



# JAZZ NOTES™

THE JOURNAL OF THE JAZZ JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION™

Special Issue • Jazz Awards 2009



George E. Lewis, author of *A Power Strong Than Itself: The AACM and American Experimental Music*, winner of the award for Best Book about Jazz. Photo by Enid Farber.

## THE 13TH ANNUAL JJA JAZZ AWARDS<sup>SM</sup>

Celebrating excellence in jazz and jazz journalism  
and honoring activists, advocates, altruists, aiders and abettors of jazz

*June 16, 2009*

*Jazz Standard • New York*

# We're All Winners

► By Howard Mandel

THE 2009 JAZZ AWARDS<sup>sm</sup>—the 13th annual celebration of excellence in music making, music presentation and music documentation produced by the 23-year-old Jazz Journalists Association—was a resounding success. An overflow crowd of 190 jazz-world movers and shakers attended, schmoozed and listened at our cocktail-barbecue party at the Jazz Standard in Manhattan on Tuesday, June 16. About 50 of them trooped up to speak onstage, between music by the Charles Tolliver Big Band, the duet of knuckle-busting pianist Marian Petrescu and guitarist Andreas Öberg, soprano sax and flutist Jane Bunnett's *Spirits of Havana*, the duo of saxophonist Carol Sudhalter and pianist Daryl Sherman, and tenor saxophonist Matt Miller's trio.

A bevy of jazz's top singers convened as Kurt Elling, Sheila Jordan, Roberta Gambarini, Giacomo Gates and Venissa Santí gathered around bebop vocalist Mark Murphy to wish him well. Murphy, age 74, was recipient of the first "Words and Music" Award, co-present-

ed by the JJA and the Jazz Foundation of America. Besides the singers (Elling was named Male Vocalist of the Year, Gambarini was Female Vocalist of the Year 2008), the following award winners were in attendance: pianist Hank Jones, trumpeter Terence Blanchard, alto saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa, baritone saxophonist Gary Smulyan, Latin jazz bandleader Arturo O'Farrill, trombonist Roswell Rudd, violinist Billy Bang, reeds player Frank Wess, clarinetist Anat Cohen, organist Dr. Lonnie Smith, author-educator-trombonist and electronic composer George E. Lewis and events producer of the year George Wein.

Bruce Lundvall, whose 40-year career has resulted in this year's 70th anniversary of Blue Note Records (among other achievements), was the only new member of the JJA's "A Team" of activists, advocates, altruists, aiders and abettors of jazz in the house, and he received his honors with an especially warm introduction and embrace from Dan Morgenstern, dean of jazz journalists and

director of the Institute for Jazz Studies at Rutgers University. Dr. Agnes Varis, the "angel" of the Jazz Foundation of America, was unable to be at the Standard due to her own recent health issues, although the Jazz Foundation was ably represented by its president R. Jarrett Lilien as well as executive director Wendy Oxenhorn, who made an appeal for \$20 donations from everybody who cares about jazz (to contribute, go to [www.jazzfoundation.org](http://www.jazzfoundation.org); jazz journalists are urged to report about the JJA's work) to cover the growing crisis in housing and health care for musicians in need.

Herb Alpert's A Team Award was accepted by New York downtown composer-guitarist John King, winner of this year's Herb Alpert Foundation Award for Music (George E. Lewis, Vijay Iyer and James Carter are among previous recipients who have been honored by the JJA as well). Seattle-based bandleaders Clarence Acox (Garfield High

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Sheila Jordan and Mark Murphy. Photo by Fran Kaufman.



Dan Morgenstern (left) greets Blue Note label chief Bruce Lundvall. Photo by Enid Farber.

