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Amelia Island Jazz Festival

October 2 to 9, 2022

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Get Jazzed at the 19th Annual Amelia Island Jazz Festival

The 19th annual Amelia Island Jazz Festival features concerts that explode with exciting swinging jazz, played with passion, expertise, and soul by many of today's leading jazz artists.

Our impressive lineup of past headliners include Steve March-Tormé, Delfeayo Marsalis, Jamil Sharif, Requite Trio with Janis Siegel, Henry Johnson, Néstor Torres, Bria Skonberg, Houston Person, Kevin Mahogany, Larry Coryell, Randy Brecker, Tony Monaco, Mindy Abair, Royal Crown Revue, Spyro Gyra, David Benoit, Buckwheat Zydeco, Ramsey Lewis, David Sanborn, Christian Tamburr, Harry Allen, Marcus Printup, Richie Cole, Frank Tiberi and the Woody Herman Sax Section, the 19-piece US Navy Big Band Southeast, and the Dynamic Les DeMerle Band featuring vocalist Bonnie Eisele.

We are excited that this year world-renowned guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli who has been hailed by the Boston Globe for “reinvigorating the Great American Songbook and re-popularizing jazz,” finally performs at our Festival. In addition we feature Ken Peplowski a world-renowned clarinetist and saxophonist who has recorded over 70 CDs as a soloist and close to 400 CDs as a sideman.

In addition, we look forward to presenting the popular Trio Caliente who thrilles audiences with their inimitable blend of Flamenco Pop, and Latin Dance Music. Be prepared for another “sizzling” Jazz Festival with extraordinary jazz music.



Les DeMerle & Steve March-Tormé at the 2021 AIJF

Les DeMerle

Artistic Director, Amelia Island Jazz Festival

“Always a pleasure to perform at the Amelia Island Jazz Festival. Look forward to be back...”

~ Steve March-Tormé

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Proclamation

WHEREAS, for many years the Les DeMerle Amelia Island Jazz Festival has brought exciting world-class jazz entertainment to Fernandina Beach in styles including Contemporary, Big Band, Latin, Swing, Dixieland, Blues and more; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival is featuring Grammy Award-winning headlining performers which include legendary Jazz Guitarist/Vocalist John Pizzarelli and his Trio, internationally acclaimed saxophonist/clarinetist Ken Peplowski, renowned Latin group Trio Caliente, the 21-piece University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble 2 directed by Dennis Marks, the Spare Rib Six Dixieland Band, and the Dynamic Les DeMerle Band featuring Bonnie Eisele. It is truly an honor and a privilege to have these world-class performers among us; and

WHEREAS, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival is endorsed by jazz icons Wynton Marsalis, Tony Bennett, David Sanborn and Ramsey Lewis; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to reach out to as many concert goers as possible, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival is offering a wide range of concert venues including the Courtyard Amelia Island/Springhill Suites by Marriott, Sadler Ranch, The Decantery and Mocama Beer Company; and

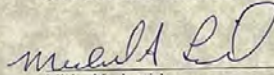
WHEREAS, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival presents a free community concert and many educational programs including Jazz In The Schools, Jazz For Kids, Jazz For Seniors, as well as a Scholarship Program which supports continuing music education for high school musicians who desire to study jazz music in college.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael Lednovich, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, do hereby encourage the citizens of Fernandina Beach to participate in the Amelia Island Jazz Festival celebrations and further proclaim the week of October 2 through October 9, 2022 as:

“Les DeMerle Amelia Island Jazz Festival Week”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida to be affixed this 20th day of September, 2022

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH



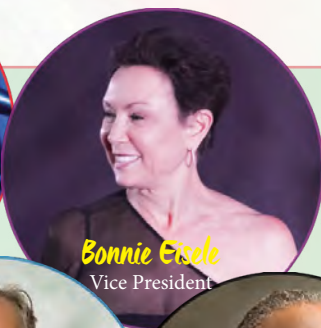
Michael Lednovich
Mayor - Commissioner



2022 Amelia Island Jazz Festival Board of Directors



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President
& Artistic Director



Bonnie Eisele
Vice President



Suzanne McLeod
Secretary



Chris Twiggs
Treasurer



Johnnie Robinson
Director

The Mission of the Amelia Island Jazz Festival

As a not for profit 501(c)(3) corporation, the Les DeMerle Amelia Island Jazz Festival distributes proceeds toward a scholarship program to fund college educations for aspiring jazz musicians and works to provide a rich, diverse jazz offering to the Amelia Island area.

It is doing this by offering educational programs and jazz workshops in area schools and senior centers and promote Amelia Island as a tourist destination by drawing jazz enthusiasts from around the nation and the world.

