste says from his tour bus, conversing by phone between shows in Kansas City and St. Louis.

The pianist's uncle, guitarist Paul, founded the Batiste Brothers Band in New Orleans in 1976. Jon's father, Michael, is the group's bassist. And their legacy continues to influence the young Batiste's artistry, as can be heard on *Social Music*. The album is equally modern and traditional, including hip standards such as John Hicks' "Naima's Love Song," as well as the venerable

Big Easy classic "St. James Infirmary" (featuring a raucous Saylor drum solo).

"I played with the family band quite a bit as a kid," Batiste says. "It was the beginning of my musical exposure. Uncle Paul studied, and is now an educator, but I'm the only family member who went to a conservatory. And I received nothing but support when I went off to Juilliard."

The New York City school colors Batiste's music in multiple ways. His quartet comprises all Juilliard grads, and his studies there informed the concept and instrumentation of the group's preceding release. On the self-produced 2011 live EP *MY NY*, Stay Human literally took their music to the people by playing on Manhattan subway trains. Batiste utilized a portable melodica keyboard-wind instrument during that barrier-breaking school project, and its sound also resonates on the irrepressible *Social Music* track "Express Yourself."

During the past eight years, Stay Human has ranged from trio to big-band configurations. Recently, Batiste turned the recording quartet into a touring sextet, cherrypicking a couple of South Florida aces in the process. "We'll be playing with Barry Stephenson on electric, upright and keyboard basses," Batiste says, "plus Jamison Ross, who's a vocalist and plays percussion and laptop computer. Both of them are from Miami."

Perhaps the pianist's Florida shows will include his solo, cultural mashup of "The

# JONATHAN BATISTE

Star-Spangled Banner,” a bonus track on his latest CD. Its arrangement showcases Batiste’s classical training, albeit with a New Orleans tinge. Juilliard’s outside-the-box lessons have also spilled over into Batiste’s duties as artistic director at large for the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. He’s overseen a computer-programming course to teach kids the history of jazz by creating a jazz video game, and instituted a series called *Jazz Is: Now!* in which artists like rocker Lenny Kravitz, Metropolitan Opera soprano Monica Yunus, and hip-hop drummer Questlove of The Roots perform in jazz contexts. “I’m a fan of all kinds of music happening in this era,” Batiste says. “Conceptually, everything has something to offer.”

Batiste’s next on-screen offering will be for director Spike Lee’s as-yet-untitled 2014 film. He also played a role in Lee’s 2012 drama *Red Hook Summer*, starring Clarke Peters of *Treme* fame. “Appearing in Spike’s films, and particularly in *Treme*, have definitely spiked the number of people who recognize me,” Batiste says. “That series resonated with New Orleans culture.”



Jon Batiste and Stay Human perform at 8PM on Feb. 18 at the Straz Center in Tampa (Strazcenter.org; 813-229-7827), and at 7:30PM on Feb. 20 at the Phillips Center in Gainesville (Performingarts.ufl.edu; 352-392-2787). The group will also perform on March 8 at the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center (Smcac.org).

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Boasting a smoky, road-roughened growl and a haunting slide sound on the National Reso-Phonic guitar, Austin "Walkin' Cane" Charanghat conjures both Tom Waits and Blind Willie Johnson. His version of the blues classic "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean" is deeply moving, perhaps inspired by events of his own life. Born with an arterial venous malformation, the Cleveland, Ohio, native needed a cane to get around New Orleans, where he performed and was dubbed "Walkin' Cane." Then, in 1996, the bluesman's left leg was amputated



below the knee. A year later, he returned to the music scene, sans cane, and he's been at it ever since. A late-night conversation with Robert Jr. Lockwood inspired Walkin' Cane's 2008 CD *Murder of a Blues Singer*, which he followed up with the live CD *A World of Blues*. The latter showcases his excellent original tunes, solo and with a trio. **BW**

