

JAZZ & BLUES

FLORIDA

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

OCTOBER
2009



Claudia Acuña
Ben Prestage



Han Bennink, Michael Moore & Will Holshouser



Steve Holt
Mark Hummel



Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain & Edgar Meyer



John Clayton & Jeff Hamilton



Matt "Guitar" Murphy

WINNING SPINS

By Bill Meredith

BANJOIST BELA FLECK

has made a career out of erasing lines between musical genres. His band the Flecktones has fused jazz, bluegrass and funk for 20 years. In *Throw Down Your Heart*, a documentary available on DVD next month, Fleck traces the banjo's roots back to Africa. Then there's *The Melody of Rhythm*, the new CD on which he teams with acoustic bassist and frequent collaborator Edgar Meyer, Indian tabla-drum master Zakir Hussain, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Subtitled "Triple Concerto and Music for Trio," the disc features interaction among the three principals plus a rhythmic, three-part title concerto that adds the orchestra and musical director Leonard Slatkin. Hussain's opening composition, "Babar," features Fleck playing counterpoint to Meyer amid the composer's traditional Indian cadence, resulting in a waltz involving bluegrass, classical and Middle Eastern feels.

Each of the three musicians composed one tune alone. On Fleck's "Bubbles," Meyer's standout bowing technique shines whether the bassist is soloing or locked in with his bandmates' intricate harmonic passages. Fleck and Meyer have collaborated even longer than the Flecktones have been in existence—26 years—and they won a Grammy for their 2001 release *Perpetual Motion*. Their chemistry is evident, and both are clearly simpatico with Hussain, their agreed-upon dream percussionist.

On Meyer's closing composition, "Then Again," he generously shares the spotlight. His slow, dramatic bow strokes provide a canvas for the rhythmic histrionics of Fleck and Hussain, who alternately accelerate, slow down and pace each other.

All three composed the remaining pieces together, including the three-part symphonic centerpiece. Its "Movement One" sets a breakneck pace, as Fleck, Hussain and Meyer



Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer

play staggered, staccato phrases in unison. By "Movement Three," Slatkin is conducting both the orchestra and trio in a dialogue that transcends musical labels.

The concerto was initially commissioned by the Nashville Symphony and Akustiks, Inc., and it premiered in a 2006 performance by that orchestra with Slatkin as guest conductor. The same orchestra had approached Fleck and Meyer in 2004 to compose a double concerto for banjo and double bass.

Fleck, Hussain and Meyer also co-composed three trio pieces without orchestration, and these improvisational vehicles may best represent what listeners will hear on the group's current tour, which brings them to the Gusman Theater in Miami on October 18. On "Out of the Blue," the musicians appear to be playing in different time signatures before Fleck coaxes Hussain and Meyer into a game of musical chase with his hummingbird, catch-me-if-you-can series of notes.

Aside from the orchestral movements, "Cadence" is the most neoclassical piece on the disc. Meyer's high-register bowing occasionally makes the bass sound like a viola, and Fleck plays violin-like banjo patterns as Hussain's tablas anchor the track.

"In Conclusion," a misleading title since it's the next-to-last song, displays warp-speed

PHOTO BY JIM MCSQUIRE

WINNING SPINS

bursts by Hussain. Yet Fleck and Meyer also downshift the meter and coax the tabla virtuoso into the kind of melodic percussion that the CD's title implies.

Also a Grammy winner, Hussain came into this project with a résumé that included John McLaughlin's Middle Eastern group Shakti, Mickey Hart's worldly Planet Drum ensemble and Yo-Yo Ma's classically tinged Silk Road project. Hussain may not be as familiar with Fleck and Meyer as they are with each other, but you'd never know it here. In Meyer, the tabla titan found a rarity in a rhythm-section teammate—a classical recording artist who willingly plays in practically every other style. And in Fleck, Hussain and Meyer found an equally multilingual musical partner.



The Rhythm Foundation presents Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer
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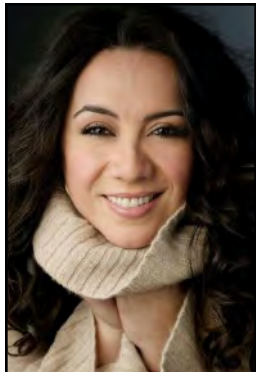
McGill University might not rank among the finest schools in America, but it certainly rates among the best in *North America*. The Montreal institution is conveniently located in the hometown of pianist Steve Holt, who earned a Bachelor of Music in jazz performance there in 1981—the same year his alma mater hired him as an instructor of jazz improvisation. Listen to tracks from his latest CD, *Soon*, (Trilogy), or his early-'90s releases on the Sackville label like *Catwalk* and *Just Duet*, and you'll hear why he's so valued in the classroom and on the bandstand. Now based in Toronto, the pianist



often traveled to New York City to listen to Kenny Barron play in the early '80s, and the former child prodigy—who started at age 4 and turned pro at 17—has since worked with a diverse field of jazz greats including Archie Shepp, James Moody and Larry Coryell. For his South Florida trio performances, he'll be joined by area all-stars Chuck Bergeron on bass and John Yarling on drums. **BM**

