

## THE JAZZ CORNER

Hilton Head Island has its own thriving jazz club, The Jazz Corner, in the Village at Wexford. The room is an acoustic gem, with great sound, unimpeded sightlines, and an intimate atmosphere perfect for jazz-lovers. The Jazz Corner was started about five years ago by local musician Bob Masteller and partner Charlie Swift, and has consistently delivered top talent to the island. The club now has music seven nights a week, with an open jam session on Monday nights, and several weekday nights devoted to blues, swing and Dixieland, and well as more traditional mainstream jazz. Regular players include the Bob Alberti Trio, Bob Masteller and the All-Stars, the Earl Williams Quartet, the Kevin Bales Trio, the Bobby Ryder Quartet, and the Lavon Stevens Quartet.

Weekends feature special appearances by some of the most well known and influential jazz musicians on the national scene. Legendary guitarist Joe Beck, performing with local axeman Howard Paul, performed at the club in February. Their repertoire ranged from "Stompin' at the Savoy" to "Straight, No Chaser," and a packed house was unwilling to let jazzman Beck away without several encores.

Besides their busy concert schedule, Club manager Leslie Rohland listed some of the other initiatives The Jazz Corner has undertaken to promote the art and history of jazz. "In April, we're beginning a monthly lunchtime lecture and performance series, presented by one of our owners, Bob Masteller. Our idea will be to spotlight a different style and period of jazz music each session. We think it will be both informative and enjoyable, not to mention a great spot to hear music in the middle of the day."

The Jazz Corner has also begun an initiative with the Hilton Head High School Jazz Band, as a way to give back to the community and support younger musicians. Rohland explained, "We will be donating \$1 from each ticket sold at specified evening performances to the High School Jazz Band. The band will use the funds to help to acquire instruments, so that every talented student will have the opportunity to play." Despite the perception that a night of music out can be very costly, cover charges and prices at The Jazz Corner are very reasonable. And, according to Rohland, one of the best-kept secrets about the Jazz Corner might be the kitchen. "We're a dinner club and a nightclub, and we take our menu pretty seriously. Our chef has a fresh, inventive approach to cuisine, and a new take on preparation of traditional Lowcountry favorites."

April events at The Jazz Corner include rhythm and blues most Sunday



Opposite: Bass Guitarist, Clarence Williams (left) and drummer Chris Russel keep the rhythm

Above, right: Guitarist, ZaZa, gets into the music.  
Above: Earl Williams leads the band  
Right: Fusion maestros Rooster appear regularly in Bluffton.



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nights with Deaz Guyz, Monday night jam sessions led by the John Brackett Quartet, dancing and swing-era jazz each Tuesday with the Masteller All-Stars, and blues and contemporary music with the Earl Williams Quartet on Wednesday nights. Thursdays in April will feature the Lavon Stevens Quartet with Louise Spencer, The Bobby Ryder

Quartet, and Shrimp City Blues. Special concerts scheduled in April are: The Chuck Redd Duo, April 2nd; Stephanie Nakasian and Hod O'Brian, April 3rd; Houston Person with the Norm Gagne Trio, April 9th and 10th; and the Noel Freidline Quintet, April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. The inimitable Bob Alberti Trio will close out the month with a performance Friday evening April 30th. For club hours, information and schedules call (843) 842-8620, or visit their Web site at [www.thejazzcorner.com](http://www.thejazzcorner.com)

## SAVANNAH MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Savannah Music Festival has grown in stature over the past several years, and while its scope includes classical music, blues, and opera, as well as jazz, the variety and stature of the jazz performances promise to make this year's event a must for aficionados in the Lowcountry. Here is a listing of the jazz-oriented events, along with times and locations. For ticket information call (912) 525-5050 or visit the festival Web site at [www.savannahmusicfestival.org](http://www.savannahmusicfestival.org).

- **David Grisman Quintet;** Saturday March 27, at 8:30 p.m. Trustees Theater
- **Jazz Guitar Heaven: The Benedetto Players;** Thursday April 1, at 8:30 p.m.; Trustees Theater.
- **Jazz Meets Brazil: Wayne Shorter Quartet and Toots Thielemann's Brazilian Project;** Sunday April 4th 7 p.m. Lucas Theater for the Arts.
- **Marcus Roberts and Friends;** Wednesday March 31, 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Orleans Hall.