



JAZZ & BLUES
F L O R I D A

NOVEMBER 2017



FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE:
BLUES
ARTIST

Gracie Curran & the High Falutin' Band

JAZZ ARTISTS

JOHN CLAYTON
ADRIAN CUNNINGHAM
BRANDON GOLDBERG
TAMIR HENDELMAN
AL MANISCALCO
RON REINHARDT
GRANT STEWART

BLUES ARTISTS

ELVIN BISHOP
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GRACIE CURRAN

With comparisons being made to Etta James, Sharon Jones, Maggie Bell, Susan Tedeschi and even Aretha Franklin, Gracie Curran's connection to the blues is undeniable. "I was born in 1984, the same year Big Mama Thornton died," Gracie explains. "I would love to go back in time and see Etta, or Billie, or Janis, or Miss Willie Mae live in their prime. I have such a connection to these women – their voices helped me find my voice, my place in the world. As much as you can get from a recording or video, there is whole added element involved in a live performance. An energy that transfers from a musician to an audience member."

"The first time I saw Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings was at the House of Blues in Boston. I managed to sneak backstage to get a picture and meet Sharon. I caught her after she was getting off the stage. She was soaked in sweat and had left nothing out there... She gets off stage, is toweling down, and stops to say hello, gives me a big hug, and before the woman can even get a drink of water, offers to take a picture with me, and another when she thinks the first isn't good enough. Sharon Jones gives every last drop of her energy and love and

being, to everything she does, and everyone she meets. That had such a profound effect on me. I realized that night, that I have to give this, my music, my dreams, my relationships, everything I have to even be worthy of the opportunity. Unless I do it with same passion that Sharon does, I don't deserve to step foot on a stage. That was a turning point for me."

It's clear that Gracie has truly put her all into trying to follow Jones' example, and the blues community is taking notice. "We booked Gracie for our biggest show of the year," Rob Richardson, Vice President of the North Central Florida Blues Society, said. "We do a show here in Gainesville at the Bo Diddley Community Plaza every November to kick off the big Downtown Festival & Art Show.

It's a chance to thank the local public for their support by booking a touring national act and having 2,500 people see them free of charge. Gracie Curran was an obvious choice for me because she is not only a great singer but a fantastic entertainer; she puts on a *show*. She's gonna put a smile on your face! And her band is solid and can groove. If you're going to see Gracie, you'd better bring your dancing shoes, because she's all about bringing the fun."



CURRAN & THE HIGH FALUTIN' BAND

In the four years since the release of her critically acclaimed debut album *Proof of Love*, Curran has been packing houses across the country, wowing audiences with her powerful voice and soul shaking delivery. Born and raised outside of Boston, Gracie discovered a love of blues and soul at an early age. In 2010, Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' band played their first show to a sold-out house in Boston, and quickly amassed a tremendous following, regularly packing venues throughout New England. In 2012, the band won the Boston Blues Challenge, and within a year the band was touring and releasing *Proof of Love* while competing in the International Blues Challenge.

The album was met with glowing reviews and received heavy radio play, earning the band a Best New Artist nomination at the 2014 Blues Music Awards. The band also

received Boston Music Award and New England Music Award nominations for Blues Band of the Year. In 2015, Gracie relocated to Memphis, earned yet another Boston Music Award nomination, and won the award for Blues Artist of the Year.

Curran's trademark is her infectious, whoop-it-up enthusiasm that draws people in and spreads the good time that she is clearly having. "It's about sharing the things that sit deep in your soul. It's unfiltered," Curran said. "It's as honest as you can be with yourself and that's a very powerful thing. Her long-awaited sophomore solo album, *Come Undone* with producer and guitar phenom Damon Fowler, along with a host of special guests, is due out soon. More at graciecurran.com.