**CLAUDIA ACUÑA
FESTIVAL MIAMI, GUSMAN CONCERT HALL,
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/OCT. 9**

Determined to make it in the jazz world, vocalist Claudia Acuña moved to New York City from her native Santiago, Chile, in 1995. The Greenwich Village jazz club Small's, a lab for young jazz talent, became a regular haunt for the singer, who was given a key to the place so she could rehearse during off-hours. It was here she forged alliances with up-and-comers such as Jeff Ballard, Avishai Cohen, Brad Mehldau and Jason Lindner, the latter of whom became her musical director. Since then, Acuña has headlined festivals worldwide, recorded for the Verve and MaxJazz labels, and released *En Este*



Momento this year for the Marsalis Music imprint. With Small's cohorts Lindner on keyboards and Omer Avital on bass, as well as guitarist Juancho Herrera and drummer Clarence Penn, the CD showcases Acuña's bell-like tones and emotionally involving delivery on a set of mostly Spanish-language gems. Acuña can break listeners' hearts in most any language. **BW**

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BEN PRESTAGE/DEX ROMWEBER DUO PROPAGANDA, LAKE WORTH/OCT. 9

Based in Stuart, one-man band Ben Prestage was turned onto the blues by his grandfather, a Mississippi sharecropper. His music incorporates his upbringing in the swampy areas of Florida, as well as the influence of multiple trips to the blues corridor of Beale Street in Memphis. That's where he bought a cigar-box guitar made by fellow solo performer John Lowe. Its independent stereo guitar and bass strings, plus Prestage's foot-pedal-activated drum set—all of which are played simultaneously—allow him to sound like a trio on tunes like "The Giver," from his aptly titled *Beale Street* CD. For his show at Propaganda, the hard-



touring singer and multi-instrumentalist will share the bill with the North Carolina-based Dex Romweber Duo. The rootsy brother-and-sister team of Dex and Sara Romweber combines rockabilly, R&B and punk influences. Dex influenced the White Stripes' Jack White, who produced and made a guest appearance on the duo's latest single, "The Wind Did Move."

BM

HARMONICA BLOWOUT WITH MARK HUMMEL BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/OCT. 15 THE BACK ROOM, BOCA RATON/OCT. 16 ACES LOUNGE, BRADENTON/OCT. 17

Since 1991, Mark Hummel hit on a humdinger of an idea. The harp blower called up some of his harmonica-playing pals and hit the road, giving audiences a taste of old-school, blues revue-style entertainment. A new, two-disc retrospective, *Still Here and Gone*, serves as a remarkable testament to the talents—many of whom have since passed—with whom Hummel has shared the driving over the years: Carey Bell, Sam Myers, William Clarke, James Harman, Lazy Lester, Johnny Dyer and Paul deLay are just a few of the names on that list. And the West Coast harpster is still at it. His latest version of the Harmonica Blowout features an exceptional lineup, including Magic Dick, of J Geils Band fame; the quirky and critically hailed roots visionary Watermelon Slim; Arkansas-based roof-raiser RJ Mischo; and Hummel's frequent ace guitarist Rusty Zinn. Each of the harpists brings a singular attack to the Mississippi saxophone, not to mention his own unique songbook and vocal style. It's easy to be generous when you're as talented as Hummel: The cat more than holds his own, boasting a surgical mastery of the mouth harp, an engaging voice and some of the coolest hats, shades and shiny suits in the biz. BW



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HAN BENNINK with MICHAEL MOORE and WILL HOLSHOUSER
CARLYLE THEATER, MIAMI BEACH/OCT. 24

