



The Sunshine Jazz Messenger

The Official Newsletter of the Sunshine Jazz Organization since 1986

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The Sunshine Jazz Organization was formed in the autumn of 1986 to help support America's indigenous music... JAZZ! Founded by Jazz Radio Icon China Valles, along with devoted Jazz enthusiasts, educators and musicians, SJO's mission is to foster and enhance interest in and appreciation of our beloved music. SJO strives to promote accessibility for all ages and to inspire and encourage the development of South Florida's wealth of Jazz talent.

Follow SJO online!

<https://www.sunshinejazz.org/>

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Sunshine Jazz Organization Bids Farewell To Our Beloved "Lady Day"

The world has lost a true artist and renaissance woman. After battling heart disease, Alice Day passed away on July 10, at age 74. Our beloved *Alice Vergerie Day* began singing jazz on the Liberty City street corners as a child. Born the second of seven children on March 9, 1946 in Alachua County, FL, Alice was raised in Miami and has been called "South Florida's First Lady of Jazz" so often that she has earned the title. {Billie "Lady Day" Holiday was her first "teacher"} Continue page 2

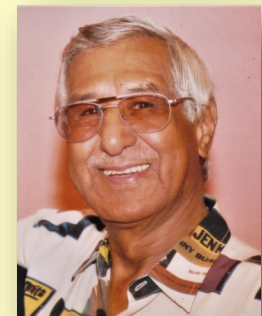
Alice Day, 1989

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of David D. Spitzer

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qkwltk>



Very Happy Birthday to our dear friend, Sax Legend Sweet Papa Lou Donaldson, 94! November 1st, 2020



Happy Birthday to "The Mahj", Our dear beloved China' Valles. November 5, 1925 ~ Dec 17, 2014. We Love You Madly!

The first song Alice Day learned as a jazz singer was Holiday's rendition of "God Bless the Child." She never had formal singing lessons but learned by listening to Holiday's records, learning every inflection and sound. A graduate of Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 1963, Alice never forgot those "lessons." She was regarded among the premier song stylists in South Florida, named Best Female Jazz Vocalist at the South Fla Music Awards in 1984. Not long after, she opened her own jazz space, "Alice's Place", tucked inside Fort Lauderdale's Musicians Exchange in 1989.

"I should have been born 20 years earlier," Day told the Miami Herald in 1984. "A quick scan of her influences bears this out," they wrote. "There is a touch of the tormented phrasing of Billie Holiday, the tight-lipped delivery of Nancy Wilson, and the spirit of Ernestine Anderson in Day's work." Said Alice at the time, "It's what I'm supposed to be doing. I can't imagine what will happen if people are allowed to forget about this music. I have a duty to keep it alive." At 15 she faked her age to get her first professional job at the Rockland Palace in Overtown. A high school student, who aced business classes, she made \$5 a night working in the kitchen and singing with the band. Aunt Shirley Crawford loaned her clothes, fixed her makeup and drove her to the club. She told Day's mother she was baby-sitting. "She was too young to be in the club, but she had the voice of a woman," Crawford told the Herald in 1989.

In 1955, Day's family relocated to Miami and joined Metropolitan AME Church in Liberty City. Alice began singing there and for a time was the church's choir director, remaining a lifelong member. She spent 8 years in Chicago and New York in the 70's, tapping into the more competitive jazz communities, then returned home to improve son Rory's schooling. She played multiple sets at clubs and lounges from Miami-Dade to Palm Beach counties, often into the wee hours. Those settings suited her subtle rasp in her voice.

"I consider myself a saloon singer. I like smoky joints," she told the Sun Sentinel in 1988. "She's done an awful lot to keep the music going when work gets slim," jazz radio icon China Valles said in the 1980s. "When there was nothing happening, Alice was out there hustling. She helps a lot of people." She helped form Sunshine Jazz Organization along with Valles. She hosted a jazz program on WLRN radio. Alice had international residencies in Thailand & Switzerland and, in 2009, founded The South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame, celebrating the 11th year and 67 worthy Inductees in July 2020.

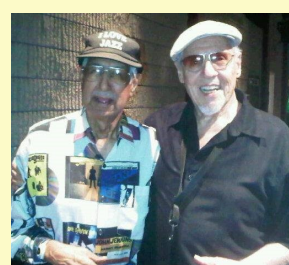
Lady Day never gave up helping recognize local talent in a genre that still struggles to gain traction. "She was one of the first people in South Florida to embrace me when I was just starting," said Nicole Yarling, one of South Florida's current premier jazz talents. "Alice Day, Mel Dancy, Pete Minger, Ira Sullivan, and China Valles saw something in me that I had not yet realized. They were my mentors."

For Alice, the goal was to embody the music, to be believable. "If you don't feel it, something's wrong with either me or you," she told the Sentinel in 1988. "One of us has got a hole in our soul somewhere. Music is so much a part of me, it's like breathing in and breathing out."