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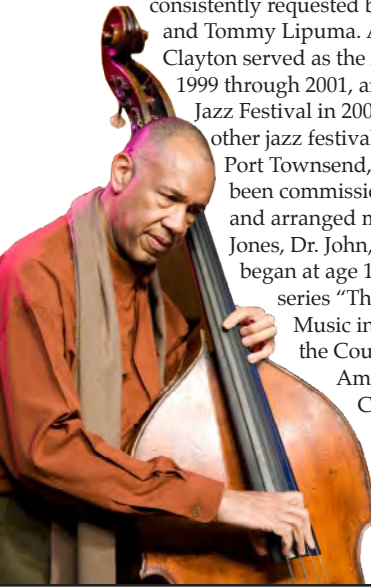
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John Clayton

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Grammy-winning bassist/composer/conductor John Clayton's talents are consistently requested by movers and shakers in the jazz industry, such as Quincy Jones and Tommy Lipuma. As a testament to his immense talent and broad ranging appeal, Clayton served as the Artistic Director of Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 1999 through 2001, and was Artistic Director for the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival in 2006. He has served as Musical and Artistic Director numerous other jazz festivals as well, currently including the Centrum Jazz Workshop in Port Townsend, Washington. Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival. He has been commissioned by many ensembles, won many awards, and has written and arranged music for Diana Krall, DeeDee Bridgewater, Natalie Cole, Quincy Jones, Dr. John, and many others. Clayton's serious study of the double bass began at age 16, and by 19 he was the bassist for Henry Mancini's television series "The Mancini Generation." After graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Double Bass in 1975, he toured with Monty Alexander and then the Count Basie Orchestra. He held the principal bass position in the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra for more than five years. The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra is co-led by John, his brother, saxophonist Jeff Clayton, and drummer Jeff Hamilton. In addition, John and Jeff co-lead the Clayton Brothers Quintet. John and Jeff, as The Clayton Brothers, released *Soul Brothers* in 2016, as an exploration of the social issues that plague our inner cities and society. More at johnclaytonjazz.com.



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Paul Nelson

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NOVEMBER 18
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PUNTA GORDA

NOVEMBER 24
SOUTH STREET
NAPLES

NOVEMBER 26
EARL'S HIDEAWAY
SEBASTIAN

Recognized as one of today's top guitarists, songwriters and producers, Paul Nelson has the distinction of being the hand-picked fellow guitarist to the legendary Johnny Winter. But he has also toured the world over, performing and/or recording alongside an exhaustive A-list that includes Eric

Clapton, Slash, Billy Gibbons, Ben Harper, Derek Trucks, James Cotton, Joe Perry, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Dr. John, Larry Carlton, Joe Bonamassa, Sonny Landreth, and many more. Nelson received a Grammy for his work performing on and producing Winter's posthumously awarded *Step Back* release, which received a BMA for Best Blues/Rock Album, reached No. 16 on the *Billboard* Top 200 and sat at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Blues Charts for weeks. Nelson is also a recipient of the Blues Foundation's Keeping The Blues Alive Award. His music has reached millions with appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, in the award-winning documentaries *Down and Dirty: The Johnny Winter Story* and *Sideman: Long Road to Glory*, and via multiple album releases, books, instructional guitar columns, live DVDs, and guest performances. The recently-formed Paul Nelson Band maintains his unmistakable connection to the blues,

and their album, *Badass Generation*, finds the guitarist showing his other musical dimensions, from hard-edged rock and blues to acoustic-driven fare. More information and his

full
schedule
at paulnelsonguitar.com.