A Special "Thank You" to our Volunteer Committee Chairs

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- Volunteer Coordinator

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Bonnie Eisele	Guy McAllister	Chris Twiggs

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Special Thanks ...

to people and organizations who so generously contributed their time and expertise to the Amelia Island Jazz Festival

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Thank!
You!

2022 Amelia Island Jazz Festival Sponsors

This Festival would not be possible without the generous support of the following individuals and organizations.

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In order to fulfill its potential, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival must raise funds to sustain growth. To facilitate fund raising, the Festival seeks sponsorship from corporations and individuals.

Concert Venues

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JazzFoto by John Herr

Ken Peplowski

Saxophone & Clarinet

“Ken Peplowski is arguably the greatest living jazz clarinetist!”

~ Russell Davis, BBC2

“When you grow up in Cleveland, Ohio, playing in a Polish polka band, you learn to think fast on your feet”, says Ken Peplowski, who played his first pro engagement when he was still in elementary school. “From my first time performing in public, I knew I wanted to play music for a living.”

Ken, and his trumpet-playing brother Ted, made many local radio and TV appearances and played for Polish dances and weddings virtually every weekend all through high-school. “That’s where I learned to improvise, ‘fake’ songs, learn about chord changes, etc.- it’s exactly like learning to swim by being thrown into the water!”

After a year of college, Ken joined the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra under the direction of Buddy Morrow. “Buddy heard me with my quartet at a Cleveland jazz festival along with Teddy Wilson’s trio and the Dorsey band, and made an offer right then and there for me to not only play lead alto, but to have a feature spot on the clarinet with the rhythm

section. It was a great ‘road-school’ – we learned the discipline that goes with playing one-nighters every day for 48 weeks out of the year, and Buddy was a great, very generous bandleader.”

Peplowski met Sonny Stitt while on the road with the Dorsey band, and studied with him. “He was, and is, an inspiration to all of us who make a living ‘on the road’ – I’ve never heard anybody play with such amazing consistency as Sonny, through all kinds of settings.”

In 1980, Ken moved to New York City, and was soon playing in all kinds of settings, from traditional to avant-garde jazz. “Everything’s a learning experience in jazz music – there’s always an element of the unpredictable.” In 1984, Benny Goodman came out of retirement and put together a new band, hiring Ken on tenor saxophone.

Peplowski signed with Concord Records, under the tutelage of Carl Jefferson, the founder and president, and recorded close to 20 albums as a leader, including “The Natural Touch” in 1992 which won Best Jazz Record of the Year by the Prises Deutschen Schallplatten Kritiken, and “The Other Portrait”, recorded in Sophia, Bulgaria with the symphony orchestra and highlighting Ken’s classical side. He also recorded two records on the Nagel Heyer label, “Lost In The Stars” and “Easy To Remember”, the latter of which features Bobby Short on his last recording. “I loved Bobby Short’s approach to the American songbook, and we’d talked about doing a record together for a while – I’m glad we got this one ‘in the can.’

“What’s in the future? “Who knows? I love all kinds of music, and I’d like to

find more opportunities to bridge the gaps between different musical styles – I consider myself an interpreter of material – if something interests me, I try to put my own spin on it, without thinking or worrying about playing in any particular style. Basically, I like a challenge, I’m a sucker for a good melody, and I love playing for audiences, big or small.”

The litany of musicians Ken has collaborated with includes: Mel Tormé, Leon Redbone, Charlie Byrd, Peggy Lee, George Shearing, Madonna, Hank Jones, Dave Frishberg, Rosemary Clooney, Tom Harrell, James Moody, Cedar Walton, Les DeMerle, Bonnie Eisele, Houston Person, Steve Allen, Bill Charlap, Woody Allen, Marianne Faithfull, Isaac Delgado & Erich Kunzel. (“Although not necessarily in that order,” says Ken).





John Pizzarelli Trio

Guitar & Vocals

“the genial genius
of the guitar.”

~ *The Toronto Star*

“a rare entertainer
of the old school.”

~ *Seattle Times*

John Pizzarelli, the world-renowned guitarist and singer, has established himself as a prime contemporary interpreter of the Great American Songbook and beyond, with a repertoire that includes Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Tom Waits, Antônio Carlos Jobim, and The Beatles. He has been hailed by The Boston Globe for “reinvigorating the Great American Songbook and re-

popularizing jazz.” The Toronto Star pegged him as “the genial genius of the guitar.” And The Seattle Times saluted him as “a rare entertainer of the old school.”

