



Keeping Classic R&B Alive

Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society

Affiliate Member of the National Blues Foundation

www.bluespreservationsociety.org | 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401.461.0012

RHYTHM AND BLUES NEWS of NOTE

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Whiting

January to March 2017

Volume 13 No. 1

From the President's Desk



President Cleveland Kurtz

I took my first music class in an all-black elementary school in the Jim Crow South. They tried, but no, they couldn't teach me to sing. They placed a variety of musical instruments in my hands, but again, they failed. I had no talent for playing or singing. The music class, however, changed my life. It planted within me an eternal interest in the origins and history of black music in America. The knowledge that I gained from chasing down this history helped to change the way I viewed myself and how I fit into the hostile environment in which I was born. It changed me for the better. It is indeed possible that no other class that I ever took helped me more than my music class in spite of the fact that I never learned to play or sing.

Here I go again: preaching about the importance of music in our school system. I know that, in most instances, our readers already know this; and I am, therefore, preaching to the choir. Most of the young people who benefit from the music programs supported by our *Instruments for Children Program* will not become professional musicians. However, their lives, like mine, will be eternally enriched by the experience; and that is just wonderful.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Cleveland Kurtz
Vice President: Max Whiting
Sec/Treasurer: Sylvia Whiting

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Sandra Ginsberg
Barbara Bardsley
Tom Colantonio
Wayne Manning
Del Padgett

Instruments Program Director

Tom Colantonio

Honorary Board Members

Richard & Donna Pena
Lynn & Elizabeth Pegg
Sylvia Ann Soares

However, some seeds do grow into mighty oaks. Quincy Jones, who plays a multitude of musical instruments, got his start in church; but he probably would not have become the music icon that he is today without the support he received in a public school in Seattle, Washington. Louis Armstrong, an orphan, got his start in the Fisk School for Boys and after some problems with truancy continued his musical education in the New Orleans School for Colored Waifs. Ray Charles' musical reign was spawned in the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Augustine Florida.

All three of these music titans credit much of their success to the support they received in the classroom from committed veteran musicians. We have added **Master Classes** to our *Instruments for Children Program* because we too, know how important it is for these young people to connect with established musicians.

Whether our students simply like to sing in the shower; or they chose to make an everlasting impression in the music world, it is all good; and it is our goal to support them whatever they decide to do.

Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting



2016 posed some new challenges for our organization primarily due to limited support and resources to assist with our various programs. We have been forced to re-think our goals and programming leading to three major concerns; the continuing effort to attract attendees to our musical events; the introduction of the Master Class to our Instrument for Children Program recipients; and on-going discussions within our Board concerning the number and types of events we will hold annually. We consistently attempt to

attract audiences to our musical events through several approaches; mailings, email, facebook, website, advertising in local media, word of mouth and collaborations with other organizations. We have achieved less than adequate results. One of the discussions we need to have concerns the target group we are attempting to attract. The philosophy/goal of our organization is to ‘preserve & promote R&B music through activities, events and education . . . as a musical art form.’ In my view we have done a commendable job in achieving this goal. However there is more to be accomplished. We must focus on a

new and younger constituency; namely younger adults and students in targeted schools. In an effort to accomplish this, I, with the support and assistance from Randall Ashe introduced the concept of Master Classes to the students and faculty at the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) in Providence. This was extremely successful and well received by students, faculty and administrators at TAPA. Plans are in the works to continue this approach and expand it to other schools and school systems in the future. This type of class is essential to the future development of young musicians and the involvement of their parents and friends.

In an effort at attracting younger adults to our events we will need to change the types of entertainment/bands featured at our dances/concerts. This will also necessitate a change in our methods of advertising and promotion. The major emphasis/task will be to identify the popular bands that are successful in our area. To do this we must attend venues where these bands perform. Hopefully this approach may provide a connection with a new audience. In addition, promoting a major event may provide an incentive for a new population to become more aware of and interested in our organization.

Taken together, these concerns; focusing on a younger audience, conducting Master Classes and promoting major events may be a way to re-energize and move us forward.

Secretary/Treasurer - Sylvia Whiting

The Board is pleased to announce cash and musical Instrument donations as part of the efforts of local Boy Scouts working on their Eagle Scout rank. The scouts, upon hearing about our organization, helped with publicity and fundraising that included a successful car wash and collecting of instruments. In order to continue our programming broad support is needed. We ask that you consider a Membership, if you are not already a member and/or a donation. (The **Membership Application** may be found on Page 6.) Donations may be sent to RIRBPS or made on our website. All donations are tax deductible. We are also seeking volunteers to assist with website interface (Facebook/Twitter/Website) and support with financial oversight. Accounting expertise would be helpful. Our website is updated periodically. For information, volunteer opportunities, musician listings, programming and donations please visit us at www.bluespreservationsociety.org.



