

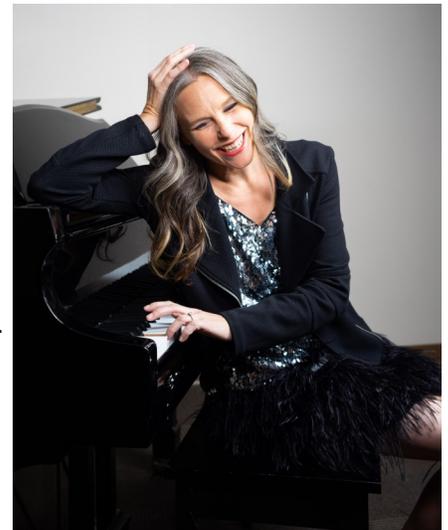
## **Charlotte County Jazz Society 2025-2026 Concert Season Preview**

### **October 13, 2025- Rebecca Richardson Trio- Charlotte Harbor Event Center (In the Round Concert)**

Frequently spotted on the local music scene, Rebecca Richardson is a noted vocalist and pianist who performs both jazz and classical music. A native of Seattle, Rebecca grew up in a cultural hotbed of creativity. From her first paying “gig” working on a local cruise ship, Rebecca ultimately earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Jazz Performance and went on to perform in multiple jazz venues.

Following a career of performing, teaching, and studying in New York and abroad, Rebecca moved to Naples, Florida in 2005 and has been embraced by the artistic community there. Rebecca is regularly appearing at the Continental and The Club Room at Campiello with her jazz trio. Some other appearances include Artis Naples and the Naples Philharmonic, Opera Naples, Arts Planet and the Naples Botanical Gardens, just to name a few.

Rebecca established the Naples Carolers in 2005, now a fixture of the Naples holiday season. She has served as the head of Vocal Studies and Chorus at the Community School of Naples since 2010.



### **November 10, 2025- Mosaic-The Music of Art Blakey- CPAC**

Paul Gavin & Mosaic will be presenting the music of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. Mosaic is Paul’s tribute to the hard bop genre of jazz and honors the legacy of Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, one of hard bop’s primary incubators. The band is named after one of Blakey’s finest albums.

The sextet will feature trumpet, saxophone, trombone, piano, bass and drums, playing some of the best jazz ever composed. You can expect to hear the swing of the bass, amazing horn solos, incredible piano playing, and of course, thunderous drums.

## December 8, 2025- Les Elgart Orchestra (CPAC-Big Band Concert)

The Les Elgart Orchestra is one of the few remaining famous big bands from the 1950s and 1960s that is still in demand! Their popularity gained them their tagline "The Band with THAT Sound!"

At prestigious venues like The Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles, The Savoy Hotel in London, The Everglades Club in Palm Beach and The Rainbow Room in New York City, they have delighted audiences both nationally and internationally. The orchestra has had the honor of providing dance music for US Presidents and Governors and have performed on Norwegian Cruise Lines, the famous Mississippi Delta Queen, and the Holland America Cruise Lines.



Les Elgart wrote "Bandstand Boogie", which became the well-known theme song for Dick Clark's television program "American Bandstand." The orchestra has recorded over fifty hit albums with Columbia Records and was featured in the popular 1958 movie "Senior Prom."

In West Palm Beach, Florida, Les Elgart was admitted to the Big Band Hall of Fame in 1986. Les Elgart passed away in 1995 but the Les Elgart Orchestra is dedicated to keeping his memory alive by preserving his unique sound and style that has stood the test of time.

## January 12, 2026- Michelle Amato Quartet (CPAC)



Michelle Amato is a dynamic vocalist whose abilities to convey the deep passion of a lyric have taken her from posh, intimate clubs to The Hollywood Bowl and Radio City Music Hall. She has been a featured soloist in Cirque Du Soleil's "La Nouba," and with The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Michelle has performed and recorded with an array of artists, including Liza Minnelli, Quincy Jones, Al Green and many more. She performs regularly at clubs, private parties, corporate events and music festivals around the country. Michelle continues to love orchestral work, and has been a featured soloist with The Memphis Symphony, The Sunrise Pops, The Sarasota Orchestra, and many more. She remains active in the recording studio, as a singer and contractor, and conducts master classes and clinics around the country.

**February 9, 2026- Rossano Sportiello Trio (Gulf Theater)**

The Rossano Sportiello Trio is a traditional combination of piano, bass and drums.

Award-winning jazz pianist Rossano Sportiello was born in Italy and studied classical piano. He began performing professionally at the age of 16 at jazz venues throughout Italy and Europe. Rossano established himself in New York City in 2007 and since then has performed with many of the world's finest jazz luminaries. As an educator, Rossano has given lectures on jazz and/or masterclasses on piano. He has recorded six solo piano CJs and collaborated on many more.



