

JazzErie Notes



The Monthly Newsletter of JazzErie

August 2007
Special Edition

13 Years Serving the Jazz Community

RICHIE COLE/ GREG ABATE QUINTET TO KICK OFF JAZZERIE 2007-08 SEASON

The JazzErie Concert Season will start on Saturday, September 15 with a searing saxophone extravaganza, the Richie Cole / Greg Abate Quintet, featuring drummer Carmen Intorre and his trio. Cole and Abate, both bop-based, internationally famous saxophonists, each with his own unique voice, will combine their talents with Intorre's Cleveland-based rhythm section for an evening of adventuresome straight ahead jazz. The concert will be held in downtown Erie, at Gannon University. Starting time is 8:00 PM.



Richie Cole

Richie Cole, who hails from Trenton, NJ, where his father owned a jazz club, began playing saxophone at age 10. While in high school, he was tutored by Phil Woods. Cole played with the big bands of Buddy Rich, Lionel Hampton and Doc Severinsen, and worked as saxophonist for Manhattan Transfer in the '80's. He has spent most of the past 15 years leading his own bands.

His most visible and popular band has been his seven-piece "Alto Madness

Orchestra," which includes tenor saxophonist Bobby Howell, trumpeter Jack Walrath, Vic Juris on guitar and others. Their latest release, "Richie's Rose Garden" (Jazz Excursion Records), commemorates Cole's stay-at-home passion for gardening. Another at-home activity: Cole and his wife give an annual picnic in August. Last year 1,500 musicians and their guests came. Performances included guests from Russia, Finland and Germany.

In addition to at least six CD's by "Alto Madness," Cole has appeared on over 40 other recordings, with cohorts ranging from Art Pepper to Boots Randolph.

Cole is also an inveterate music educator, giving frequent workshops as he travels, and sponsoring an Alto Madness Junior Orchestra for 10 to 16-year-olds.

Heads Up International says of Cole, "His live performances, seasoned liberally with madcap humor that has become his trademark, continuously delight audiences that extend well beyond hard core jazz purists." Cole consistently places high in readers' polls conducted by Down Beat and others.

Cole's front-line partner, Greg Abate, is already known to many Erie jazz fans, having appeared in Erie in a special concert at the papermoon restaurant in

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JAZZERIE MEMBERSHIP

JazzErie is an organization of volunteers. There are no paid staff. All proceeds from concerts, memberships, foundation grants and gifts go directly toward bringing great performers to Erie, supporting local jazz education and providing information to members and the Erie community through our website and newsletter. Membership is open to everyone. Volunteers are welcome!

If you are already a JazzErie member, August is the month to renew. If you're not yet a member, consider the following benefits:

- JazzErie brings great artists and co-sponsors many jazz events during the year. JazzErie brings you the Jazz Walk in July, co-sponsors the Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival, and co-sponsors the Erie Summerlong Jazz Festival
- Members get reduced rates on many JazzErie concerts.
- Members receive a monthly newsletter with news of upcoming events and concerts, club news, plus interviews and in-depth commentary.
- JazzErie supports local jazz education in schools and the community.
- JazzErie provides a monthly Jazz Discussion Group, an evening of fine recorded music and stimulating conversation.
- Membership in JazzErie gives you the knowledge that you are supporting this vital art form in your community.

JOIN NOW!!!

For More Information: www.jazzerie.com

JAZZ ERIE



JazzErie is a community of music lovers and musicians and, a membership organization dedicated to sharing with children, adults and one another an awareness and love of music, particularly jazz. JazzErie brings together people who want to listen to jazz, learn about it, play it and just live it.

Check out our website at www.jazzerie.com for complete information on current and upcoming events.

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REVIEW OF 2006-2007

The best way to predict what you'll get in the future is to look at what you got in the immediate past. Here is a review of JazzErie's offerings during the past year.

CONCERT SEASON

International stars –



Guitar giant **LARRY CORYELL** was one of the true innovators in the past 50 years of jazz – pioneering jazz-rock in the 1960's with a hard-edged tone, note-bending and phrasing

that owed as much to the blues, rock and country as to his bop predecessors. He appeared in December, at the Ambassador, with bassist Mark Egan and drummer Paul Wertigo, each innovators in their own right. The multifaceted Coryell was as taken with Erie as concertgoers were with him, and returned for a guest appearance at the papermoon in May.