Master Class Students Salute their Instructor – Max Whiting

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Skills Needed

***Almost Any Area – Especially
Technical /Accounting/Finance***

Find us on the Web
www.bluespreservationsociety.org

OUR PROGRAMS

This has been an extremely successful year for our Program with donations from individuals finding out about us through our internet presence, media and at event. Local Boy Scouts worked on a variety of projects for RIRBPS. One of three Boy Scouts who worked on fundraising collected 33 instruments. Greycin Bobola, a Scout in Troop 1, Diamond Hill, Cumberland, RI organized the car wash in October 2016 as part of his Eagle Scout award. In his request to RIRBPS he stated that "It would be great if I would be able to help you and your organization through this project". This effort highlights the many ways that supporters of our programming may contribute to RIRBPS. Of the donated instruments the brass and woodwind instruments are at Roberts Music for inspection. Many guitars were donated, too many to distribute to school programs. Some need extensive repair, others are available for sale. We also have a drum kit that the schools do not need and we are trying to sell. Two of the four keyboards were placed with the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA). Two others are probably not serviceable.

The Music Department in Woonsocket is in need of flutes and horns. Once Roberts Music cleans, repairs and returns the inventory, we will place them in their program. The Woonsocket School system held a Winter Concert with some of our instruments recipients participating. We are seeking other school systems and music programs that may be in need of instrument donations including the Warwick School System and East Providence School System.

Anyone with a musical instrument to donate or information on a school or program in need of our assistance, please contact Tom at 401.793.1281 or Cleveland at 401.461.0012. We will arrange to pick up the instruments, if necessary.

🎵 OF INTEREST

2nd Annual Meeting 'Meet & Greet' Highlights

Friends, fans and family joined the Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society for the **2nd Annual 'Meet & Greet'** event on November 6th at the Masonic Temple in Providence. The Annual Meeting would normally be an update of the prior year with reports and officer presentations. Based on the success of last years' event, we continued our tradition of having student performers with music, musicians, food, song and soul. Performers from the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA), a Providence based school for aspiring



musicians, were led by Avi David, Music Director. The TAPA

musicians performed a mix of soulful blues, R&B and pop music that had the audience moving, dancing and cheering their talent and effort. Over a dozen student performers played for the supportive audience at the Temple theatre.

Instrumentation included bass, drums, guitar, keyboard, sax, trumpet and vocalists. The goal of the Instruments for Children Program is to provide instruments to students who may not be able to afford one so

Avi David, Music Director, TAPA



that they may begin or continue their music education through a formal music program. At this time we donate to public school music systems and private arts programs in RI.

As part of the 'Meet & Greet' the R&B Allstars featuring Paul Duquett on Keyboard, Max Whiting on bass, Randy Ashe on sax and Richard Green on Guitar performed for the audience as the young musicians picked up tips and techniques on their various instruments.

Vocalist from TAPA



Band & Vocals of TAPA



TAPA Horn Section



*R&B Allstars
Paul, Randy, Richard, Max*



Featured Artists – Richard & Max



MUSICIANS CORNER

Tish Adams Jazz Trio

EVERY THURSDAY Nite, 6:30 - 9PM, Live Jazz @ Simone's, 275 Child Street, Warren, RI. 401.247.1200. No Cover, Amazing Food, off-street free parking.

Meanwhile, on the radio... Join Tish for her "**VOCALISTS & LOCALISTS**" show, Thursday mornings, 8-10 AM, 90.3 FM, WRIU Kingston...a COMMERCIAL-FREE broadcast service from the University of Rhode Island, staffed by VOLUNTEERS!!!

Becky Bass

EVERY SUNDAY, 8-11PM, Newport Blues Café, 286 Thames Street, Newport, RI, No Cover, Caribbean Soul Trio featuring Becky Bass, Vocals & Steel Pan, Jhony Keys, Keys & Bass, Matt Williams, Drums, (401) 841- 5510

Tom Colantonio

WEDNESDAYS, 7:00-10:30 – BAILEY’S OPEN JAM! Bailey’s Pub, 1910 Smith Street, N Providence, Sign Up by 9:30, **January 25, February 15, March 1, March 22, April 12, April 26.** Blues and More! Thanks to all the musicians and supporters one of the best musician friendly jams! Guitar players bring an amp. Bass Amp and Drums available!

