



JAZZ & BLUES
FLORIDA

NOVEMBER
2013

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

**FEATURED
ARTIST**

Nicole Yarling
Paulette Dozier & Wendy Pedersen

IN 'A TRIBUTE TO THE
GREAT WOMEN OF JAZZ'
SUNNY ISLES BEACH
JAZZ FESTIVAL



**PLUS: STANLEY CLARKE & THE
HARLEM STRING QUARTET • JOE LOCKE
BILL WHARTON • MICHELLE COLTRANE
BUDDY GUY & JONNY LANG
BRANDON SANTINI BAND
LONGINEU PARSONS & NAT ADDERLEY JR.
BRYAN LEE & BLUES POWER BAND
3 COHENS SEXTET • GINA SICILIA
JOHN MAYALL & FRIENDS
EUGENE CHADBOURNE/TATSUYA NAKATANI**

NICOLE YARLING

by Bill Meredith



THE CENTERPIECE OF THE THREE-DAY Sunny Isles Beach Jazz Fest, a Tribute to the Great Women of Jazz concert will honor Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Peggy Lee, Anita O'Day, Billie Holiday and Nina Simone. And the tribute performances will fittingly feature several of the great women of South Florida jazz.

Hollywood-based vocalist and violinist Nicole Yarling, Miami vocalists Wendy Pedersen and Paulette Dozier, and Florida Memorial University student vocalist Ashlee Moss will perform selections from the songbooks of the six iconic jazz singers. All will be backed by the Melton Mustafa Orchestra, led by its treasured namesake Miami trumpeter.

"I've never played this festival before," says Yarling of the event, now in its sixth year, "so I'm really looking forward to it. Each of us is performing material associated with one or two of those legendary singers, and I got Ella and Sarah."

With her wide range, pitch, articulation and creativity, Yarling is ideally suited to honor those two soaring jazz legends. Yarling's former business manager, John Levy, booked her to perform with the Count Basie Band at the Hollywood Bowl in California for a star-studded tribute to Fitzgerald after her death in 1996. Levy was also business manager for Joe Williams, the former Basie Band vocalist who'd taken Yarling under his wing. Sadly, Williams died shortly before the release of the 1999 CD documenting one of their concerts together, *Joe Williams Presents Nicole Yarling Live at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild*.

The Brooklyn-born Yarling, who's resided in South Florida since 1980, has also recorded and toured with trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, multi-wind-instrumentalist Ira Sullivan, guitarist Randy Bernsen, and even pop singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett. But she's focused primarily on education in recent years as an instructor at both the University of Miami and Florida Memorial University. And, as a longtime jazz lover, she champions individual style over mimicry.

"Ella and Sarah are two of my favorite singers," Yarling says, "along with lots of underdogs like Joe [Williams], Eddie Jefferson and Etta Jones, even though she hardly ever sang a melody! One of my favorite newer singers is Gregory Porter, who's very unique. But it's not my mission to sound like any of them. You have to be yourself. Ashlee Moss, who'll sing the Nina Simone pieces, is one of my Florida Memorial students. And she gets that, even in her early 20s. She already knows how to creatively interpret standards."

Based in South Florida for more than 30 years, Yarling has also crossed paths with her other fellow performers. "Wendy Pedersen and I work together all the time," she says. "She's great, and she'll be doing the Peggy Lee and Anita O'Day material. I've played on one of Paulette Dozier's CDs [last year's *In Walked You*], but don't know her as well, so it'll be nice to hear her honoring Billie Holiday."

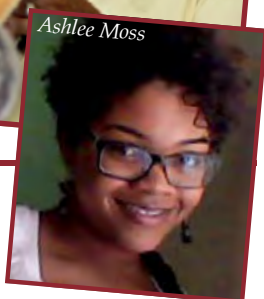
Equally thrilling will be the chance to hear all the participants interact with the 17-piece band led by Mustafa, director of jazz studies at Florida Memorial. Like Yarling, the trumpeter

NICOLE YARLING

has focused on paying it forward through education in addition to his incredible solo recordings and star associations (the Basie Band, bassist Jaco Pastorius' Word of Mouth Big Band). For Mustafa, who's spent the past three years bravely overcoming Stage 4 prostate cancer, every performance is a cause for celebration.

"Melton is a friend and colleague," Yarling says, "and he realized that he couldn't take that situation lying down, which I really admire him for. He's doing much better now, and he looks great. When you see him, it's amazing. And I know he'll orchestrate everything in this show with an ear toward the participating singer, and the other ear toward the singer they're paying tribute to."