## JAZZ NOTES: The Quarterly Journal of the Jazz Journalists Association

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School) and Scott Brown (Roosevelt High School) were represented during their inductions into the A Team by Joanna Massey of the Essentially Ellington festival of high school bands produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Jazz journalist Gary Giddins presented the A Team honors for jazz educator David N. Baker, and accepted them on Baker's behalf. He also spoke of his high regard for the late jazz publicist Peter J. Levinson—the first publicist honored by the JJA—who was posthumously inducted into the A Team by Arnold Jay Smith. Smith, like DL Media's Don Lucoff, Michael Bloom of Michael Bloom Media Relations, and several other of the most credible PR people in jazz, apprenticed in Levinson's New York shop, under his tutelage. Levinson's biographies of Harry James, Nelson Riddle, Tommy Dorsey and Fred Astaire were also lauded.

The late author-journalist-musician Richard Sudhalter, also inducted posthumously, was remembered by his friend JJA photographer (and Mingus band arranger) Sy Johnson, then honored with a musical segment by his sister Carol Sudhalter (on sax and flute) and his former companion Daryl Sherman (singing and playing piano). Newly named A Teamers Ruth Price (of

the Jazz Bakery in Los Angeles), Timuel Black (Chicago cultural historian) and Steven Saltzman (a past president of the Jazz Institute of Chicago) will receive their engraved Award statuettes on future occasions (Black and Saltzman, it is hoped, onstage at the Chicago Jazz Festival over Labor Day weekend).

The Jazz Awards are determined by a two-stage voting process involving the JJA's professional members (more than 80 percent of the organization's international membership of 450), and many nominees were present at the Jazz Standard, including vibist Stefon Harris, saxophonist Noah Preminger, flutist Jamie Baum, pianist Vijay Iyer, baritone saxophonist Claire Daly, multi-instrumentalist Scott Robinson, drummer Harris Eisenstadt and big band composer-conductor Darcy James Argue. Karen Mantler, accepting her mother Carla Bley's award for Record of the Year (*Appearing Nightly*, on Watt/ECM), spoofed the crowd on the basis of looking just like her bangs-wearing mom. Josh Konitz accepted the Lifetime Achievement in Jazz Award for his father, saxophonist Lee Konitz, and bassist Ben Zwerin arrived just in time to serve as a representative of his father, Mike Zwerin, as he was hailed for Lifetime Achievement in Jazz Journalism. Author Rafi (*The Bear Comes Home*) Za-

bor spoke of Zwerin's enviable decades of playing and writing about jazz and related music while based in Paris.

The single standout acceptance was 91-year-old pianist Hank Jones's comment, while he clutched his award for Pianist of the Year, that it was an inducement to play better. Jones was also the subject of Kris King's Photo of the Year—which John Abbott, winner of the Lona Foote–Bob Parent Award for Excellence in Photography, unveiled while Jones stood next to him, admiring the large framed print.

Among other particularly notable remarks, George Wein paid tribute to jazz journalists for their continuous and ongoing attentions to the music he's been presenting at festivals worldwide since 1954. Trombonist Clifton Anderson, himself a nominee, gleefully accepted three awards on behalf of his uncle Sonny Rollins, whom the JJA voted Musician of the Year and Tenor Saxophonist of the Year and honored for *Road Shows, Vol. 1*, picked as Historical Recording of the Year (which Anderson appeared on and produced). Michael Cuscuna, another veteran jazz record man, accepted awards for Mosaic Records as Label of the Year, and

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Hank Jones, winner of Pianist of the Year and subject of Kris King's winning Photograph of the Year. Photo by Enid Farber.



Carol Sudhalter performs. Photo by Enid Farber.

for the Historical Recording Boxed Set *The Lester Young/Count Basie Sessions 1936-40*.

Scott Robinson, last year's honoree as Player of Instruments Rare in Jazz, accepted three awards for Maria Schneider: Composer of the Year, Arranger of the Year and leader of the Large Ensemble of the Year, her Maria Schneider Orchestra (in which Robinson is a key

resource). Nate Chinen, winner of the Helen Dance-Robert Palmer Award for Excellence in Newspaper, Magazine or Online Writing, accepted the Best Periodical Covering Jazz Award for *Jazz Times* magazine, which recently suspended publication; he read a note sent by former editor-in-chief Lee Mergner, expressing hope that the mag will rise from its ashes.