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Guitarist Pat Metheny, who will turn 60 in August, has racked up 20 Grammy Awards, an astonishing feat for a non-singing jazz musician. The surge continued last year with a Best Jazz Instrumental Album Grammy for the self-titled *Pat Metheny Unity Band*, which also featured saxophonist Chris Potter, bassist Ben Williams and drummer Antonio Sanchez. Listeners can expect the unexpected from Metheny, who's adept on everything from electric guitar to guitar synthesizer to a custom-made 42-string Picasso acoustic. Last



year, Metheny toured with his one-man Orchestriion Project. For this tour, the ageless guitar icon and company unite with a fifth member, singing multi-instrumentalist, Giulio Carmassi, who can play everything his handmates do and beyond. You can hear this configuration on their brand-new release, the aptly titled *Kin*. **BM**

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Jaco Pastorius and Stanley Clarke were the dominant jazz/fusion bassists of the 1970s, with Weather Report and Return to Forever, respectively. At the same time, Jeff Berlin was a lesser-known bass virtuoso with drummer Bill Bruford's self-titled band (which also featured guitar icon Allan Holdsworth and keyboardist Dave Stewart). Now 61 and Florida-based, Berlin has alternated between session work and recordings under his own name. He's also operated his Players School of Music in Clearwater for the past 20 years. Berlin's last few CDs have featured Richard Drexler, a unique multi-instrumentalist who plays both piano and upright acoustic bass, and alternating drummers Dan Gottlieb



(whose credits include Pat Metheny) and Mike Clark (Herbie Hancock). For this show, it'll be Clark, whose inside-out rhythms propelled Hancock's visionary '70s Headhunters funk/fusion group. The trio will be joined by steelpan virtuoso and former Jaco bandmate Othello Molineaux, increasing the chances of some Word of Mouth tunes. **BM**

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**RIVERWALK BLUES FEST**

**POOR HOUSE, FORT LAUDERDALE/FEB. 14**  
 "Dr. Lee" Lowenthal (pictured) is among the 28 Florida-based harmonica aces assembled on the new two-disc collection *Showcasing the Blues, Vol. 4*. With a style rooted in the West Coast blues of Rod Piazza, and an affinity for Wynonie Harris-style jump blues, Dr. Lee has cherrypicked some of South Florida's top talents for his Regulators over the years, including blues stars Joel Da Silva and J.P. Soars. His current lineup features guitar wizard Steve Laudicina and the seasoned rhythm team of bassist A.J. Kelly and drummer Jerry Crepeau. Their entry on *Showcasing the Blues*, "Skeeter Boogie Woogie,"



is a Dr. Lee original inspired by the original kings of jukebox jump. The Regs will open for Tinsley Ellis, whose brand-new CD *Midnight Blue* features his towering guitar chops on a set of typically gut-punching blues rock. This double-header concert will kick off the 24th annual Riverwalk Blues Fest. Visit [Riverwalkblues.com](http://Riverwalkblues.com) for more. **BW**

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## SATAN & ADAM RIVERWALK BLUES FEST

ESPLANADE PARK, FORT LAUDERDALE/FEB. 15

With an unshakable dedication to groove, Satan & Adam wowed passersby from a Harlem streetcorner in the mid-'80s. Preternaturally funky guitarist, percussionist and soul-on-fire shouter Mr. Satan (a.k.a. Sterling Magee) was matched groove-for-groove by harmonic master, author and educator Adam Gussow. Magee, who grew up in St. Petersburg, had been a sideman with the likes of James Brown, King Curtis and Big Maybelle and had much to teach his apprentice. The pair recorded and toured, their signature sound torching stages around the world. However, the mercurial Magee had health issues, and Satan & Adam went on a decade-long



hiatus. They resurfaced in 2008, releasing the archival CD *Word on the Street*, Harlem Recordings, 1989, and following it with the 2011 full-band release *Back in the Game*. Magee, who now lives in Gulfport, Fla., and Gussow, who teaches at the University of Mississippi, continue to perform as a duo on occasion, as they will at the Riverwalk Blues Fest. **BW**