Day's survivors include her son Rory Kelley, brothers Johnny, Arthur and Jesse, sisters Annist Brown, Barbara Pryor and Joyce Reid, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. An "Alice Day/China Valles Jazz Foundation" is in the works and we'll keep you posted when finalized.



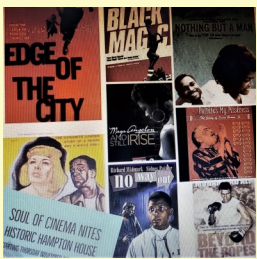
Dear Friend, Chicago-Miami Jazz legend Ira Sullivan passed away peacefully on September 21, 2020, due to pancreatic cancer, among family in his Miami home. Ira was an amazing person and artist, an inspiration and mentor to many, Born May 1, 1931, Washington, D.C.
<https://www.facebook.com/irasullivanjazz>



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"Ladies of Simone" 8PM November 13/14



Soul of Cinema Nites ~ 6:30PM | Series Starts Thursday Nov 19
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Miami Jazz Cooperative

(305) 642-5299 | www.miamijazz.org

Online Event Streams Every Monday



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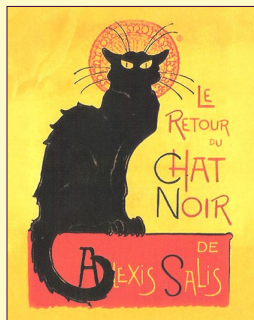
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33 Seasons of SJO Jazz Services 1986 Inaugural SJO Event, "Round Midnight" Premier. 2nd SJO Anniversary features Diane Schuur; Coconut Grove Festival – SJO provided 75 volunteers; IAJE Conference – SJO provided 115 volunteers; AFJS Convention features Jazz Freddy Cole; Jazz Cruises in support of Hurricane Andrew victims; Co-sponsor Living Legends of Jazz with BCC College; Co-sponsor Hialeah Race Track Jazz Series; Jazz on Wheels Summer Series – Miami-Dade Parks; Students' Library Jazz Series & Jazz Workshops; "Jazz at the Ponce" Series, Coral Gables Park. Membership promotion events: Hollywood Jazz Festival; Riverwalk Blues Festival; A Taste of Jazz Miami Springs; Cornucopia at Vizcaya; Jazz Daze on Las Olas, Ft Lauderdale; A-Train to New Orleans via Amtrak; SJO 5th Anniversary; SJO Monthly Jazz Jams, Miami-Dade & Broward Counties Co-sponsor Jazz at Coral Gables Congregational Church Fundraisers for Musicians in Crisis – Steve Bagby; Mike Gerber; Pete Minger. SJO's 10th Anniversary w/ Special guests Stanley Turrentine and Arturo Sandoval; Jazz Jams for Youth Series, Miami Dade Public Schools; Jazz summer Workshop Series, Caleb Auditorium; SJO elected by Dept of Cultural Affairs Council as Service Organization for all Jazz Artists; Co-Sponsor Museum of Contemporary Art Jazz Concerts. Co-Sponsor Black Music Month & National Jazz Month Events with DAC & Miami-Dade Parks; Magic City Monday Jazz Workshops for Kids at Caleb Center; Real Men Cook – Caleb Center & Florida Memorial College; Juneteenth Celebration, Overtown, Visiting Artists Reception Hosts - Ruby Dee & Ossie Davis, Carmen Lundy, Houston Person, Melba Moore, Dr. Bobby Jones. Dade County Park Celebration at Metro Zoo | Jazz at Shores Performing Arts Theater Series; National Jazz Month w/ Melton Mustafa & Marcus Belgrave; SJO's 15th Season w/ Houston Person. Jazz Sundown Bank of America Lobby Lounge; Summer Jazz in the Park Series – Miami-Dade Summer Arts Showcase Caleb Center; Children's Jazz Fest | Jazz Jams for Young Performers; SJO's 20th Season; Jazz Diva Night w/ FIU School of Music Big Band; Magic City Jazz Series, Caleb Lobby Lounge; Full Moon Jazz SJO Allstars - Hollywood Beach; Jazz Nite Out, Van Dyke Café, Miami Beach; Co-Sponsor So. Fla Jazz Hall of Fame 2009-17; SJO 25th Season" Melton Mustafa Orchestra, Allan Harris, Alice Day, Brenda Alford, Yvonne Brown; Music in the Park w/ Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan; SJO Jazz Showcase @ Miami-Dade County Fair co-sponsor Diaspora Arts Coalition; Jazz co-sponsor Art Deco Weekend Miami Beach 2015-18; SJO 27th Season: Sandy Patton & Billy Marcus Trio, SJO 28th Season w Melton Mustafa & Jesse Jones, Jr. Honoring Nat & Cannonball Adderley; SJO 29th Season: Dr. Lonnie Smith w/ John Hart & John Yarling; SJO 30th Season: Lou Donaldson & Dr. Lonnie Smith w/ John Hart, Ignacio Berroa, SJO 31st Season: Richie Cole & Alto Madness! 9th Annual South Fla Jazz Hall of Fame; SJO 32nd Season: Mustafa Family Band.; SJO 33rd Season Leesa Richards & LeNard Rutledge w/ Jesse Jones Jr. Ens.; 10h Annual S. Fla. Jazz Hall of Fame w/ Lou Donaldson, Bob Perry. 11th SFJHOF Inducts Tracy Fields.



