

# JAZZ & BLUES

OCTOBER 2010

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



**Bobby Lee Rodgers**



**Stanton Moore**



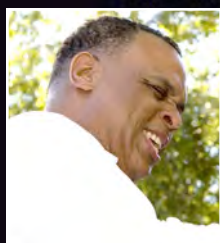
**Houston Person**



**Dirty Dozen Brass Band**



**Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers**



**Chuchito Valdés**



**Eden Brent**



**Matt Wilson**



**Nick Curran**

# WINNING SPINS

by Bill Meredith

## THE SOUTHERN TOWN OF FLORENCE

may be best known to drivers traveling through South Carolina because of its exit off I-95. Lesser-known, but certainly of no less importance to jazz fans, is the fact that Houston Person was born there on Nov. 10, 1934. And the understated, underrated saxophonist's drive doesn't appear to be slowing as he approaches his 76th birthday.

Person has averaged an album per year since starting his solo recording career in 1966. Like many of his consistently fine later releases for the HighNote label, his latest album, *Moment to Moment*, mixes bop, blues and ballads. Here Person receives sterling accompaniment from trumpeter Terrell Stafford, pianist John di Martino, guitarist Randy Johnston, bassist Ray Drummond and drummer Willie Jones III.

The album kicks off with the Person-penned "Bleeker Street," a mid-tempo hard-bop number with solos by everyone other than Jones. The bandleader's tone is robust and his playing energetic, as he plays off Stafford's fiery brass in the two horn players' first-ever collaboration. The Miami native (whose place will be taken during Person's show in Daytona Beach by another powerful young trumpeter, Ray Callender) echoes Dizzy Gillespie during his break, but he proves capable of doing a 180° turn on a subsequent ballad. On "I Cover the Waterfront," Stafford's clear-as-a-bell tone accentuates Person's breathy approach and di Martino's exquisite solo. The Johnny Green/Edward Heyman composition, introduced in a 1933 film of the same name, was later covered by Billie Holiday.

The title track by Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer was also soundtrack material, this time from the 1965 film *Moment to Moment*. Person's relaxed, conversational playing echoes tenor icons like Illinois Jacquet, Gene Ammons and Ben Webster, and the 43-year-old Stafford again plays the perfect foil with his Freddie Hubbard-like blasts. The two play more of a unison melody on the late bass great Ray Brown's "Freight Dance," as Jones effortlessly switches between brushes and drumsticks on the tune's various sections.

Person has always had a fondness for songs in general, and ballads in particular.



HOUSTON PERSON

"Don't Take Your Love From Me," covered by Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, Doris Day and Julie London, opens with only Person and di Martino before Jones enters to display his deft brushwork again. The bandleader's stately soloing seems to inspire Johnston, who punctuates the piece with a memorable break of his own. The guitarist is also impressive on the bossa nova "E Nada Mais," as his accompaniment helps to coax yet another banner solo from Stafford.

Further proof of Person's love for songwriting comes courtesy of an unlikely source—Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are." The pop ballad gets a swinging, energetic makeover, as Person and Stafford take turns stating the vocal melody. On the slow, soulful "Back in New Orleans," the trumpeter again dazzles with a series of upper-register notes reminiscent of Louis Armstrong. Stafford repeats his Satchmo-like feat on the 1930s chestnut "All My Life." Person often performed

# WINNING SPINS

the swinging piece with vocalist Etta Jones (1928-2001) during their 30 years of performing together, and he delivers an instrumental ode here worthy of their history.

Two more tunes made popular by vocalists close the disc. The ballad "Love Won't Let Me Wait," covered by Johnny Mathis, Nancy Wilson and Luther Vandross, gets a delicate reading by Person, who democratically lets Johnston and Stafford contribute the solos. "Nina Never Knew," crooned by the likes of Sinatra, Vic Damone and Jack Jones, gets a cool, breezy treatment. Person effectively sings the melody through his tenor, providing further proof that the 75-year-old jazz icon is much more than just "still on the map."



**Houston Person will perform with Doug Carn, Ray Callender, Barry Greene, John Lumpkin, Ricky Ravelo and Gina René at 4PM Oct. 16 at the Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences. Visit [NEFJA.org](http://NEFJA.org) or call 386-445-1329 for more information. Person will also perform with pianist Norman Simmons on Jan. 25 at the Harriet Himmel Theater in West Palm Beach.**

