



Garioch Jazz Club

www.jazz-club.co.uk

Newsletter February 2009

News from February:- You will remember the concert which we held in October which was a tribute to Will Michael who died last year and his brother Richard and his son Paul entertained us so well and the proceeds of the night went to Wills wife to spend as she saw fit. Our President Alan Jardine had a really nice letter from Pat Michael (Wills widow) thanking the Garioch Jazz Club for the donation. She has unselfishly used part of it to get an expensive repair done on her son Pauls guitar and it also helped to purchase a headstone for Wills Grave.

APOLOGIES I have to apologise for an error (kindly pointed out by readers, (at least I know some one is reading my ramblings) in last months newsletter I spelt Neal Hefti wrong by using the Kemnay spelling of Neil Heftie. Also my leaflets promoting the next concert which were on the table at the Phil Mason concert had the wrong date for the Atholl Smith concert which is on the 20th February not 23rd January (but you knew that anyway??)

The lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle at the Phil Mason Concert was Jim Sim from Inverurie who went home £50 better off.

Helen and I took a short break to Prague recently and were fortunate to be able to enjoy some great Jazz. Czech people seem to enjoy Jazz because all the background music in the restaurants and most of the shops is Jazz of one sort or another with Louis Armstrong being a favourite. A lot of the restaurants have live Jazz bands on all through the evening, so Jazz lovers are spoiled for choice. We went to the Reduta Jazz Club which was advertised a lot, as the place that Bill Clinton the American President played his Sax. He wasn't there the night we went! but a very good band called the "Dixielanders" gave a great performance from 9.30pm till 1.30am. The audience was very poor early on up to about 11.30 (only 25 people) but after that the place filled up but, became very noisy and smoky (because there is no smoking ban in the Czech Republic) The price to get in was 400 Czech Crowns which was about £14 and there was a different Jazz concert on every night 7 days a week. On the Saturday afternoon another Dixieland Jazz Band was playing in the Town Square for tips and played some great stuff including requests but they must have been very cold because it was only just above freezing. So if you want a wee break and some culture go to the Czech Republic and enjoy the Jazz.

Concert Review:-

The Phil Mason New Orleans All Stars does exactly what it says on the tin. They play New Orleans Jazz and when you listen to Christine Tyrell sing these soulful songs such as "I get the Blues" you can close your eyes and you could just be in Preservation Hall New Orleans.

The line up is as usual (as if there was anything usual about this band) is as follows **Phil Mason on Cornet; Christine Tyrell Vocals; Mickey Cooke on Trombone; Trefor Williams on Double Bass; Laurie Chescoe on Drums; Roger Myerscough on Clarinet/Baritone Saxophone; and lastly Tony Pitt on Banjo.**

Their opening number was The Fats Waller song "You Meet the Nicest People in your Dreams", They ran through "Blues my Sweetie Gave to Me", the old favourite "Rose of Picardy", Then the whole band joined in the singing of "Sweet Bye and Bye". Roger M gave a tremendous solo of "Burgundy Street Blues" accompanied by the Bass and Banjo. A couple of other numbers led us onto Christine singing "Nobody Knows The Trouble I Have Seen", and "Running Wild", Trefor Williams sang a great rendition of "I Double Dare You" Other tunes were "Below The Old Mason Line" "K.C.Moans" "Sentimental Journey" "Irene Good Night" "Curley Headed Baby" "Them Old Cottonfields Back Home" and an encore of "Royal Telephone".

The band members are always happy to stay around after their performance and chat to the audience (and sell their CDs) which is a nice gesture and the smiles on the audiences faces as they left said it all.

Next Concert 20th February

Atholl Smith and Friends

The line up consists of:-

Atholl Smith on Clarinet and Saxophone Ian Milne (who?) on Keyboard Kevin Peat on Bass Ian Smith on Drums and Bill Burnett on Guitar & Vocals

These five guys, whose aggregate years in the business make a formidable figure (best not explored!), set out to entertain by bringing their own interpretations to a wide range of material: New Orleans and Dixieland classics, popular melodies of the 20s and 30s and the odd maverick from more recent times.

Atholl, a stalwart from the earliest Abergeldie days, leads on clarinet and tenor sax but over an interesting musical career has also played bass guitar, mandolin and Venuti-style fiddle. His sidemen will tell you his favourite tempo is "medium bounce" and that his proudest moment having his "Dark Island" admired and adopted by Buddy De Franco.

A trio from within the band operates in its own right: Atholl, Ian Milne on keyboard and Bill Burnett, guitar and vocal. It is supplemented when required by Ian Smith, drums and Kevin Peat, bass and our own Fraser Gale on Trumpet has been known to make an appearance.

Notables supported through the years include Bilk, Barber and Ball, Dutch Swing College and Barney Kessell.

Plus

Ain't Misbehavin

Is our other band on the night and consist of:- Jill Benzies on Piano and Vocals Lewis Benzies on Electric Bass plus the Piano and Bill Kemp on Drums

This band plays a variety of Jazz Standards and include Swing, Jazz, Waltzes, Blues and Bossa Novas. Jill has sung at GJC in 1993 as part of a close harmony group "Sheer Indulgence", Bill plays with various bands up and down the country and Lewis is studying music at Aberdeen University

What's On

Remember this is a two way street and when you know of any Concerts, Gigs, Performances or Programmes which you think our membership would enjoy then let me know either by email, post or just speak to me at the Jazz Club.

- 1) My favourite at the present is Radio Scotland's Jazz House** on Wednesday Nights at 8.05. if you have a computer you can listen to it at anytime. Just type in Radio Scotland Jazz House on your internet search.
 - 2) Malcolm Laycock** has a programme on Sunday at 10pm and the selection is very traditional and well worth a listen
 - 3) Radio 3 has Alyn Shipton** is on Friday at 22.30.
 - 4) Jazz on 3 also** has The Jazz Library with Jez Nelson on at a late 23.30 on Fridays.
 - 5) Jazz Line Up** is also on Radio 3 and unfortunately is on very late 11.30 on Sunday till 1am Mondays so one for all the insomniacs Mostly modern Jazz but depending on my mood and what I'm drinking,(best with a Speyside Malt such as Glen Moray)
- These are the most popular Jazz Shows on BBC and are free to listen to on the radio when they are broadcast or on the BBC website.**

Jazz on The internet

- 6) Sky TV** has a programme dedicated to Jazz 20 hours a day and you can find it of channel 0113
- 7) ACCUJAZZ** is an American Jazz radio Station which is available on your computer and can be fine tuned to your tastes.
- 8)One of my other favourites is JazzFM.com** which is only available on the computer and you have to register and give name, address and email address so you need to decide if its something you want to do but the play list is very varied and I've heard some really good old stuff on there.
- 9)If you really want to get the best from your computer look at this website.** Its called "finetune" And once you are into the website you can select an artist by just typing in the name and you can then select your favourite tracks by name, it also then advises you on other associated artists of the same genre. E.g. type in Oscar Peterson and it suggests Art Tatum, Thelonious Monk ,Dave Brubeck and Duke Ellington. You can set up a play list of your favourites, although I found this a bit fiddly.

One of our Newsletter Readers Jack Fullerton has notified me of this Radio 3 programme on a Saturday afternoon. Jazz Library at 4.00pm followed by Jazz Record Requests, which is an excellent programme, usually at 5.00pm although this can vary.

There is also a Jazz Meeting in Kemnay Hall every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. I have not been able to attend so far but anyone who has might like to let me know how they enjoyed it.

No matter what medium you listen to enjoy your music.

Jazz History

Swing Is the style that emerged during the early 1930s and emphasized the Big Bands. It spilled into the late 1940s and even early 50s and remained popular in recordings, film, and television music long after its main proponents had disbanded.

Most swing-style groups had at least 10 musicians and featured at least three or four saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, guitar, bass, and drums. The rhythm section offered repeated rhythms that were sufficiently simple, buoyant, and lilted to encourage social dancers which was Swing's largest audience. Not all dance music played by the big bands in the 30s and 40s was "Jazz" but at that time a large segment of the public considered anything lively and syncopated to be "Jazz".

We all understand that the music of Glen Miller, Duke Ellington, Guy Lombardo and the Dorsey Brothers music was swing but, not all the big bands stuck to the "Sweet Swing" format. There were some brilliant improvisers of swing such as Art Tatum, and Django Reinhardt who did not earn their reputation in the context of Big Band. And there were others including Lester Young and Coleman Hawkins who often made their best recordings in small band formats, though most of their livelihood and exposure came initially as soloists in Big Swing Bands.

The spirit of the 1930s was dominated by new possibilities of technology. In one brief 18 month period from 1934 to 1936 America saw its first diesel streamliner trains, the Chrysler Airflow car, the DC-3 Aircraft and the Golden Gate Bridge amongst a host of other technological innovations. In Jazz terms Swing reached a perfection of form by 1939 with the Count Basie Band.

The other key artists of the swinging 30s were Cab Calloway 1907 – 1994, *Ella Fitzgerald* 1917 – 1996, Stepane Grappelli 1908 - 1997, *Lionel Hampton* 1908-2002, Earl Hines 1903-1983, *Gene Krupa* 1909- 1973, Artie Shaw 1910—2004, and *Jack Teagarden* 1905- 1964 just to name a few of the most famous names.

And still today our own Garioch Jazz Club audience love swing. It has a lasting legacy which I think will last forever long after the modern stuff has faded away.

Information gleaned from (All Music Guide to Jazz edited by Ron Wynn, Michael Erlewine & Vladimir Bogdanov) and from Jazz the Complete Story editor Julia Rolf. And from various internet sites.

Memberships: £12 for session (first concert free and £1 off subsequent concerts)

Tickets: on the door at £10 (non-members), £9 (members and concessions), £3(students and juniors).

The aim of the Garioch Jazz Club Committee is to ensure that you the Members and our Visitors enjoy the

programmes every month and to that end we would appreciate any feedback you may have. Please either speak to me

or any members of the committee at the events, email me personally ian.crighton@fiscali.co.uk or drop me a line at

Ian Crighton, Oatlands, Leschangie, Kemnay, Inverurie AB51 5PP

Ian Crighton Joint Secretary

Memberships: £12 for session (first concert free and £1 off subsequent concerts)

Tickets: on the door at £10 (non-members), £9 (members and concessions), £3(students and juniors).

The aim of the Garioch Jazz Club Committee is to ensure that you the Members and our Visitors enjoy the programmes every month and to that end we would appreciate any feedback you may have. Please either speak to me or any members of the committee at the events, email me personally ian.crighton@tiscali.co.uk or drop me a line at Ian Crighton, Oatlands, Leschangie, Kemnay, Inverurie AB51 5PP

Ian Crighton Joint Secretary

