

# JAZZ & BLUES

JANUARY 2012

FLORIDA

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



**BOB MINTZER and  
THE CANYON COVE BAND**



**B.B. KING**



**BISCUIT MILLER & THE MIX**



**GALACTIC**



**JAMIE OUSLEY TRIO**



**JAMES ARMSTRONG**



**JOEL DASILVA**



**LARRY CORYELL TRIO**



**COPELAND DAVIS/BYRON STRIPLING**



**LARRY HARLOW**



**RANDY JOHNSTON**



**REBECCA RICHARDSON**



**MARCIA BALL**

# BOB MINTZER: SONGS

by Bill Meredith

**A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE** way to the recording session for saxophonist Bob Mintzer's latest CD, the trio release *Canyon Cove* with Hammond organist Larry Goldings and drummer Peter Erskine.

"I'd worked with Hammond organist Joey DeFrancesco on a previous project," Mintzer says by phone from his home in Hollywood, Calif., "and I love the rich sound and feel of that instrument. I thought it would be fun to do an organ-trio project, and hired Joey. But he got stranded in Europe right before the sessions. I'd just been to a party where I'd told Larry about the record, and he half-jokingly said, 'If Joey can't make it, I'll be around.' So I got to call him up and say, 'Guess what? You're on!'"

The gifted Goldings sounds every bit the first-call player throughout *Canyon Cove*, and the all-purpose Erskine functions as a musical guide. The drummer's roots with Mintzer go back 43 years. "We met in 1969 at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan," Mintzer says. "There's a lot of chemistry there." Their classmates included drummer Dan Brubeck, son of iconic pianist Dave Brubeck; Elaine Duvas, principal oboist for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; and actor Tom Hulce, who portrayed Mozart in the film *Amadeus*.

The inspirations for *Canyon Cove*, on which Mintzer plays tenor sax, bass clarinet and flute, reveal an open mind and a wide range of influences. His "Bugaloo to You" and Victor Young's jazz standard "When I Fall in Love" touch upon the R&B and traditional nuances of organ trios fronted by artists from Jimmy Smith to Dr. Lonnie Smith. The saxophonist penned "Thaddeus" for the late trumpeter Thad Jones, with whom he worked in the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band. "Bebop Special," and three improvised pieces with Judd Miller playing EWI (electronic wind instrument), display Mintzer's knack for fusing on-the-spot creativity with transitional technology, something he's done for the past 21 years with acclaimed fusion quartet the Yellowjackets.

The title track bears a surprising double dedication: to the 1970s British rock organ trio



**BOB MINTZER**

Emerson, Lake and Palmer, and to Mintzer's house, which is named Canyon Cove and was the former residence of Austrian classical composer Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951). "He's probably rolling over in his grave because a jazz musician is living there," Mintzer jokes.

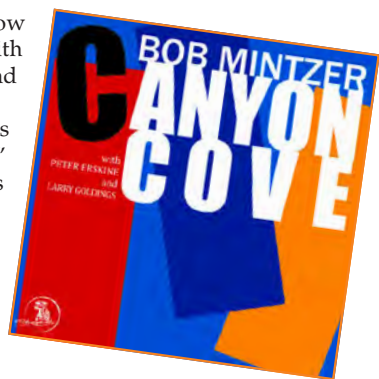
Not likely. A native of New Rochelle, New York, who'll turn 59 this month, Mintzer attended the Hartt College of Music in Hartford, Conn., on a classical clarinet scholarship in 1970. He's since performed with the New York Philharmonic and the American Ballet Theatre, and written more than 200 big band arrangements. Kendor Music publishes a Bob Mintzer series of charts for school and professional bands worldwide. A dedicated educator, Mintzer spent 25 years

# FROM THE CANYON

on the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music, and now instructs at the University of Southern California (with Erskine, Yellowjackets keyboardist Russell Ferrante and arranger Vince Mendoza).

Mintzer's website discography features the headings "Small Band," "Yellowjackets" and "Sideman/Guest," and the "Big Band" category features recordings by his self-titled jazz orchestras since the early '80s. Some of Mintzer's earliest gigs were with Brazilian big band leader Eumir Deodato, which led to work in the big bands of drummer Buddy Rich and bassist Jaco Pastorius. "All were visionaries," Mintzer says. "I learned how to write for a big band while with Buddy, and learned a lot from each of those great musical adventures."

All of which makes the swinging yet sparse *Canyon Cove* a bit of a departure for the saxophonist. "It's probably the smallest ensemble I've recorded with, other than the 1997 duo album *Longing* with Gil Goldstein," Mintzer says. Small in number, perhaps, but not in impact.



Bob Mintzer's Canyon Cove Band will perform at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 14. Call 954-462-0222 or visit [Southfloridajazz.org](http://Southfloridajazz.org).

*Tickets on sale now*

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Jan 20 Nick Moss

Jan 21 David Shelley & Bluestone

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## B.B. KING

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**RUTH ECKERD HALL, CLEARWATER/JAN. 7**  
**MANN HALL, FORT MYERS/JAN. 8**  
**MARINA CIVIC CENTER, PANAMA CITY/JAN. 10**  
 For more than 60 years, B.B. King has brought great vitality and sophistication to the blues. From the jumping "She's Dynamite" (1949) to the woefully humorous "How Blue Can You Get" (1964) to the moody masterpiece "The Thrill is Gone" (1970), King continually set the bar for urban blues. His style has influenced generations of



blues and rock artists, and he was ranked No. 3 on *Rolling Stone's* list of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time. On his 2008 Grammy-winning *One Kind Favor*, King pays tribute to his own influences. At 86, he remains one of the great road warriors of the blues, along with a crack band led by The King and his six-stringed queen, Lucille. **BW**

## BISCUIT MILLER & THE MIX

**BOSTON'S, DELRAY/JAN. 3**  
**LITTLE BAR RESTAURANT, GOODLAND/JAN. 6**  
 It's no coincidence that Biscuit Miller titled his 2010 recording *Blues With a Smile*. The Indianapolis-based bassist, vocalist and songwriter serves his blues with a healthy dose of humor and funk on tracks like "Butter My Biscuits" and "Sleepin' in the Dog House." And you can't help but grin when you hear the jumping "Walk With You Babe" or the JB's-style soul-food celebration "Black Eyed Peas and Cornbread." Miller's South Side Chicago roots are in evidence, as well, as he offers up a musical salute to Willie Dixon ("Willie D"). Having paid his dues as a sideman with



guitar slingers Lonnie Brooks and Anthony Gomes, Miller is more than comfortable in the spotlight. A frontman with outsize charisma and dazzling dance moves, he formed The Mix more than a decade ago. The 2012 Blues Music Award nominee got his nickname from his grandmother after polishing off a whole pan of her biscuits. **BW**

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# S P O T L I G H T

**MARCIA BALL**  
**SKIPPER'S SMOKEHOUSE, TAMPA/JAN. 6**  
**BAMBOO ROOM, LAKE WORTH/JAN. 7**  
**PLAZA THEATRE, ORLANDO/JAN. 15**

For some 40 years, Marcia Ball has heeded the call of the highway. On her latest, Grammy-nominated recording, *Roadside Attractions*, the boogie-piano expert and smoky-voiced singer recounts tales of life, love and the lessons she's learned on her travels. The CD represents the first collection of tunes written or co-written entirely by Ball, and she focuses on the rootsy, bluesy Americana of the Texas-Louisiana region she's long inhabited. She dips into the horn-driven, Austin blues of "Look Before You Leap," as well as demonstrating her mastery of vintage New Orleans R&B with "Sugar Boogie." And then there's the heart-rending bayou balladry of "This Used to Be Paradise," which voices the lament of embattled Louisiana fishermen. Ball returns to Florida for shows surrounding the Sandy Beaches blues cruise that departs from Fort Lauderdale. **BW**



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**COPELAND DAVIS AND BYRON STRIPLING**  
**FAU, BOCA RATON/JAN. 15**  
**PBSC EISSEY CAMPUS, PB GARDENS/JAN. 16**