Singer **KEVIN MAHOGANY**, who Newsweek magazine calls “the standout jazz vocalist of his generation,” appeared at the East Erie Turners Club in October. Mahogany is a veteran of R&B, crossover jazz and ‘60’s soul music, and has focused in a more concentrated way on jazz in recent years. His credits include a role in the Robert Altman film “Kansas City.”



Multi-saxophonist **JAMES CARTER** came to Erie in March, performing at the Maennerchor Club. A frequent Down Beat poll winner, Carter is a master of reeds from the soprano sax to the

bass sax, with unusual stops in between, including the F-mezzo saxophone. He has performed worldwide with a striking array of virtuoso players, including Regina Carter, Lester Bowie, Herbie Hancock, Flip Phillips and the Detroit Symphony. He also appeared in “Kansas City.”

JazzErie co-sponsored appearances by saxophonist/composer **DAVE PIETRO** and his Banda Brazil at Behrend College (April) and free drummer **RASHIED ALI** at the Erie Art Museum's Blues & Jazz Festival (August).

Regional Stars –

In September, JazzErie brought



you an elegant evening of chamber jazz with Cleveland guitarist **BOB FRASER** and his trio. The concert was held at Gannon University.

Fraser is well known to Erie and Cleveland fans for his work with Ernie Krivda, and as an accompanist for many top players visiting Cleveland.



Singers **KI ALLEN** and **LUCA MUNDACA** provided outstanding performances on a wintry night in February at the East Erie Turners Club. Allen, frequently heard in the Cleveland area, carries a finely tuned jazz sensibility into her vocal explorations. Mundaca, a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, came with a portfolio of her own songs, many in fluidly musical Portuguese.

Sponsorship –

Local Stars –



Local talent reigned supreme in JazzErie's annual Jazz & Blues Walk in July. Ten great bands at ten fine downtown eateries made a unique evening for the many

hundreds of patrons who enjoyed this event. Pictured singer **KATIE CHRIEST** entertained both at the kickoff reception at the Erie Art Museum Annex, and later in the evening with the AZQ quartet at Scotty's.

The **DIXIE DOODLERS** and the **JAZZERIE ALL-STARS** both performed at Jazz at the Zoo in June, another event co-sponsored by JazzErie. More on the All-Stars later.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Workshops –

During the past year, JazzErie has presented workshops by leading jazz musicians who are visiting the Erie area. Workshops are geared to students and aspiring musicians and provide both technical information about the craft and practical advice about life as a musician.

Presenters during 2006-7 included:

- Baritone saxophonist **CLAIRE DALY** (DIVA, accompanying Aretha Franklin and Rosemary Clooney, Down Beat poll winner),
- Drummer **JOE HARRIS** (Dizzy Gillespie's Big Band, Lester Young, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Hutcherson, Quincy Jones),
- Drummer **ROGER HUMPHRIES** (Horace Silver, Stanley Turrentine, Ray Charles, Richard "Groove" Holmes),
- Guitarist **BOB FRASER** (Ernie Krivda, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Grover Washington).



During 2006-7, JazzErie had the pleasure of sponsoring the **JAZZERIE ALL-STARS**. This aggregate of talented high school hopefuls from the Erie area was spearheaded by three high school band directors: Dave Hetrick (McDowell), Chuck Lute (Collegiate Academy) and John Marszalek (Ger. McLane) Their goal was to send an all-star high school band to the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland – to listen, soak up atmosphere and knowledge, and to perform as part of the Festival program. They succeeded!



THE JAZZERIE DISCUSSION GROUP is an informal (everyone interested is welcome) group of new and old jazz fans. It is led by Charles Ventrello, an artist and one of Erie's elite saxophonists. The group meets once a month, currently on the third Thursday at 7:30 PM at the Erie Art Museum Annex, 20 E. 5th St., and promises "great recorded jazz (bring your own favorite disc), latest music news and stimulating dialog."