Linda Yohn of WEMU in Ypsilanti, Michigan, herself a nominee for Broadcaster of the Year, was among the most spirited presenters, enthusing over Terence Blanchard as he took his prize as trumpeter. But for rallying the crowd, no one beat Trevor Gale of SESAC, who along with SESAC's Linda Lorence, got everyone to raise glasses of bubbly Prosecco in a toast to all the nominees.

SESAC was a first-time sponsor of the Jazz Awards, as were Absolutely Live, Arbors Records (Jim Czak attended), BPR Music, the Detroit International Jazz Festival, Doxy Records, IPO Recordings, the Jazz Institute of Chicago, Resonance Records, Sunnyside Records and the Tanglewood Jazz Festival. Returning sponsors included *All About Jazz-New York*, Blue Note Records, Boosey and Hawkes (whose staff cheerfully created party favors bags), Columbia Legacy, Half Note Records, Hot House (thanks to Gwen Calvier) the Jazz Foundation of America, Jazz at Lincoln Center (Todd Barkan of Dizzy's Club and publicist Bridget Wilson were with us), Motéma Music, the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music (executive director Martin Mueller was an award presenter), North Coast Brewing Company (supplying the party with thirst-quenching Brother Thelonious Belgian Ale) and Zenph Studios. Sponsors of events for jazz are currently in great demand, and the JJA was fortunate to have such stalwarts behind this initiative.

Along with musicians (here are some more I bumped into: Douglas Ewart, Gary Valente, singers E.J. Decker and Diana Perez, Sue Mingus) and record company friends (George Klabin and Ricky Shultz of Resonance, Greg Brunswick of Columbia Legacy, Fred Pustay of Mosaic, François Zalacain of Sunnyside, Seth Rosner of Pi, Joachim Becher of Zoho, Thomas Bellino of Planet Arts/Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Sarah Humphries and Tina Pelikan of ECM, Bernard Stollman of ESP-Disk', Mike Wilpizeski of Telarc, Jerald Mill-



TOP: Clifton Anderson accepts awards for Musician of the Year, Tenor Saxophonist of the Year and Historical Recording of the Year on behalf of his uncle, Sonny Rollins. BOTTOM: Scott Robinson accepts Maria Schneider's awards for Composer of the Year, Arranger of the Year and Large Ensemble of the Year. Photos by Enid Farber.

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er, Joe Paice of the UK's Jazz Services, Pedro Costa of Clean Feed/Trem Azul, Lisbon), a multitude of jazz journalists were on hand, from the U.S. and overseas. Besides Giddins and Morgenstern, these included:

Doug Ramsey, winner of the 2008 Award for Lifetime Achievement in Jazz Journalism and blogger ([www.artsjournal.com/rifftides](http://www.artsjournal.com/rifftides)), and prior recipients Ira Gitler, Francis Davis and myself, Howard Mandel (I served as Master of Ceremonies, and am proud to have won in the newest category, Blog of the Year).

Dan Ouellette (whose authorized biography *Ron Carter: Finding the Right Notes* was nominated for Book of the Year), Bill Milkowski (a nominee for Lifetime Achievement in Jazz Journalism and also for the Palmer-Dance Award), Marc Myers (nominated for his blog *JazzWax.com* and the Palmer-Dance Award), John Szwed, *Jazz Notes*

editor David Adler (nominated for his blog [lerterland.blogspot.com](http://lerterland.blogspot.com)), Michael Ricci (of *AllAboutJazz.com*, which won Best Website Concentrating on Jazz), Lois Gilbert (of *JazzCorner.com*, nominated for Best Website), Laurence Donohue-Greene and Andrey Henkin (co-editor of *All About Jazz—New York*, a nominated periodical).