Phil Pegg

SUNDAY, February 11, 9PM – 1AM, Valentine’s Day Dance, featuring **LEGACY**, MC Butch Correia, DJ Brandon. CV Club, 329 Grosvenor Avenue, E. Providence, RI, Ladies – Free rose to 1st 30, Tickets - \$15 @ door, \$10 in advance (at Bar) or call 401-228-6411, 401-648-5551. Kitchen Open.

Richard “Dick” Willner

EVERY WEDNESDAY – "The Burger Bar's", 855 Newport Ave., Pawtucket. Open Blues Jam Sign-up begins @ 7:30PM. No cover or drink minimum. All musicians, singers, entertainers, audience and blues fans are welcome, 401-270-5434.

WHERE IT’S AT - - - Where music lovers may go to satisfy a healthy R&B craving !!!

Cady’s Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, 401.568.4102. Blues Jam, Sunday afternoon at 3 o’clock.

<http://www.cadystavern.com/#!ricks-roadhouse-blues>, no cover.

Carolyn’s Sakonnet Vineyard 162 W. Main Rd, Little Compton, RI, 6:00PM, \$10 cash per car load and \$10 voucher for estate wine selections, 401-635-8486, www.sakonnetwine.com.

Knickerbocker Café 35 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI. 401.315.5070. **Events featured every night.** Open Mike every Thursday, 8-11PM, classic blues, R&B, Rock, Oldies, Pop. <http://www.theknickerbockercafe.com>. No cover.

Murphy’s Law 2 George Street, Pawtucket, RI. 401.724.5522. Blues jam Sunday night at 7:30 o’clock. No Cover.

<http://murphyslawri.com/events>.

The Pub on Park 661 Park Ave., Cranston RI - Vintage R&B Ensemble, Wednesday nights, 8:00-10:00 PM

The Revolution 2190 Broad Street, Cranston, RI, 401.780.8700. “Excellent Food + Good Music = Fun”, Check their schedule for Blues Greats.

Simone’s 275 Child Street, Warren, RI. 401.247.1200. Great food, Thursday nite Jazz featuring Tish Adams.

Tarragon Bar 311 Westminster St., Providence RI, Blues and jazz Sunday nights at 7:30 PM. No cover.

Villa Restaurant 272 Cowesett Ave, W Warwick RI - Vintage R&B Ensemble. Every Sunday 5-8 PM.

The Parlour, 1119 N. Main Street, Providence, RI. Wednesday night at 10 o’clock. Featuring Eric Bloom & the Funky Autocrats. <http://theparlourri.com/events/eric-bloom-the-funky-autocrats> or www.facebook.com/FunkyAutocrats.

The Revolution, 2190 Broad Street, Cranston, RI, 401.465.0542. “Excellent Food + Good Music = Fun”, Check their schedule for Blues Great Paul ‘Sweet P’ Williams featuring the Sweet P Blues Band.

Membership Application

Join/Renew RIRBPS Membership Today!

Become an active member or simply enjoy the variety of events and concerts we have to offer. RIRBPS is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization committed to preserving and promoting the blues in the African American tradition. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

To Join or Renew:

Complete the Application and mail with a check or money order made out to

RI Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society to:

Sylvia Whiting, Treasurer, 125 Cliff Avenue, Winthrop, MA 02152 / 617.539.3951 / sylmax99@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Company/Organization: _____

Membership Categories:

New Application _____ Renewal _____

		<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Student	\$ 5/year	_____	_____
Individual:	\$15/year	_____	_____
Couple:	\$25/year	_____	_____
Non Profit:	\$50/year	_____	_____
Venue/Club	\$75/year	_____	_____
Corporation	\$100/year	_____	_____

Voluntary Donation \$ _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Volunteer Information (optional):

In addition to supporting RIRBPS with my Membership, I would like to volunteer in the following way:

Membership renewal year runs from June 1 to May 31.

Applications are pro-rated quarterly for the first year.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

We have an on-going need for **volunteers** to assist with public relations, expanding our membership and programming and to help with serving on the Board, contacting organizations for support, outreach and phone calls or helping with events. Contact Cleveland at 401. 461.0012 or Max Whiting at 617.539.3951 for more information.