



CHESAPEAKE MUSIC INTERLUDE

The Monty Alexander Jazz Festival September 2-4, 2016



product of the Juilliard School, but also developed his chops listening to Louis Armstrong and Harry James. Then in the evening, as the highlight of the Festival, we hear its musical director Monty Alexander. Monty is hard to label, which is a compliment. Perhaps the title of one of his most popular albums says it best: *Uplift*. Monty's music is uplifting but not in a saccharine way. Rather, in a soulful way drawing from the resources of jazz, but also adding a Jamaican flavor to the music.

Finally on Sunday we are honored to have the extraordinary Cyrus Chestnut give the final concert. The *New Yorker* recently said of him, "It is the pianist Chestnut's professional secret how he can instantly tap into nuclear energy when full-bore swinging is called for, or directly access a stirring poetic muse when limning ballads ..." As has been our tradition,

Cyrus will feature some gospel music in his playing, which he does as well as anyone. He will be joined by the wonderful Afro Blue a capella group from Howard University.

Come to this feast, and feast on world-class jazz music. The word jazz is something of a mystery. One of the most likely theories is that it comes from the French *jaser* which can mean to talk, or to discuss, equivalent to "shoot the breeze." The French connection is not far-fetched, as jazz was born in the French city of New Orleans. Jazz music is indeed a conversation.

First, the musicians "talk" to each other by suggesting melodies, rhythms, paths to take, all within the particular song at hand. Sometimes it is a dialogue, a call-and-response, known technically as antiphony. This kind of conversation goes back to the days when hymns were "lined-out" by the precentor, who led the congregation through a particular Psalm or liturgical piece. Most slave owners would have invited their slaves to sit through the church services which of course, in retrospect, was an enormous contradiction to the whole practice of slavery. But as every jazz musician will attest, church music richly informs the music of jazz.

Then, it's a conversation with the audience. It makes all the difference when the audience is fully engaged with the music. This can be from clapping, shouting affirmations, foot-stomping, and other forms of participation. Come and join the conversation!

by William Edgar Now in its seventh year, the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival has become a destination event. Be sure to clear your calendar and purchase tickets early, as this year promises to be a sell-out bash. The musicians are a who's-who of jazz. As a friend of mine suggested, we're assembling a team of greats, much as the old Highwaymen assembled the greatest in Outlaw Country (Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson). No outlaws in Easton, the line-up this year is a Highwaymen of jazz.

First, as always, there is a tribute to one of the jazz greats. This year we begin on Friday evening with "The Magic of Gershwin," featuring pianist Ted Rosenthal and vibraphonist/percussionist Chuck Redd, a veteran of the Festival. Gershwin was controversial because, though he loved jazz and promoted it in his music, he was a white man. Yet even the most essentialist musical purists love his compositions and play them in their own styles.

Saturday we offer a free concert of big band music, featuring the Jazz Ambassadors, the U. S. Army's Field Band. This amazing ensemble, which has been performing and touring since 1969, can play in just about every style: swing, bebop, Latin, contemporary jazz, standards. They played in Europe in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Later that day we will hear the beautiful, expressive trumpet of Dominick Farinacci. Dominick is a

Tickets for the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival are available at chesapeakejazz.org, or call Chesapeake Music at 410-819-0380

The Magic of Gershwin

by William Edgar The 2016 Monty Alexander Jazz Festival opens with an ensemble, led by pianist Ted Rosenthal and drummer/vibraphonist Chuck Redd, showcasing the music of George Gershwin. Like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Georges Bizet and Frederick Chopin, Gershwin died before he reached forty. Yet like these musical geniuses he managed to be prolific during his short life. Gershwin grew up in the Yiddish Theater section of New York, and cut his chops on Tin Pan Alley. He played the classical repertoire, but loved jazz.

Gershwin was such a fine pianist that when he asked one of his heroes, Maurice Ravel, to teach him, the great French musician turned him down, with the quip, "Why become a second-rate Ravel when you're already a first-rate Gershwin?" He composed several Broadway shows, including *Lady Be Good*, *Oh Kay*, and *Strike Up the Band*. His brother Ira often wrote the lyrics. His most revered work is the opera *Porgy and Bess*, which was inspired by a couple of visits to the Gullah people of South Carolina. His most beloved orchestral piece is *Rhapsody in Blue*, the jazzy symphonic poem with challenging piano sections.

The ensemble, which includes some highly talented younger instrumentalists, will draw elements from the repertoire that will dazzle and move us. Ted has a marvelous album to his

credit, *Rhapsody in Gershwin*, where he holds a musical conversation with the American composer, and includes his arrangement of *Rhapsody in Blue*, which is already well-known to his audiences.

