

CENTRAL PA FRIENDS OF JAZZ

2015 in Review - Our 35th Year of Celebrating Jazz!



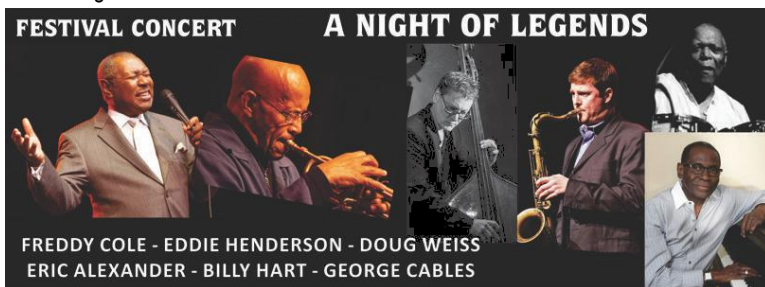
What a great year - CPFJ live music presentations included our annual **Spring Concert Series**, which featured great performances by bassist **Christian McBride's Trio** (**Christian Sands**, piano & **Ulysses Owens, Jr.**, drums) at the Sheraton in Harrisburg; York native saxophonist **Chris Bacas** returned home to lead a concert with his **Voyage West** ensemble featuring German vibraphonist **Stefan Bauer** at the beautiful new Wyndridge Farm facility in Dallastown; and the gifted vibraphonist **Steve Nelson** brought his Quartet to the Rose Lehman Auditorium at Harrisburg Area Community College. CPFJ continued the tradition of featuring talented area youth jazz ensembles as the opening acts for the concert series - the **Fingers Supersax Ensemble** from the Inspire School for the Arts contributed an excellent program in February. Our thanks to the **Shearer Family Fund of TREC** for underwriting the Spring Series since 2012.



The **2015 Central PA Jazz Camp** was generously underwritten by the **Olewine Family Fund** and scholarships came from Penn National Insurance, Phoenix Design, The Hall Foundation and other private donors. Thanks to Camp Administrator **Dr. William Stowman** and his staff, Messiah College, our music faculty including **Helen Sung** and **Jonathan Ragonese**, and to all who contributed to the most successful Central PA Jazz Camp in our history. A great time was had by all 90 students!

In May of 2015 we partnered with **Jump Street** and the Harrisburg Arts Foundation to present live jazz eight hours a day at the annual **Patriot News Arts Festival** over Memorial Day weekend. Area and international artists were featured and there were thousands of people in Harrisburg's Riverfront Park to hear the music.

The **35th Annual Central PA Jazz Festival** was one of the best attended in years. The **Riverboat Cruise** on the Pride of the Susquehanna, **Jazz Party** at the new River City Blues Club, **Festival Jam Session** at the Mt. Gretna Hideaway, **"A Night of Legends"** concert at Mt. Gretna's Playhouse, and **Jazz Picnic** at Indian Echo Caverns all presented great jazz and built strong relationships with the venues and co-hosting organizations. Our thanks to underwriters **Tom & Donna Weik**, **Robert Pugliese of Premier Wealth Management**, **Music at Gretna**, **The Harrisburg Riverboat Society**, and all who contributed their time and money to insure the success of this fabulous event.



CPFJ is indebted to the **Dauphin County Commissioners** and Parks Department for funding our "Friends of Jazz" night at the **Dauphin County Jazz & Wine Festival** in the beautiful Ft. Hunter Park along the Susquehanna River. This marks our second year of "real jazz" under the big tent at this Festival. We presented the 13 piece Grammy winning **Spanish Harlem Orchestra** & vocalist **Dred Scott** with **Steve Rudolph**, **Dwayne Dolphin** & **Roger Humphries** to entertain over 1300 attendees that evening. This event was the first of our **Fall Concert Series** performances.

In October we held our 2nd Fall offering at the Pollock Center for the Arts in Camp Hill with trumpeter **Terrell Stafford's** all-star Quintet (**Tim Warfield, Jr.**, **Bruce Barth**, **Peter Washington** and **Kenny Washington**) performing the music off Lee Morgan. Terrell brought the amazing **Temple University Jazz Ensemble** to open the program.

On Thanksgiving weekend our final Fall Concert presented solo pianist **Farid Barron** performing works from the history of jazz piano - Fats Waller, Scott Joplin, Art Tatum, Thelonious Monk and more at the WITF Public Media Center.

We continued hosting **Jazz Jam Sessions** throughout the year at two venues in the Harrisburg area - Gullifty's and the River City Blues Club - giving many area artists and aspiring young jazz musicians the opportunity to perform with professional musicians, make connections, and share knowledge about the art.

Our **CPFJ Youth Band**, directed by **Ron Waters**, offered experience and instruction in improvisation to over 30 students with no tuition fees. We will honor Ron with a tribute on December 28th for his selfless service to the kids over the past 30+ years. An annual scholarship will be instituted in his name and the evening will include jam sessions with former students and professional musicians..

CPFJ Board Member and President, **Jerry Bennet**, retired after many years of service to CPFJ and we elected **Paul Bratcher** to fill his shoes. We increased CPFJ's educational outreach with **Oliver Fairley** (Youth Committee Chair) instituting a **Jazz for Juniors** school program, acquired new funding sources, increased membership to 600 with **Dr. Bill Anderson** heading the committee, and concert attendance was excellent for all events. With **Steve Rudolph** as our Executive Director and **Sheila Ross** as Office Manager, we made coalitions with other music presenters to take our concerts and Festival to new venues. The Board voted to fund a video that will be used to promote CPFJ with live interviews, filming of live concerts, Jazz Camp and Festival in 2015. We will continue our efforts to keep America's Music alive in Central PA and with your help and support we can look forward to many more years of great jazz!



THE CPFJ RECEIVES GRANTS FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



PA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

DAUPHIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THE CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND