

CTJS Awards Scholarships

Three young Central Texas jazz students took a major step towards becoming tomorrow's jazz legends by winning scholarships from the Central Texas Jazz Society. Trombonist **Paul Atwood**, saxophonist **Jeremy Langthorn**, and guitarist **Carlos Lara** each will receive a scholarship for private lessons in jazz performance and improvisation.

Yoe, Basie! TJO Plays Concert in Cameron

The **Temple Jazz Orchestra** will reprise its "Tribute to Count Basie" at the C.H. Yoe High School Performing Arts Center in Cameron on Saturday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m..

The concert will feature music written for and performed by the Count Basie Orchestra. "All of the arrangements are exactly as Count Basie recorded on his albums," said **Tom Fairlie**, TJO's director. "I selected this program specifically to appeal to an audience who will be very familiar with the music they hear."

TJO's program includes a number of familiar Basie standards from the later years of the band, including "88 Basie Street," "Basie Straight Ahead," "A Warm Breeze," "Wind Machine" and "Ya Gotta Try"—all arrangements contributed to the band by the legendary Sammy Nestico. TJO has also programmed a range of standards associated with Basie (as well as other classic big bands such as Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie)—"Satin Doll," "Take the A Train," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" and "Night in Tunisia." The program is designed to please the big band aficionado while showcasing TJO's range and abilities.

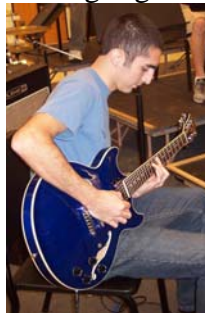
The funds raised from both concerts will help

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CTJS's jazz scholarship program provides deserving students with 10 one-hour jazz-based lessons from an instructor chosen by CTJS. The students will demonstrate their skills at the CTJS Jam Session during the **Temple Jazz Festival** on Friday, March 27.

To qualify for the scholarship, each student provided an essay describing his background in jazz, his goals as a musician, and his jazz experience (private study, participation in jazz groups, and other musical achievements). Each student also submitted an audio or video recording of a jazz performance, along with recommendations from his band director and another teacher or musician familiar with his work.

Guitarist **Carlos Lara**, 17, also plays trombone. He is a senior at Temple High School under band director **Robert Medina**, where he plays with the nationally recognized Temple High School Highlighters. Carlos has been studying



Carlos Lara

with guitarist **Reese Liles**. He hopes to be admitted to Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he would like to major in commercial music with an emphasis on performance. Carlos

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Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Recent Additions to the 'Family'

A number of jazz enthusiasts have recently joined the Central Texas Jazz Society. We wanted to thank them for their interest and support of jazz in Central Texas.

Cameron Aiken Cameron is a band director at the Waco Independent School District and plays trombone for the Temple Jazz Orchestra and the Waco Jazz Orchestra.

John and Karen Batson John and Karen, Temple residents, are jazz aficionados and CTJS supporters. Karen is also a band director and plays alto saxophone with the Temple Jazz Orchestra. One of her students, Jeremy Langthorn, is among the three CTJS jazz scholarship winners.

Vince Bryce Vince plays bass for the Temple Jazz Orchestra and is an adjunct at Temple College, where he teaches acoustic and electric bass.

Hayes Bunch Hayes is an assistant band director at Temple Independent School District. He performs periodically with the Temple Jazz Orchestra as a percussionist.

Travis Cox A senior at Harker Heights High School, Travis has been playing various

musical instruments since the fourth grade. Travis played for three years with the "Knights Jazz" performance band of HHHS. He has played tuba, trombone and currently plays a Jupiter trumpet to meet competition standards. Travis would like to continue his education in jazz as a music performance major. Among his choices for colleges or universities are: the University of Texas in Arlington, Temple College, Texas State University or Blinn College.

Glenn Grant Glenn is a band director at Lampasas Independent School District and for many years has been the LISD jazz band director.

Kaylenn Henderson Kaylenn is the band director at Central Texas Christian School. She and her husband are enthusiastic supporters of the Temple Jazz Orchestra.

Richard Hooper Richard is the Lampasas Independent School District Director of Bands.

Trammell Kelly Trammell, a Waco resident, is active as an acoustic and electric

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Meet the Board...

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The Earliest **TRANE**

(First in an occasional series of articles about the recordings of John Coltrane).

Saxophonist **John Coltrane** stands astride jazz like a bright but briefly lit beacon, his influence still visible four decades after his death. For many of us, too young or too distant from the right places to have heard him live, that influence is transmitted in the rich legacy of his recordings. They are mostly from the last 12 years of his life (Coltrane died July 17, 1967, 3 months short of his 41st birthday), but unlike many jazz giants, there are some recordings that document the earliest Coltrane.

Born September 23, 1926, in Hamlet, North Carolina, raised in High Point, North Carolina, by mid-1943 (after graduating from high school) Coltrane had joined his mother in Philadelphia. By 1944 he was studying and performing on alto saxophone with other young Philadelphians. He turned professional in 1945, but on August 6, 1945, he was inducted into the Navy, eventually playing with a band at Manana Barracks just outside Honolulu.

Coltrane's earliest-known recordings are from a casual private session with some friends from a "white" Navy band (the Navy was still segregated), recorded at a radio station in Honolulu on July 13, 1946. One of the eight tracks from that session was released commercially in 1993 in a box set called *The Last Giant*. A version of **Charlie Parker's** "Hot House", it's indicative of the struggle by young jazz musicians like Coltrane to master the complex new music called bop being created by Parker and **Dizzy Gillespie** on the East Coast (four of the eight tracks were Parker compositions). Coltrane's solo is remarkable in that he sounds more like altoist Benny Carter than Parker or his own later self. And his approach to chords is

interesting but frequently awkward.

Released from the Navy in August 1946, Coltrane returned to Philadelphia. He was frequently on the road, by 1948 with **Eddie 'Cleanhead' Vinson's** band. In late 1949 he joined Dizzy Gillespie's big band on alto saxophone. The band recorded twice, in November 1949 and January 1950, but Coltrane doesn't solo. He stayed with Gillespie after the trumpeter downsized to a sextet in May 1950, switching to tenor saxophone.



Coltrane and Gillespie

Coltrane can be heard soloing on recordings with singer Billy Valentine from March 1950 and in broadcast recordings with Gillespie from Birdland in New York City (January and February 1951), which reveal him as an adept soloist in the contemporary style of, say, Dexter Gordon. Coltrane's first "commercial" solo is on a track recorded for Gillespie's DeeGee label in Detroit in February 1951, on a shuffle blues called "We Love To Boogie," reissued on the Savoy compilation *Dee Gee Days*. It's a nice if brief example of Coltrane's roots.

(To be continued)

(Source: The John Coltrane Reference, C.DeVito, Y.Fujioka, W.Schmaler, D. Wild; L. Porter, editor).

Recent Additions to the Family....

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bassist in the Waco area, performing with the Waco Symphony, in a jazz duo with Pat McKee and in a variety of commercial and jazz ensembles.

Evan Klaras Evan is a guitarist who has performed with the Temple Jazz Orchestra and now performs with the Waco Jazz Orchestra. He is also a member of the McLennan Community College Commercial Music School Advisory Board.

Tom and JoAnna Langhorn Tom and JoAnna, Temple residents, are jazz aficionados and CTJS supporters.

Robert Leyva Robert is the band director at Lampasas Middle School. He plays the trombone.

Robertt (Bob) Medina Bob is the Temple Independent School District band director and has been very active in promoting jazz in Temple. He plays alto saxophone. Two of Bob's students are recipients of CTJS's spring 2009 jazz scholarships.

Chris Moix Chris is an assistant band director at Temple Independent School District. He represents the TISD Highlighters and School Blues.

Kayla Nelson Kayla is a band director at Waco Independent School District. Kayla also plays trombone in the Waco Jazz Orchestra.

Chris Pulley Chris is an associate band director at Bryan Independent School District and also teaches the Jazz Band and Symphonic Band 2.

Cynthia and Richard Strahm Cynthia and Richard reside in Sun City are avid bridge players, jazz aficionados and supporters of CTJS.

Scott Stulir Scott is a band director at Waco Independent School District and supporter of CTJS.

Zane Taylor Zane is an associate director

of bands and percussion coordinator at Bryan Independent School District.

Rob Towell Rob is a director of bands at Bryan Independent School District and a jazz enthusiast.

Bill Warren Bill lives in Waco. He's a jazz pianist, a jazz aficionado and CTJS supporter.

Wanda and Jack Weinblatt Dr. and Mrs. Weinblatt are long time Temple residents, jazz aficionados and CTJS supporters.

TJO Does Basie In Cameron

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underwrite TJO's upcoming tour of Europe scheduled to take place this summer. During the tour, the Temple Jazz Orchestra will perform concerts at the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Montreaux Jazz Festival, the Vienne Jazz Festival, and a concert in Lyon. TJO will be performing with Grammy Award-winning trumpeter **Randy Brecker** at the 19th annual Temple College Jazz festival on March 28th.

TJO recently released its fourth CD, *The Temple Jazz Orchestra featuring Gordon Goodwin*, which captures the band in concert with arranger-saxophonist-pianist **Gordon Goodwin** at last year's Temple Jazz Festival. Due out in the spring is another new CD, *Light up the Night with Bill Watrous and the Temple Jazz Orchestra*, from a May 2008 concert that reunited Watrous and TJO. TJO has recorded 3 other CDs: *Soft Lights and Sweet Music*, *The Temple Jazz Orchestra live with Bill Watrous*, and *This is TJO*. The CDs can be purchased at the concert and are also available online.

Tickets for the concert are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and are available at the door or in advance at the Cameron ISD administration building. For more information call **Beth Moore** at (254) 697-3512.

Waco Jazz Orchestra Releases First CD

The **Waco Jazz Orchestra** brought an additional gift to its fall concert at McLennan Community College's Ball Performing Arts auditorium December 8, 2008—its first CD. WJO is well-represented by the self-titled CD, which mixes traditional big band charts with arrangements from more contemporary jazz arrangers—from the Basie Band to the Phat Band.

