

CHESAPEAKE CHAMBER MUSIC INTERLUDE

2011 GALA: MARDI GRAS LIVE!

by Lin Clineburg Following last year's fabulously successful CCM twenty-fifth anniversary Gala will be a challenge, but the 2011 Gala committee headed by Jean McHale, with Dyanne Welte as co-chair, is bursting with enthusiasm, ideas, and confidence in planning for the March 5, 2011 "Mardi Gras Live!" fund raising concert, dinner, and auctions at The Avalon Theatre and The Waterfowl Festival Building in Easton, MD.

The evening's festivities are underwritten for the fourth consecutive year by the generous folks at Wye Financial and Trust in Easton. Chesapeake Chamber Music is pleased to announce that Benson and Mangold Realtors are also corporate sponsors for the 2011 Gala.

The tradition of Mardi Gras, meaning "Fat Tuesday", was brought by the Acadians, French immigrants to Canada who resettled in what is now Louisiana. The CCM

Mardi Gras
t h e m e

coincides with the season in New Orleans, LA, famous for its parades and jazz music throughout the days of festivity before the darker days of abstinence and reflection beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter. Historically, it is a Christian based observation with a good dose of Pagan ritual thrown in to entice the early natives to practice French Christianity.

The Gala concert, "From Ragtime to Jazz", will feature jazz pianist and historian, John Royen, associated for many years with the New Orleans Preservation Hall Jazz

Band. Known far and wide for his stride piano style of jazz performance, Mr. Royen will entertain with music and commentary on the evolution of jazz in America. It promises to be a fascinating and roof raising event.

Following the concert, merry makers will be led, parade style with music and singing, to the Waterfowl Building, transformed for the evening to a Bourbon Street market arcade and restaurant. There, party-goers will be able to sip cocktails and sample New Orleans delicacies while perusing the wealth of Silent Auction offerings arranged by category into small boutiques lining the arcade.

Dinner will be served in glorious New Orleans style by the incomparable Gourmet By The Bay. The evening's menu will be reason alone to attend this Gala Dinner. And the evening's highlight, occurs during dessert as partygoers have opportunities to bid on an exclusive list of Live Auction destinations, tours, and treasures announced by popular auctioneer, Herb Andrew.

Press the tuxedo, get out the glue and glitter to create a masque, and call for your tickets to this once in a lifetime celebration.
LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

**Mardi
Gras**
Live!



CCM 2011 Gala co-chairs,
Jean McHale and Dyanne Welte
pictured with
CCM Board President,
Chloe Pitard

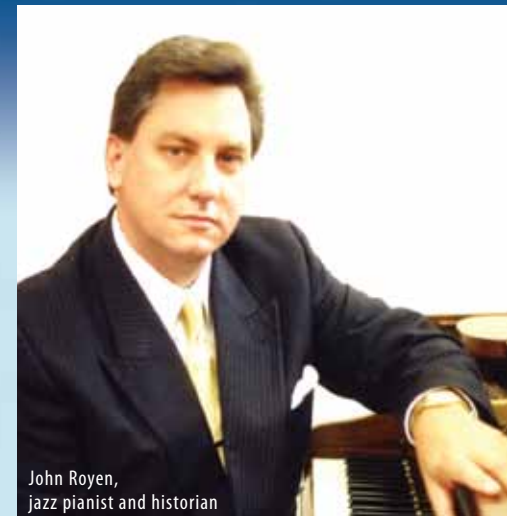
Gala Concert: "From Ragtime to Jazz"

Featuring John Royen, New Orleans Jazz Pianist and Historian

Since 1976, John Royen has been a fixture on the New Orleans Jazz scene. One of the few "two-handed" jazz pianists today, his style recalls the era of the great classical jazz pianists such as "Jelly Roll" Morton, "Fats" Waller, and Willie "The Lion" Smith. With a full left hand base, John creates a sound that most pianists need a trio to produce. He learned his style under the tutelage of jazz legend Don Ewell, who performed with such jazz greats as "Bunk" Johnson and Jack Teagarden.

Today John Royen is continuing that tradition. He has performed, toured and recorded with many contemporary New Orleans jazz greats, including The Dukes of Dixieland, Tim Laughlin and The Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble. John has been playing for over 20 years with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, performing at The Kennedy Center, The U.S. State Department, numerous universities, theaters and performing arts centers around the country and the world. John has an extensive knowledge of jazz history and has lectured for many public and private organizations including the Louis Armstrong Foundation and The National Park Service as well as numerous jazz festivals and associations.

Looking forward to his performance at Mardi Gras Live!, John commented "Jazz is America's one true contribution to the arts, and it is my pleasure to help show the development of this musical form and its contribution to our culture."



John Royen,
jazz pianist and historian

For tickets and information on Mardi Gras Live! or concert tickets only, visit the website, www.chesapeakechambermusic.org; or call the office at 410-819-0380.

THE 2010 MONTY ALEXANDER JAZZ FESTIVAL: A FIRST FOR CHESAPEAKE CHAMBER MUSIC

by Beth Schucker Monty Alexander, the great jazz piano player, had just stunned an audience of chamber music aficionados. He and I were standing together at the post-concert reception in the Avalon Theatre. Unsure of what to say after such thunderous audience approval, I mumbled, "You played "Sweet Georgia Brown" so fast, I could hardly catch my breath." He deadpanned, "I played "Sweet Georgia Brown" so fast, I could hardly catch my breath." That was 2009. I thought he was kidding.

In 2010, Alexander returned to the Avalon Theatre, this time as Artistic Director of the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival. Once again, he played "Sweet Georgia Brown." As I listened carefully, I could hear soft gasps for air at it been kidding. His tempo can be breath taking.

The 2010 Monty Alexander Jazz Festival, a three-event program of jazz and conversation, was made possible when Chesapeake Chamber Music stretched its repertoire to include small jazz ensembles.

The Grace Kelly Quintet opened the festival with "Ain't No Sunshine." Though quintessential blues, the piece lit the theatre with an aurora borealis of excitement. Kelly, an alto saxophonist, brought the audience to the edge of their seats with lush jazz standards and kept them there with her playful and coy stage presence and lilting vocals, not to mention her "take-you-off-guard" surprises like scatting the introduction to "Sunny Side of the Street" and adding a runaway rock finish to "Summertime".

Improvisation was on everyone's mind at the Conversation on Jazz led by Jazz critic Bill Edgar. "Jazz is all about spontaneity," said Kelly. It creates a "collective individualism" that keeps you on your feet because "I never know what they're going to do next." Alexander nodded in the affirmative and sheepishly grinned, "A lot of my spontaneity today is because I can't recall the way I did it yesterday." He concluded that jazz is one of America's best gifts to the world because it teaches freedom of expression.

The house was packed for the Monty Alexander Trio concert. As musicians took their places, the air bristled with anticipation. Alexander looked happy being back on the Avalon stage along

with Lorin Cohen bassist, drummer Win Harper and a special guest performer, Bobby Thomas, today's sole innovator of freestyle hand drumming. Without fanfare, Alexander tapped his right foot and bam! -- the 1950s ballad, "Fly Me to the Moon", swelled to the rafters at an upbeat tempo. The Trio played music from Spain, calypso from Alexander's home country of Jamaica, gospel, rousing pieces like Gershwin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band", and others in a more dreamy mood. Humility is very much a part of Alexander's success. He concedes his musical gifts are on loan to him and says, "I try to do the best I can with them." I just hope he takes good care of "Sweet Georgia Brown" until next year.



Grace Kelly

Toast to Arnie Lerman

The following statement of appreciation to Arnie Lerman was read and adopted by the Chesapeake Chamber Music Board of Directors at their November, 2010 meeting. Arnie and Zena have moved to North Carolina to a wonderful community near family and seem to be very happy.

Arnie Lerman has well and faithfully served many causes in our community for many years. He and Zena are loved and respected for their constructive involvement and passionate commitment to life's highest values in poetry, music, education, and gentle and informed discourse in every reach of our community's undertakings.

Chamber music, in all its manifestations, has been the greatest beneficiary of Arnie's talents. He joined the Board in 1996, quickly and thoughtfully assuming a leadership role in the presentations of our annual Festivals. He began working closely with Marcie and Lawrie because of his deep and studious musicianship, helping the Board in countless ways over his whole tenure in bridging the gap between our ignorance and their erudition.

Arnie served a full nine years as a director; a superb director. For many of us, Arnie represents the history and memory of The Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival. His counsel was always wise, yet leavened with laughter.

In 2002, joined by Anna Larkin, Arnie persuaded the Board to form a Competition Committee to plan, organize, and present a biennial Competition for young chamber music ensembles from around the world. Arnie and Anna agreed to co-chair the Competition Committee. And so, history was made! Only through Arnie and Anna's talent was a competition structure developed, rules written, funding secured, a nationally known musician advisory panel selected and recruited, equally well-known first and second round judges

selected and recruited, and complete information and application packages prepared and distributed to conservatories, teachers, and schools of music across the land. We are all proud of that first Competition. But it proved to be only the beginning. In 2006, in 2008 and again in 2010 Competitions have been successfully presented, always led, of course, by Arnie and Anna. Our reach is international and the enduring impact of our Competitions upon young artists, music education and on this community is readily discernible.

In 2004 Arnie was "term limited" off the Board. Of course he remained fully committed to the Competition even after leaving the Board. After surviving a year without Arnie, The Board asked him to return. He was elected to a new three-year term in 2006, and a second three-year term in 2009. And so he has continued to serve the cause of great music and encouragement of young artists to this day.

It is very difficult to imagine Chesapeake Chamber Music without Arnie. He is a valued companion in our search to advance our mutual love of superb music. He is a trusted co-worker, always carrying more than his share of the work. If he says he will, you can count on it. We will sorely miss his wisdom, dedication, knowledge, and wit.



Arnie and Zena Lerman, photo by Charles Riter

Board Approves Strategic Plan

Mission: To enrich the musical life of the Chesapeake region by delighting today's audiences and developing tomorrow's.

Vision: One of the region's leading cultural treasures, Chesapeake Chamber Music inspires a love of music for life.

by Chloe Pitard Over the past several years, Chesapeake Chamber Music has experienced considerable growth and development. Our June Festival grows each year, now consisting of almost daily concerts over a two week period. The Competition has likewise grown in size and prestige, drawing extremely high caliber candidates nationally and internationally. Our YouthReach program which provides a two week unit of violin lessons for every third grader in Talbot County as well as many in Dorchester County is enthusiastically received and is growing. YouthReach has many possibilities for expansion, and we are encouraged by those involved to pursue them. Our administrative capabilities needed to be review and reconsidered to keep pace with this development. And, as always, we need to find the funds to address these concerns.

About a year ago, led by a committee chaired by Hanna Woicke, CCM embarked on a strategic planning process to address these issues. It has been an interesting and energizing process. As our first order of business we spent some time discussing our mission and vision. They are listed above, and you will be seeing them often in the future.

The new plan was voted acceptance at the Board's January meeting, and we have planned periodic reviews of the plan to keep us on track. We have learned a great deal through the various focus groups, SWOT sessions and Board meetings that took place. We thank those who took the time to participate in these endeavors. The plan will give us direction and focus as we carry out its provisions over the next several years



Chesapeake Chamber Music's YouthReach program provides young people on the Mid-Shore the opportunity to learn about string instruments and chamber music through its First Strings program, and through an annual young audience concert. The mission of First Strings is to introduce a beginning string music experience to elementary school children. It is designed for third and/or fourth graders to take place during school hours, and to give every child the opportunity to learn the basic skills needed to play the violin. In a series of 10 classes, they learn to hold the violin and the bow, play a basic rhythm, and put it all together in a "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" variation. The children learn by watching, listening, imitating, and most importantly, performing. First Strings provides the violins and the schools provide a suitable space and school staff.

Last year, at the CCM Gala, a video was shown of the First Strings program in action, featuring Merideth Buxton. Opportunities to give to the program were offered at the Gala. The \$3500 that was

raised is being used to keep instruments in good repair, replace instruments as needed, and provide "scholarships" that subsidize what individual schools are able to pay for the program. Merideth Buxton and Melissa Wise Slacum have taken the First Strings program to both public and private elementary schools in Talbot and Dorchester counties. Both teachers are enthusiastic about sharing their love of music with their students. Mrs. Slacum notes, "Not only does this program give me the opportunity to share my passion for music, it also gives many children who aren't experiencing academic success the opportunity to excel, further reinforcing the importance of maintaining a strong fine arts program in the schools."

This spring the YouthReach committee plans to take a chamber music concert directly to school children in Dorchester and Talbot counties in order to reach a larger audience. Funds raised at this year's Gala will help to underwrite both this year's youth concerts and the continuation of our successful First Strings program.





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HELP WANTED!

Would you like to get involved with Chesapeake Chamber Music as more than just a loyal member of the audience? Ever wondered how you can help bring the music you love to a wider audience? CCM is looking for a few motivated volunteers to assist in every aspect of our programs and operations: as writers, ushers, performer hosts, and ad salespersons, among other opportunities.

Our principal need at this point is for individuals to help with advertising sales for our Festival program book.

We'd love to have volunteers who can reach out to Talbot County, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Caroline and beyond. Can you help?

If you are interested, please let us know by calling the CCM office at 410-819-0380 or by leaving an e-mail at info@ChesapeakeChamberMusic.org. Our volunteer coordinator, Val Lamont, will be in touch with you about the specifics of joining CCM as a volunteer.

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