Following high-profile collaborations with Sir Paul McCartney and Michael McDonald, Pizzarelli returns to his roots to honor his hero, the legendary jazz/pop vocalist and pianist Nat King Cole, whose centennial is being celebrated around the world this year with various concerts, books and recordings. For Centennial Reasons... completes an epic trio of Pizzarelli albums saluting Cole, starting with *Dear Mr. Cole*, which helped put Pizzarelli on the map as an influential jazz guitarist and singer in 1994, and continuing with *P.S. Mr. Cole*, which cemented his legacy five years later.

For Centennial Reasons... – featuring John Pizzarelli on guitar and vocals, Mike Karn on double bass, and Konrad Paszkudzki on piano – is produced by John Pizzarelli and co-produced by Jessica Molaskey.

“Nat King Cole is the reason why I do what I do,” comments Pizzarelli. “The joy that he brought me has never faded and the musicality of his group remains fresh and vibrant to this day. I even got to work with Natalie Cole, Nat’s daughter, meet Nat’s wife Maria Cole, and become friends with and play with Freddy Cole, Nat’s brother. We are lucky to have lived in a world that gave us Nat Cole, the man and the music.”

For Centennial Reasons... features several songs Pizzarelli hasn’t previously recorded, from timeless well-known ballads (“When I Fall in Love,” “Body and Soul,” “The Very Thought of You”) to idiosyncratic jazz classics (Bobby Troup’s “I’m Such a Hungry Man,” “Save the Bones for Henry Jones”). The album also revisits and updates several

numbers that Pizzarelli recorded earlier in his career. “After years of performing live,” he explains, “the trio has developed and refined these songs and, over time, figured out what we feel have become the definitive versions. Some arrangements, like ‘Route 66,’ have gotten much faster. But ‘Straighten Up and Fly Right,’ which I recorded for my first album way back in 1983, has settled into more of a mellow tone. After all this time, I can slow down and savor it. These songs never get old.”

In addition to these original takes on recognized Cole standards, this album introduces two new songs inspired by Cole’s spirit. “Nat King Cool,” written by Pizzarelli, is a sophisticated homage to the Cole Trio’s famous instrumental tracks. With his wife, singer Jessica Molaskey, he penned “A Hundred Years from Now,” which craftily uses oft-cited jazz phrases to express the essence of long-term romance.





Les DeMerle

Drums / Vocals

Les, a native of Brooklyn, NY, launched his career as drummer for jazz vibraphone great, Lionel Hampton. He toured for 12 years with jazz trumpet master, Harry James, and recorded three albums with him including the Grammy Award winning, “King James Version”. Les’ own jazz/rock/fusion band, Transfusion, recorded five award-winning LPs. He has toured with The Manhattan Transfer and appeared with such musical greats as Lou Rawls, Sammy Davis, Jr., Frank Sinatra, Mel Tormé, and Joe Williams. A resident of Amelia Island since 1991, Les continues to perform at concerts, festivals and Jazz cruises with his trio, quartet and Dynamic Les DeMerle Big Band Orchestra featuring Bonnie Eisele. They have recorded 15 CDs including the new release, *Hot Night In Venice* on Origin Records.

As an author, Les has written two best-selling educational drum books: *Jazz/Rock Fusion, Volumes I and II*, published

by Hal Leonard. In addition he produced a two-part instructional drum video, *Jazz Drumset Applications, Parts I & II*, to impart his extensive knowledge to drummers around the world. He extends his teachings via private in person and on-line lessons and ongoing appearances at drum clinics nationwide.

In 2001 Les’s longtime dream of creating a diversified jazz festival on Amelia Island came to fruition. He and his wife Bonnie produced the Festival for three years prior to its incorporation as a non-profit 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization. With the help of generous sponsors and hardworking volunteers, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival has grown into an event which attracts major jazz artists and attendees from across the country. But Les insists there will be more. “We’re still growing” he says, “and we continue towards our goal of building the festival into a nationally recognized annual event.”



Bonnie Eisele

Vocals

A native of Chicago suburb Naperville, Illinois, vocalist and recording artist, Bonnie Eisele, began her career singing in community theater productions. She continued her studies of music and voice at the University of Illinois, Champaign, where she starred in musical plays in the University Theatre while majoring in speech/speech therapy. After graduation she toured the United States and Europe with The Chicago Free Street Theater, an original musical theater and dance group. Returning to Chicago, Bonnie became vice president and sales representative of a jingle company and also sang on many local and national television commercials including spots for United Airlines, KFC, and Hallmark Greeting Cards.

Bonnie's diverse performing experience includes singing at the Chicago Playboy Club, Chicago Fest, Drury Lane Theater and Miami's Fontainebleau Resort. She studied music and dance in Brazil on a Rotary

Foundation Graduate Fellowship.