## ED CALLE

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**CHUCHITO VALDES**  
**THOMAS CENTER, GAINESVILLE/OCT. 12**

If pianist Jesus “Chuchito” Valdés’ name sounds familiar, it’s because it’s similar to that of his father, renowned pianist Jesus “Chucho” Valdés. (Chuchito celebrates his 44th birthday Oct. 10, and Chucho blows out his 69th candle on Oct. 9.) Both are flamboyant, Cuba-born pianists who have proven capable of playing everything from bebop and classical music to a plethora of Afro-Cuban styles—including mambo, danzon, cha-cha, timba, guaguanco and son montuno—by leading the influential Cuban band Irakere. Chuchito’s 2007 release *Keys of Latin Jazz* received a Latin Grammy nomination, and his East Coast touring band includes bassist Bryan Doherty, percussionist Frankie Ocasio and



drummer Emilio Valdés, Chuchito’s younger brother. The Cancun, Mexico-based Chuchito also draws from a family tradition that goes back to his grandfather (and Chucho’s father, who turns 92, coincidentally, on Oct. 9), venerable Cuban pianist Bebo Valdés. The still-vital nonagenarian icon once led the band at Havana’s famed Tropicana nightclub. **BM**

**STANTON MOORE TRIO**  
**MARKET STREET PUB, GAINESVILLE/OCT. 20**  
**REVOLUTION LIVE, FT. LAUDERDALE/OCT. 21**  
**THE SOCIAL, ORLANDO/OCT. 22**  
**THE CROWBAR, TAMPA/OCT. 23**  
**THE ENGINE ROOM, TALLAHASSEE/OCT. 24**

New Orleans-based drummer Stanton Moore is the rudder that steers jazz-funk hybrid bands like Galactic and Garage à Trois, but lately he’s gone back to his roots through a trio project under his own name. *Groove Alchemy* is a comprehensive instructional DVD, book and play-along MP3 disc that focuses on the roots of funk drumming—going back to James Brown’s great drummers of the 1950s and ’60s, as well as the influential Zigaboo Modeliste of The Meters.



The resulting CD of the same name, also with organist Robert Walter and guitarist Will Bernard, is one of the funkier releases of 2010. For these Florida shows, Moore plays with Hammond B3 organist Wil Blades and guitarist-vocalist Anders Osborne, whose recent *American Patchwork* CD is a hybrid of roots music styles. Expect a funk/blues/jazz/rock collage. **BM**

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Outdoor Saturday, Oct. 9

**BLUESFEST: Cat Daddys, Tommy Lee Cook  
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Friday, Oct. 15

**Rex Bongo & The Cornbread Brothers**

Outdoor Saturday, Oct. 23

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**JP Soars & The Red Hots** Call for tix

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Mike Zito



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JP Soars

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Niko Wayne Toussaint  
The Nouveaux Honkies  
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Darren Johnson

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

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**MATT WILSON QUARTET  
STAMPS JAZZ QUINTET  
FESTIVAL MIAMI at GUSMAN CONCERT HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/OCT. 21**

Drummer Matt Wilson's touch and subtlety have made him one of the Big Apple's top session players. Over the years, he's performed with the likes of saxophonists Dewey Redman and Lee Konitz, trumpeter Tim Hagans, pianist Fred Hersch and keyboardist John Medeski. Wilson also has a 15-year career as a bandleader—of his self-named quartet and his Arts and Crafts band—and has released a string of wildly entertaining albums. His original music nods in the direction of avant-garde influences such as Redman and Ornette Coleman, and is laced with irreverent wit. For proof,



cue up his strong 2009 quartet release *That's Gonna Leave a Mark*, or 2010's *Matt Wilson's Christmas Tree-O*. As part of Festival Miami, this "Inspired Improvisation" show features Wilson's quartet with saxman Jeff Lederer, trumpeter Kirk Knuffke and bassist Chris Lightcap, plus the Stamps Jazz Quintet, comprised of all sophomores at the Frost School of Music. **BM**

**NICK CURRAN AND THE LOWLIFES  
BOSTON'S, DELRAY/OCT. 26  
BACK ROOM, BOCA RATON/OCT. 29  
DOWNTOWNER, FT. LAUDERDALE/OCT. 30**

With his roughed-up yowl and downtuned guitar, Nick Curran expertly evinces an era when rock 'n' roll was still dangerous. On his latest release, *Reform School Girl*, the Maine native rumbles with Little Richard, Link Wray and Joey Ramone as he gooses retro-d greaser culture with a punk rock snarl. Self-penned tracks like "Kill My Baby," "Psycho" and "Sheena's Back," find the guys celebrating all kinds of antisocial behavior. Curran pays homage to the queen of JDs, Etta James, with a cover of her "Tough Lover," and gets an assist from Blasters frontman Phil Alvin on the terrific "Flyin' Blind." The guitarist also showcased his blues chops on 2003's *Doctor Velvet*, which won a W.C. Handy Award for Best New Artist Debut. Curran was sidelined briefly by tongue cancer, but he's back in South Florida for a handful of dates, including the annual Hoodoo Voodoo Blues Ball. For more info, visit Hoodoo



voodoo.com. **BW**

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**BOBBY LEE RODGERS**  
**THE GREEN ROOM, FT. LAUDERDALE/OCT. 28**  
**SOUTHERN MONSTER SMASH MUSIC FEST,**  
**POMPAÑO BEACH AMPHITHEATRE/OCT. 30**