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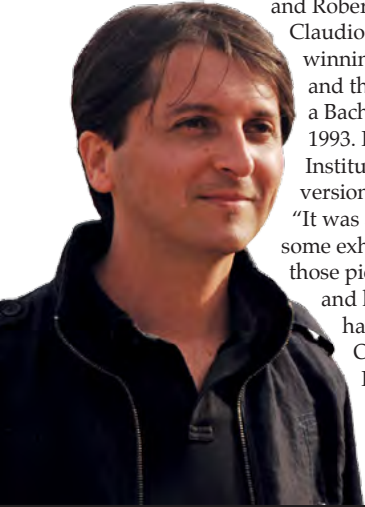


BradentonBluesFestival.org

Tamir Hendelman

Award-winning jazz pianist/composer Tamir Hendelman has been leading his own trio and performing with the Jeff Hamilton Trio and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra since 2000-2001. He is known for his imaginative and

sensitive playing and arranging on recordings by Natalie Cole, Barbra Streisand and Roberta Gambarini as well as Graham Dechter, Richard Galliano and Claudio Roditi. As a young man, he moved from Tel Aviv to Los Angeles, winning Yamaha's national keyboard competition, performing in Japan and the Kennedy Center, attending Tanglewood in 1998 and receiving a Bachelor of Music Composition from the Eastman School of Music in 1993. In 1996 he became the youngest musical director of the Lovewell Institute for the Creative Arts. When Tamir premiered John Clayton's version of Oscar Peterson's Canadiana Suite in 2001, Mr. Peterson wrote: "It was a satisfying but strange feeling... to hear a new young voice make some exhilarating and thoughtful solos in the spaces I used to occupy in those pieces..." Hendelman has been on the faculty of UCLA since 2005 and has conducted workshops throughout the U.S. and in Europe. He has performed "Rhapsody In Blue" with the Winston Symphony Orchestra in 2013 and will perform it with the Arizona Music Fest Orchestra in 2018. Hendelman's latest trio CD, *Destinations* reached No. 1 on the U.S. jazz charts. The album takes listeners along on a voyage of musical discovery, from originals to Jobim, Keith Jarrett and Maurice Ravel. More at tamirhendelman.com.



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Elvin Bishop

As someone who's been traveling the blues road longer than most, Elvin Bishop's got tales to tell – many of which are contained within the songs on his latest release, *Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio*. Bishop's journey began when he used his National Merit Scholarship to attend the University of Chicago, on Chicago's South Side, ground zero for much of the urban blues he had so far been studying only from a distance. After graduation, he and fellow student Paul Butterfield formed the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. In 1965, their revolutionary debut LP opened the door for virtually all the young white blues bands that followed. Bishop released three albums with the Butterfield band



before venturing out on his own. Several well-received albums in the early '70s culminated in his biggest pop success, the smash hit "Fooled Around and Fell In Love" from his 1976 LP *Struttin' My Stuff*. Road work kept him busy for a long time, as did recording with legends such as Clifton Chenier, John Lee Hooker, and The Allman Brothers. But Bishop found himself going back to the blues. His Grammy-nominated 2008 CD *The Blues Rolls On* was met by a flurry of other awards and accolades, including being named 2009 Male Blues Artist of the Year by Blues Blast magazine. Now Bishop is teaming up with guitarist/pianist Bob Welsh and percussionist/vocalist Willy Jordan for Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio. The music is rootsy, spirited and soulful, performed by serious musicians hell-bent on having a good time. More at elvinbishopmusic.com.

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Adrian Cunningham

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Multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and world traveler Adrian Cunningham is a Sydney native and one

of the most sought-after freelance musicians in Australia... and now Stateside after relocating to New York City in 2008. He has performed at some of the Big Apple's finest venues, the Montreaux Jazz Festival, at festivals and private clubs across Europe, and in Asia and Africa. Cunningham has released four albums as bandleader with his working Australian Quarter, and a Benny Goodman centennial tribute DVD, *With All Due Respect*, which was recorded live at the historic Orpheum Picture Palace in Sydney. His songs have been featured on the inflight program on Quantas Airlines' domestic and international flights and receive significant airplay on radio stations. His commercial work includes the house band for *Australian Idol* and numerous TV appearances. Adrian Cunningham's Australian Quartet released four studio albums and a live album/DVD. In 2013 Cunningham formed a traditional/New Orleans style group called Professor Cunningham and His Old School. Deeply rooted in the jazz tradition, the group fast became one of the top bands in the international swing music scene. Their self-titled debut release is a tribute to many New Orleans greats. While also a member

of two other Australian jazz groups – the Galapagos Ducks and the Sydney All-Star Big Band – Cunningham has been the leader of the woodwind section of the Grammy-winning

Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks since 2014.