Wife of Les DeMerle, Bonnie is the featured vocalist with the Dynamic Les DeMerle Band, from trio to 17-piece orchestra, currently appearing in Jazz Clubs, concerts, festivals, corporate engagements and as a guest entertainer on cruise ships. She has performed with Les DeMerle at many popular jazz clubs including Somerset's in Singapore, City Jazz in Orlando, The Jazz Corner in Hilton Head, Arturo Sandoval's in Miami, and Venice Jazz Club in Italy.

Bonnie has recorded 15 studio and live CDs as featured vocalist for the Dynamic Les DeMerle Band. She is admirably comfortable with a wide range of material in four languages. Her extensive and tasteful repertoire transcends all forms of jazz artistry, from Swing to Latin. No matter the type of song, Bonnie injects a distinctive and soulful style into its performance.

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Whether providing elegant accompaniment to a formal dinner or sultry, throbbing rhythms that keep the dance floor packed all night long, Washington, DC-based Trio Caliente effortlessly creates the ideal atmosphere for any type of event. With vocals in Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, and English set to a wide array of Latin grooves, Trio Caliente's sound is reminiscent of The Gipsy Kings, Buena Vista Social Club, Strunz & Farah, and Jobim— but with a flavor all their own.

Trio Caliente's musicians have performed from coast to coast throughout the U.S. and in Spain,

South America, Central America and the Middle East. From diplomatic tours with the U.S. Department of State to Inaugural balls, swearing-in ceremonies, and private events, Trio Caliente has collectively performed for such prominent figures as President Bill Clinton, Senators John Kerry and Bob Dole, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Condoleezza Rice, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

Sharing the stage throughout the years with Jazz legends like Charlie Byrd, Keter Betts, and McCoy Tyner to Salsa superstars Jerry Rivera and Luis Enrique, members of Trio Caliente have also performed and recorded with Grammy-nominated jazz flautist, Néstor Torres, Latin Grammy-winner, Raul Jaurena, Shahin and Sepehr (Virgin/Higher Octave), and David Hidalgo of "Los Lobos."

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UNF Jazz Ensemble 2



UNF Jazz Ensemble 2

Dennis Marks, Assistant Professor of Jazz Bass, is the conductor of this elite jazz band at the University of North Florida. The performance repertoire of this 21-piece University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble is quite varied. The material chosen comes from all idioms of big band jazz, including swing, bop, funk, and fusion. This ensemble is consistently joined by high-quality players, realizing a wide variety of sound colors and textures. The UNF Jazz Ensemble 2 has played at several important venues over the last few years and has the honor of being the opening act for the featured spring artist in the Great American Jazz Series.

Lawrence Buckner

Lawrence Buckner is a graduate of Edward Waters College, Magna cum Laude with a degree in Biology/pre med. He is a US Army Veteran and served in Panama. He speaks several languages and is a world traveler. He is the former musical director for the Ritz Theatre & Museum in Jacksonville, FL. He performed and wrote for an array of national artists. He enjoys sharing his craft by teaching others.



Lawrence Buckner - Bass



Ernie Ealum- Bass

Ernie Ealum

Ernie has been performing in the Jacksonville area for over 20 years. He is a graduate of Jacksonville University and currently is the bass professor at both Jacksonville University and Florida State College of Jacksonville. He also maintains a private teaching studio for both upright and electric bass at Nice Music in Orange Park. Earnie has performed with various artists including The Platters, Michael W. Smith, Percy Sledge, Les DeMerle and The Cox Family and was resident bassist at The Cloister at Sea Island, Georgia for 10 years.



Terry "Doc" Handy - Percussion

Terry "Doc" Handy

Born and raised in Jacksonville, FL – Doc credits his older brother's love for the piano for driving him to become a musician. Doc has played percussion for over 30 years over a diverse array of genres including Rhythm & Blues, Jazz, and Latin Jazz. He has performed globally in Europe, Korea, and Panama and was also selected as the opening act for many greats including James Brown, Aaron Neville, Macy Gray, Kool and the Gang, Kirk Whalum, Brian Culbertson, and EL Gran Combo.

Clarence Hines

As a performer, Clarence has had the opportunity to perform and tour with musicians such as Johnny Mathis, Josh Groban, The Temptations, The O'Jays, Johnny Rivera, Hector Tricoche, John Pizzarelli, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Harry James Orchestra. In addition to performing all across the U.S., Clarence's musical endeavors have taken him around the world – from Canada to Panama, France to Russia. He can be heard as a sideman on various recordings on labels such as Origin and Sea Breeze. As a composer and arranger, Clarence has written works for various ensembles ranging from large and small jazz ensembles to studio orchestras. Clarence served as trombonist in the U.S. Army's famed 82nd Airborne Division Band and the 79th Army Band.



