

HOT FLASHES

By Seton Hawkins

The Height(s) of Walking Tours

While it may lack the historical cachet of its Harlem neighbor, Washington Heights nevertheless, has played a key role in jazz history, notably by serving as home to artists including Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Longtime resident and local historian **James Renner** is leading walking tours throughout the area, bringing the Heights' history to life. While each Sunday will cover a unique area of the Heights, jazz lovers will particularly enjoy his tour on Duke Ellington's birthday, April 29, when Renner visits the Jumel Terrace Historic District and Sugar Hill. For more information, call 212-795-7830.

13th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival

For more than 10 years, the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium, led by Jitu Weusi, has steadfastly dedicated itself to the preservation of jazz and the promotion of the art form within Brooklyn. During April, the organization will celebrate the 13th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival by presenting concerts in venues throughout the borough. Running from March 30 to April 30, the series will feature an array of nationally esteemed acts as well as local talents, including **Houston Person, Winard Harper, Lou Donaldson** and **Arturo O'Farrill**. Full concert details are at www.centralbrooklynjazzconsortium.org



Arturo O'Farrill



Marilyn Crispell

Off the Beaten Path

Established in 1976 by Andrea Centazzo and Carla Luigi, ICTUS Records was one of the first labels to support and record experimental improvised music, free jazz and contemporary classical music. After a 21-year hiatus, ICTUS reopened in 2006 and this month will sponsor a 12-night music series at The Stone, pairing the New York debuts of some of Italy's finest improvisers with top local artists. Highlights include **Steven Bernstein's** Millennial Territory Orchestra on April 2, a duo performance by **Marilyn Crispell** and **Andrea Centazzo** on April 4, a guitar-driven tribute concert to Derek Bailey featuring such artists as **Henry Kaiser** and **Elliott Sharp** on April 6, the **ICTUS Italian Invasion** Orchestra on April 7 and a tribute to unheralded composer Colin McPhee on April 10. For more information, visit www.thestonenyc.com.

Woodshedding

For years, Flushing Town Hall has consistently stood out as a leader in Queens' jazz scene, offering top-notch concert programming alongside jazz education initiatives. The first Wednesday of every month, beginning on April 4, professional musicians and students of all ages are invited to join in a monthly jazz jam session, which will provide the participants with a superb opportunity to hone their chops and meet new collaborators. Additionally, on April

13, the venue will host a jazz clinic open to the public featuring Professor **Michael Mossman** discussing musical arrangements. To register and learn more about the hall's programming, visit www.flushingtownhall.org.

The Diverse Artistry of Peter Leitch

Peter Leitch has established a flawless reputation as a versatile and in-demand guitarist whose exceptional collaborations with artists including John Hicks and Rufus Reid have won him critical accolades and devoted fans. However, throughout his career, Leitch has also maintained a deep passion and talent for black-and-white photography, successfully capturing the energy and spontaneity of live jazz in his still works. Leitch's remarkable photographs, which can be previewed at www.peterleitch.com, will be on display from April 1 until June 1 at WBGO radio station in Newark, NJ. A formal reception on April 12 will feature Leitch in a duo with bassist Ray Drummond. Leitch also holds court every Sunday night at Walker's in TriBeCa, offering duets with artists including Sean Smith, Charles Davis and Dwayne Burno.



Peter Leitch

Kickstarter

Dr. Lonnie Smith has long delighted fans with outstanding keyboard wizardry and a risk-taking musical spirit. As he approaches his 70th birthday this year, Smith shows no signs of stopping—or even pausing for breath—as he joins forces with Kickstarter to try to create his first fan-funded album: a recording that will feature top-shelf collaborators including Jeff "Tain" Watts, Ed Cherry, Andy Gravish and John Ellis, as well as a studio audience. While the recording project is available for fan funding, the concert itself is also open by reservation. To learn more about this tremendous opportunity or to get involved, visit www.kickstarter.com and search for Dr. Lonnie.

The Insanity Hoax

Psychologist, musician and jazz critic **Dr. Judith Schlesinger** has contributed to publications ranging from the *Baltimore Sun* to *AllAboutJazz.com* on topics including musical analysis, psychology and education. A probing intellectual, and engrossing author, Schlesinger displays her talents in her recently released book: *The Insanity Hoax: Exposing the Myth of the Mad Genius*. "The 'mad genius' nonsense had been bugging me since I first noticed those stories," notes Schlesinger. "It always seemed unrealistic and unfair to expect that everybody with great talent is required to suffer for it. When I became a psychologist and realized how sloppy and unchallenged the research was, I decided to blow the whistle." Indeed, her pioneering efforts launch direct attacks on our entrenched tendencies to link creative genius with psychological disorders. *The Insanity Hoax* stands as a rare combination of rich scholarship, engaging humor and accessibility. It is available at www.theinsanityhoax.com.

Fundraisers

Trumpeter **Clark Terry** has faced a daunting array of health challenges in recent months, but he has maintained the highest of spirits throughout, updating friends and fans of his progress via his website. However, the financial burden of ongoing medical costs have taken their toll, and on April 23, more than 30 musicians will perform at Saint Peter's Church at 7:00 p.m. to raise funds for Mr. Terry. Suggested donations are \$25, and checks should be made out to the Jazz Foundation of America, with "Clark Terry account" listed in the memo field. For more information, visit www.saintpeters.org/events.

On April 24, the Jazz Foundation of America hosts its 4th annual benefit concert at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola. Honoring the memory of the late bassist Dennis Irwin, the event will raise funds for all jazz musicians in need of health care support. Donating their time and creative energies, the extraordinary cast of musicians performing includes **John Scofield**, **Brad Lovano**, **Lewis Nash**, **Ravi Coltrane**, **Joe Mehdau**, and many more. To reserve seats, visit www.jalc.org/dccc.

Patti Austin and her trio headline the 5th annual York College-CUNY concert to benefit the 2012 Merit Scholarship on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the York College Performing Arts Center in Jamaica. The Merit Scholarship program, launched by York College Foundation, provides a vehicle to first year students in pursuit of higher education opportunities. You should expect to hear Austin's "Salute to Ella Fitzgerald". For more details on the events, go to www.york.cuny.edu/annual-benefit.