## THE SPRING QUARTET RUBY DIAMOND HALL, TALLAHASSEE/FEB. 8

The best thing about allstar collectives, whose individual members command big bucks on their own, is that they may collaborate more for musical than financial reasons. Jack DeJohnette, 71, has been one of the leading drummers in jazz in five different decades. Joe Lovano, 61, has been among the top-rated saxophonists and bandleaders since the 1990s. The two veterans are paired in the multigenerational Spring Quartet with singing bass phenom Esperanza Spalding, 29, whose impeccable musicality and exuberance is featured in Lovano's *Us Five* ensemble. The bassist's 2011 Grammy for Best New Artist marked the first time a jazz performer has ever won that award. Her longtime collaborator,



Argentinean piano whiz Leo Genovese, 34, rounds out the allstar group. The instrumentalists' chemistry will be accented and shaded by DeJohnette, the elderstatesman who's paced music by Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Joe Henderson and Charles Lloyd — not to mention Keith Jarrett's sublime piano trio for 30 years. **BM**

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*(w/ The Naples Jazz Orchestra)*

**JAZZIZ NIGHTLIFE, BOCA RATON/FEB. 4-6**  
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Vocalist and pianist Freddy Cole, 82, could have exploited the fact that he's the younger brother of the legendary Nat "King" Cole. Yet this Cole had already started what's now a 60-year recording career in the early '50s, and he's charted a dignified and singular path ever since. Unlike Nat, who was born in Alabama and dropped out of high school for a musical career, Freddy was born after the family moved to Chicago, and turned toward formal musical education at the Juilliard School in New York City and the New England Conservatory in Boston. His voice bears a similarity to his brother's, yet is darker, rougher and more bluesy. The tireless octogenarian is certain to perform material from his latest standout CD, last year's *This and That*, with long-time quartet members Randy Napoleon on guitar, Elias Bailey on bass and Curtis Boyd on drums. **BM**



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**SHARON JONES & THE DAP KINGS**  
*(w/ Valerie June)*

**BEACHAM THEATER, ORLANDO/FEB. 18**  
**STATE THEATRE, ST. PETERSBURG/FEB. 20**  
**VINYL MUSIC HALL, PENSACOLA/FEB. 21**

"Give the People What They Want" was a number one R&B hit for The O'Jays in 1975. It's also the title of Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings' latest album, and the mandate by which the exceptional soul singer and her crew operate. After taking a break last year to receive, and recover from, cancer treatments, Jones, 57, is back doing what she loves. While the new disc's release had been delayed, it was well worth the wait. The group had convened at their Brooklyn headquarters to write and record new material. Jones, on her fifth album with the



Dap-Kings, remains among the genre's greatest voices. She hits all the emotional highs and lows and soars over the classic, horn-fueled arrangements, which conjure the soul sounds of Motown, Memphis and Muscle Shoals. On their current tour, startlingly powerful roots-blues artist Valerie June opens the shows. **BW**

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**February 1**  
**Marty Scott Music Fest**  
**Johnny's Restaurant & Bar, St. Augustine**

**February 19** **Ellie Ray's, Branford**

**February 28** **ELAA Gala**  
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# Jazz Week

**March 24 - 28**

**11AM - 2 PM daily on the waterfront at Ft. Pierce Marina Square.**  
*Annual Brown Bag Lunch Jazz Concert Series*

## **24th - Monday**

### **Phill Fest Quintet**

Phill Fest, known for his smooth, heart felt melodic jazz guitar "chops," delivers Brazilian Jazz, Bossa and popular songs known as a "Twist of Fest."

## **25th - Tuesday**

### **Bluesday Tuesday with Rockin' Jake**

Jake's original sound is a hybrid of second line, swamp funk, blues & zydeco. He is a five-time winner of *Off Beat Magazine's* coveted Best of the Beat award for best harmonica player. Jake is truly an extraordinary talent.

## **26th - Wednesday**

### **FPJ&BS Ensemble with Maurice Frank on Vocals, and featuring James McCreavy & Steve Ahearn**

## **27th - Thursday**

### **Oscar Salas Latin Experience**

Salas immigrated to the US from Cuba at age 9 and began his music career at 16. He has recorded and toured with an endless list of celebrities. You will NOT sit still while he performs...**GUARANTEED!**

## **28th - Friday**

### **Smooth Jazz with Sound of Vision (Scott Klarman)**

South Florida's leading smooth jazz band, Sound of Vision artfully blends contemporary jazz music with multi-cultural urban funk and latin rhythms.

### **Friday Evening - Jazz Week Finale at the Black Box Theatre! FDO - The BIG Swingin' Band featuring Bob Sagnella on Vocals & Alto Saxophone**



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## 2014 Concert Schedule

Monday, January 6  
The NJO with  
The Four Freshmen

Monday, January 13  
The NJO with  
Mr. Byron Stripling

Monday, January 27  
The NJO & Strings:  
The Music of Nelson  
Riddle, *Michael  
Berkowitz* conducting



Photo by Ken Franckling

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They are the best of the best."  
— Byron Stripling

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Monday, February 3  
The NJO with  
Mr. Freddy Cole

Monday, February 10  
The NJO plays  
The Music of Broadway

Monday, February 24  
Glenn Miller Show  
with Voices

Monday, March 10  
The NJO plays a Tribute  
to Woody Herman, *Mike  
Brignola*, Musical Director

Monday, March 24  
Carmen Bradford  
sings Ella Fitzgerald

Monday, March 31  
The NJO plays  
Tommy Dorsey  
with Voices

Monday, April 7  
The NJO plays  
Harry James,  
Debbie Orta, vocalist

Monday, April 14  
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**CEDRIC BURNSIDE & GUESTS  
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Mississippi Hill Country blues builds on a foundation of molten rhythmic bedrock. Genre giants R.L. Burnside and Jr. Kimbrough piled intricate melodies and harmonies atop those trance-inducing rhythms. And Cedric Burnside, who played drums with grandpa R.L. from age 13, learned the craft from the bottom up. The younger Burnside not only remains among the top time keepers in his field, but also brings that groove mastery to his guitar and vocals. Utilizing the acoustic guitar almost as a percussive instrument, and working his voice into the rhythmic flow — beautifully showcased on 2011's *The Way I Am* — Burnside has performed as part of a duo with guitarist-vocalist Lightnin' Malcolm,



as well as with his own Cedric Burnside Project. Last year's *Hear Me When I Say*, by the CBP featuring guitarist Trenton Ayers, focused on original material that updates Hill Country tradition. Out this month, the self-titled *Allison Burnside Express*—with guitarist-vocalist Bernard Allison — marks the debut of a smoking team of blues legacies. **BW**

**BEATRIZ MALNIC  
AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER/FEB. 15**

Vocalist Beatriz Malnic is perfectly suited to present a Brazilian-themed show titled "The Girl From Ipanema: 50 Years of Bossa Nova." A Brazilian native, Malnic graduated from her country's acclaimed University of São Paulo before relocating to South Florida in 1996. She's since become an in-demand studio vocalist and voice-over talent, known for her impeccable tone, pitch and sight-reading abilities. She's also recognized as an educator, teaching vocal master classes locally, as well as at the University of Florida, in Brazil, Spain, and even the Vatican. As the co-director and founder of the 50-piece, all-female group Brazilian Voices, she'll have the ensemble accompany her during this performance



— along with master musicians like pianist Jorge Sosa and guitarist Ivo de Carvalho — on classics such as Ary Barroso's "Aquarela do Brasil"; Heitor Villa-Lobos' "Bachianas Brasileiras"; and Antonio Carlos Jobim's "One Note Samba," "Desafinado," and, quite naturally, the evening's title song, which helped launch the bossa craze of the '60s. **BM**

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- Sundays Blues Jam 4-8PM

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- Feb 2 NCFBS Palatka Jam with  
Bubba Can't Dance
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