

# Arts & Entertainment

## Allred's Classic Jazz Band displays power, versatility

The variety and excellence of the Hilton Head Jazz Society's monthly concert series, First Sunday Jazz, have been outstanding during the past months.

Sunday's appearance of Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band was no exception. This powerful, vital ensemble stormed onto the island with infectious rhythms, capturing the hearts of local jazz fans. Standing ovations and cheers filled the room at The Boardwalk, and CD sales soared during the intermission.

Leader Allred set the tone with his cozy, chatty stage presence and then proceeded to dazzle the audience with his outstanding trombone playing and warm, mellow vocals. He led the eight-piece ensemble through an interesting program that included both original arrangements and charts that paid tribute to some of the great bands of the 20th century.

High on the list of favorites were two arrangements that paid tribute to Billy Mayes. "Oh, By Jingo" was a tongue-in-cheek clash between an exuberant jazz band and a cliché-laden symphony orchestra, with quotes from the classics popping up at unexpected times. "South Rampart Street Parade" sounded like a toast to the late Charles Ives with its bitonality and polyrhythmic interludes. Allred explained the scenario of the parade — two marching bands approach each other, playing the same song in different keys and with different rhythms. Rather than stopping or turning, they decide to go through one another and proceed on their way.

Joining Allred in the brilliant brass section were fellow trombonist Dave Steinmeyer and trumpet players Bob Pickwood and Charlie Bertini. Pickwood also sang on "I Cover the

Waterfront." All of the musicians offered fantastic solos and musically blended their horns into a warm, burnished ensemble when required.

Terry Myers captivated the room with his easy shifts from soprano saxophone to clarinet to piccolo to tenor saxophone. Pure, beautiful tones permeated his sassy style and pyroclastic technic.

Bassist Jay Mueller and drummer Warren Sauer provided superb rhythm backup for the group, and delivered an astonishing performance on "Big Noise from Winnetka." In the band's unique arrangement, musicians finished a phrase and left the stage one by one, finally leaving only Mueller and Sauer to carry the song. It was rather like Joseph Haydn's "Farewell Symphony." The two remaining musicians joined forces, with Mueller fingering his bass and Sauer playing the strings with his drum sticks. It was a unique sound, to say the least. Then the other musicians drifted back on stage to finish with a flourish.

Pianist Randy Morris displayed his great versatility, shifting from steady and reliable piano backup to virtuoso soloist. He played a rich, romantic arrangement of "Blue Skies," assisted by Mueller and Sauer, and later dazzled the crowd with his fast, powerhouse rendition of Eubie Blake's "Charleston Rag."

The next First Sunday Jazz concert will feature Banu Gibson and her New Orleans Jazz Band on Nov. 2. All concerts are held at 6 p.m. at The Boardwalk on Folly Field Road. Tickets are \$20 for nonmembers and are available at the door. A buffet dinner is available before the concert.

For more information call the Jazz Society hot line at 842-4457 or visit [www.hhjs.org](http://www.hhjs.org). *Island Packet* reviewer Louise Causey Lewis teaches music at USCB at Hilton Head.



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