He will be joined by Eddie Metz on drums and Charlie Silva on bass.

**March 9, 2026- The Midiri Brothers (Gulf Theater)**

The Midiri Brothers have delighted swing dancers and been acclaimed by critics at jazz festivals throughout the county for many years. Joe and Paul Midiri have made both jazz and classical music the focus of their lives since they graduated from college in the mid-1980's. With Joe on clarinet and saxophone and Paul on vibraphone, xylophone, marimba, drums and trombone, they

have recorded with everything from trios to big bands featuring the arrangements of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and the Dorsey Brothers, as well as Paul's original arrangements. After nearly a decade of Philadelphia, New York and Atlantic City gigs, the Midiri Brothers made their way to the west coast debuting at Jazz Jubilee by the Sea in 2002 have since been featured at many California Festivals, as well as at countless jazz clubs coast-to-coast.

**April 13, 2026- The Music of Al & Zoot (Gulf Theater)**

The versatile Lew Delgatto has been a dynamic figure in the New York music scene for over thirty years. His versatility and knowledgeable comprehension of musical art forms has been the basis for a stellar career. He has been involved with jingles, films, jazz and television and has been a saxophonist with the Saturday Night Live band.

A native of New York, Lew's musical abilities were obvious at an early age. Lew's father played the saxophone, and the music of Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman was forever in the del Gato home. During his training at Manhattan School of Music, Lew went on the road with the Les Elgart Band, Sal Salvador and appeared with the world-famous Johnny Carson Tonight Show Band. He has numerous film credits and is on many recordings for such artists as Tony Bennett, Gladys Knight, Aretha Franklin and John Lennon, just to name a few.

Lew appeared live with many music giants such as Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles Henry Mancini, and many, many more.

Lew can be heard on his own CJs, of which the latest is "To Al & Zoot..with Love."

Lew has always been intricately entwined in the music world in various mediums, but his first love is jazz.

Fellow saxophonist, Len Pierro, is a performer, composer, arranger, musical director, producer, and educator from the Philadelphia area. He is the leader of the Len Pierro Jazz Orchestra which has released two CJs of his compositions and arrangements for big band titled "The Third Quarter" (2020) and "As I Was Saying" (2024).

Also appearing will be Ken Levinsky on piano, Don Mopsick on Bass, and Tony Vigilante on drums.

## Notes from the President's Desk – September 2025



The summer has flown by and we're looking forward to another great concert series for 2025 and 2026! You will see a few recognizable acts this year as we decided to bring back a few groups that our members mentioned in the questionnaire this past February that you enjoyed most. We also have decided to keep the membership and ticket prices the same as last season. Being a member means you get access to seven concerts for less than \$12 per concert, so please share our upcoming season with everyone you know as there isn't any place around that I know of where you can get the level of entertainment that we offer for less!

This season we're trying a few new things, the first of which will be our season opening concert where we are kicking off with a special concert in the round at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center with the Rebecca Richardson Trio. We're planning an intimate setting where you will be more connected with the musicians than ever before. This will not be a concert to miss! We've also decided to move our Big Band concert from its usual February date to December 8.

And the last change is where we're holding each concert this year. As already mentioned, we're opening our season with a concert at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. Our next three concerts, from November to January, will be held at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center. Then we plan on closing out our series with the last three concerts being held at the Gulf Theatre for February through April.

Each of these venues have specific strengths that we're focusing on with each act that we're bringing in to entertain you and I look forward to hearing your feedback after each performance to see what you think about not only the music that was presented, but also the quality of each of the facilities so we can be sure to keep growing and getting better!

Other than working hard to put together another high-quality set of musicians for our concerts next season, our other big project this season was updating our website and technology. We've given [cc-jazz.org](http://cc-jazz.org) a major update. We have also set up credit card payment options using PayPal. You can now renew your membership, make donations to our endowment or scholarship/education funds, and purchase tickets directly on our website or in person at our concerts. I'm truly looking forward to this upcoming season and hope you all will help to share our organization with your friends and families! It's our goal to preserve and promote jazz music and history in Charlotte County and we need your help in doing so!

Keep swinging and thank you for being a part of our Society!  
Jordan Aquila

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**CCJS on the Web!**  
[www.cc-jazz.org](http://www.cc-jazz.org)  
\* Check the concert schedule  
\* Join the jazz society  
\* Preview upcoming concerts and events  
\* Check out the local Jazz scene

**LIKE us on Facebook**  
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**In Tune** is published **four** times a year. We welcome pertinent articles, letters and news items space permitting. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the CCJS.

