JAZZ JAMBALAYA | CALENDAR

4th Monday
6:30pm

ADMISSION
$10 Members
$15 Guests
$12 Students/Military w/ID

$1 Door Prize Tickets

Bill Frasier | Manager
TIP THE TEAM!

28 May 2018
“A Night at the Blue Note”
Chip Herrington Quintet

25 June 2018
“Three Tenors”
Joe Occhipinti’s Jazzabouts

23 July 2018
Summer Jam
Rick Hirsch & Friends

27 August 2018
TBA

2018 MEMBERSHIP
January 1 – December 31 | $3 online processing fee
Individual . $35 | Family . $55
Partners . Contact us

PRESENT CURRENT MOJO MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR DISCOUNTS!

A & M Peanut Shop
209 Dauphin Street . Mobile, AL
251.438.9374

Cammie’s Old Dutch Ice Cream
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251.471.1710

JAZZ CONNECTIONS
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THANKS
The Drowsy Poet | Joe Occhipinti | Gulf City Lodge | Mobile Public Library

J. C. McALEER III
HONOREE
Monday . 23 April 2018
GULF CITY LODGE
Mobile, AL . USA

PO Box 748 . Mobile, AL . 36601-0748 . USA
501(c)(3)
mojojazz.org
facebook.com/Mystic-Order-of-the-Jazz-Obsessed
By all means, look behind the curtain. The Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed’s Jazzalea Awards has honored behind-the-scenes personnel who make stage magic possible.

The 2016 award went to entertainment reporter Lawrence Specker, whose work magnified Azalea City jazz for more than 20 years. Bob Spielmann’s numerous decades of service in various jazz organizations earned him the 2017 award.

This year’s Jazzalea goes to J. C. McAleer III, Mobile Jazz Festival founding member and initial executive director. He guided the event from its 1965 birth then handed the reins to Spielmann in the late 1980s.

McAleer was executive director of the Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) in the mid 1960s when “dear, dear friend” Autry Greer proposed the festival. The Jaycees had a full plate already.

“They said we just can’t take on another project,” McAleer recalled.

“In the 1960s they had the Azalea Trail, just started the Junior Miss Pageant, Greater Gulf State Fair, Soap Box Derby and the Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, all with volunteer help.”

So, Greer and a handful of others made the festival its own entity. McAleer’s term at the Jaycees’ helm was over so he jumped into the new event.

According to a Billboard magazine Oct. 16, 1966 article, a call was issued to 800 colleges and universities seeking applicants for the inaugural event April 2 – 3, 1966. Spring Hill College and the University of South Alabama were named as sponsors with the finals slated for ABC radio network coverage.

The national advisory board included names like Pete Fountain, Dave Brubeck, Al Hirt, Cal Tjader and Henry Mancini. The article stated 1966’s budget as $36,000 and the projected 1967 budget as $134,000.

“Our funding came from the city and county primarily, the local and state arts councils. Eventually, we made a contact with the National Endowment for the Arts and got money there,” McAleer said.

Once colleges spread word, high schools wanted in on the act.

“We would bring in clinicians, studio musicians from New York primarily and acknowledged jazz educators. The total emphasis was education,” McAleer said.

May 28, 1972 Press-Register article said about “250 high school stage band musicians from 13 states were expected to participate in the first All-American High School Stage Band Festival, presented by Spring Hill College and the University of South Alabama. Mobile Jazz Festival President J.C. McAleer coordinated the festival.”

The event became famous thanks to one high-energy outfit from Houston. Typical of urban public schools, Kashmere High School optimized slim budgets. When music instructor Conrad “Prof” Johnson arrived in the 1960s, he stirred student enthusiasm by ceding their big band’s jazz to inject soul and funk arrangements. Renewed vigor heightened students’ diligence.

“I can see Conrad Johnson like he’s standing in front of me right now. Just a delightful man and you could just see the respect those high school kids had for him,” McAleer said.

Kashmere hit the Azalea City like a hurricane, determined to land the grand prize Hammond electric organ.

A 2011 Houston Chronicle article described the final scene: “...the Alabama judges deliberated for more than an hour, dithering before finally, in a hushed voice, they awarded the national championship to Kashmere: the first black band ever to win it.”

“It just chapped me that race came into things. That didn’t have a thing to do with it. That band was smokin’! The other band was just as good,” McAleer said.

Years later, entertainer Jamie Foxx saw a TV documentary on Kashmere and was inspired to produce a feature film-length version. The resulting testimonial to arts education – “Thunder Soul” – includes the storied Mobile competition.

Despite Greer’s protestations, the festival ended the competitive format after 1972. The director of North Texas State’s renowned program advised “it’s art, not sport” and cooperation was key.

“Then kids from all over got together and had a better time when they weren’t competing. We had spontaneous jam sessions and it really changed the whole format,” McAleer said. Mobile Jazz Festival would go on to include top professional acts in public concerts.