The group will highlight some of the great classics, but also some lesser-known Gershwin works. So we can expect such tunes as *I Loves You Porgy*, *I Got Rhythm* and *Lady Be Good*, as well as the less known *My One and Only*. As Chuck explained to me this number was inspired by the great album *Ella Sings Gershwin*, to which he has listened hundreds of times since his youth. Indeed few other singers can render the tunes as could Ella Fitzgerald. In the opening song, *A Foggy Day*, the phrase appears, "The age of miracles hadn't passed." Indeed, Ted and Chuck's Gershwin tribute is living proof of the ongoing miracle of his music.



Dominick Farinacci Headlines Saturday Afternoon Performance

by Barbara Parker Returning to the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival for his third appearance, jazz trumpeter and Cleveland native Dominick Farinacci will headline this year's Saturday afternoon performance on September 3 at the Avalon Theater at 2:00 p.m. Last here in the 2012 season, and before that in 2011, he once again brings his mix of international rhythms to the stage, filtering a wide variety of styles through the "lens of jazz" to consolidate his passion for bringing cultures and people together through music. Farinacci says, "I believe music helps foster a deeper under-

standing of each other." As Ambassador to Jazz at Lincoln Center, and in his work with The Cleveland Clinic, both in Ohio and in Abu Dhabi, Dominick has had the opportunity to forge bonds across cultures.

In his most recent release *Short Stories* Farinacci has teamed with former combat veteran Jaymes Poling who served in Afghanistan in the 82nd Airborne Division, to tell stories through music of what it is to be a veteran of war. This is an ongoing project, but the first video is built around "Soldier's Stories," a song about a soldier coming back from war, facing the realities of civilian life. The overarching intent of the series is to "break through the various boxes that have been built" on both the veteran and civilian side of reentry in an effort to create better support systems as they return. The first video "Soldier's Things" addresses this very issue. This video can be viewed on YouTube and on Farinacci's Facebook fan page. Also available is "Bamboleo" from his album release concert at Lincoln Center.

Thrilled to be appearing once again with Monty Alexander, whom he calls "one of the greatest artists of our time," Dominick Farinacci is looking forward to his return to Easton.



Chesapeake Music's mission is to enrich the musical life of the Chesapeake region by delighting today's audiences and developing tomorrow's



Cyrus Chestnut and Afro Blue To Star at Festival's Finale

by Beth Schucker Pianist Cyrus Chestnut can boast a solid niche in today's jazz world. Critics claim that his swinging bluesy swagger and resonant lyricism set him apart. His lush chords and affable gospel keep audiences with him and keep his music in recognizable form.

The New York Daily News once heralded Cyrus as the "rightful kin to Bud Powell, Art Tatum and Erroll Garner." Chestnut listened hard to the music of those greats of yesteryear. "That's how I found out who I was and how I should express myself." According to the New York Times, "Mr. Chestnut appears comfortable with his placement in time. What makes his music fly is a complete security in his style, and that sense of untroubled self-assurance."

Cyrus was born in Baltimore in 1963, a child prodigy, playing piano in church at age six, and enrolled in Peabody by the age of nine. An award-winning graduate of the Berklee Music College, Chestnut muses that two years on the road with Betty Carter satisfied his graduate school requirements. She urged him to take chances and play things he'd never heard. And such was Chestnut's year-long tour in the mid-90's with opera singer, Kathleen Battle, which culminated with their recording of *So Many Stars*.

Today, Chestnut's trio meshes jazz, blues and gospel. 2016 has been a busy year, with his "Natural Essence" CD release and summer performances at the Blue Note in NYC, Blues Alley in DC and a month's tour in Europe. He is also a professor of piano at Howard University in DC.

"I was overwhelmed when Monty called about the Festival --- I've been a fan of Monty's since I was a tyke," says Chestnut, who is also excited about being onstage with Howard University's premier a cappella jazz ensemble, Afro Blue.

The Jazz Ambassadors Take the Stage

by Ron Liebman This year the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival will feature the Jazz Ambassadors, the official touring band of the United States Army. Also known as America's Big Band, this 19-piece ensemble, in existence since 1969, has toured throughout the U.S. and abroad, thrilling audiences with their varied repertoire that runs the gamut of jazz styles. Whether it's big band swing, bebop, Latin, standards, contemporary, Dixieland, you name it, the Jazz Ambassadors will likely keep your toes tapping and your knees jumping.