Clarence Hines - Trombone



Jim Malmgren - Trumpet

Jim Malmgren

Jim joined the United States Navy as a musician/trumpeter in 1984. He studied trumpet with Jazz legends Bobby Shew, Wayne Bergeron, Charley Davis, Steve Dillard, Gary Pack, and Eric Miyashiro. Jim performed on stage with Jon Faddis, Jeff Tyzik, Eric Miyashiro's EM Big Band, Tom Pierson Big Band, Les DeMerle Big Band, The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra, Ben Vereen, The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, just to mention a few.

Mike Levine

Pianist, Mike Levine, is a man of many talents whose career is a blend of different aspects of music. He attended the University of Miami where he studied piano with Vince Maggio. While at UM, Mike formed a group with Billy Ross. They released their first album *That Summer Something* in 1981, which featured Pat Metheny as a guest artist. Mike wrote the majority of the band's compositions. The recording earned national recognition and stayed on the top ten contemporary jazz charts for six weeks. Subsequently they recorded *Humidity* which also did well. The Ross-Levine Band was the opening act for Michael Franks, Gato Barbieri, Dionne Warwick, and many others. Mike also recorded three well received CD's that were on the top of the Smooth Jazz Charts, *From The Heart*, *Thinking of You*, *Star Gazing*, and *Just Chillin'*. Mike has been a member of the Les DeMerle Band and Orchestra for many years. He also works closely with Les creating many of the Band's arrangements.



Mike Levine - Piano

Dennis Marks

Dennis Marks has been playing bass with Arturo Sandoval for many years and has performed on Sandoval's last six recordings, including the Grammy award winning *Hot-House*. Dennis also has performed with such jazz greats as Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Liebman, Bob Mintzer, Maynard Ferguson, and Pat Matheny. He has played at many major jazz festivals in recent years, including the JVC Festival in New York, the Playboy Festival in Los Angeles, and the North Sea Festival in Holland.



Dennis Marks - Bass



Doug Matthews - Piano

Doug Matthews

Doug has performed with Louie Bellson, Randy Brecker, Dizzy Gillespie, Branford Marsalis, James Moody, Percy Sledge, Dennis Yost and the Dynamic Les DeMerle Big Band. He is an active composer and arranger, and several of his compositions and arrangements have been recorded by various artists. Doug also is director of the piano program at LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville. Doug is one of the most exciting pianists to perform with Les and Bonnie. He always adds fire to the performances.

Ajax McDonell

Ajax McDonell is a young jazz musician from Ocala, Florida, who is studying at the University of North Florida. He is currently sitting as lead alto saxophonist in JE1, UNF's premier big band. Ajax has been playing and studying various jazz styles such as swing, bebop, Blues, Bossa Nova, funk and more for nearly a decade. He has previously been featured in the Les DeMerle band alongside Dr. Bill Prince and Bonnie Eisele. He has also studied under the incredible jazz talents of Todd DelGiudice, Lynne Arriale, Dennis Marks, and Scott Giddons.



Ajax McDonell - Saxophone



Bill Prince Multi Instruments

Bill Prince

Dr. Bill Prince is a professor emeritus of music at the University of North Florida and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree with a major in Theory and Composition from the University of Miami. His compositions and arrangements have been performed and/or recorded by jazz ensembles throughout the United States and Canada. Music has taken him to all 50 states and approximately 75 countries. One of Bill's most unique talents is his ability to perform professionally on several instruments including trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, piano, and electric bass. He also produced

his own CD, *Happy Thoughts*, on which he composed, arranged and performed all parts. Dr. Bill Prince was inducted into the Jacksonville Jazz Festival Hall of Fame for his contribution to jazz education and his legacy as a performer and supporter of jazz in Jacksonville.

Joe DeRenzo

Joseph Peter DeRenzo is an American jazz drummer, composer, producer, lyricist, arranger, actor and photographer, currently living and working in New York City. In October 1987, he joined the Screen Actor Guild where he still is a member. January 2005, DeRenzo recorded his first CD entitled *Of Night and Day* with longtime friend and jazz pianist Tom Zink. DeRenzo has worked with Nile's Project to help stop MRSA through public awareness concerts featuring his Beatles tribute band "Joe DeRenzo & Friends, a jazzy tribute to The Beatles".



Joe DeRenzo - Drums



J. B. Scott - Trumpet

J. B. Scott

J.B. Scott earned his B.A. Degree in Music as the first graduate of the jazz program at the University of North Florida, under the tutelage of the legendary Rich Matteson. While in college, Scott performed with several pro groups that included the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, was a band member on the 1988 Japan Tour with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and performed regularly in the Walt Disney World theme parks. After graduating, he did a three year stint in New Orleans as the trumpeter and musical director of the world famous Dukes of Dixieland and was featured in the PBS special, Salute to Jelly Roll Morton.

