

U3A Jazz Appreciation Network

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Hallo All,

Newsletter 2014/2 - March 2014

I know – you don't get a Newsletter for ages then two come along at once. The prime purpose of this one is to give you details of **Study Day 2014**.

First – The Basics

Study Day 2014. Jazz on a Summer's Day.

With Scott Stroman and the Guildhall School of Music Jazz Orchestra.

Date - Wednesday 16th July 2014

Place – Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1.

Cost £20

Details:

We have been fortunate in getting Scott Stroman, Professor of Jazz at the Guildhall School of Music, to present the Day, with his splendid young musicians in the Guildhall Jazz Orchestra. This will be the fourth consecutive year Scott has agreed to do this for us.

Venue. You will know that I had to turn many of you away last year, as the theatre was full. As the Bridewell Theatre cannot take us this year, I have had the opportunity to seek out a bigger venue. (Thanks, by the way, for all of your suggestions). I have secured the Kennedy Hall at Cecil Sharp House. Many of you will know that Cecil Sharp House is the HQ of the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS). It is a big hall (an easy 300 seats); the building has a cafeteria that serves snacks, teas, coffees, Real Ales, sandwiches and some hot meals. Disabled access is easy and we may be able to find on-site parking for a few cars for disabled

visitors and even a minibus or two. The nearest Tube is Camden Town (it's a 10 minute amble away).

I am particularly keen on this venue as it has everything we need. There are the usual pubs, restaurants & coffee bars a few minutes away but there is no real need to leave at all. For those who fancy an al fresco picnic (and the day is fine), the House has a garden

Timetable. Start at 11 am. Finish by 4 pm. 1 hour lunch break – 1 pm to 2 pm. Tea and coffee available before we start and during lunch.

Cost. Provided we are well supported, I can keep it at an inflation busting £20. As it is a bigger hall, it'll cost us more to hire but as long as all of you jazz lovers keep up high levels of support, we'll cover our costs.

Theme. I've called it Jazz on a Summer's Day, as that's what it'll be, but beyond that, I'm happy to leave it to Scott. You will recall from previous study days that Scott takes us off in interesting directions, regardless of the title of the day !

How to book:-

Please send me

- A cheque for £20 per person, payable to Third Age Trust. On back of cheque, please write your name, address, contact details (phone, email etc) and name of U3A
- A stamped addressed envelope for me to send you a receipt (receipt is also ticket for admission)
- Give me an indication if you are interested in a hot meal (I'm not collecting the money – you pay on the day – but it will be helpful for catering staff if they have some idea of likely demand for the dish-of-the-day hot specials)
- Post cheques to me – Mike Whitaker, 26 Parkfield Close, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 6QY. Mark envelopes GSD.
- If you are interested in disabled parking or parking a minibus, please let me know very early on. There is very limited on-site parking. First come - first served.

Please give this notice the widest possible circulation; including jazz lovers of your acquaintance whose U3As do not have jazz appreciation groups. I've gone out on a limb in getting a much bigger venue and I don't want too many empty seats.

Any queries? Contact me on 01278 663492 or mjo.whitaker666@btinternet.com

Can I ask you, please, not to leave it too late before deciding to come. Obviously, I need to pay for the venue well before the date of the event. And try to rope in a few more from each JAG. Those of you who've attended before know what great value Scott and the GSM students are.

Let me mention a few more items.

Jazz weekend at Mill Rythe Holiday village. 20 – 23 June 2014.

Apologies to all Tuba Skinny devotees. Tuba Skinny will not be at this event. I don't know how they got into the publicity for the break but I have double checked with the organisers and they ain't coming ! The confirmed bands are

Savannah Jazz Band

John Maddocks Jazzmen

Sussex Jazz Kings

New Orleans Heat

Golden Eagle Jazz Band

Gambit Jazzmen

To book, get in touch with Katy Lansley or Helen Benwell - 02392 460044. Quote Group reference 7057

Contact Jazz

I have recently received the message below. I have not used his services and therefore cannot endorse. His lists look interesting and one of his selling points is a fixed p&p cost of £1.75, regardless of the amount ordered. I have not attached the lists, there are pages and pages... Give him a ring to get his latest list, and see what you think.

We are a small mail order business, Contact Jazz, specialising in jazz CDs and DVDs, mainly classic reissues and releases. We are based in Norwich and have been doing this since 1995. We send out a bi-monthly list of around 50-60 new jazz reissues and releases to our database, either by post or via email. We do not have a website and take orders either by phone or post. Our service collates and relates information about new CD releases which otherwise are quite difficult for an individual jazz enthusiast to find out about on a regular basis. We are already serving members of several U3A jazz appreciation groups, who buy product for themselves and / or the group, and it has been suggested that our mailings may be of interest to other U3A jazz appreciation groups. There are no fees and there is no obligation to buy anything. My idea is to write to most if not all U3A jazz groups and I have attached our latest list for your perusal . If you think this may be of interest, I would be grateful if you would pass this on to any relevant parties for their consideration. I would be happy to send our list, without obligation, to anyone who is interested. If you have any queries or comments please do let me know. Many thanks Michael Lester Contact Jazz 01603 712670.

CD Disposal

Last time, I mentioned that I was helping to dispose of a CD collection, belonging to a friend and late JAG leader. A number of you expressed interest. Bear with me. I have, I am happy to say, disposed of a large proportion of the collection already. I will be in touch with those of you who expressed interest.

Do you want a musician to come to talk to your group? I've been approached by Dave Jones. Dave is a pianist, a jazz educator and writer – he's currently writing a series of articles in Jazz Journal on the relationship between classical music and jazz. I believe that he is visiting the enterprising Fleet U3A JAG later this year and has expressed interest in talking to other U3A JAGs. As Dave is a working musician, he will require recompense... Have a look at his website <http://www.davejonesjazz.com/writing.asp>. He lives in South Wales.

Lastly, thanks to Philip Cakebread of Banstead U3A for this gem

A friend of mine, knowing my interest in traditional jazz, has sent me a link to a positive treasure trove of music. He said, "While looking for something else I came across a collection of 78 RPM records and Wax Cylinder recordings at Archive.org. " <http://tinyurl.com/nwx8zrg>

Just try it. It's great !

If there's anything you think I should be doing, or trying to do, just get in touch. And do get your reservation for Study Day in as soon as you can.

All the best

Mike Whitaker