Over the years the band has been featured performers in most of the world's other jazz festivals, including the famous Montreux (Switzerland) and Newport (Rhode Island) Jazz festivals. They are known for their custom-tailored compositions and arrangements that display their



Afro Blue's style has been likened to that of The Manhattan Transfer and has received critical acclaim for sounding like a "big band." The ensemble has performed in programs with the National Symphony Orchestra Pops and shared the Kennedy Center stage with Dr. Billy Taylor. Chestnut and Afro Blue hope to do a number together. "We'll be shooting for good music and good energy. We want to show off skills," says Chestnut.

Mmh? How does a piano player perform with a vocal ensemble that sings without music? Wait and see. "The 'how's' of the matinee performance are still in the works," Chestnut admits. For sure there will be a "set list." Then in his quiet way he says, "But that doesn't mean we'll follow it." That's jazz!

musical virtuosity, both as a tight knit and sophisticated orchestra, as well as a melodic and rhythmic podium for the group's creative soloists.

The Jazz Ambassadors will take the stage at the Avalon Theater on Saturday morning September 3, at 10:00 a.m. The concert is free and seating is open on a first come first served basis.





Experiencing the Extraordinary at Festival 31

by Carolyn Rugg, Chair of Festival 31. “Making a Festival” is not an undertaking for the faint of heart. First—the programming—that delicate balance of identifying the right composers, the right pieces, and the right artists to continue our tradition of providing the finest music to our audiences. Venue selection follows with all eyes on finding the right mix of unique settings with the right ambience and acoustics to delight our audiences. Identifying hosts to provide housing and hospitality for our artists is a complex task that requires thoughtfully matching musicians and their families with host families, accommodating special needs including rehearsal space and piano availability, and ultimately sharing the Eastern Shore way of life with our visiting artists. Promotion of the Festival, a key ingredient to its success, calls for generating excitement and awareness through printed brochures,

use of social media and advertising, and publication of our program book. And finally, the devil is in the details, managing the myriad of logistics to successfully bring the Festival to fruition including arrangements for piano rentals, catering, coordination with our musical directors and volunteers. This can all be daunting unless efficiently managed.

The phenomenal success of Festival 31 is a direct reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm of the Festival Committee, our Artistic Directors, Marcy Rosen and Lawrie Bloom, and the staff of Chesapeake Music. As the freshman Chair of Festival 31, I want to sincerely thank this group of highly talented and energetic people for all of their work that enabled our audiences to Experience the Extraordinary at Festival 31.

Congratulations and thank you to the Festival 31 Committee

Bernice Michael Michael Bracy Betsy Petty Robert Amdur Courtney Kane Don Buxton
 Garry E. Clarke Lois Campbell Kaye Dutrow Mary Riedlin Wes Lockfaw Amy Steward, Steward Writing
 Mariana Leshar Joanne Shipley Anna Larkin Diane Rohman Gayle Jayne, Monarch Web Services

We would like to keep you informed of the latest events in our growing series of year round programs. To help us reach you, please sign up on the website at www.ChesapeakeMusic.org.





NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

With my term ending on September 30, this will be my last "Notes from the President." I am excited to announce Courtney Kane will be my successor. Courtney has been our Treasurer for the last three years and will bring intelligence, dedication, dynamism and devotion to great music to the job. I applaud the Board for making this wise choice.

I'm extremely proud of the remarkable music we've brought to this area over the years. This year's Chamber Music Festival was wonderful in every way, and I'm pleased to say was our first festival that had sponsors for every event. We hope to say the same for our upcoming Monty Alexander Jazz Festival.

Our Board welcomed four new members during FY 2016: Lynn Ackerson, Bob Amdur, Mariana Leshner, and Carolyn Rugg.

I also want to celebrate the many contributions of retiring director, Margaret Welch. Margaret served

fifteen years on the Board in many capacities, including four years as Treasurer. We've benefitted greatly from her vast not-for-profit experience and her cheerful willingness to pitch in wherever needed. I want to thank Mark Nestlehuitt and Wes Lockfaw for their service on the Board; they contributed greatly in many ways. We will miss them all.

Elsewhere in this issue is an article about the recent death of long-time Board member Garry Clarke. He was a great man, gentleman, musician and educator. We mourn his loss.

On a happier note, the Labor Day weekend Monty Alexander Jazz Festival promises to be our best ever. Please don't miss it!