Onstage in 2007, drummer Han Bennink seemed like the poster child for ADD. Alongside fellow Dutch jazz innovator Misha Mengelberg on piano, and SoFla's own Kenny Millions on sax and clarinet, Bennink bounced a drumstick off his floor tom, swung a big foot out on top of his snare drum and threw shadow puppets. But Bennink is no clown. Rather, he's an incredibly gifted and joyful musician who'll do what it takes to keep an audience involved—if it makes musical sense. In the 1960s, Bennink was the first-call drummer for artists such as Wes Montgomery and Johnny Griffin when they played



in Holland, and he even recorded with Eric Dolphy. But he soon slipped the tethers of traditional timekeeping and plunged into avant-garde waters. Bennink's latest trio includes Michael Moore on sax and clarinet, and Will Holshouser on accordion. As always, Bennink crisply drives the action with his sly sticking, conjuring Scottish marching bands or the Hot Club of Paris with equal agility. **BW**

HOODOO VODOO BLUES BALL
DOWNTOWNER SALOON,
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Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, veteran WKPX blues jock Dar Lopez's signature event features a monster-mashin' roster. The Jon Justice Band plays rootsy, funky, party blues penned by its engagingly voiced, ax-wielding frontman. They'll be joined by the talented Dave Gross, whose retro jump style has struck a chord with fans and critics alike. Also lending chills with their skills will be some of SoFla's topflight blues practitioners, including funky, jazzy faves The Nuclebusters, the Albert Castiglia Band and JP Soars and the Red Hots. Soars' win at the International Blues



Competition has once again brought attention to SoFla's home-grown talent, as has Castiglia's ascendance, which has included Blues Music Award nominations for his music and songwriting. The party starts Friday night with a pumpkin-carving contest, and Saturday's festivities include a classic car show and costume contest. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Sean Costello Foundation for Bipolar Research. **BW**

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**JOHN CLAYTON AND JEFF HAMILTON
FROST/SCHOOL OF MUSIC, CORAL GABLES/OCT. 30**

Bassist John Clayton and drummer Jeff Hamilton form one of the preeminent veteran rhythm sections in jazz. Since 1985, Hamilton has joined Clayton and his sax-playing brother, Jeff Clayton, in the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. An outstanding modern big band, the group shows its power, subtlety and elegance by swinging through standards by Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Horace Silver and Ray Brown on its 2005 release, *Live at the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild*. Additionally, Hamilton has played on Grammy-winners by Diana Krall, Natalie Cole, Frank Sinatra, Queen Latifah, Benny Carter and Barbra Streisand. Clayton likewise recorded on Latifah's



Grammy-winning 2007 CD, *Trav'lin Light*, and is often the first-call arranger for producers like Quincy Jones and Tommy LiPuma. As part of Festival Miami, the two rhythm masters join the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra and the University of Miami's Frost Concert Jazz Band for an evening of big band jazz. The concert also celebrates the relocation of the Institute to its new home at Frost. **BM**

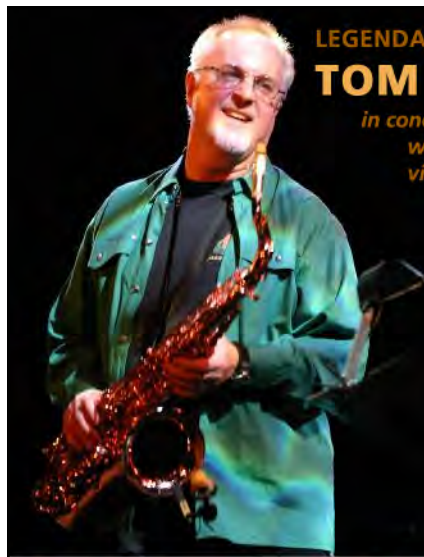
**MATT "GUITAR" MURPHY
BOSTON'S, DELRAY BEACH/OCT. 20**

Anyone who only recognizes Matt "Guitar" Murphy from the 1980 *Blues Brothers* film (or its follow-up, *Blues Brothers 2000*) needs to realize one thing—the musicians who backed John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd were chosen because of what they'd already accomplished. For Murphy, that included providing stinging leads for artists such as Memphis Slim, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, Etta James and James Cotton from the '50s through the '70s. The Mississippi-born, Memphis-raised Murphy has released only a few solo recordings, but you can bet the guitarist will play his instrumental blues standard, "Matt's Guitar



PHOTO BY COREY WOODRUFF



Boogie," along with classics such as "Mother Earth," at his Boston's appearance. Although his motions are limited by a stroke he suffered in 2003, Murphy continues to play at a masterful level. A film crew will be on hand at the Delray gig to capture live footage for a forthcoming documentary about Murphy, who now lives in Miami. **BM**



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An Evening to Remember

Tribute to Eddie Higgins featuring Dick Hyman, Jazz Pianist
Wednesday • December 9, 2009 • 7:45 pm • Amatur Theater

Eddie Higgins, jazz pianist, performed or recorded with just about every jazz luminary imaginable. To celebrate Eddie's life, Dick Hyman, renowned jazz pianist/arranger/composer/music director, pays tribute to his long-time friend and fellow jazz legend.



