



# Clef Notes

## Jazz Pensacola News



January 2024

Treat your valentine to an epic evening of big band music and dancing at the **For the Love of Jazz** event featuring the Pensacola Jazz Orchestra (PJO), directed by Pensacola's own Doug Holsworth. The evening includes heavy hors d' oeuvres, a cash bar, and decadent desserts at the Historic Museum of Commerce on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 pm.

**Tickets are \$60** online only at [www.jazzpensacola.com](http://www.jazzpensacola.com) Sponsorships are also available. Bring your family, colleagues, and friends for this elegant evening of fun!

**Proceeds benefit the 2024 JazzFest, a weekend of jazz music, FREE for the community.**

### Message from Derrick Fishback, President Jazz Society of Pensacola

Happy New Year Jazz Pensacola family!

I can't Fully express to you how exactly how excited I am about the upcoming year. Trust me you just have to come experience for yourself! We have so many different acts that are coming to the table to help us continue this great legacy.

We kicked off the year with a bang by having a performance in partnership with the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra. We continue our momentum with excellent bands coming for both Jazz in The Quarter and Jazz Jam January through March, check our website for the dates.

What's really exciting is that on February 8th our inaugural event for the Jazz Pensacola Orchestra takes place! The 21 piece ensemble led by the outstanding Doug Holworth is primed to bring our community the finest in modern and classical jazz!

Don't wait, I strongly encourage you to buy your ticket now before its sold out!

As we move into this new year let us not forget the great people that have helped us and have served with us throughout this time to make sure the legacy continues. To this end I am also encouraging you, if you feel inspired, to sponsor some of the upcoming events as they are what sustain this great legacy. Each one of you is a treasure with or without the holiday season. So I'm wishing the best for each and every single one of you for upcoming 2024 season.

Derrick

### Jazz Quote of the month:



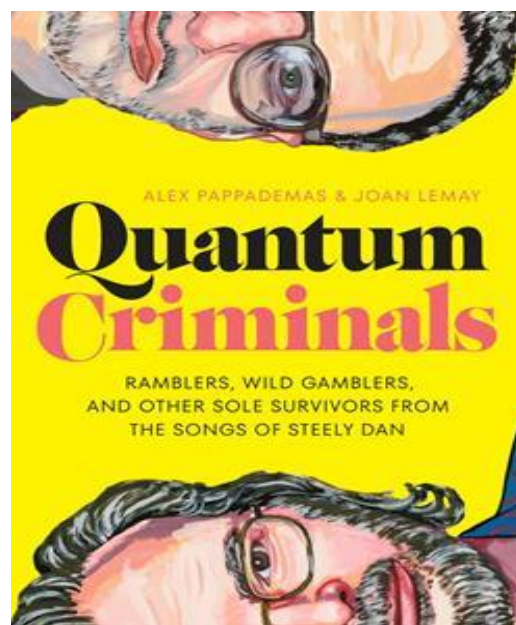
Jazz music is the power of now. There is no script. It's conversation. The emotion is given to you by musicians as they make split-second decisions to fulfill what they feel the moment requires.

— Wynton Marsalis —

Quantum Criminals: Ramblers, Wild Gamblers and Other Sole Survivors From the Songs of Steely Dan...

a review from Thom Botsford

A GREAT GIFT FOR THE STEELY DAN FANS IN YOUR LIFE, this lavishly illustrated book about the iconic rock band is a big help in decoding their often cryptic lyrics. Like most Dan fans, I was first attracted to their superior, jazz-inflected music and their audiophile recording quality. Only gradually did it dawn on me that the lyrics meant nothing ordinary at all and were suggestive beyond the comfort zone of most folks. This book makes things plain. The author, Alex Pappademas, is a lively critic who knows how to tell a good story. It's enhanced by Joan LeMay's portraits of the various losers, criminals, ex-girlfriends, narcissists, and musical influences behind the band. "All Steely Dan songs are about weird sex and heroin," critic Matt Fraction suggested, "and he's not wrong," Pappademas writes. "But underneath that there's a longing for the uncapturable past and mourning for the bright sci-fi futures we won't ever get to see, and every time the hills catch fire around here [L.A.], those sentiments feel less and less abstract. Time has caught up to Steely Dan because it's catching up with all of us. It took only fifty years." Steely Dan's first real album, "Can't But a Thrill," was released in 1972, and I'm still listening.



