

Ellingtonia

A Publication Of
The Duke Ellington Society, Inc.

Volume XXI, Number 1

JANUARY 2013

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Courtesy Carlyle Productions

Davey Yarborough Named Jazz Educator of the Year

The Jazz Education Network selection for the annual John LaPorta Jazz Educator of the Year Award is Society member, Davey Yarborough. The award will be presented at the 4th JEN Annual Conference in Atlanta, January 2-5, 2013.



Mr. Yarborough, a native of the District of Columbia, has been performing and teaching for more than 30 years. He is a skilled flautist and saxophonist, as well as a distinguished composer, arranger, bandleader, and teacher. He has served as president of the DC unit of the International Association for Jazz Education and chaired the Instrumental Music Department for 14 of his 29 years at The Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Davey is the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Washington Jazz Arts Institute. He is also an MENC Lowell Mason Fellow, and recipient of the Mayors' Arts Award for Contributions to Jazz Education.

Throughout his career, Davey has performed with some of America's most notable artists in the world of jazz. In addition to leading his own quintet, he created the New Washingtonians Jazz Orchestra, with satellite orchestras at The Duke Ellington School of the Arts and the Washington Jazz Arts Institute.

Mr. Yarborough is married to the famed vocalist (and Society member) Esther Williams. Their daughter Davie is an English instructor at the Ellington School.

The John LaPorta Award was established in 2011 in partnership with the Berklee College of Music in Boston. LaPorta was a reeds player, composer and arranger who started in the Big Band Swing era. An in-demand jazz session musician during the 1950's, he gravitated toward music education, and forged a reputation as a master jazz educator while at Berklee.

This Saturday Night - A New Year Celebration Like No Other

It's time for our Society's annual New Year's Party, where some of world's most beautiful people make merry, united by their love for all things Duke Ellington. 2013 begins with **Peter MacHare, Ted Hudson, and Frank 'Bruiser' Arnold** stepping down from their long-term dedication and stewardship as Officers. Let's make this year's event a celebration honoring Peter, Ted, and Bruiser for being . . . well, for being the remarkable gentlemen they are!

Plan to be with us at **7:00 pm, Saturday, January 5, 2012** at our usual hangout, **Grace Lutheran Church, 16th and Varnum Streets, NW, Washington, DC.**

Remember that the New Year's Party is a **pot luck supreme**. Please bring your best for our table. But if you forget a dish, please come anyway (because we do love you madly).

Members are encouraged to bring guests. What better way to attract prospective Society members?

Quotation of the Month

"TDES is in the middle of change and we are not alone. Each year we are losing members—just like the Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Elks, etc. We are facing a new age. Communications among gatherings of people who share an interest are rapidly becoming obsolete. We are in a digital age where entertainment is visual, and friendships are virtual. Daily, we try to text our way to happiness and download our desires. For some reason, I don't think it is working that well. How do we get Duke into their cyberspace? That's our task: They used to sing "Give Love a Chance." My cry is "Give Duke a chance."

—Ray Carman, President, The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.), New York City

MERRY-GO-ROUND . . . by Ye Editor

We're a tad late this issue, and proffer due apologies. Seems 2012 keeps handing us news, good or otherwise, right until the end. Here's where we'll regularly capture those items of interest under one convenient heading. And you can hop on or jump off at will, just as the title indicates. (Taken from a favorite, recorded by Duke Ellington and His Famous Orchestra for Columbia in February, 1933.)

One of our most talented *prospective* members, the lovely **Olu Yemisi**, has posted two new performance videos on YouTube. The first is her interpretive Holiday greeting (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wC_tCJtaiWQ). The other is Olu's take on the Louis Armstrong evergreen, "What a Wonderful World." (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeIVRvu7Vyc>). Ms. Yemisi performs and produces cultural entertainment, and can be contacted at www.DanceWithMeDC.com.

We were delighted to receive this Holiday Greeting from orchestra leader, arranger, and premiere Duke Ellington transcriptionist, **David Berger**:

"In these troubled times, we need to take a few minutes out of our lives and think of all the wonderful things past, present and future, that we have been so lucky to have been given. It seems it's easiest to be thankful, kind and generous at this time of year. Hopefully, we will remember it over the next 12 months.

I wish you the most joyous holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year.

And don't forget, as Art Blakey used to say, 'Jazz washes away the dust of everyday life.'

Ever onward and upward, David Berger"

Go to www.davidbergerjazz.com to check out some fine music on a host of CD's, including *The Harlem Nutcracker*, a 1999 recording of an all-star band and dance production which tours each holiday season. Original material written by David complements his transcription of Ellington and Strayhorn's *Nutcracker Suite* "to epitomize the timelessness of swing."