Any tribute to Louis Armstrong, the most important jazz figure of the 20th century, requires a gifted bandleader. This presentation has three. Florida-based piano virtuoso Copeland Davis will join forces with Atlanta trumpeter/vocalist Byron Stripling and the Florida Sunshine Pops under the direction of Richard Hayman to salute Satchmo. In addition to his artistic direction of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, a handful of solo CDs and countless studio credits, Stripling's trumpet chops and expressive voice have earned him comparisons to Armstrong. He even played the lead in the 1988 musical *Satchmo: America's Musical Legend*. Davis' unique fusion of jazz, blues, pop and classical music has earned him a TV special, appearances on *The Tonight Show* and *Good Morning, America*, and hotel and casino gigs. Expect performances of Armstrong classics such as "What a Wonderful World" and "Hello, Dolly!" **BM**



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All artists are subject to change

## JAMES ARMSTRONG

BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/JAN. 28

The son of a jazz-guitar-playing father and a blues-singing mother, James Armstrong boasts some powerful DNA. His distinctive voice as a blues artist emerged on recordings such as 1998's *Dark Night* and 2000's *Got It Goin' On*, both of which featured his engaging voice, jazzy leads and sharp-eyed songwriting. After more than a decade, Armstrong this year released a superb new CD, *Blues at the Border*. The title track details the absurdity of airport security in a post 9-11 world, and many listeners will identify with "High Maintenance Woman." While he recounts the mixed blessings of his upbringing on "Young Man



With the Blues," all of Armstrong's tunes feel personal. A survivor of a brutal 1997 home invasion that left him with nerve damage and severely injured his young son, Armstrong has a world of hurt at his command. But he also comes up with some truly joyful music, expertly played by the guitarist and his four-piece road band. **BW**

## RANDY JOHNSTON

WEST PALM BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY/JAN. 6

Guitarist Randy Johnston's potent mix of jazz, blues, R&B and rock may be a reflection of his geographically diverse background. Johnston was born in Detroit and moved south to Richmond, Va., at age 13. After high school, he attended the University of Miami and furthered his jazz education by sitting in with multi-wind instrumentalist Ira Sullivan. Johnston's rise on the New York City jazz scene during the past 30 years culminates with his latest CD, *People Music*. Playing in a trio with Hammond organist Pat Bianchi and drummer Carmen Inttore Jr., Johnston displays his stylistic gumbo on originals (the fusion-fueled



"Garden State" and bluesy "Nostalgia for What Never Was") and covers (Chick Corea's burning "Humpty Dumpty" and Eddie Harris' funky "Cold Duck Time"). For this date at the West Palm Beach Public Library's intimate third-floor auditorium, the guitarist teams up with area aces Randy Ward on bass and Jeff Abbott on drums. **BM**

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# Bob Mintzer's Canyon Cove Band with Larry Goldings and Peter Erskine



**January 14, 2012 - 8:00 p.m.**

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**COCONUT CREEK CASINO/JAN. 13**  
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**BIG EASY, HOLLYWOOD/JAN. 19 (ACOUSTIC)**  
**BARDOT, MIAMI/JAN. 27**

South Florida blues fans may remember hearing an 18-year-old Joel DaSilva sitting in at Delray's Back Room in the '90s. The young guitarist dropped jaws left and right with his fiery, fluid leads. Since then, DaSilva has displayed deep roots in a variety of styles, from his tenure with soul-blues great Jr. Drinkwater to the jump-blues of The Regulators to his psychobilly-blues band The Hep Cat Boo Daddies. His



latest band, JD & the Midnight Howl, welds contemporary blues-rock with traditional blues. Their new self-titled CD showcases DaSilva's growling leads and heartfelt vocals on tunes ranging from jump and boogie to bluesy roots-rock to the swampy slide blues of "For Don," a tribute to the late Musicians Exchange owner Don Cohen. **BW**