Nicole Yarling, Wendy Pedersen, Paulette Dozier, Ashlee Moss, and the Melton Mustafa Orchestra will perform a Tribute to the Great Women of Jazz from 7 to 10PM on Nov. 16 at Heritage Park, Sunny Isles Beach. Visit Sunnysislesbeachjazz.com or call 305-792-1952.



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GINA SICILIA

BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/NOV. 8

Gina Sicilia has been finetuning her soulful sound since she first set foot on the stage of Warmdaddy's jazz and blues club in her native Philadelphia. Just 19 at the time, the singer received plenty of encouragement. And she's certainly lived up to her promise. Sicilia's 2007 album, *Allow Me to Confess*, landed her a Blues Music Award nomination for Best New Artist Debut, and her vocal and songwriting abilities have become richer with each release. Her most recent, this year's *It Wasn't Real*, showcases the Nashville resident's emotive contralto, which has earned Sicilia favorable comparisons to Susan Tedeschi. Like Tedeschi's — and Linda Ronstadt's and Bonnie Raitt's — Sicilia's voice contains more than



a hint of country roots. And her well-observed lyrics and memorable melodies mark her as a true original, with tracks such as "Walkin' Along the Avenue" and "Don't Wanna Be No Mother" displaying a journalistic eye for detail. Of course, she also more than capably covers Etta James' "Don't Cry Baby," an album highlight. **BW**

STANLEY CLARKE & THE HARLEM STRING QUARTET
SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER,
CUTLER BAY/NOV. 2

Philly native Stanley Clarke, 62, rose to fame as an electric bassist with Return to Forever, the fusion supergroup he co-founded with keyboardist Chick Corea, and through a solo career including the 1976 smash *School Days*. But the versatile musician has always balanced thumping electric work with virtuoso playing on the acoustic upright, which he'll display in this pairing with the Harlem String Quartet at the Miami Nice Jazz Festival. The four-time Grammy-winner, with countless session credits and more than 65 TV and film soundtracks to his name, first balanced his sensitivity and showmanship with the HSQ at the Montreal Jazz



Festival last year. Violinists Melissa White and Ilmar Gavilan, violist Jaime Amador Medina and cellist Matthew Zalkind have established a younger audience for classical music. Aiming toward advanced musical diversity, the HSQ has been performing works by minority composers since 2006, while acing charts written by Clarke over the years. **BM**

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Alt. Wednesdays November 6 & 20 - 6:00-9:00pm - \$5/\$4 members

Tutto Fresco Italian Grill - 1180 SE Pt. St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie - Cash bar

**BRANDON SANTINI & DELTA HIGHWAY
BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/NOV. 9**
(live CD recording)

BO DIDDLEY PLAZA, GAINESVILLE/NOV. 15
EARL'S HIDEAWAY, SEBASTIAN/NOV. 17
(with Southern Hospitality)

**S.W. FLORIDA BLUES FEST, SUN-SPLASH PARK,
CAPE CORAL/NOV. 23**

Harmonica ace Brandon Santini regularly wows crowds on Beale Street. And, like Rod Piazza and the late William Clarke, he matches his dazzling harp techniques with charismatic vocals. Just 31, Santini has earned notice beyond his adopted Memphis hometown, garnering nominations for Blues Music and Blues Blast Music awards, as well as performing in Europe, Canada



and even Egypt, where he played with The Memphis Blues Allstars. His most recent release, *This Time Another Year*, rode the Living Blues Radio Chart for months, and was in heavy rotation on B.B. King's Bluesville program. By the time you read this item, Santini may have won this year's Sean Costello Rising Star Award, presented Oct. 31 by Blues Blast. **BW**

**LONGINEU PARSONS AND NAT ADDERLEY JR.
JAZZLAND CAFE, JACKSONVILLE/NOV. 2**

It isn't often that an artist gets to tour with the son of a musician who mentored him. Trumpeter Longineu Parsons is a protégé of late cornetist and composer Nat Adderley — the brother of saxophonist Julian “Cannonball” Adderley — and an associate professor at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee. Pianist Nat Adderley Jr., 58, distanced himself slightly from his father and uncle with his choice of instrumentation, but distanced himself further through the influence of a fellow high school student — future R&B icon Luther Vandross. Adderley was Vandross' musical director, pianist, arranger, composer and producer from 1981 until the 2003 stroke that curtailed his career. The pianist



has since returned to his jazz roots, evidenced by this pairing. Parsons has not only recorded and toured under his own name, but also with Nancy Wilson, tribute bands to Louis Armstrong and Cannonball Adderley, and various symphonies. Expect several standards that pay homage to the late Adderley brothers, Florida's hard-bop forefathers. **BM**

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BILL "SAUCE BOSS" WHARTON
CASA MARINA RESORT, KEY WEST/NOV. 1
ALLEY BLUES BAR, SANFORD/NOV. 15