We're big fans of **Arnold Jay Smith's** blog, *Jazz Insights* (www.jazzinsights.net). A recent entry has a great review of "The Symphonic Ellington," performed by the Manhattan School of Music Jazz Phil-

harmonic on October 19 under the direction of **Justin DiCioccio**. Several of the concert's selections were Berger transcriptions including "Harlem," "Mood Indigo," "Caravan," "The Queen's Suite," and the rarely performed "Night Creature." Mr. Smith, in expressing his enjoyment, adds memories of his own connections to the music. We were further encouraged by his observation, *"(sic) this is the essence of this music. it's not about treating it as museum pieces but about how it continues to live and breathe and offer great rewards to students and audiences alike. one could see the young string players getting into what they were doing. the respectful surprise of the European classical students with their noses buried in the difficult sheet music on the stands before them—most were reading their parts—and the joy of the American classical (jazz) players, who seemed to be performing from their hearts, knowing they were playing the great Maestro's music "*

Our deepest condolences go to **Ray and Marlene Carman** of TDES, Inc. (NY) on the passing of their son, **Raphael Carman** on November 13, after years of chronic illness.

For the first time in many years, we are temporarily without a President. **Peter MacHare** will be succeeded, but never replaced. There is also an open seat on the Board. We do need your help. **Pat Braxton** is taking over the Treasurer duties. **Art Luby** continues as Secretary. Yours truly has happily accepted two positions which were impeccably executed by **Ted Hudson** (whose shoulders must be tired from my standing on them). We're fortunate that certain tasks are being covered, such as the gracious arrangement of the food at meetings by **Barbara Anderson**. **Bob Reny** and **Ed Morris** will help out with meeting presentation programming. Please consider following their fine examples by becoming actively involved. Your time will be respected while your self-esteem is enhanced. Service is vital to organizational survival.

We also can use your input and ideas on how to retain current members while recruiting new ones. Suggestions: creation of a comprehensive member contact list, submission of meeting date/time/place to local newspapers, and designing a single-sheet promotional brochure aimed at new members. What say you?

That's it for this ride on your Merry-Go-Round . . .

Juan Tizol Biography Published



Juan Tizol—His Caravan Through American Life and Culture

By Basilio Serrano, 428 pages, Xlibris Corporation

Juan Tizol is often remembered as the famed trombonist who composed the jazz standards known as “Caravan” and “Perdido.” Few know that this enigmatic figure was a multifaceted talent who lived an extraordinary life in the world of music. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Tizol divided his life into four broad segments, the first 20 years in his native homeland, the next several years in Washington, D.C., the third in New York City, and finally the fourth segment in Los Angeles. From these different venues, Tizol acquired an abundance of musical experiences that permitted him to make a contribution that has been described as one “whose Latin American touch changed the Duke Ellington Orchestra – and the history of jazz.”

This important new book from noted Latin American Studies professor Dr. Basilio Serrano can be found at Amazon.com. A nine-page abstract of the book is available for download at [www.http://ellingtonweb.ca/Hostedpages/Tizol-biography-by-Serrano\(pgs82-99Serrano\).pdf](http://www.ellingtonweb.ca/Hostedpages/Tizol-biography-by-Serrano(pgs82-99Serrano).pdf).

Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival 2013 Hosts a Star-Studded Lineup

With its theme, “Discover the Jazz in You,” this year’s festival takes place on February 15-18 at the Hilton Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike in Rockville, MD.

An incredible, eclectic roster of performers will take to the stages, such as Orrin Evans, Don Byron, Todd Marcus, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Joey DeFrancesco, Bobby Watson, Larry Willis, and rising star Gregory Porter. Also on the bill, the powerhouse septet The Cookers, comprised of George Cables, Billy Harper, Eddie Henderson, Billy Hart, Cecil McBee, Craig Handy, and David Weiss. Whew!

Tickets and a complete schedule at www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org.

Gentle Reminder: Dues are due. Memberships are by the calendar year, and we value your membership. Please make your renewal today.

Humanities Council to Screen “Duke Ellington’s Washington”

The Humanities Council of Washington, DC will partner with the National Symphony Orchestra for their *In Your Neighborhood* initiative. The Council will host a film screening and discussion of “Duke Ellington’s Washington” on Tuesday, January 8 from 1:00-2:30 PM at the African American Civil War Museum, 1925 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, DC.

“Duke Ellington’s Washington” is a historical documentary by filmmaker Hedrick Smith; a dynamic blend of music and pictures that illuminate young Duke Ellington and the hometown that nurtured him. A discussion with members of DC’s jazz community will follow the screening, moderated by Kevin Struthers, Director of Kennedy Center Jazz Programming.