Chris Kelsey (ballot chairman of the Jazz Awards), Art Lange, David Hadju, Fred Kaplan, Mike West, Tim Wilkins, Ben Ratliff (nominated for his book *The Jazz Ear: Conversations About Jazz*), Marcia Hillman, Elzy Kolb, Hank Shteamer, Charles Gans, Ralph Miriello, Lynne Mueller, Dan Doyle, Gene Seymour, Lyn Horton, Slim from *Cadence* magazine, Christian Broecking (Germany) and Cyril Moshkow (Russia).

Photographers Abbott, Norm Harris and Alan Nahigian (both Foote-Parent Award nominees), Fran Kaufman, Mal-

colm John Watson (from the UK), Enid Farber, Steven Sussman and nominated baritone saxophonist Claire Daly, Rosie Mandel and Dan Kassell, all three of whom videotaped the events.

Broadcasters Ben Young (winner of the Willis Conover-Marian McPartland Award for Excellence in Broadcasting, of WKCR-Columbia University) and Becca Pulliam (nominee for the Conover-McPartland Award, WBGO-Newark), accompanied by program director Thurston Briscoe and general manager Cephias Bowles.

And what of the Awards support staff? On the JJA side: Yvonne Ervin, very ably assisted at the last minute by Colleen Growe; stage manager Elise Axelrad, presenter Sofia Trigo, indispensable Joe Petrucelli, volunteer coordinator Lois Mirviss, Mary Holland, brilliant Nancy Barell, Judy Balos, Joan

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## ***Congratulations to the JJA and all of the 2009 nominees!***



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Watson-Jones, treasurer Gene Marlow, driver Raymond Price, Joel Levin, Jeremy Pfau—from the Standard: Seth, Melissa, Zak, soundman Aaron, numerous servers...

Presenting the Dance–Palmer Award, Fred Kaplan quipped that he had reservations about the propriety of the JJA giving any awards to jazz journalists, believing such awards would have more credibility if voted on by musicians instead. However, George E. Lewis, in receiving his Best Book award for *A Power Stronger Than Itself: The AACM and American Experimental Music*, said

he felt he'd made a down payment on that idea in his volume, which attests to the breadth of community involvement that seems to be a prerequisite for the emergence and maintenance of strong jazz scenes.

Lewis, director of Columbia University's Center for Jazz Studies, was the producer who drew the JJA into collaboration on the 2007 academic conference "Jazz in the Global Imagination" and indirectly has inspired the JJA to pursue its next big production, a four-day conference on "Jazz Media in Transition: Audiences and Outlets in the

21st Century," tentatively scheduled for January 2010 on the premises of Jazz at Lincoln Center. Which demonstrates, as did so many of the exchanges and interactions at the 2009 JJA Jazz Awards, that what goes around comes around.

So congratulations to all winners and all nominees, and may the Jazz Awards be, as Hank Jones said, an inducement to do even better.

HOWARD MANDEL  
PRESIDENT,  
JAZZ JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION



TOP LEFT: Dan Ouellette and Dance–Palmer Award winner Nate Chinen. ABOVE: JJA President Howard Mandel with Male Vocalist of the Year Kurt Elling. Photos by Enid Farber.



LEFT: Arturo O'Farrill, winner for Latin Jazz Album of the Year. BOTTOM LEFT: Flutist of the Year Frank Wess and JJA member Joel Levin. BELOW: Pianist Helen Sung hugs WBGO-FM program director Thurston Briscoe. Photos by Fran Kaufman.