For most of the past decade, Savannah-based guitarist and vocalist Bobby Lee Rodgers blurred the lines dividing jazz, pop and bluegrass with his band The Codetalkers. The band joined forces with another eclectic singing guitarist, Col. Bruce Hampton (of Aquarium Rescue Unit fame), and peaked with their 2006 gem *Now*. But Rodgers' latest "now" involves paying homage to his jazz heroes through a series of monthly tribute shows. Having already saluted Miles Davis, and with nods to John Coltrane and Thelonious Monk on tap, this month Rodgers will tackle material by late guitar



great Wes Montgomery. Playing with drummer Pete Lavezzoli and bassist Don Coffman, Rodgers will modernize Montgomery's catalog by playing his guitar through a Leslie cabinet (more commonly used with a Hammond organ) and using multiple effects. To hear Rodgers in his jam-roots incarnation, check him out at the Southern Monster Smash Music Fest. **BM**

**THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND**  
**SOUTHERN MONSTER SMASH MUSIC FEST**  
**POMPAÑO BEACH AMPHITHEATRE/OCT. 30**

If you celebrated Mardi Gras 2009 on Hollywood Beach, you know that nobody parties like the Dirty Dozen Brass Band. The veteran N'awlins outfit has been serving its heady brew of Crescent City parade music, bebop, modern jazz, funk and R&B for decades, consistently wowing audiences with its high-energy live shows. With a frontline consisting of baritone saxophonist Roger Lewis, trumpeter Efreem Towns, tenor saxophonist Kevin Harris and trumpeter Gregory Davis, the Dirty Dozen digs into Big Easy classics such as "Mardi Gras in New Orleans" and "Big Chief," the grooves anchored by the sousaphone of Kirk Joseph. Drummer Terence Higgins ups the excitement from behind his kit, guitarist Jake Eckert adds barbed licks to the mix, and just about all the cats do some vocalizing, as well. The gang continues to spread the New Orleans gospel wherever it goes, including the Southern Monster Smash Music Fest in Pompano. Visit [Southernmonstersmash.com](http://Southernmonstersmash.com) for the full lineup. **BW**



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WITH KEN PEPLOWSKI, CLARINET

DECEMBER 8, 2010 7:45PM



#### < RIM SHOTS

AN EVENING WITH  
THE JEFF HAMILTON TRIO  
JANUARY 12, 2011 9:45PM

#### THIS HEART OF MINE >

JACKIE RYAN, JAZZ VOCALIST

FEBRUARY 9, 2011 9:45PM



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MARCH 9, 2011 9:45PM

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ERIC ALLISON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

APRIL 13, 2011 7:45PM



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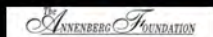
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**ROD PIAZZA & MIGHTY FLYERS BLUES QUARTET**  
**DAYTONA BLUES FEST at JACKIE ROBINSON**  
**MEMORIAL BALL PARK/OCT. 10**

The Mighty Flyers have long enjoyed a rep as a stage-torching blues act. With a chromatic harmonica wedged in his gums, frontman Rod Piazza cuts loose with freight-train ferocity. His wife, Honey Piazza, ripples the 88s and boogies like a Saturday-night juke with no care about Sunday morning. While the Flyers have undergone personnel changes over the years, the Piazzas are renowned for recruiting A-list talent. The band's current, bassless lineup features the heated licks of versatile guitarist Henry Carvajal, who's also a soulful vocalist, and exciting drummer Dave Kida. In 2009, the Flyers recorded *Soul Monster*, a collection of groovers that



showcases Piazza's deep roots in Chicago, Delta and New Orleans blues as well as his signature West Coast jump style. In a recent edition of *Blues Blast Magazine*, reviewer Marilyn Stringer raved about a recent performance: "I've never seen Rod having such a good time.... The band and the crowd picked up on it, and it was one of the best sets I have seen them play." **BW**

**EDEN BRENT**  
**DAYTONA BLUES FEST at JACKIE ROBINSON**  
**MEMORIAL BALL PARK/OCT. 10**  
**BOSTON'S, DELRAY/OCT. 12**

Blues and boogie pianist Eden Brent has the kind of voice and charisma that would make her a star in just about any era. Her smoky, well-lived-in vocals could have emanated from a scratchy 78 record in the 1920s or blasted from dorm-room speakers in the '70s. On her excellent new recording *Ain't Got No Troubles*, Brent boogies her blues away on uptempo barrelhouse numbers. But she just as convincingly calls up acres of heartache on tearstained reflections of love-gone-wrong. A disciple of the late Delta pianist Boogaloo Ames, Brent has earned accolades including Acoustic



Album and Acoustic Artist of the Year Blues Music Awards in 2009, and Pinetop Perkins Piano Player of the Year, which she accepted at this year's BMA ceremony. For *Ain't Got No Troubles*, Brent literally and figuratively headed to New Orleans, recording with George Porter Jr. on bass and Jon Cleary on Hammond B3 at Piety Street Studios. **BW**

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