Michael Bracy, President



Note from Don Buxton, Executive Director of Chesapeake Music

It is an honor to work with such a dedicated Board of Directors and even more so because of Mike Bracy. Mike and I have worked together for many years in some capacity or another, always with a goal of smart sustainable growth. His assistance to me was invaluable, always suggesting with a

cool head and kind heart. Mike was the consummate leader who helped manage an ever growing organization. Thank you for your years of service Mike - I look forward to our work together as you continue to serve on the Board of Directors of Chesapeake Music!

*Cheers,
Don*

New Members Serve on the Board of Directors

by Susan Koh. This fiscal year four talented and experienced people joined the Chesapeake Music Board of Directors. Robert Amdur and Carolyn Rugg began their Board term in September and Lynn Ackerson and Mariana Leshner were recently elected to the Board.



ROBERT AMDUR – In 2011 Bob Amdur was acknowledged Volunteer of the Year for his contributions to Chesapeake Music. Bob served for many years on the Marketing and Public Relations committees. He was advertising salesman for the Festival program book, a writer of press releases and an author for articles in Interlude. When Chloe Pitard presented the volunteer award to Bob she said, “Bob has been an invaluable counsel to us as we work to communicate our message to

a diversified audience. We could not accomplish much of what we do without Bob’s efforts.” Professionally Bob has 60 plus years of experience in the communications field. He retired from the U.S. Department of Commerce where he was Director of Communication Services in the Office of the Secretary. Earlier in his career Bob held production and editorial positions with NBC and ABC news. Bob is a retired U.S. Army Signal Corps Officer (Major) and served at various posts throughout the U.S. In recent years he was Vice President of the Mid-Shore Symphony and is currently a member of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission. Bob and his talented wife Judy live in Bozman.

LYNN ACKERSON - Throughout her career Lynn was known as a results-oriented professional with the ability to build consensus and understanding that produced strong teamwork focused on a unified goal. Lynn’s early career was in the corporate communications arena where she was on the leading edge of changing the perception of the role of communications from producing the employee newsletter to one of having a bottom line impact on



the successful implementation of management’s vision for the organization. She later worked as an independent consultant moving from Washington, D.C. to Maine. While in Maine, she created and managed a series of photography seminars for National Geographic Traveler magazine and later joined the organization full-time as Director of Editorial Marketing. Lynn retired from the business world in 2012 and moved to the Eastern Shore. Lynn looks forward to her term on the Board of Directors and plans to use her business background and personal skills to support efforts that further the goals of Chesapeake Music.



CAROLYN RUGG - After thirty years of weekend sailing on the Bay, Carolyn and her husband Larry Rovin relocated from Philadelphia to their home in Bozman with their three dogs. Carolyn spent most of her career in health insurance and retired from Independence Blue Cross in 2014. She was accountable for leading the marketing and communications team through the massive changes resulting from the new health care legislation. With her background in marketing

and product development, Carolyn is thrilled to be part of the Chesapeake Music team and hopes to use her experience to expand the footprint of Chesapeake Music in Talbot County and beyond. Carolyn has always been a fan of music, from classical to contemporary to Gilbert and Sullivan, where she was part of the Savoy Company in Philadelphia. Locally, Carolyn is the Marketing/Communication Chairman for Christmas in St. Michaels, a member of the Talbot Garden Club and, when not involved in charitable organization activities, can be found sailing with Larry on Whisper, working in the garden or entertaining friends.

MARIANA LESHER - For sixteen years Mariana has been the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival Concert Manager driving her truck filled with gear from one concert location to the next and setting up for each concert in the chamber music series. This huge job is only one of Mariana’s many community activities that include volunteering for the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and Crashbox Theatre Company and serving as treasurer of Grace Lutheran Church since 2005. Professionally Mariana is Director of Data Management for the non-profit research division of a national healthcare organization. For many years she was the Director of Data Management for the Delmarva Foundation in Easton. Mariana’s talents include project and information management and research analysis. Her problem solving, communication, and collaboration skills have enabled her to successfully work as a team member in her professional and community service work. Mariana and her husband Pete, both avid sailors, have lived in Easton for 21 years. They have two children who attend Easton public schools. Mariana would like to apply her experience and professional skills to help Chesapeake Music “achieve the next level in organizational greatness.”



Garry E. Clarke, Professor of Music Emeritus, former Dean of Washington College, and one-time Acting President, died suddenly on July 3, 2016. Garry was a published author and composer. He was an organist and choirmaster at several churches on the mid-shore. Garry was a member of the Board of Directors of Chesapeake Music from 2004 through 2013. While a Board member Garry served on the YouthReach Committee and his year was the editor of the program book for the Chamber Music Festival. Don Buxton knew Garry for over thirty years as a colleague and good friend. Don Berlin, Chesapeake Music Board member, commented that, "Garry was a gentle man, an extremely knowledgeable and thoughtful music advocate and an inspiring soul to anyone, young and old, interested in the betterment of music. Chesapeake Music was indeed fortunate to have someone of his stature in its leadership."