JAZZ RESOURCES

South Florida Jazz Events www.Southfloridajazzlist.com

Jazz Blues Florida www.facebook.com/JazzBluesFla/

All About Jazz www.jazznearyou.com

JAZZIZ Magazine www.jazziz.com

SOUTH FLORIDA'S JAZZ RADIO

WLRN 91.3FM Evenin' Jazz w/ Tracy Fields Mon-Fri 9:30pm-1am; Sat:

Jazz Works 8pm-12am; Sun. Night Train w/ Ted Grossman 8pm-12am.

www.WLRN.org WDNA 88.9FM Jazz 24/7 www.WDNA.org COOL JAZZ

FLA w/ Host Stu Grant 24/7 www.cooljazzflorida.com



Stay in touch with our dear friend Allan Harris, where you'll be turned on to spectacular music & a message with heart & soul that matters. Check out his newest release "Run Through America"

<https://www.allanharris.com/home>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAllanHarrisBand>

ENJOY SJO Videos on our YouTube page ~ Music in The Park; South Fla Jazz Hall of Fame 2009-2020; Music in Schools– Brenda Alford's Empowerment Program; Arts in Parks; Jazz Showcase @ The Fair; **Playlists:** Alice Day; Richie Cole; SJO's Monthly Jazz Series @ Miami Shores Country Club; Jazz Colleagues and more!

<https://tinyurl.com/SunshineJazzOrg>

SOUTH FLORIDA JAZZ SPOTS

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY *please contact the venue prior
Jazz at Pinecrest Gardens www.pinecrestgardens.org
Jazz Roots @ Adrienne Arsht PAC, Arshtcenter.org
Le Chat Noir, 2 So. Miami Ave., Lechatnoirdesalis.com
WDNA Jazz Encounters & Jazz Gallery, WDNA.org
Olympia Theater Lobby Jazz Miami jazzsociety.com
Miami Jazz Coop, Open Stage Club, Miami jazz.org/
South Miami-Dade CAC www.smdcac.com
Books & Books Fri-Sat 265 Aragon Ave. Coral Gables.
The Fish House South Miami. www.Thefishhouse.com
Ball & Chain 1513 SW 8th St., Ballandchainmiami.com
Lagniappe House 3425 NE 2nd Ave., Miami 33137.
4th Fridays JAZZ at MOCA 8pm. Mocanomi.org

BROWARD COUNTY

Blue Jean Blues 3320 NE 33 St, Ft. L. www.bjblive.com
Riverwalk Jazz Brunch 1st Sundays 11am-2pm.
201 SW 5th Ave, Ft. Lauderdale.
Council Oak Seminole Hard Rock 1 Seminole Way, Hwd.
All That Jazz 3491 N. Hiatus Rd., Sunrise, FL 33351
Tavolinos 10181 Sample Rd. Tavolinorestaurant.com

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Arts Garage Delray Beach www.artsgarage.org
Heidi's Jazz Club Cocoa Beach www.Heidisjazzclub.com
Jupiter Jazz Jam Sundays 4-8pm Double Roads Tavern

JAZZ ORGANIZATIONS

South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame
<http://southfloridajazzhalloffame.blogspot.com/>
Melton Mustafa Foundation www.meltonmustafa.com
Miami Jazz Coop www.miamijazz.org/
Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues www.jazzsociety.org
Miami Jazz & Film Society Miami jazzsociety.com
Women In Jazz South Florida www.wijsf.com
SwingandJazzPreservationSociety.org
South Florida Jazz www.southfloridajazz.org/
Gold Coast Jazz Society www.goldcoastjazz.org
Jupiter Jazz & Performing Arts Society (561)762-4111

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Thank you!



THE SUNSHINE JAZZ ORGANIZATION, INC.

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The SJO has been promoting Jazz since 1986. Thanks for your support!

Annual Membership Rates (please check one) New _____ Renewal _____
\$25 Student/Musician _____ \$40 Individual _____ \$50 Family _____ \$75 Org/Donor _____
\$100 Sponsor _____ \$250 Patron _____ \$500 Corporate _____ \$Other _____

www.SunshineJazz.org

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TAMPA BAY
JAZZ Assoc.



SJO Thanks...



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