Cunningham has recorded CDs with several groups, and maintains a busy jazz festival schedule. More at adriancunningham.com.

FROM A PHOTO BY STEVEN K. POPE



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NOVEMBER 29
ENGLEWOOD'S
ON DEARBORN
ENGLEWOOD

DECEMBER 3
BRADENTON
BLUES FESTIVAL
BRADENTON

As with his legendary live performances, Damon Fowler's latest CD, *Sounds of Home*, takes the listener on a tour through the rich traditions of American roots music, presented by one of its foremost practitioners. Fowler chose swamp blues master Tab Benoit to produce and record him at Benoit's rural Louisiana home studio, and their collaboration highlights the tension between Fowler's measured, laid-back vocal delivery and the hallmark intensity of

his guitar virtuosity. The stories told in these songs – sometimes in collaboration with long-time writing partner Ed Wright and Benoit – exhibit a combination of depth, grace and humor very few of his contemporaries can match. Along with his solo career, Fowler joined forces with fellow guitarist JP Soars and keyboardist Victor Wainwright in 2011 to form the southern roots rock group, Southern Hospitality. SoHo quickly became a strong draw on the national circuit due to their roof-raising live performances and their first recording, *Easy Livin.'* The Florida native started wowing audiences with his musical exploits as a teen. Now critics extol his originality and maturity, as well as his technical guitar expertise. They have compared his guitar work to Johnny Winter and Jeff Beck, while his slide guitar has a hint of the late Duane Allman. He can play

fiery guitar runs with the best of them, but it's his lyrical work on lap steel and Dobro that makes him stand out. More at damonfowler.com.



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Brandon Goldberg

NOVEMBER 12
EAST NAPLES UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
NAPLES

Still not quite a yet a teen, Brandon Goldberg began to play piano when he was three years old. He has since

appeared on the Harry Connick Jr. Show, Little Big Shots and The Steve Harvey Show. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center with Monty Alexander, The Apollo Theater, the Blue Note Jazz Club in New York and the Litchfield Jazz Festival. His favorite artists include Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Oscar Peterson, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Billy Joel. Brandon works closely with the Jazz Foundation of America (JFA) and performed at the JFA annual Gala where he presented McCoy Tyner with his Lifetime Achievement Award. Brandon also performed at the JFA's Q & You fundraiser in Los Angeles hosted by Quincy Jones and Alan Bergman. First place for Original Composition in 2015 and 2013 and Piano Solo Performance in 2014 from the Miami Music Teachers Association went to Brandon, and he was the youngest recipient of the 2015 and 2013 Miami Music Club Scholarship. Brandon has given talks at TEDxYouth@Miami and TEDxBocaRaton, participated in the Miami Beach Jazz Festival, Broward 100 Celebration, and other area competitions and showcases. He's been featured as a soloist with the South Florida Youth Symphony, the Sugar Pops Symphonic Orchestra and the Superintendent's Honors Music Festival Jazz Orchestra. Through his love for music, Brandon has helped raise funds and awareness for various charitable organizations. He currently studies both classical and jazz piano. For this event, he'll be appearing as a featured performer with the The Dan Miller-Glenn Basham Quintet. Find him on [Facebook](#).



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Orleans, but it went out of business due to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In 2007, she was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. Also in 2007, Thomas accepted an invitation to participate in *Goin' Home: A Tribute to Fats Domino* where, singing with Marcia Ball, she contributed "I Just Can't Get New Orleans Off My Mind." The same year she won the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Blues Album for *After the Rain*. In 2008, she was featured on the poster for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. In 2013 and 2014, Thomas was nominated for a Blues Music Award from the Blues Foundation in the "Soul Blues Female Artist" category, which she duly won both years. She appears annually at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and reigned as Queen of the Krewe du Vieux for the 1998 New Orleans Mardi Gras season. More at irmathomas.com.