Esther Cooperman, past President of Chesapeake Music, wrote to let Don Buxton know that her husband Harry Cooperman, former Board member and Treasurer of Chesapeake Music, died on May 13, 2016. Don described Harry as a "man of passion who was truly passionate about the Chamber Music Festival and loved the artists that came here each summer." From 1990 to 1999, one or both of the Coopermans served on the Board of Directors. Paul Makosky, former Chesapeake Music Board member noted that, "Harry was a successful businessman and consummate engineer, very precise and computer literate. During his time as Treasurer, Harry brought the Festival bookkeeping into the computer age." After moving to Pennsylvania in 2000 Harry and Esther still returned each June for the Festival and were greeted warmly by many who were grateful for their dedication to Chesapeake Music.

The David Trio from Italy Returns to Easton



by Susan Koh The David Trio from Italy won the \$10,000 Grand Prize and the Audience Choice Award at the second Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition in 2006. They returned to Maryland in June that year for the opening night of the Chamber Music Festival. On Sunday, October 30, the David Trio will again take the stage in Easton for a concert at the Academy Art Museum at 3:00 p.m.

The return of this outstanding chamber music trio speaks to the warm welcome extended to them by Chesapeake Music. The David Trio stayed at the home of then Board member Leslie Westbrook and her Italian husband Paolo Frigerio. Since then Leslie and Paolo maintained contact with these artists, visited them and attended their performances when in Milan. Leslie helped the current members of the David Trio plan their upcoming concert tour to the United States. Their schedule puts the trio in touch with several friends of Chesapeake Music. Penelope Proserpi, who lives in Reading, Pennsylvania, Patricia Barbis, now in New Haven, Connecticut and Marcy Rosen, at the Aaron Copeland School of Music at Queens College will be at concerts arranged for the David Trio.

Pianist Claudio Trovajoli, founder of the David Trio, is considered one of the most prominent pianists on the Italian stage. He is professor of piano at the Conservatory "U Giordano" of Foggia and at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome, where he is also a member of the Artistic Committee and creator of the Youth Season of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred

Music. He is Artistic Director of the Festival of Chamber Music "Concertando" of Rome.

Violinist Andrej Bielow is one of the leading Ukrainian musicians of his generation. As a soloist and chamber musician he has recorded 20 CD albums. In 2004 Kurt Masur wrote, "I was impressed by his musicality, technique, and very convincing personality." Andrej holds a teaching position at the University of Music and Drama, Hanover. Since 2013, he has become a regular visiting teacher at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

David Cohen is a graduate of the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. A passionate chamber musician, David has won more than 25 prizes in International Cello Competitions. In 2000 David was appointed to the faculty of the Conservatoire Royal de Musique de Mons in Belgium. The following year he was appointed Principal Cellist of the Philharmonia Orchestra, the youngest Principal cellist ever. David is Artistic Director of the Melchoir Ensemble, which brings together the greatest young talents in Europe.

Chesapeake Music extends warm hospitality to all our musicians. Each year the young artists who participate in the Competition comment on how welcome they are made to feel by our host families. The chamber music festival musicians return year after year to stay with host families and they have become good friends. These gestures of friendship are so appreciated by the musicians.

We are delighted once again to welcome the David Trio with thanks to Leslie Westbrook and Paolo Frigerio and Richard Marks and Amy Haines for sponsoring this very special event.

SAVE THE DATE

David Trio on Sunday, October 30, at 3:00 at the Academy Art Museum



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Jazz on the Chesapeake presents

The Seventh Annual Monty Alexander Jazz Festival *on Labor Day Weekend*



All performances will be at the Avalon Theatre

Friday, September 2 at 8:00 p.m.

The Magic of Gershwin with Ted Rosenthal and Chuck Redd

Saturday, September 3

10:00 a.m. United States Army Jazz Ambassadors

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Brunch at the Tidewater Inn

Please make a reservation with the Tidewater Inn

2:00 p.m. The Musical Universe of Dominick Farinacci

8:00 p.m. The Full Monty!

Sunday, September 4 at 2:00 p.m.

The Spirit of Cyrus Chestnut

**TICKETS are available at
chesapeakejazz.org, 410-819-0380**

Jazz on the Chesapeake is a program of Chesapeake Music


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