In the early '70s, so the story goes, Bill Wharton walked out of his house and discovered a 1933 National Steel guitar on his lawn. That's when he developed the aggressive slide-guitar blues that's the hallmark of his sound. Of course, Wharton can also play the hell out of his electric axe — a '53 Telecaster — as he ably displays on stage and on a discography that stretches back to his 1989 Kingsnake release *The Sauce Boss*. That title, Wharton's stage name, references his culinary expertise. During shows, he whips up a batch of gumbo on-stage, which he ladles out to audiences. But Wharton's no novelty act. A razor-sharp guitarist, yowling blues



shouter and superb (frequently hilarious) songwriter, he's truly Florida swamp-blues royalty. His latest CD, last year's *Live at the Green Parrot*, captures The Sauce Boss and band in action at the Key West venue. "I got killer tone," he growls on the opening tune. And he spends the rest of the disc proving just that. **BW**

EUGENE CHADBOURNE & TATSUYA NAKATANI
SUN-RAY CINEMAS, JACKSONVILLE/NOV. 7
DALI MUSEUM, ST. PETERSBURG/NOV. 8
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUDITORIUM/NOV. 9

Adventurous music fans have three chances to catch the duo of guitarist Eugene Chadbourne and percussionist Tatsuya Nakatani at three very different venues throughout Florida this month. The New York-born Chadbourne also plays banjo and Dobro; sings in a distinctive nasal style; and has collaborated with fellow iconoclasts like John Zorn, Henry Kaiser, Fred Frith, and former Zappa drummer Jimmy Carl Black. His 40-year career includes a scroll of mostly self-released recordings. Nakatani was born in Kobe, Japan. He can go from playing standard drum kit to leading his gong orchestra, in which he often coaxes shocking tones from gongs or Japanese bowls using handmade bows or mallets. For the duo's Jacksonville show at Sun-Ray Cinemas, they'll provide live sound for the vampire film *Sanguivorous*, perhaps the most "out" performance of this Florida tour. **BM**





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Nov 6	Fox Street All Stars	
Nov 8	Jamie Eubanks Band	
Nov 9	Brandon Santini Band <i>Live CD Recording Show</i>	
Nov 15	Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers	
Nov 16	Bryan Lee	
Nov 21	Belmont & Jones and Andy Cohen	
Nov 22	John Nemeth	
Nov 23	The Ori Naftaly Band	
Nov 29	Joey Gilmore	
Nov 30	Dash Rip Rock	

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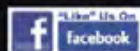
The 3 Cohens are a trio of siblings from Tel Aviv, Israel — tenor saxophonist/clarinetist Anat Cohen, trumpeter Avishai Cohen and soprano saxophonist Yuval Cohen — whose sense of improvisational interplay is both uncannily fluent and wonderfully, infectiously warm.

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- 2 PM THE FONK**
- 3 PM RAINI & KAI**
- 4 PM MIDDLEGROUND**
- 5 PM THE SNACKS**
- 6 PM FRANC ROBERT**
- 8 PM SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY**

SUNDAY, NOV. 17TH

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S P O T L I G H T

BUDDY GUY (w/ Jonny Lang)
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KRAVIS CENTER, WEST PALM BEACH/NOV. 20
ARSHT CENTER, MIAMI/NOV. 21

At 77, Buddy Guy sounds fiercer than players a third his age. His latest recording, *Rhythm & Blues*, again pairs the blues-guitar god with rock stars including Kid Rock and Steven Tyler, and rising blues stars Gary Clark Jr. and Beth Hart. Still, this is Guy's show. His polka-dot Strat crunches, wails and bites deep, and his vocals sound strong and urgent. Over the course of two discs — split into "Rhythm" and "Blues" — he reimagines songbook faves such as "Messin' With the Kid" and "Well, I Done Got Over It," and tells his tale on tracks such as "Meet Me in Chicago" and "My Mama Loved Me." His late 2012 release, *Live at Legends*, also finds Guy at the top of his game, as he jams on classics such as "Damn Right I Got the Blues" and "Country Boy." On his current tour, he's joined by guitarslinger Jonny Lang, whose new album, *Fight for My Soul*, dropped in September. **BW**



JOE LOCKE
ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/NOV. 12-13
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FOR THE ARTS, NAPLES/NOV. 15

(w/ *The Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra*)
 The vibraphone is a unique percussion instrument in that its primary purpose is melodic rather than rhythmic. Vibes legends like Lionel Hampton and Milt Jackson were unique personalities, as is modern mallet master Joe Locke. Raised in upstate New York, Locke, 54, moved to New York City in his early 20s. He's since worked with artists as diverse as Grover Washington Jr., the Munster Symphony Orchestra, and the Beastie Boys. The versatile vibist also co-leads a group with gifted pianist Geoffrey Keezer, and his two Florida shows will



spotlight his disparate recent recordings. At the Arts Garage in Delray Beach, he's likely to play standards and pop covers from his latest CD, *Lay Down My Heart*. His Naples performance with the Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra is likely to resemble Locke's 2012 release *Wish Upon a Star* with the Lincoln, Nebraska Symphony. **BM**

