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The 14th Annual Great American Jazz Piano Competition Presented by WJCT & Continental Cablevision

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The 14th Annual
Great American
Jazz Piano Competition



Presented by:
WJCT & Continental Cablevision
The Florida Theatre
Wednesday, November 13, 1996

THE JUDGES



Joanne Brackeen became a professional pianist as a teenager in Los Angeles during the 50s and got her first big break playing in the Art Blakey Band. She later played with Joe Henderson and Stan Getz. Today, Brackeen is recognized as one of the most avant-garde and innovative musicians in modern jazz. In addition to touring, composing and performing, she is a music professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the New School in New York.



Warrick L. Carter, Ph.D. was recently named the director of entertainment arts for Walt Disney Attractions, Inc. in Orlando. Previously, he was the provost/vice president for academic affairs at Berklee College of Music. He is a recognized expert in the areas of jazz education and the college curriculum, indigenous American music, music in the black studies program, black composers of the European tradition and jazz pedagogy. Dr. Carter is a composer, recording artist, published author of articles on jazz education, and a much-sought-after speaker and consultant.



Junior Mance, born Julian Clifford Mance, Jr., started picking out melodies on the piano at the age of five. He began playing professionally at 13 and later attended Roosevelt University in Chicago, majoring in music. After a stint in the U.S. Army, Mance became part of the house rhythm section at the Bee Hive jazz club in Chicago where he played with Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins and many others. His musical career also includes more than 25 albums and countless performances.



Marian McPartland's virtuoso performance at the piano and her personal style of jazz have won her acclaim and an international reputation as one of the most important figures in jazz today. She is a regular performer at major U.S. and international jazz festivals. Author, award winner, composer, TV and radio host, she has received many awards, most notably the prestigious Peabody Award and the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award for her National Public Radio show, *Piano Jazz*.



James Williams began taking piano lessons at 13 and gained his earliest professional experience playing gospel and R&B in his hometown of Memphis, TN. He received a degree in music education from Memphis State in 1974 and a few months later, joined the faculty at the Berklee College of Music. While there, he performed with Sonny Stitt, Joe Henderson, Woody Shaw, Thad Jones and more. Williams recorded nine albums with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and released his first album as a leader in 1978.

THE PROGRAM (subject to change)

INTRODUCTIONS -- Musician and Bandleader Noel Freidline, Host

Phil DeGreg

All Blues (Miles Davis)
The Nearness of You (Hoagy Carmichael)
St. Thomas (Sonny Rollins)

Matthew Fries

Sweet and Lovely (Arnheim, Tobian, Lemare)
Tenderly (Gross, Lawrence)
New York (Donald Brown)

Bruno Hubert

Bernie's Tune (Bernie Miller)
Polka Dots and Moonbeams (Jimmy Van Heusen)
One for Amos (Sam Jones)

Jon Regen

One for KB (Jon Regen)
You Don't Know What Love Is (Gene DePaul, Don Raye)
Eronel (Thelonious Monk)

Alon Yavnai

Caravan (Duke Ellington)
All Blues (Miles Davis)
You Don't Know What Love Is (Gene DePaul, Don Raye)

Each pianist will play a 20-minute set. They will be accompanied by **Jay Leonhart** on acoustic bass and **Danny Gottlieb** on drums. Leonhart has been voted *Most Valuable Bassist* three times by the National Association of Recording Arts & Sciences. From his celebrated beginnings with the *Pat Metheny Group* in the late 70s, Gottlieb has become one of jazz's most in-demand session drummers.

-- INTERMISSION --

Guest Performance by Venezuelan vocalist Biella Da Costa

Announcement of Winners



Program Dedication



This year's piano competition is dedicated to the memory of **Patricia Austin**, the late wife of former Jacksonville Mayor Ed Austin. Mrs. Austin was a long-time fan of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition and the WJCT Jacksonville Jazz Festival.

THE FINALISTS



Phil DeGreg, 41, of Cincinnati, OH, is an associate professor of jazz studies at the University of Cincinnati College of Conservatory Music. He completed degrees at Yale University and the University of North Texas before touring with the Woody Herman Orchestra. DeGreg was one of 10 finalists in *Jazziz Magazine's* 1995 "Keyboardists on Fire" competition and is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts study grants. He released his trio CD, "Table for Three" this spring and his cassette, "Hang Gliding," in 1992.



Matthew Fries, 27, of Brooklyn, NY, received a bachelor's of music degree from Ithaca College and a master's of music from the University of Tennessee. He is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Tennessee. Fries has performed at the Knoxville Jazz Festival and with Charlie Persip. He recently recorded with the Bill Mobley Big Band.



Bruno Hubert, 32, of Vancouver, British Columbia, will study music at North Texas University in January as a recipient of a Canada Council Grant. He teaches piano at Capilano College in Vancouver and has recorded and directed with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the past 10 years. Hubert is a pianist for his own trio and, earlier this year, completed a six-week Canadian tour with the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Production, "Feet First." Last year, he was pianist for two productions, as well as the 1995 University of California Vocal Jazz Ensemble, International Jazz Educators Conference in Los Angeles.



THE FINALISTS



Jon Regen, 26, a resident of New York City, holds a bachelor's of music degree from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and has also studied at the Eastman School of Music and the University of Miami. He is a protégé of Kenny Barron and has played with the Ted Dunbar Quartet. Regen currently leads his own duo, trio and quartet in New York City and performs regularly at the Blue Note, Metropolis Cafe, Smalls, Visiones and other clubs in the city.



Alon Yavnai, 26, of Quincy, MA, is self-taught in the jazz and Afro-Latin styles of music. He has toured with his own trio in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico and has played in Israel and at festivals in Cancun, Los Angeles and Bethlehem, PA. He has also played with Paquito D'Rivera, Bob Moses, Oscar Stagnaro and Arturo Sandoval. He is a winner of a scholarship to the Berklee College of Music.



GUEST PERFORMER

Biella Da Costa is one of Venezuela's most acclaimed bilingual vocalists. A U.S. resident, she has shared the stage with internationally renowned artists, has toured Europe three times, performed at jazz festivals throughout the world and recorded several jazz albums. Da Costa was awarded the *Premio Nacional Del Artista* in Venezuela in 1994 for *Best Female Vocalist of the Year*, an award which bears the significance of a Grammy.

THE PRIZES

The first-place winner will earn a cash prize of \$3,500 and the opportunity to play at WJCT's Jacksonville Jazz Festival Metropolitan Park concert on Saturday, Nov. 16. The second-place winner will receive \$1,500; third-place takes \$750; and the two runners-up each win \$400. This year's prizes were increased, thanks to a generous grant from CSX Transportation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to **Louise Freshman Brown** for designing the cover art of this program. She has provided the cover art for the **Great American Jazz Piano Competition** for the last six years. The **WJCT Jacksonville Jazz Festival** gratefully acknowledges the support of the Florida Theatre and Competition Chair **Joyce Hellmann Bizot**. Special thanks to the **Baldwin Piano Company** for its support.

Host **Noel Freidline** is a local favorite on the jazz scene. His quartet is an acoustic-based jazz group with a repertoire of pop and non-traditional jazz tunes and traditional standards, often with a new spin. He will appear with his quintet on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 7:25 p.m. at WJCT's Jacksonville Jazz Festival.

The 1996 Great American Jazz Piano Competition is sponsored by



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