Steve Strawley

Steve has appeared as a guest soloist with the Monterey Community Orchestra, the Heart of Carolina Jazz Ensemble, and the West Shore Symphony. He currently freelances with jazz combos, chamber groups, brass quintets and area big bands, including the Dickinson College Faculty Jazz Ensemble. Steve works with the Buzz Jones Big Band, the Herm Miller Orchestra, Big Band Nostalgia, and the Bob Clay Orchestra. He also works as a pit musician for regional theaters which includes the American Music Theater and the Hershey Theatre and is the newest member of the Les DeMerle Big Band.



Steve Strawley - Trumpet

Cameron Strine

Trombonist Cameron Strine is an active musician in the Jacksonville area performing regularly in a variety of groups including big bands, combos, and orchestral settings. Cameron spent several years in New York City studying music and performing with many of the city's top musicians. He holds a Bachelor of Music from UNF and a Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music. While in New York, Cameron was an active teacher, running his own private music studio and teaching music at several NYC public schools.



Cameron Strine - Trombone



Matt Vance - Saxophone

Matt Vance

Matt Vance is one of the top-call professional woodwind performers in Florida and the southeast United States. He is a member of seven-time Grammy-nominated recording artists Chuck Owen and the Jazz Surge, performs regularly with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, and has performed with many name artists throughout his career, including Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, Barry Manilow, Martina McBride, Olivia Newton-John, Debbie Reynolds, The Temptations and Ben Vereen.

Joe Watts

Joe Watts studied music at Florida A+M University. He was a musician and assistant arranger at Busch Gardens and later at Walt Disney in Orlando FL. While living in Sweden he performed with many European and American artists. He wrote for and performed with artists as Diane Schuur, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Nat Adderly, The O'Jays, Longineau Parsons and other American singers and musicians. He comments that writing, singing, and playing music has paved the way for him to see the world and explore many different kinds of music and cultures, and it will continue to do so in the future.



Joe Watts - Piano

Don Zentz

Don has been a fixture in the Jacksonville area professional music scene for almost thirty years. He grew up in the Daytona Beach area and started playing in the local big band there at the age of 15. As a saxophonist and woodwind doubler, Don has performed with Nancy Wilson, Dave Brubeck, Doc Severinsen, Natalie Cole, Ray Charles, Diane Schuur, Della Reese, Dizzy Gillespie, and The Manhattan Transfer. Don Zentz is currently the Director of Jazz Studies at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, FL. Previously he served as the Music Director of the St. Johns River City Band. He also is regularly a featured musician with the Les DeMerle Orchestra.



Don Zentz - Tenor Saxophone

Jim Warren



Jim Warren - Official 2022 AIJF Artist

Grammy-Award Winning American artist Jim Warren began painting and selling his art in high school over 50 years ago. Now considered a “Living Legend of the Art World”, Jim continues to create his unique style of art seen the world over.

His talents won him a first-place award at his first art show in 1975.

Soon after Jim began painting illustrations for books, movies and record album covers, most notably the Grammy Award winning cover for Bob Seger’s “Against the Wind” in 1981.

He was selected by Part West Gallery as this year’s official Amelia Island Jazz Festival artist.



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Title: 2022 Amelia Island Jazz Festival

Artist: Warren, Jim

www.parkwestgallery.com

About the Amelia Island Jazz Festival

The Amelia Island Jazz Festival provides a rich, diverse cultural offering to the Amelia Island area by exposing thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to the sounds, excitement and vitality of jazz - a true American art form. The Festival presents world-class jazz in many styles, including swing, bebop, Dixieland, big band, Latin, and contemporary.

This year, performances are staged in several beautiful venues around Amelia Island; the Courtyard | Springhill Suites by Marriott, Sadler Ranch, the Decantery, Mocama Beer Company and new this year the Atlantic Rec Center. During the Festival, held in October each year, music is performed by jazz greats as well as fresh, up-and-coming young talent.

Founded in 2001, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival has come a long way and shows strong potential to become a world-renowned musical event. In fact, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival seems to be following the footsteps of such festivals as the Monterey and Newport Jazz Festivals. Like the renowned jazz festivals, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival benefits from the vision and energy of a veteran jazz professional who instantly gives the Festival a rich heritage: Les DeMerle, Artistic Director.