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BRYAN LEE & BLUES POWER
EARL'S HIDEAWAY, SEBASTIAN/NOV. 24
BOSTON'S, DELRAY/NOV. 26
LITTLE BAR, GOODLAND/NOV. 27
FUNKY BISCUIT, BOCA/NOV. 29
BUCKINGHAM BLUES, FORT MYERS/NOV. 30

"I'm 68 years young," Bryan Lee sings on the funky closing track to *Play One for Me*, his latest release. "Stick around a while, you gonna like my style." He then proceeds to unspool some slippery wah-wah-distorted licks that let you know — if the rest of the album hadn't already — he's still got plenty of fire. A New Orleans institution for more than 30 years, the blind, Wisconsin-born axman started out in his teens. Muddy Waters told Lee that if he kept at it, one day he'd be a "living legend."



Despite previous health problems and the devastation of Katrina, Lee soldiers on, now touring behind his new album. His steely, signature tone, soulful vocals and superb songs make *Play One for Me* a winner. Lee & Blues Power will be playing all over Florida this month. Check our listings for more dates. **BW**

3 COHENS SEXTET
MINIACI CENTER, FT. LAUDERDALE/NOV. 16

Many great bands develop chemistry by playing together for years. But in the case of sibling group the 3 Cohens, that chemistry might be genetic. On their just-released CD *Tightrope*, tenor saxophonist/clarinetist Anat, soprano saxophonist Yuval and trumpeter Avishai utilize composition, interpretation (of tunes by Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Tadd Dameron and Gerry Mulligan) and innate improvisational ESP, the latter of which fuels five spontaneous musical "conversations." The Cohens attended the same schools while growing up in Tel Aviv, won scholarships to the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and function as a full band for most of the new CD. Bassist Christian McBride, drummer



Johnathan Blake and pianist Fred Hersch also lend their talents to select tracks. For this South Florida JAZZ presentation — a makeup date from February, when a snowstorm stranded them in New York — the trio will be joined by pianist Bruce Barth, bassist Vicente Archer and drummer Obed Calvaire. **BM**

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JOHN MAYALL'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT SARASOTA MUNICIPAL STADIUM/NOV. 29

John Mayall's role in rock and blues history is the stuff of legends. Not only did he introduce mainstream audiences to the music of blues masters such as Otis Rush and J.B. Lenoir, he was crucial in developing the careers of Eric Clapton, Peter Green, Mick Taylor and Coco Montoya, to name a few. Over the years, the helium-voiced Brit varied his sound along with his bandmates, although he always maintained a solid blues foundation. A string of albums from the 1990s — *A Sense of Place*, *Wake Up Call*, *Spinning Coin* — contain performances as vital as many on his classic '60s recordings. While Mayall put together a Blues Breakers reunion — with Clapton, Taylor and trombonist Chris Barber — for his 70th birthday, his 80th seems fairly low-key. In October, slide-guitar wiz Sonny Landreth joined Mayall's band at New York City's Iridium. For Mayall's actual 80th birthday, which he'll celebrate in Sarasota, he'll share the bill with mighty bluesman Larry McCray and Sarasota-based blues-rockers Tucci. Who knows who else might turn up? **BW**



MICHELLE COLTRANE MIAMI BEACH JAZZ FEST, THE FILLMORE/NOV. 16

Raised by sax giant John Coltrane and her mom, pianist Alice Coltrane, vocalist Michelle Coltrane has largely avoided comparisons to her legendary parents. In fact, she's collaborated and performed with other artists more frequently than she's recorded under her own name. The Paris-born singer's warm, expressive voice adorned her 1994 debut CD, *I Think of You*, and has been featured alongside artists like Jack DeJohnette, Billy Childs, Kenny Kirkland and Jeff "Tain" Watts. Slated for 2014, Coltrane's long-awaited sophomore CD will itself be a collaboration with guitarist Shea Welsh. The pair found common ground during an open jam at a Los Angeles recording studio. They'll perform together on a very strong bill at the Miami Beach Jazz Festival (miami-beach-jazz.com), which also includes violinist Mads Tolling; the duo of flutist Ali Ryerson and guitarist Joe Carter; prominent South Florida pianists Antonio Adolfo and Markus Gottschlich; and the South Florida Jazz Orchestra, led by bassist Chuck Bergeron. **BM**



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