**LARRY HARLOW'S LA RAZA LATINA**  
**ARSHT CENTER, MIAMI/JAN. 20**

Many Latin jazz legends were born in New York City to parents who'd emigrated from Cuba, Puerto Rico or Brazil. Brooklyn-born Jewish pianist, composer and arranger Larry Harlow, on the other hand, was so fascinated with Latin culture that he took a two-year trip to Cuba in the late '50s to study Afro-Cuban music. Harlow became a leading Latin music producer, engineering more than 250 albums for the Fania label. Of the 50 recorded under his name, *La Raza Latina*, *A Salsa Suite* stands out. Released in 1978, the work revolutionized salsa by tracing its evolution from West Africa to southern Spain, the Caribbean and New



York City. Harlow will revisit that classic as he conducts a 45-piece orchestra full of Latin music greats, including percussionists Richie Flores, Bobby Sanabria and Candido Camero. Miami's Mario Ortiz All Star Band will kick off the party, which will feature an epic violin battle between Federico Britos and Gabriel Fonseca. Salsa singers and dancers will also perform. **BM**

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**JAN. 19:**  
 Joe Donato Quartet with Danny Burger on drums



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# S P O T L I G H T

## LARRY CORYELL TRIO W/ MURALI CORYELL ALLIANCE OF THE ARTS, FORT MYERS/JAN. 28

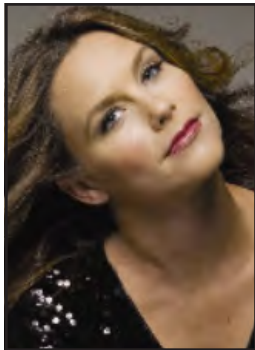
At age 68, guitarist Larry Coryell has carved out a singular niche in jazz. He's shared a recording studio with Jimi Hendrix; started seminal fusion bands in the '60s and '70s; and ranged among acoustic music, traditional jazz and fusion ever since. The Texas-born guitarist gave up journalism studies at the University of Washington and moved to New York City in 1965. His infusion of blues and rock ideas made Coryell a near-instant Greenwich Village sensation, and his unique phrasing and tone soon stood out in the bands of Chico Hamilton, Gary Burton and Herbie Mann. Since 2000, Coryell's work includes trios with bassists



Mark Egan, Victor Bailey and Larry Gray and drummers Lenny White and Paul Wertico. For their Fort Myers concert, Coryell's trio will be joined by son Murali Coryell, an accomplished blues guitarist and soulful vocalist. Port Charlotte guitar prodigy Mike Imbasciani and his Bluez Rockerz will open the show. **BM**

## REBECCA RICHARDSON QUARTET W/DAN HECK SUGDEN REGIONAL PARK, NAPLES/JAN. 29

Vocalist Rebecca Richardson and her husband, guitarist and bassist Dan Heck, display an easy mastery of the Great American Songbook. A graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, Heck moved to Seattle in 1993, where he met the smooth-toned vocalist. She'd taken master classes at Juilliard in NYC, where the couple relocated for five years to perform GAC standards at venues like the Blue Note and the Pierre and Waldorf Astoria hotels. The couple have since relocated to Naples, where the sun and surf provide the perfect visual backdrop to their music. Richardson's clear intonation and breathy sensuality



can be compared with Tierney Sutton's or Diana Krall's, as heard on the singer's intimate 2010 recording *Stirred, Not Shaken*, as she tackles standards and Brazilian music with sensitive sophistication. The versatile Heck, a gifted solo recording artist, provides expert accompaniment. Their quartet is quite popular along SoFla's west coast. **BM**

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**JANUARY 14**  
Nouveaux  
Honkies



**JANUARY 21**  
Reverend Raven & The  
Chain Smokin' Altar Boys



**JANUARY 23 Dinner Show:**  
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# S P O T L I G H T

## GALACTIC

FREEBIRD LIVE, JACKSONVILLE/JAN. 5  
 PLAZA THEATRE, ORLANDO/JAN. 6  
 STATE THEATRE, ST. PETERSBURG/JAN. 7  
 REVOLUTION LIVE, FT. LAUDERDALE/JAN. 14  
 Call it Mardi Gras or Carnivale, but be prepared to party when you cue up Galactic's latest salute to the global bacchanal. The Big Easy funk-strumentalists combine Bourbon Street and Brazil in tantalizing ways on *Carnivale Electricos*, to be released on Mardi Gras (Feb. 21). Sizzling samba blends with snap-tight New Orleans grooves, and the rous is flavored with hip-hop, electronica, jazz and soul for a completely modern-sounding mashup. Expect no less from this