Under the leadership of Les DeMerle, the Festival has delivered jazz greats to enthusiastic audiences on Amelia Island including Steve March-Tormé, Delfeayo Marsalis, Jamil Sharif, Henry Johnson, the Requite Trio with Janis Siegel, Roseanna Vitro, Néstor Torres, Houston Person, Bria Skonberg, Larry Coryell, Kevin Mahogany, Randy Brecker, Tony Monaco, Mindi Abair, the Royal Crown Revue, David Benoit, Spyro Gyra, Buckwheat Zydeco, Nicole Henry, Ramsey Lewis, David Sanborn, Harry Allen, Marcus Printup, Bill Allred, Richie Cole, Longineau Parsons, Frank Tiberi and the Woody Herman Sax Section.

As in previous years, the 2022 Amelia Island Jazz Festival clearly demonstrates that people of all ages and backgrounds want to hear and learn about jazz.

Indeed, the Amelia Island Jazz Festival is living up to its mission: To benefit the residents of Amelia Island and northeastern Florida by providing world-class jazz that is fun, creative and culturally enriching; to offer educational programs and jazz workshops in area schools and senior centers; and to promote Amelia Island as a tourist destination by drawing jazz enthusiasts from around the nation and the world.

From the artists, volunteers and the board of directors of the Amelia Island Jazz Festival, thank you for being a part of this mission.



Ken Peplowski



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The Amelia Island Jazz Festival Educational Programs

The cornerstone of the Amelia Island Jazz Festival is its educational programs. Led by Les DeMerle, Founder and Artistic Director, the Festival seeks to enrich minds with the sounds, excitement and vitality of jazz. Programs include:

Jazz in the Schools

The purpose of this program is to expose young people to the art of jazz, while motivating students to pursue jazz as a musical endeavor, featuring workshops led by master musicians for grade school, middle school, and high school students. Several hundred area students attend this program each year.



Jazz in Schools

2022 the Festival partnered with Arts Alive Nassau and held several summer camps to encourage young performers to pursue careers in jazz. Working together with Arts Alive Nassau the goal of the Amelia Island Jazz Festival is to continue to offer a rich cultural experience also for more mature audiences.

Jazz for Seniors

With the purpose of providing quality entertainment to the area's senior population, this program has become an annual cultural highlight for many who cannot easily travel to other Festival performances. These events consist of demonstrations and informative musical programs at senior centers. Over the years, several hundred seniors have been entertained by the Festival.



Jazz for Seniors

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The Amelia Island Jazz Festival Scholarship Program

Each year, the Festival's educational programs culminate in the Amelia Island Jazz Festival Scholarship. It is the desire of the Jazz Festival Board of Directors to help preserve jazz, a true American art form, by providing assistance to young, talented artists who are pursuing their dream of becoming jazz musicians.



2021 AIJF Scholar Wyatt Bruno on Flugelhorn

This financial award goes to deserving high school musicians who demonstrate strong potential to perform jazz at the collegiate level. Each scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior who has been accepted into a college jazz curriculum. The recipient may use the scholarship funds toward college expenses necessary to earn a major or minor in music in the area of jazz performance or related study.

A Jazz Festival selection committee screens qualified applicants from high school music programs. Finalists are gathered to compete for the scholarships, which are awarded based on performance, aptitude, academics and character.

Cameron DeVane 2022 AIJF Scholarship Winner

Cam DeVane is in his Senior year at Fernandina Beach High School. He plans to attend University of North Florida auditioning for Jazz Performance.

Cam has participated in the District 17 Honor Band twice as well as Nassau County Honor Band each year. He consistently scores superior in his assessments and is featured in the highly rated Fernandina Beach High School Jazz Band, Sailors Of Swing. He was awarded the Johnnie Robinson Jazz Musician of the Year for two years and has studied with some local musicians including the Johnnie Robinson, Frank Basile and John Reid.

He performed with Crescendo Amelia, the Honey Badgers and was a member of The Rose Quartet. Cam, a honor student at FBJS, is a true leader. He served as the 2021 Fernandina Beach High School Drum Major and in other leadership roles throughout most of his four years.

DeVane plays all types of saxophones including tenor, soprano, and baritone. Currently he is studying trumpet, trombone and piano to add to his arsenal of instruments. He looks forward to join the University of North Florida's Jazz Studies program to help further his goal to become a pro.



