



CHESAPEAKE CHAMBER MUSIC INTERLUDE

For the Love of Music

by Alex Stinton - As a college student in Missouri, Al Sikes once organized a gig on campus for Dave Brubeck, the legendary jazz pianist. That was back in the 60s. Now, in the 21st Century, he is at it again. Sikes, along with his wife, Marty, and Chesapeake Chamber Music's Jazz on the Chesapeake's program are presenting the second annual Monty Alexander Jazz Festival. The Festival, slated for 2011's Labor Day weekend, is a testament to the Sikes' love of jazz music.

"Jazz is forever inventive," Sikes noted during our interview regarding the concert series. In addition to the wonderful Monty Alexander, the Jamaican-born jazz pianist, the most inventive, exciting musicians on the world scene will be in Easton ready to kick a few tunes and continue the tradition of jazz. Among these players is Grace Kelly, the 19-year-old saxophonist and student at the Berklee College of Music, who has been twice selected as Boston's top jazz artist. Other performers include Nate Najjar, the jazz guitarist, composer and producer; Chuck Redd, former drummer for Charlie Byrd; trumpet player Dominick Farinacci, who jazz giant Quincy Jones says is "360 degrees!"; and pianist Aaron Diehl, who has played with Wynton Marsalis.

JAZZ ON THE CHESAPEAKE

So, the bill for this year's Festival is stacked, and guaranteed to bring the house down for performances Friday, September 2 beginning at 7 p.m. in Easton's intimate Avalon Theater – a venue that Sikes says is reminiscent of the atmosphere of a small jazz club in New York or D.C. Farinacci and Diehl will take the stage first, followed by Grace Kelly and her Quintet.

Saturday, September 3, the Festival will honor Charlie Byrd, native Virginian and accomplished jazz guitarist, at 4 p.m. with Najjar and Redd sharing the stage to celebrate Byrd's life and music. Later that evening, the Monty Alexander Quartet will punctuate the Festival with a performance at 8 p.m.

You could ask yourself, "Why Easton?"

Easton is not exactly Montreux or Newport or Monterey... but, maybe, maybe, that's why. Maybe that's why Monty Alexander lent his name to the Festival two years ago, why Grace Kelly, who has played much larger venues, will be performing on the small Avalon stage. These musicians forget the accolades bestowed upon them. They just play. That's probably why Brubeck played Al Sikes' college back in the day. For love of music – sharing it with whoever will listen. And this Labor Day weekend, Easton will be a town full of ears.



Charlie Byrd and the Bossa Nova Beat

by Robert B. Amdur - You will not want to miss the salute to legendary jazz and classical guitarist Charlie Byrd on Saturday afternoon, September 3 at 4 p.m. at the Avalon Theatre. The multi-talented jazz guitarist and composer Nate Najjar will team up with well-known drummer and vibraphonist Chuck Redd and his ensemble in this tribute to the famous Charlie Byrd.

Charlie Byrd was one of Washington D.C.'s great contributors to the jazz world. Taught by his father, he played in an Army band during World War II. Following the war he settled in New York where he played with local jazz groups such as Joe Marsala and Freddie Slack. He returned to Washington and began to seriously study the guitar with Sophocles Papas. Byrd later went to Europe to study with Andres Segovia.

Since he was classically trained, Byrd could have performed at the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival, but it was jazz for which he will be remembered. He formed a jazz trio in the late fifties and began to play in local Washington, D.C. clubs and found a home at the Showboat Lounge. During that period he made several noteworthy record albums: *Jazz Recital*, *Blues for Night People*, *Jazz at the Showboat*, *Guitar in the Wind*, *Charlie's Choice*, *Charlie Byrd at the Village Vanguard* and others throughout the years.

It was during a State Department sponsored trip to South America in 1962 that Byrd discovered and fell in love with Brazilian music. He teamed-up with Stan Getz and made the landmark recording *Jazz Samba*, which made Charlie Byrd a household name. During the next 30 years, Byrd continued to record and play. He made exceptional recordings with Barney Kessel and Herb Ellis and dozens of recordings under his own name.

Although a jazz star, Byrd was above all a serious musician. On a personal note, I met and worked with Charlie Byrd in 1961, when I was working with NBC's "David Brinkley's Journal" program. We needed someone to score one of the segments. I had never heard of him at the time, but someone on the unit said, "Let's get Charlie Byrd." I was dubious, but I discovered that this was a well-trained musician, and he provided us with a wonderful score.

But Charlie Byrd is best remembered for the work he did with Stan Getz and the bossa nova beat. The rest is history. Byrd's style and technique were a perfect fit for jazz. He will always be remembered for his sophisticated jazz and the bossa nova beat.

Looking Back at Festival 26



Volunteer Recognition

by Chloe Pitard For the last several years, we have used the occasion of the Artists & Volunteers party during the Festival as an opportunity to recognize non-Board members who have made exceptional contributions of time and talent to Chesapeake Chamber Music. This year we recognized two such individuals, Jerry Michael and Bob Amdur. Copies of the testimonials are printed below.

Tribute to Bob Amdur

Bob Amdur has served Chesapeake Chamber Music for many years in many capacities. He has been a faithful member of past Marketing and Public Relations committees, our advertising salesman par excellence for the Festival program book, a writer of flowing press releases, and an author of articles for our Interlude newsletter.

Our annual Program book would not be as thick, or nearly as profitable, were it not for Bob's efforts. Over the years,



FOR JAZZ FESTIVAL TICKETS VISIT THE CCM WEBSITE
CHESAPEAKECHAMBERMUSIC.ORG OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 410-819-0380

Jazz Festival to Feature Two Juilliard Alumni

by Simone Rones - In 2001, Juilliard made history when it inaugurated its first Jazz Studies program. Now, ten years later, two graduates of that program, trumpeter Dominick Farinacci and pianist Aaron Diehl, will be performing at this year's Monty Alexander Jazz Festival.