JazzErie performances are supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency.

JazzErie performances are also funded in part by The Erie Arts Endowment of the Arts Council of Erie.



COMMUNICATIONS

JazzErie's website (www.jazzerie.com) gives a monthly update on local concerts and clubs featuring jazz, plus organizational information and links to related websites.

JazzErie News Notes is a monthly newsletter, mailed to your home (or soon, if you choose, to your email address) with news about upcoming concerts and club appearances, interviews with local jazz figures, reviews and more.

ALL THIS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE MEMBERSHIP!!

For more information, visit www.jazzerie.com.

JAZZERIE THANKS THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

- Gannon University**, 109 University Square.
- MacDonald, Illig, Jones and Britton, Attorneys**, 100 State Street, Suite 700.
- Glenwood Beer**, 2177 W. Grandview Boulevard.
- Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center**, Mercyhurst College.
- Erie Art Museum**, 411 State Street.
- Glass Growers Gallery**, 10 E. 5th Street.
- World of Music**, 1355 W. 26th Street.
- Froess Pianos and Keyboards**, 2558 W. 8th Street.
- Romolo Chocolates**, 1525 W. 8th Street.
- Lynch Music**, Rte. 9 & Rte. 20, Fairview.
- Erie Book Store**, 137 E. 13th Street.
- Raven Sound**, 2617 Peach Street.
- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania**, Edinboro
- Penn State Erie, The Behrend College**, Wesleyville
- Lake Erie Fanfare**, 113 W. 10th Street.
- Coors Beer**
- Scott Enterprises/Ambassador Center**, 8040 Peach Street
- East Erie Turners Club**, 829 Parade Street.
- Mercyhurst College**, 501 E 38th St.

Erie Jazz Notes

Continued from pg. 1



February, 2006. He wowed the crowd and his musical cohorts with his down-to-earth manner combined with fine tuned musical sensibilities. Abate also conducted a Workshop for aspiring

musicians and interested fans during that visit.

Abate (pictured above) also carries a substantial resume. He turned 60 this summer, but that doesn't seem to be slowing him down. He tours 150 days a year, and just returned from a European Festival tour which included Paris, Innsbruck, Florence and Montreux, then on to a tour of England.

Abate completed four years at Berklee, then played lead alto for the Ray Charles Orchestra for two years, leaving to start his own group. He played tenor with the reconstituted Artie Shaw Orchestra in the late '80's, then toured

clubs and began recording. His 2004 CD "Evolution" was nominated for a Grammy. Abate is also an educator, teaching at Rhode Island College and conducting workshops and master classes throughout the US and abroad.

Critics say: "Abate is not content to rely on stock bebop riffs and standard chord progressions. Rather, the sharp angularity of his phrases and the often startling pauses in his fast-moving lines give his work a feeling of constant invention and creativity"—Howard Reich, Chicago Tribune.

"Greg Abate is one of the most appealing saxophonists on the scene today. He is mature with an abundance of gentle self-confidence. The result is that he plays music with sweetness and daring."—Jim Merod, New Jazz Recordings.



Carmen Intorre

Drummer Carmen Intorre is a newer arrival on the scene. He, too, appeared in Erie in 2006 at a JazzErie concert featuring young trumpet star Dominic Farinacci. Intorre is a graduate of Julliard's new Jazz Studies program, and has already made a name for himself by joining Joey DeFrancesco on tour, including a gig on the Ramsey Lewis TV jazz series as DeFrancesco's and Dr. Lonnie Smith's accompanist.

* * * * *

High powered jazz, master performers, comfortable surroundings. And that's just the season opener. Negotiations are in the works with an array of equally talented musicians to fill out the once-a-month concert season.

As Larry Coryell said, during his first visit here last year, Erie is becoming a "jazz oasis," with a receptive, knowledgeable jazz audience, increasingly known to the top tier of traveling jazz musicians who inhabit the troposphere of international jazz talent.



Join JazzErie

Mail this Membership Application to:
JazzErie, P.O. Box 8833,
Erie, PA 16505-0833

Register Me As A: (check one) **Cost**

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20 |
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