**In Case You're Wondering...  
January Birthdays of Jazz Artists.**

Compiled by Steve Douglas



Chris Potter	1/1/71
John McLaughlin	1/4/42
Paul Wertico	1/5/53
Dave Weckl	1/8/60
James Carter	1/3/69
Maurice Brown	1/6/81
William Parker	1/10/52
Lee Ritenour	1/11/52
Mike Stern	1/10/53
Cyrus Chestnut	1/17/63
Jeff 'Tain' Watts	1/20/60
Gary Burton	1/23/43
Jeff Berlin	1/17/53
George Duke	1/12/46
Trombone Shorty	1/2/86
Steve Jordan	1/14/57
Bob Mintzer	1/27/53

# What's Jazzing

by Carolyn Tokson

Have you gone to the JazzPensacola website at [www.jazzpensacola.com](http://www.jazzpensacola.com) and purchased your ticket for 'For the Love of Jazz', our February fundraiser for Jazz Pensacola's JazzFest 2024? If you haven't, do it today. That's a great way to start the new year and support this important project.

The new year means we are only three months out from Jazz Fest 2024. Jazz Pensacola is grateful for the fine leadership and talents of our board members. At the same time, we couldn't put on a free two-day festival offering such high-quality jazz performances without our corporate sponsors and our volunteers. Be on the lookout for the opportunities to step forward and volunteer to work in one of the tents at Jazz Fest 2024. Committee chairs are already meeting and planning the details for the Merchandise Tent, The VIP Tent and the many areas where we need volunteers. Your participation is vital to the success of the society. You might want to also renew your membership if it has expired.

Our website no longer has a calendar listing the local gigs that jazz musicians sent to us in the past. Check your favorite musicians' pages on Facebook to learn where everyone is playing presently. Lukas Ali Hein who recently moved further south in FL has just released a Baha'i-inspired jazz album, Message From the New World. Lukas, until recently, played in Joe Occhipinti's Jazzabouts at Jazz by the Book concerts at the West Florida Public Libraries and with Mary Chavez at Felix's. You can purchase or download the album on **9StarMedia** or **Bandcamp**. There is a fine interview from December 16, 2023, by Sonjel Freeland with Lukas on Baha'i Blog.

Wm. Cadillac Banks has posted the lineup for the 8th Annual 2024 Gulf Coast Jazz Festival October 18th and 19th, 2024. Smooth jazz fans are always eager to see his star-filled lineup. Tickets are already on sale through Ticket Master.

Sheila Green is offering a special event honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King on January 14th, 2024, at her venue 'It's Personal by Sheila'. Tickets are \$40. Doors open at 5:30 pm with the show beginning at 6:30 pm. Entitled Jessica and Friends, this musical event will feature vocalist Jessica Craig from Mobile with spoken word artists reading and performing some of Dr. King's speeches.

Make a commitment to attend our jazz events this year and bring a friend. It's a lovely way to lift your spirits in our troubled world. Let us all seek a year of friendship and peace.



**Fulfilling a Dream...  
For the Love of Jazz**

by Steve Douglas

Jazz Pensacola is undertaking a project to serve as a legacy to our future by supporting a style of music going back to the late 1920's with the Duke Ellington Band, Fletcher Henderson, and through the WW2 years with Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Stan Kenton, Charlie Barnet, and hundreds of others. It is a style that showcases arrangers, features top notch soloists, and created a dance craze fueling ballrooms across the country.

Later, bands in the 70's and '80's like Don Ellis, Maynard Ferguson, took us in places no bands had gone before. The current group of 'big bands' like Mike Barone, Gordon Goodwin and ensembles at Berklee or the 1:00 lab band at the University of North Texas are keeping the spirit alive with challenging arrangements requiring only the best players. Anyone who has had the pleasure and the opportunity to hear a top notch, world famous big band will know the power of the music, the dynamics, and the masterful playing. I've seen the Count Basie Band a few times, the Woody Herman Band, Maynard's band, the Kenton Tribute band and believe me, it's not only impressive but an historic event. That brings us to what makes our Jazz Pensacola Orchestra different and why we've undertaken this passionate project.

We've selected Douglas Holsworth, currently the director of bands at Pensacola State College, (PSC), to be our orchestra director. Doug comes with decades of band director experience at the high school and college level.



**Douglas Holsworth, Director  
Jazz Pensacola Orchestra**

When I first described what we had in mind, a legacy band with stable personnel utilizing a great chart library of terrific arrangements, he was intrigued. Well, I'd say that's putting it mildly. What he told me was that he had had a lifelong fantasy, a dream if you will backed by his passion for a great sounding big band. What we've done here is to fulfill the dream, the fantasy of a lifelong passion to hand pick a band of his choosing and not be subject to the limitations of a school program. If we do anything at all musically supportive as an organization, Jazz Pensacola wants to create this new orchestra from the ground up. We are putting our trust in someone whose passion alone will serve as the motivation for the players to deliver the goods. We are all very excited about this project.