Farinacci says, "I was in the very first class of the Jazz Studies Program at Juilliard. There were 18 of us, and I was surrounded by so many young and gifted jazz musicians. We were constantly challenging and pushing each other, and that helped to set the stage for a lifetime of learning." Diehl concurs, saying that "the school provided endless

opportunities for collaborative efforts, not only within a particular department, but also interdisciplinary collaborations with dancers, actors, and classical musicians."

Juilliard's resources were especially helpful to Diehl while he was working on his CD "Mozart Jazz", which was released in 2007. The album includes Mozart compositions such as the Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major and Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, interpreted within a jazz trio context. Diehl says, "I had begun playing classical music at 7 years old, and continued studying privately while at Juilliard, but what truly assisted me

with the Mozart Jazz CD was their library. The Juilliard library has about every piece of published classical music that is available. I had to find the Mozart themes and motifs that best fit into a jazz context, so I sifted through scores (no pun intended) of scores. I never before had access to those kinds of resources."

Juilliard's Jazz program now offers bachelor degrees, master degrees, and artist diplomas, with opportunities for majors in Bass, Drums, Guitar, Piano, Saxophone, Trombone, and Trumpet. All students in the program are given numerous performance opportunities both in the New York area as well as around the world. On the occasion of the Jazz program's 10th Anniversary, Juilliard President Joseph Polisi remarked that "our young jazz artists and members of the faculty have become an integral part of the Juilliard experience, through collaborative performances and concerts and tours beyond the walls of our school."

Juilliard Jazz students are also invited to play with faculty members and learn from the performances of jazz greats, such as CCM's own Jazz Festival Artistic Director Monty Alexander. Alexander was a special guest artist at the Juilliard Jazz program's 10th Anniversary Celebration.



Dominick Farinacci

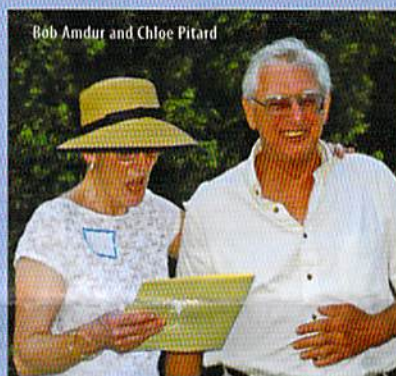


Aaron Diehl

he has convinced well over 100 different businesses and organizations to advertise in the publication. While he has not been successful at bringing in the world's largest companies as advertisers, such as ExxonMobil, Microsoft, Google or GlaxoSmithKline, he has attracted a plethora of the world's smaller companies and helped make them a household word - Frugalicious, Trade Whims, Crackerjacks, Solid Tops. His ads over the years have also developed an international flair, as befits our increasingly global Chesapeake Chamber Music - Scossa, Rusticana, Portofino, Piazza Italian Market - he seems to have a thing for Italy.

His prose, expressed in news releases, radio advertising and articles, captures the excitement of Chesapeake Chamber Music in a way few other can. But most important, he has been of invaluable counsel to many of us, as Chesapeake Chamber Music works to communicate its message to a diversified audience.

Chesapeake Chamber Music could not accomplish much of what it does without Bob's efforts. Thank you.



Bob Amdur and Chloe Pitard

Tribute to Jerry Michael

Jerry Michael is the consummate chamber music photographer. An amateur in name only, Jerry has become our house photojournalist, and for years has had his artistry with the camera prominently displayed in our Festival programs, and in articles about CCM in the Star Democrat, What's Up Eastern Shore, Attraction, the Tidewater Times, and the many other publications that have used his work to attract interest to Chesapeake Chamber Music's programs and offerings.

Jerry has done this as a volunteer, producing literally thousands of beautiful digital photographs for CCM to use without compensation for his time and expense. Jerry's photography teaches as well as informs. Amateur photographers at CCM have learned from his techniques of composition and his uncanny ability to capture just the right expression on a First Strings student's face or the ebullience of our artists at rehearsal or when taking a bow following a successful performance.....

So thank you, Jerry, for a job extremely well done, with a fervent hope that we can benefit from your artistic sensitivity, patience and good humor for many, more years to come.



Jerry Michael and Chloe Pitard



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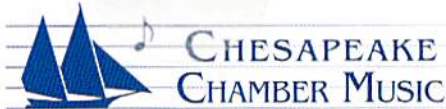
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Save the Dates:

The Chesapeake Chamber Music fund raising gala will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2012. The Theme will be Rhapsody in Blue. Planning has just begun, but you can expect to hear music by George Gershwin. Plan to wear blue. Hope to see you there.

The Chesapeake Chamber Music's 27th Festival will be held from June 3, 2012 through June 17, 2012. Mark your calendars.

We would like to keep you informed of the latest events in our growing series of year round programs. To help us reach you, please sign up on the website www.ChesapeakeChamberMusic.org.



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JAZZ
 ON THE CHESAPEAKE
 Presents
THE MONTY ALEXANDER JAZZ FESTIVAL

Friday, September 2, 7:00 p.m.
 Dominick Farinacci and Aaron Diehl
 Grace Kelly Quintet

Saturday, September 3, 4:00 p.m.
 Salute to Charlie Byrd:
 Chuck Redd and ensemble, with guitarist Nate Najar

Saturday, September 3, 8:00 p.m.
 Monty Alexander Quartet

Monty Alexander
 Grace Kelly

All performances held in historic Easton, MD at the Avalon Theatre.