# 2009 JJA Jazz Awards Winners

Lifetime Achievement in Jazz  
**Lee Konitz**

Musician of the Year  
**Sonny Rollins**

Composer of the Year  
**Maria Schneider**

Up & Coming Artist of the Year  
**Esperanza Spalding**

Events Producer of the Year  
**George Wein,  
New Festival Productions**

Record of the Year  
**Appearing Nightly,  
Carla Bley Big Band (Watt/ECM)**

Latin Jazz Album of the Year  
**Song for Chico,  
Arturo O'Farrill (Zoho)**

Historical Recording/Reissue  
of the Year  
**Road Shows, Vol. 1  
Sonny Rollins (Doxy)**

Historical Recording Boxed Set  
**The Lester Young/Count Basie  
Sessions 1936-40 (Mosaic)**

Record Label of the Year  
**Mosaic**

Female Singer of the Year  
**Cassandra Wilson**

Male Singer of the Year  
**Kurt Elling**

Instruments Rare in Jazz  
**Richard Galliano, accordion**

Large Ensemble of the Year  
**Maria Schneider Orchestra**

Arranger of the Year  
**Maria Schneider**

Small Ensemble of the Year  
**SFJAZZ Collective**

Trumpeter of the Year  
**Terence Blanchard**

Trombonist of the Year  
**Roswell Rudd**

Tenor Saxophonist of the Year  
**Sonny Rollins**

Alto Saxophonist of the Year  
**Rudresh Mahanthappa**

Flutist of the Year  
**Frank Wess**

Baritone Saxophonist of the Year  
**Gary Smulyan**

Soprano Saxophonist of the Year  
**Branford Marsalis**

Clarinetist of the Year  
**Anat Cohen**

Guitarist of the Year  
**Bill Frisell**

Pianist of the Year  
**Hank Jones**

Organist of the Year  
**Dr. Lonnie Smith**

Strings Player of the Year  
**Billy Bang**

Bassist of the Year  
**William Parker**

Electric Bassist of the Year  
**Steve Swallow**

Mallet Instrumentalist of the Year  
**Joe Locke**

Percussionist of the Year  
**Hamid Drake**

Drummer of the Year  
**Brian Blade**

Periodical of the Year  
**Jazz Times**

Website of the Year  
**AllAboutJazz.com**

Blog of the Year  
**Jazz Beyond Jazz  
by Howard Mandel  
www.artsjournal.com/jazzbeyondjazz**

Best Book about Jazz  
**A Power Stronger Than Itself:  
The AACM and American**

**Experimental Music  
by George Lewis  
(University of Chicago Press)**

Photo of the Year  
**Hank Jones,  
Montreal Jazz Festival 2008  
by Kris King**

The Lona Foote–Bob Parent Award  
for Photography  
**John Abbott**

The Willis Conover–Marian McPartland  
Award for Broadcasting  
**Ben Young,  
Director, WKCR (Columbia University)**

The Helen Dance–Robert Palmer Award  
for Review and Feature Writing  
**Nate Chinen**

Lifetime Achievement in Jazz Journalism  
**Mike Zwerin**

JFA/JJA Special Career Honors for  
Words with Music  
**Mark Murphy**

A Team Awards for:

**Herb Alpert**  
*Musician, Producer, Jazz Supporter*

**Dr. Agnes Varis**  
*Jazz Angel*

**Bruce Lundvall**  
*Record Man*

**David N. Baker**  
*Jazz Educator*

**Timuel Black**  
*Cultural Historian*

**Steven Saltzman**  
*Chicago Jazz Advocate*

**Ruth Price**  
*The Jazz Bakery*

**Clarence Acox**  
*Garfield High School Jazz Band Leader*

**Scott Brown**  
*Roosevelt High School Jazz Band Leader*

**Peter Levinson**  
*Author and Publicist*

**Richard Sudhalter**  
*Author, Journalist, Musician*

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TOP: Alto Saxophonist of the Year Rudresh Mahanthappa (left) and Francis Davis; MIDDLE LEFT: Trombonist of the Year Roswell Rudd; MIDDLE RIGHT: Tenor saxophonist Matt Miller; BOTTOM: Bill Milkowski (left) applauds Strings Player of the Year Billy Bang. All photographs by Enid Farber.