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- Nov 11 George & Wendy's, Sanibel
- Nov 12 Fort Myers Yacht Club, Iona
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- Nov 19 Shark Bar
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Grant Stewart

NOVEMBER 15
ARTIS-NAPLES
NAPLES

Born in Toronto, Canada, Grant Stewart moved to New York City at the age of 19, studying with masters such

as Donald Byrd and Barry Harris. He has performed internationally with Jimmy Cobb, Harold Mabern, Louis Hayes, Curtis Fuller, Renee Fleming, Etta Jones, Bill Charlap, Cecil Payne, Dick Hymen, and more, and was a member of the last Al Grey Sextet. In New York, Stewart can be found playing all the top jazz clubs. He has performed all over North America and Europe as well as in Japan, Brazil, and Taiwan. He was also one of the first jazz artists to be invited to play at the historical Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. Grant was a featured artist at the Guggenheim Museums' Jazz series with his trio including drum legend Jimmy Cobb. Stewart has released 16 recordings as a leader, highlighted by his most recent CD, 2014's *Grant Stewart Trio*, and 2012's award-winning *Live At Smalls*. He also has co-led two sessions with fellow tenor saxophonist Eric Alexander, and has appeared on many other recordings as a sideman. On the international front, Stewart was named one of the Top Three Tenor Saxophonists and as the No. 7 Jazz Artist of

the year by the noted jazz magazine *Swing Journal* in its 2009 poll. For this event, Stewart will be the special guest for Artis-Naples' All That Jazz series with the Naples Jazz Philharmonic

Orchestra, under the Artistic Direction of Lew Del Gatto. More at grantstewartjazz.com.

FROM A PHOTO BY STEVEN SUSSMAN



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FROM A PHOTO BY BOB HANKINS

Terry Hanck

Three-time Blues Music Awards winner for Best Horn, Terry Hanck brings his California-based band – Johnny Cat Soubrand, Butch Cousins and Tim Wagar – out for a tour of Florida this month. The silver-haired saxophonist, singer, bandleader and songwriter was born in Chicago. But inspiration struck at a 1962 B.B. King concert, and Hanck moved to California in the '60s, where he played with the Elvin Bishop band from 1977 to 1987 before starting the Terry Hanck Band. He relocated to South Florida in 2003, and has been a constant



force on the area blues scene ever since. In 2015, Hanck won the ISC Award (International Songwriting Competition) in the Blues category for his soul ballad, "I Keep On Holding On." His seventh and latest release is 2016's *From Roadhouse to Your House-Live!*, recorded at the California State Fair. He is also featured on the new CD compilation, *Howlin' at Greaseland*. This summer, the band played at the 2017 Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise, the Milwaukee Summerfest, and Chicago's American Music Festival. Having recently returned from a tour of Norway, including a festival in Svalbard up near the North Pole with Finland's Tomi Leino Trio, Hanck and the band are happy to be back in Florida's warmth. Hanck has led his own band for 40 years, proving that sax and soul never go out of style. More information and his full schedule at terryhanck.net.