Don't forget to take advantage of our CCJS email list. We send out reminders for events by email. Please send your name and email address to Emilie at [intunejazz@gmail.com](mailto:intunejazz@gmail.com)

**Membership**  
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**Mission Statement of CCJS**

The Mission of the Charlotte County Jazz Society is to increase the availability of Jazz music in our county and to foster the study and appreciation of this original American art form, especially among the youth of our community.

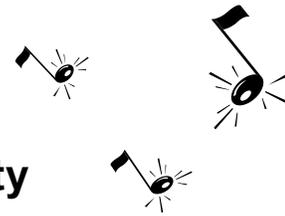
We seek to continually develop and improve upon our monthly concert series which showcases some of the finest jazz performers from throughout the state of Florida. We strive to broaden exposure to jazz among the general public through live performances at community festivals and other local events which reach a wide audience.

CCJS works to serve as a source of information about jazz activities throughout our area by informing local news media, publishing a Society newsletter, and providing a telephone hotline.

We seek to provide continuing aid to middle school and high school students furthering their jazz education and awarding college scholarships on a competitive basis to promising students.

We strive to further expose our area youth to jazz music by admitting local students free of charge to our monthly concert series and jazz jams.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!



**Charlotte County Jazz Society**

**Renewal/New Member Application Form**

Membership is good for the concert season- October through May

PLEASE PRINT: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Renew: \_\_\_\_\_ \$80.00 (per person)

Name: (First, Middle, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name at Same Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **Charlotte County Jazz Society, Inc.** (a non-profit organization)

Mailing Address: Charlotte County Jazz Society  
P.O. Box 495321  
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-5321

**Become a CCJS supporter:**

Our membership fees cover less than half of the cost to produce our concerts. We undertake various fund-raising efforts during the year to supplement these but inevitably we need to use assets from our endowment to balance the budget. We strive to keep our membership fees as low as they are to allow those with limited incomes to enjoy our shows. If you are fortunate enough to afford it please consider additional donations to our endowment fund. You may earmark your donation for support of our jazz performances or for the support of our educational/scholarship programs.

Endowment: \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship/Educational Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2024-2025 Concert Season:

**October 13** - Rebecca Richardson Trio (Charlotte Harbor Event Center (In the round concert)

**November 10** - Mosaic The Music of Art Blakey (CPAC)

**Dec 8** - Les Elgart Orchestra (CPAC - Big Band Concert)

**Jan 12** - Michelle Amato Quartet (CPAC)

**Feb 9** - Rossano Sportiello Trio (Gulf Theater)

**Mar 9** - The Midiri Brothers (Gulf Theater)

**April 13** - The Music of Al & Zoot (Gulf Theater)

**\*\*ALL CONCERTS START AT 7:00\*\***

## CCJS 2024-25 Officers

Jordan Aquila, President  
Aaron Lucas, Past President  
Dan Cobb, Treasurer  
Pam Koontz, Secretary

### Directors

Chris (Brown) Fitzgerald  
Shawn Marren  
James Mashburn  
Louise Raterman  
Cameron Wade

Herb Bruce, Concert Coordinator  
Emilie Deskins, Administrative Assistant

Messages for individual board members can be sent via our email address or through the CCJS hotline number.

**CCJS HOTLINE: 941.766.9422**

**[www.cc-jazz.org](http://www.cc-jazz.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety](https://www.facebook.com/ccjazzsociety)**

**Email: [intunejazz@gmail.com](mailto:intunejazz@gmail.com)**

### YOU CAN BECOME A LEGACY SUPPORTER

Charlotte County Jazz Society is deeply grateful to former members Marjorie Jean Biermann, Helen Langdon, Donatella and Ken Neumann, and Roberta Gasparri. Their generous bequests now play a major role in helping fund the outstanding jazz artists brought to our community by CCJS. They have also been instrumental in supporting our commitment to pass on our love of jazz with the awarding of annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors. We invite you to join us in our mission to preserve, promote and present live jazz by including CCJS in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy, or with a donation to CCJS in honor or memory of a fellow jazz lover. For more detailed information, please contact any CCJS officer or director as listed on the last page.

## Charlotte County Jazz Society

A 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) Non-profit Organization

### Membership

Don't forget to notify us if there are changes to your name, street address, phone number or email address!

Due to rising costs in printing and postage, we will no longer be mailing newsletters or special events notices. Your correct email address is critical in allowing us to stay in touch and keep you current on all our activities. The Charlotte County Jazz Society will never share your personal information with any other entity.