Kevin Lee, Arts Editor
Artifice . Lagniappe Weekly . 19 April 2018
IT WAS AAHSOME!
Jazz Appreciation Month kicked off BIG time on Monday, April 9th at Art After Hours
Special thanks to our host, partners, Mobile Arts Council and you!
- Attendance - 65
- Donation to The Jazz Studio - $247
- “20 Years of Jazz: 1998-2018” poster collection - On display at Gallery 450, 300 St. Michael St. all month

Photos
Carmen Brown • Julie Ishee Martin
Ivey Welch • Yvette Chestang

APRIL 2018 BIRTHDAYS
Brenda Howard
Peter Kerr
Weezie Larson
Joe Occhipinti
Richard Rothenberg
Bob Spielmann

...take 5

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Richard Rothenberg
Bob Spielmann

Wednesday-Thursday, 4.25-26.19, 11:30am-1:30pm  Brown Bag Concert
The Bodhi Trio  Wed-Bienville Square, Mobile  Thurs-Mayday Park, Daphne, AL
Thursday, 4.26.18, 7:30pm  All Things Stevie: Celebrating the Music of Stevie Wonder  The Cedric Brooks Project  The Locale, 4128 Government St., Mobile, AL  $25
Sunday, 4.29.18, 1-7:30pm  Sunset Series: Jazz in the Fort  The Jazz Studio (1pm) & Swing (5:30pm)  Fort Gaines, Dauphin Island, AL  Free w/Fort admission, $5 after 5pm  Bring seating
Thursday, 5.11.17, 6pm  Concerts on the Lawn  The Cedric Brooks Project  The Locale, 4128 Government St., Mobile, AL  $25-$30
Sunday, 5.12.18, 12-2pm  Jazz Brunch  Jimmy Roebuck & Friends  Corpus Christi Parish Hall, 6200 McKenna Ave., Mobile, AL  $4.25-$10.25
Sunday, 5.13.18, 5:30pm  Mother’s Day Dinner & Jazz  Elan Trotman  Its Personal By Sheila, 2610 West Cervantes St. Pensacola, FL  $25-$30  850.607.2520
Sunday, 5.20.18, 5:30-7:30pm  Big Band by the Bay Sunday Concert Series  Mobile Big Band Society  Bayfront Park, Daphne, AL
Monday, 5.21.18, 6:30-9pm  Jazz Pensacola  Jazz Gumbo: Tribute to Al Jarreau  The Curt Bol Band (Curt Bol, Lara Bol, Steve Watkins, Mark Purser, Tom Latenser & Joseph Lyons)  Phineas Phogg’s, Seville Quarter, 130 E. Government St., Pensacola, FL  $10-$12  Students & uniformed military, free

JazzZooLA: Music Rocks! is part of the 2018 Summer Library Program. Saturday, June 3rd, 11am, the Excelsior Band will perform a 45-minute concert in Ben May Main’s Bernheim Hall. The "jazz instrument zoo" follows. Admission is free.

Sign up tonight to volunteer!
For more information, contact webmaster@mojojazz.org

UNDERWRITERS
Alabama Contemporary Arts Center
Holly Briskman
Carmen Brown
Rick Hirsch
Stephanie Poe
Sherrie Vines
Justine Ward
2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  .  JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31

$35 INDIVIDUAL _____  $55 FAMILY (2) _____
CORPORATE ~ CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

New ___  Renewal ___

Name 1__________________________________________________
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------------------------------------ FOR RECORDS -------------------------------------
Date received _______________ Member #(s) ___________________
Payment ___________________ Mailed ________________________

Make a tax-deductible donation to MOJO today!
Amount:  $_______

2018 Poster Contest Call For Artists
The Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival is seeking a design for its 20th annual event. Open to artists who live in Mobile or Baldwin counties in Alabama.

• Prize:  $300 cash
• One entry/artist
• Original, unpublished, two-dimensional work depicting a jazz theme
• Any medium
• Must include
  “Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival”
  “Mobile, Alabama”
  “20 Years of Jazz: 1998-2018”
• Size: 24” x 18”, vertical format
• Mounted on white foam core board
• Include application
• Mail or Hand-Deliver Submissions
  GCEH Jazz Festival/Poster Contest
  Mobile Arts Council
  318 Dauphin Street
  Mobile, Alabama 36602
• Deadline for entry: 21 May 2018, 5pm
• Information
  Dr. Raoul Richardson  drraoulrichardson@outlook.com

Marcus Johnson Summer Jazz Camp | 23 July-3 August 2018
• Monday-Friday | 9:30am-1:30pm
• History Museum of Mobile, 111 S. Royal St., Mobile, AL
• Guest Music Clinician: Ray Reach, Director of Student Jazz Programs, Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame
• Open to all ages and skill levels
• $50/student; scholarships available
• Information: gcehjazzfest.org

A mind reader drops by a jazz club and decides to give a small demonstration of her abilities. First, she reads the mind of the lead guitarist, “Wow, look at all the cute chicks who showed up tonight! Good crowd!” Then the drummer, “Lots of people showed up tonight...Great! We’re going to make good money tonight.” Next, the keyboard player, “These three of guys have no appreciation of my talent...what a bunch of losers.” Finally, the bass player, “C...G...C...G...”