More information on *NSO In Your Neighborhood* and full list of programs and events can be found at: http://www.kennedy-center.org/nso/community/NSO_lyn.cfm

No Clear Future for DEMS Bulletin

In recent months, serious Ellington scholars and devotees alike have taken to the internet for conversations on maintaining regular publication of the *International DEMS Bulletin* after the untimely loss of Sjef Hoefsmit. Chief among prospective successors has been Roger Boyes, whose name has long appeared on the DEMS masthead prefaced with “Assisted by.” Mr. Boyes, DESUK’s Editor of their excellent journal, *Blue Light*, unfortunately has other plans which call for phasing-out, rather than accepting major voluntary commitments.

He modestly noted that his role “took the form of checking and where necessary tidying up the (excellent) written English texts of Sjef and other contributors whose first language was not English. Sub-editing, if you like.” Roger proposed that the *Bulletin* “continue as an on-line journal of record for the things it has been chronicling over the years. For it to do so requires individuals fired by the interest and determination, resourced by the background knowledge and a comprehensive collection, to not only circulate their news and discoveries on **duke-lym** but to accumulate it, order it, and from time to time put it together and circulate it in on-line Bulletin form.” In other words, without Sjef, a collective effort will be necessary.

“Dramatis Felidae” (To Use Our Man's Term in MIMM)

About Our Members . . .

On December 15, the **Aardvark Jazz Orchestra** under the direction of **Rev. Mark Harvey** performed its 40th Annual Christmas Concert at Boston's Emmanuel Church. This very special evening was a benefit for both the Community Works organization and the Emmanuel Church. The Aardvark Jazz Orchestra performs music from across forty years of Boston jazz tradition. On all of its 40th season Aardvark concert programs, an Ellington piece is featured. “Sugar Rum Cherry” (*Nutcracker Suite*) was chosen for the December performance.

Mark's review of Harvey Cohen's *Duke Ellington in America* was published in the Spring 2012 issue of the journal, *American Music* (U. of Illinois Press).

That First Couple of DC Jazz, **Esther Williams** and **Davey Yarborough** closed their busy year by leading “The 15th Annual Christmas Eve Jazz Vespers” at Peoples Congregational UCC in Washington, presented by the **Peoples Jazz Society**. The Davey Yarborough Ensemble featured Esther, along with guest artists. The Peoples Jazz Society is currently celebrating its 5th Anniversary.

Elections were held at our meeting on December 1st. **Lawrence Smith** was elected to the Board of Directors, filling one of two vacancies resulting from electing **Patricia Braxton** Treasurer, and **Bill McFadden** Vice President.

The office of Society President, and one seat on the Board remain vacant.

Board Member **Bob Reny** and **Ed Morris** have offered to assist our next President with presentation and program details

According to **The Duke Ellington Society, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws**, “*In the event of a resignation or other vacation of an office or membership on the Board of Directors, the vacancy shall be filled in a timely manner by special election.*”

Leadership of Our Society is transitioning away from centralization. The new slate on the Executive Board will actively focus on continuity, but we do need a President to chair meetings and make official decisions. Our next President will be supported by an Executive Board who gladly share the workload. Term of Office is one year. Who will serve?

Billy Strayhorn Cooks!

by Mr. Saturday Dance

Our December Member's Choice began with Peter MacHare's anecdotal reminder of Billy Strayhorn's epicurean talents: the chef and his recipes. Patricia Willard regaled us with a lovely reminiscence of a special dinner once prepared by Strays for her pre-teen daughter.

We listened to a tape of a June 12, 1964 interview at the local CBS Radio station in Los Angeles, courtesy of Ms. Willard. Billy, ever patient and courteous, answered questions from both host and call-in listeners while promoting an upcoming Ellington Orchestra concert in nearby Venice. Callers Harry Carney and Russell Procope dutifully checked-in. This was the first time the interview played publicly since its original date!

Musically, Billy's first recording with the Orchestra as arranger (and pianist!) in 1939, “Your Love Has Faded” led off. By contrast, we later listened to a 1965 chamber rendition by the composer, with vocalist Ozzie Bailey (who *never* sounded better). A rare 1963 session where Strays led a septet behind Alice Babs was absolutely stunning. Also rarely heard, two of the “Felstead” recordings of another '63 date with Procope, Johnny Hodges and Shorty Baker. Gerry Mulligan's dedication, “Song for Strayhorn” had its composer leading a quartet. It proved both a notable complement and accent to the evening's inspiring, sublime collection of Strayhorn in song and story.

To Join or to Renew Membership

Please Send Your Payment to:

The Duke Ellington Society, Inc.
PO Box 15591, Washington, DC 20003, USA

Our dues remain a bargain:

Member, \$30; Couple, \$50; Student \$5
First-Time-Ever Member, Just \$20

THE DUKE ELLINGTON SOCIETY, INC.

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