2022 AIJF Scholarship Winner
Cameron DeVane - Saxophone

If you, or you know someone who is interested to apply for this award, contact the AIJF Scholarship Program in writing or find more details about the scholarship and/or the application on line at www.ameliainlandjazzfestival.com/our-jazz-education-program/

2022 Festival Concert Program

Wine Tasting & Jazz

Tuesday, October 4 • 5 - 6:30 pm & 7 - 8:30 pm

The Decantery
117 Centre Street • Amelia Island, FL



Featuring: Dr. Bill Prince - trumpet, trombone, clarinet & flute,
Doug Matthews - piano,

Hosted by AIJF Artistic Director Les DeMerle - drums/vocals and
the Decantery

Jump, Jive And Wail / Swing Night Concert & Dance

Wednesday, October 5 • 7 - 10 pm

Sadler Ranch
868 Sadler Road • Fernandina Beach, FL



Featuring: **The Dynamic Les DeMerle Little Big Band**

with **Bonnie Eisele** - vocals, **Jim Malmgren** - trumpet,
Don Zentz - saxophones, **Clarence Hines** -trombone,
Lawrence Buckner - bass, **Doug Matthews** - piano,
Les DeMerle - drums/vocals

Hot Latin Jazz - Concert & Dance

Thursday, October 6 • 7 - 10 pm

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Ken Peplowski in Concert

Friday, October 7 • 7 - 10 pm

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~Mel Tormé

Also featuring:

The Les DeMerle Jazz Quartet

Les DeMerle - drums, Mike Levine - piano,
Dennis Marks - bass, Bonnie Eisele - vocals

10:00 pm 'til 12 am

Late Nite Jam at "Dizzy's Den"

Location: Mocama Beer Company

629 South 8th Street - Fernandina Beach

Bebop, Blues & Beyond...

- featuring 2022 AIJF Scholar, Cameron DeVane



2022 Festival Concert Program

John Pizzarelli Trio

Saturday, October 8 • 7 -10 pm

Courtyard | Springhill Suites by Marriott
2700 Atlantic Avenue • Fernandina Beach

Starring: John Pizzarelli

World-renowned guitarist and singer, has established himself as a prime contemporary interpreter of the Great American Songbook and beyond.

Also featuring:

The Les DeMerle Jazz Quartet

Les DeMerle - drums, Mike Levine - piano, Dennis Marks - bass, Bonnie Eisele - vocals



The Les DeMerle Jazz Quartet



John Pizzarelli



2021 Late Nite Jam

10:00 pm 'til 12 am

Late Nite Jam at "Dizzy's Den"

Location: Mocama Beer Company
629 South 8th Street - Fernandina Beach
Bebop, Blues & Beyond..

- featuring 2022 AIJF Scholar, Cameron DeVane

Dixie to Swing Jazz Brunch

Sunday, October 9 • 10:30 am & 1 pm

Courtyard | Springhill Suites by Marriott
2700 Atlantic Avenue • Fernandina Beach

The Grand Finale of the 2022 Jazz Festival is the popular Jazz Brunch
Celebrate with a special Jazz Festival Menu at this wonderful venue

Featuring:

The Spare Rib Six Dixieland Band

J.B. Scott - trumpet, Bill Prince - clarinet,
Mike Levine - piano, Dennis Marks - bass,
Les DeMerle - drums / vocals,
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The Spare Rib Six

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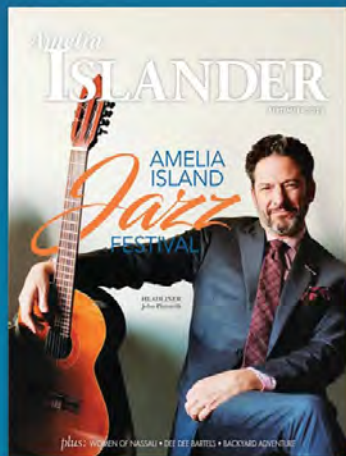
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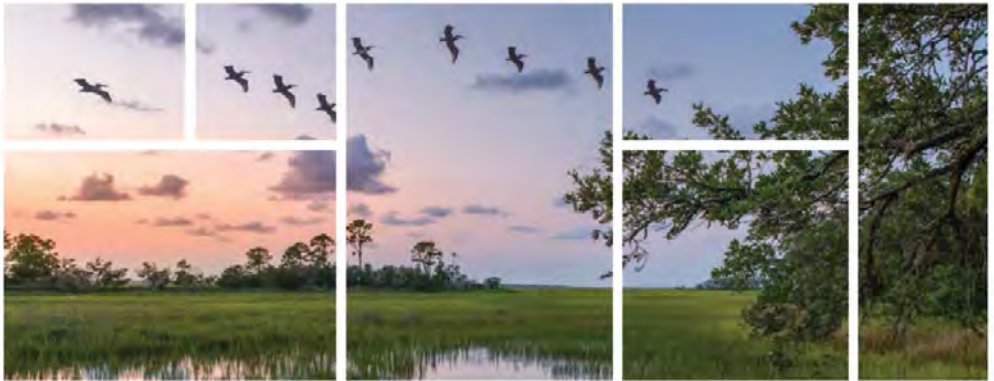
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