The CD features arrangements of such classic standards as George Gershwin's "Summertime," arranged by Brad Morey; Sammy Nestico's version of Ben Bernie's "Sweet Georgia Brown" (from the Count Basie book), the iconic Dee Barton trombone feature, "Here's That Rainy Day," indelibly associated with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, and Mike Tomaro's intricate arrangement of "Lush Life," by Billy Strayhorn.

The CD balances these big band standards with more contemporary fare like Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band arrangement "Whodunnit?"; a Robert Curnow chart of the Pat Metheny composition "Always and Forever"; and "Be Bop Charlie," an arrangement by the late West Coast arranger and band leader Bob Florence. These upbeat charts alternate with several ballads: "My One and Only Love," by Guy Wood (arranged by Mark Taylor) and Sammy Nestico's composition "Katy," dedicated to Mrs. Katherine Basie. The CD closes with a strongly swinging version of Milt Jackson's immortal blues "Bag's Groove," arranged by John Clayton.

The CD cover photo, taken by lead alto saxophonist **Greg Bashara**, is a silhouette of the historic Waco Suspension Bridge and the Waco skyline, bathed in the glow of sunset. The artwork on the disc itself is an original artistic rendering by trumpeter **Brad Cates**. The CD was recorded during the summer of 2007 in the Waco High School band hall, with post-production work that fall.

Engineer Stephen Bolech and WJO's director Tim Cates wrapped up post-production work in mid-2008, so that the CD could be available for release at the December concert.



WJO's fall concert offered a range of material for the big-band fan. The program included "My One And Only Love," from the new CD, a feature for alto saxophonist Bashara with a rich solo introduction by guitarist **Evan Klaras**. Baylor graduate and former WJO trumpeter **Chris Clark** contributed an original, "Corky's Bounce." WJO's Basie connection was evident in the classic "Until I Met You," and Sammy Nestico's original "Ain't Nobody Gettin' Any Younger." The appropriate seasonal touch was provided by Gordon Goodwin's award winning chart, "Yo Tannenbaum," and a performance of "The Christmas Song," sung by **Ally Cates** (daughter of trumpeter Brad Cates) with backing by a combo from within the band.

The Waco Jazz Orchestra, which rehearses Mondays under the auspices of McLennan Community College, was formed in 1989 and still includes founding members **Nick Klaras, Tommy Riggs** and **Randy Riggs**. The band has hosted a variety of guest artists including: **Louis Bellson, Carl Fontana, Chris Vadala, Dennis Dotson** and **Pete Christlieb**. The Waco Jazz Orchestra's new CD can be purchased from any band member or by visiting the group's website at: www.wacोजazzorchestra.com.

Central Texas Students Win Jazz Scholarships

(continued from page one)



Paul Atwood

will study jazz with **Dr. Benjamin Irom.**

Trombonist **Paul Atwood**, 15, is a sophomore at **Temple High School** and is also a

member of the Temple High School Highlighters under **Robert Medina**. He also plays piano. Paul has been studying with trombonist **Gary Smith**. He told the committee, "This scholarship offers me the opportunity to have lessons focused purely on jazz and improvisation." He hopes to attend **Brigham Young University**. Paul will also study jazz with **Dr. Benjamin Irom**.

Alto saxophonist **Jeremy Langthorn**, 14, is an eighth-grade student at Bonham Middle School. His band directors are **Brent Mathesen** and **Karen Batson**; he also has been studying saxophone with Ms. Batson. He is a member of the Bonham Middle School Jazz Band. Jeremy lists **Gordon Goodwin** as his favorite jazz artist,



Jeremy Langthorn

based on Goodwin's guest appearance at last year's Temple Jazz Festival. He also listed a wide range of other jazz favorites, from **Miles Davis** and **John Coltrane** to **Count Basie** and **Glenn Miller**. He would like to pursue a career in music, learning "to play well enough to work professionally as a saxophonist." He will study jazz with **Dr. Colin Mason**.

A committee met made up of CTJS members Bill White, Brent Colwell, and Gary Smith reviewed the applications and selected the scholarship winners. Committee Chairman Brent Colwell noted, "All three students demonstrated outstanding musical skills in their submissions and received very good recommendations from their directors." Funding for the scholarship program comes from a grant to CTJS by the Carpenter Foundation.

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Mark Your Calendars....

—**Temple Jazz Orchestra** at Cameron, Saturday February 7 (see page 1)

—**Temple College Jazz Festival**.

Thursday, March 26: **Suzi Stern**

Friday, March 27: **Shelly Berg**

Saturday, March 28: **Randy Brecker**

—**CTJS Fundraising Gala** Temple, Saturday April 4 (details pending)

—**Baylor Jazz Ensemble with Saxophonist David Sanchez** Waco Saturday, April 25th



As a member of CTJS, we know you will continue to support live jazz in Central Texas. We have one favor to ask: Please encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well. Many thanks for supporting the **Central Texas Jazz Society**.