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- NOVEMBER 25
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- NOVEMBER 28
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NOVEMBER 15
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NOVEMBER 3
PARLOUR
JACKSONVILLE

Al Maniscalco

Al Maniscalco has been a major contributor to the East Coast jazz scene for 25 years. After receiving a BA from the University of North Florida, and a Master of Music degree from Towson State University, Maniscalco grew to be hailed as one of the regions top saxophonists. His resume, includes performances with the likes of Branford Marsalis, Tony Bennett, Curtis Lundy, Billy Hart, John Hicks and Chuck Mangione, and he has shared the stage with The Temptations, Hal Linden, The Guy Lombardo Orchestra, and appeared on international Cruise Lines. In 1992, Maniscalco won the Jazz Category in the Great South Florida Sound Search, sponsored by the *Miami Herald*. In 2004 he was among 12 winning finalists in the Search For A New Jazz Star competition sponsored by Sony Jazz, competing with hundreds of musicians from all over the world. Since its inception in 1994, the Al Maniscalco Quartet has developed a reputation as one of the region's premier jazz groups, performing at jazz venues across the eastern seaboard. This continued success led to the release of their first CD, *Altitude*, in 1997. On the liner notes of the group's fourth CD, 2006's *One Blessed Day*, legendary saxophonist Bunky Green states, "the music has groove and swing... and creates great passion." Maniscalco is expanding his audience worldwide, with successful recent performances in Hong Kong and Italy encouraging a planned return to Europe and Asia. He currently resides in Jacksonville, where he performs, teaches, and serves as an active clinician for Buffet Crampon (woodwinds). More at almaniscalco.com.



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Libbie Rae Watson

NOVEMBER 4
BLUE TAVERN
TALLAHASSEE

Growing up in Mississippi, just a few hours' drive from the heart of the Delta, Libby Rae Watson spent the mid-

1970s, searching, exploring, documenting, meeting and playing with all the Delta blues artists she could find. From legends like Big Joe Williams, Furry Lewis, Johnny Woods, Eugene Powell and Son Thomas to total obscurities, Watson worked with people and places that would give pause to most any other young woman in her 20s. According to Watson, "I didn't plan to go 'find' the blues. The blues found me. I've been consumed by it for 40 years!" Her friendship with Sam Chatmon, the last surviving member of the Mississippi Sheiks, influenced her greatly. They were fast friends from day one and remained that way until his death in 1983, when Watson performed "Sitting On Top Of The World" at his funeral. Now, after years of staying close to home with her band, The Liberaetors, Watson has returned to her beloved delta Blues... and to the road. She has performed at a long list of festivals over her career, including the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the King Biscuit Festival, the Juke Joint Festival and The Mighty Mississippi River Festival. Following the success of 2013's *Sweet and Salty*, Watson placed in the semi-finals of the 2014 and 2015 International Blues Challenges. Check her out on a rare trip to Florida this month.

More at libbyrae.com.



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NOVEMBER 15
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Ron Reinhardt

Tampa Bay-based keyboardist Ron Reinhardt has worked with a long list of artists, including David Sanborn, Marcus Miller, Peter White, Mindi Abair, Gerald Albright, George Duke, Jonathan Butler, Candy Dulfer, Eric Marienthal, Paul Taylor, Oleta Adams, Chris Botti, Kirk Whalum, and many more. In the '80s and '90s, Reinhardt toured and recorded with jazz-fusion bass icon Jeff Berlin. In a departure from the jazz genre, Reinhardt toured with Donny Osmond on his pop comeback tour in 1989 and was his Music Director from 1990 to 1992. But jazz beckoned, and Reinhardt joined Richard Elliott's band in 1992. His association with Elliott led him to the Guitars & Saxes 1997 tour, and then to become a frequent member of Rick Braun's touring band. Reinhardt's track "Sly" (off Elliott's 2004 *Ricochet* CD) hit No. 2 on the *Radio & Records* Smooth Jazz chart. Reinhardt also co-wrote two Top 10 songs off Elliott's 2016 *Summer Madness* CD and co-writing credit the title track of Rick Braun's 2017 release, *Around the Horn*. "I'm totally content lurking in the shadows as a sideman," says Reinhardt. "If people like what I do, and notice my playing, that's great." His current solo CD, aptly entitled *From The Shadows*, was released in 2012. A portion of the proceeds from this event benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. More at clevelandstreetproductions.com.



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Life is a lot like jazz... it's best when you improvise – *George Gershwin*

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