The Glenn Miller Orchestra

Saturday • January 9, 2010 • 8:00 pm • Parker Playhouse

The Broward Center and Gold Coast Jazz Society present The Glenn Miller Orchestra in an unforgettable night of swing. With its unique sound, the GM Orchestra has been called "one of the best bands of all times." Larry O'Brien, Music Director, leads the band in this swingin' musical evening.



Jazzin' Elvis

Cyrus Chestnut Trio

Wednesday • January 13, 2010 • 7:45 pm • Amatur Theater

Cyrus Chestnut is called one of the top jazz pianists of his generation. This dynamic performer, inspired by the likes of the jazz greats from Fats Waller to Thelonius Monk, has an "exuberant feeling of musical joy," according to the *LA Times*.

Tribute to Benny Goodman

Terry Myers Orchestra

Wednesday • February 10, 2010 • 7:45 pm • Amatur Theater

Benny Goodman was known as the "King of Swing", "Patriarch of the Clarinet" and "Swing's Senior Statesman." 2009 marked the centennial of the birth of this great jazz musician. Join clarinetist and big band leader Terry Myers in this special big band tribute concert to the legendary "King of Swing."



Moon River, Mercer and Me

Tony DeSare, Jazz Vocalist

Wednesday • March 10, 2010 • 7:45 pm • Amatur Theater

Tony DeSare belongs with "neo-traditional upstarts stretching from Harry Connick Jr. to Michael Bublé and Jamie Cullum" says *USA Today*. His take on classic standards and sophisticated original compositions have earned him a reputation as "one of the most promising young male performers," says the *NY Times*.

South Florida Jazz Divas

Gold Coast Jazz Society Band with Brenda Alford, Rose Max
 Wendy Pedersen & Nicole Yarling

Wednesday • April 14, 2010 • 7:45 pm • Amatur Theater

These women are among South Florida's most popular jazz singers. Join Brenda Alford, Rose Max Wendy Pedersen and Nicole Yarling, the local jazz "divas," as they jazz it up a notch with Eric Allison and members of the Gold Coast Jazz Society Band.



Jazz on the Latin Side

Negroni's Trio

Wednesday • May 12, 2010 • 7:45 pm • Amatur Theater

Pianist/composer José Negroni, drummer Nomar Negroni and bassist Marco Panascia are one of Miami's hottest jazz ensembles. Their "straight ahead" jazz weaves dramatic lyricism punctuated by explosive rhythmic play. Negroni blazes "a percussive trail and dares his audience to keep up," says *All About Jazz*.



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- Oct 11 Upstairs at The Van Dyke 9PM
- Oct 18 Hollywood Beach Clambake Fest 3PM
- Oct 22 Calder Casino & Race Course 7PM

JAZZ & BLUES

FLORIDA

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Maguire's

Hill 16

Irish Pub & Eatery

Open daily at 11:00AM **Live music!**
Dance floor!

An award winning Traditional Irish Pub and Restaurant featuring a full bar and an authentic menu with home-cooked style.
 Our Party Room is available for parties of up to 100.
 Come in, sit back, relax, have a pint and enjoy the experience!

OCTOBER LINEUP

Every Tuesday at 9pm:
 Two of Florida's Finest
 Graham Wood Drouf & Albert Castiglia

Every Sunday 4:00-7:30pm
 Jeff Prime
 with Juanita Dixon & Mitch Goldstein

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Friday 2 | The Hep Cat Boo Daddies |
| Saturday 3 | Celtic Mayhem |
| Friday 9 | Iko/Iko |
| Saturday 10 | Albert Castiglia |
| Friday 16 | JP Soars & The Red Hots |
| Saturday 17 | Blue House Band |
| Friday 23 | The Methodaires |
| Saturday 24 | Jeff Prime |
| Friday 30 | Albert Castiglia |
| Saturday 31 | Celtic Mayhem |

535 NORTH ANDREWS AVE, FT LAUDERDALE 954-764-4453 www.MAGUIRESHILL16.com



18th

Anniversary Celebration

ELIANE ELIAS

"Bossa Nova Stories"



NOVEMBER 21, 2009

8:00 PM

Miniaci Performing Arts Center
3100 Ray Ferrero, Jr Blvd
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

Tickets: 954-462-0222 • 877-311-SHOW
VIP packages available

southfloridajazz.org