New Orleans institution, formed nearly 20 years ago. The quintet features saxophonist Ben Ellman, guitarist Jeff Raines, keyman Rich Vogel, bassist Robert Mercurio and groove-monster drummer Stanton Moore. They'll share the stage with Toubab Krewe on the first two dates, Orgone in St. Pete, and Trombone Shorty in Fort Lauderdale. **BW**

## JAMIE OUSLEY TRIO

VAN DYKE, MIAMI BEACH/JAN. 26  
 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, MIAMI/JAN. 29  
 JAZZ CO-OP, MIAMI/JAN. 30  
 BLUE JEAN BLUES, FT. LAUDERDALE/JAN. 31  
 Bassist Jamie Ousley earned critical raves for his warm and quite-personal-sounding 2010 recording *Back Home*. For his followup, *A Sea of Voices*, the Hallandale-based musician and educator recruited longtime trio mates Joe Davidian on piano and Austin McMahon on drums. The three started playing together while studying at the University of Miami. Although Davidian now lives in Nashville and McMahon in Boston, the trio continues to tour and record. Inspired by the beauty of his natural surroundings, Ousley



built *A Sea of Voices* around songs with aquatic themes. He was further motivated by his involvement with the Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light organization, whose goal is to foster environmental activism within religious communities. Proceeds from CD sales will benefit the group. More dates in February. **BW**

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## JANUARY

# Jazz

**January 14th-15th**  
**South Florida Jazz Summit**  
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**January 14 grand opening concert with featured artist**  
**Maria Rivas**




**January 21st**  
**Perry Joslin Project**  
 Smooth Jazz Fusion





**January 13th**  
**A Tribute to Louis Armstrong**  
*featuring*  
**Troy Anderson**

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**Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6pm**  
**Sunrise Black Box Theater**  
**Blues Night with**  
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**Sunday, January 8, 2012**  
**Sunrise Theater, Ft. Pierce**  
**Tribute to Benny Goodman**

18-Piece Orchestra featuring Paul Hubbell  
 on Clarinet and Nathan Skinner on Vibes  
 VIP Tickets - \$50 - Includes Jazz Brunch at 1:00pm  
 General Admission Tickets - \$30 - Show at 2:30pm



**JAZZ JAMS**

**TUESDAYS Jan. 3, 10, 17 & 31**

**Sunrise Black Box Theater**  
**1117 S 2nd Street, Ft. Pierce**

\$5 Cover - Cash Bar

Jan. 10 features jazz harpist Scott Marischen

**WEDNESDAYS Jan. 11 & 25**

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- 14 Guanabanas, Jupiter (afternoon)  
Funky Biscuit, Boca Raton (evening)
- 15 Earl's Hideaway, Sebastian
- 16-22 Hog's Breath, Key West
- 23 Bayside Grille, Key Largo
- 24 Boston's On The Beach, Delray Beach
- 25 Ace's Lounge, Bradenton
- 26 Buckingham Blues Bar, Fort Myers



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Uri Gurvich | Sat. 2/11

Troy Anderson Tribute to Louis Armstrong | Sun. 2/12

Lenard Rutledge | Sat. 2/25

Rose Max | Fri. 3/9

Davis and Dow | Sat. 3/24

Othello Molineaux | Sat. 4/14

Jesse Jones, Jr. | Sat. 4/21

Sammy Figueroa Celebrating Latin Culture | Sat. 5/5

Troy Roberts & Nu Jive | Sat. 5/12

Chris Labarbera | Sat. 5/26

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Tinsley Ellis

**Saturday**  
March 10th

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