Experience the passion, skill, and the talent we have in music right here in Pensacola at the 'For the Love of Jazz' event on February 8th at the Historic Museum of Commerce, 201 Zaragoza Street in Pensacola's historic district. Tickets are available now online at [www.jazzpensacola.com](http://www.jazzpensacola.com).





## **More on Douglas Holsworth - the Caliber of Local Talent Chosen to Direct the Jazz Pensacola Orchestra.**



**Doug Holsworth** received his BS in Music Education in 1985 from the University of Alabama, where he played Alto Saxophone and was the Drum Major for the Million Dollar Band. After graduating Magna Cum Laude, he served in the Army as a Signals Intelligence Pilot, holding dual branches at the rank of Captain in Aviation and Military Intelligence. In 1992, he left the service to return to Music Education as the Band Director of Desoto County High School, starting with 20 band students and growing the program to 46 musicians in only three years. Under his direction, the Desoto Band received the first superior rating in their history at FBA District Concert Festival. In 1995, he moved back to his hometown of Pensacola to take the reins as Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department Chair at his Alma Mater, Escambia High School. He received his Master's in Music Education from the University of Florida in 2010. During his 27 years at Escambia, he served as the High School Band Team Leader for the School District as well as the Florida Bandmaster's Association District 1 Chair. He is also an adjudicator for FBA and other independent competitions in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. He joined the Pensacola State College staff in 2021 as the Director of Bands, where his responsibilities include the PSC Jazz Band, PSC Wind Ensemble and the Pensacola Civic Band.

Doug Holsworth's marching band "The Pride" at Escambia became well known throughout the region for creative, theatrical halftime shows and excellence in performance, with an unbroken string of Superior ratings and many 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies during his tenure. The EHS Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band and two Jazz Bands regularly received superior ratings at festival, including the Otto J. Kraushaur award, the highest possible honor given at State by the Florida Bandmasters Association. Under his leadership, the Escambia band performed throughout the United States, traveling to Chicago, Washington D.C., Nashville, Dallas, Orlando, Atlanta and Birmingham culminating in the twin achievements of performing at the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City. The Escambia Indoor drumline and color guard won numerous Circuit Championships, were regular finalists at Regional competitions, and together the two units were 14-time Finalists at WGI World Championships, ranking as high as 5<sup>th</sup> in the world. The Escambia County School District twice named Doug their Champion of the Arts, and the Jazz Society of Pensacola recognized him three times as an Outstanding Jazz Educator. Since arriving at Pensacola State College, students from his Jazz Ensemble have been winners every year in the collegiate division of Jazz Pensacola's Student Competition.

Doug is also well known in Pensacola for his artistic bent and theatrical experience. Almost all the band uniforms in use in Escambia County School District High Schools were designed by Mr. Holsworth. He also wrote the drill, created the visual design and arranged the halftime show music for Escambia High and many other programs, and continues that work today even though he has moved on to the college level. He is an accomplished painter and actor as well - not only does he teach painting classes at Pensacola "Painting With A Twist," he has several Crystal Awards for his acting, playing as a pit musician and music directing for numerous productions at Pensacola Little Theatre. Among the leading roles he has played were John Adams in "1776", Col. Jessup in "A Few Good Men", Beethoven in "33 Variations", George Banks in "Mary Poppins" and his most recent Crystal Award winning role as Kris Kringle in "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street".



# Calendar of Events

## January 2024

### Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rx: Just What the Doctor Ordered

An afternoon of delightful music for visitors, physicians, patients, and staff to enjoy.  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the new Baptist Hospital lobby.

*\*Made possible through a partnership with the Escambia County Medical Society*

### Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – Danger Sextet

Enjoy the 'danger' of the musical sounds led by Roger Villines featuring a variety of jazz styles from notable jazz composers such as Horace Silver, Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Lee Morgan, Woody Shaw and others mixed in with an original tune or two. **Doors open at 5:30 pm, music starts at 6:30 p.m., at Phineas Phoggs in Seville Qtr. Admission is \$10/member, and \$12/nonmembers.**



### The Story....

The name for the ensemble originated during a trip by Kat and Roger Villines to New York City in 2000 to visit a relative living in Greenwich Village. "We were doing a little walking tour in the evening when we came upon a street sign on Bleeker Street that said, among other things, "No Horn Blowing Except for Danger." It stuck with me as a great name for a jazz band with horns; after all, horns definitely add an element of "Danger" to any musical group," stated Roger Villines, musician.

Support great local talent, become a member today!

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