

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURED ARTIST



PLUS... GALACTIC LUCKY PETERSON RUFUS REID LITTLE G WEEVIL BAND DON FRIEDMAN TRIO TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND PHIL WOODS QUINTET ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES THE CLAYTON BROTHERS BOBBY RUSH & SUPER CHIKAN

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JANUARY 23 & 24, 2015

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by Bill Meredith



harmony before graduating in 2009. Those musical facets pay off in her sultry-to-soaring vocal style, which favors coy intimacy. But her SUNY studies were only the culmination of the globe-trotting singer's unorthodox learning curve.

Aimée was born in Samoissur-Seine, the town outside Paris where legendary Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt spent his final years. It's the site of the annual Festival de Jazz Django Reinhardt, where she bravely made one of her earliest vocal appearances in her mid-teens by singing before 3,000 people. Aimée learned to vocalize Reinhardt's guitar solos — fueling her scat-singing abilities before moving on to appreci-

AS WITH MANY VOCALISTS BORN OUTSIDE the United States, Cyrille Aimée's accent is barely discernible when she sings in English. When she speaks, however, it's easier to guess where the 30-year-old native of France was born. "I also sing in, and speak, Spanish and French," Aimée says by phone from her home in Brooklyn.

Her bilingual talents come naturally. Aimée's father is French, her mother is Dominican, and the singer grew up in France before moving to Singapore with her parents as a teenager. She ventured out on her own by moving to the Dominican Republic, where she became an in-demand jazz artist in the small island nation practically by default. Seeking more of a challenge, she came to America for a formal jazz education. "I've been in Brooklyn for about five years and love it," she says.

Five years earlier, she had come to the U.S. to study at the State University of New York at Purchase, which was both affordable and within driving distance of New York City. Aimée was the only singer in the jazz program at the time, and she learned a great deal about rhythm and ate a wide range of singers: Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington, Anita O'Day and Chet Baker among them. Still, her love of instrumentalists never wavered. "It all starts with Django," she says, "but I also love John Coltrane, and piano trios led by Horace Silver, Bill Evans, Ahmad Jamal and Oscar Peterson. And I'm crazy about Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* album."

None of those icons plays trombone, yet that's the instrument that Aimée seems to mimic with her hands when she playfully scat-sings, an element in her vast arsenal that's impressed influential figures during her ascent. While backpacking across Europe in 2007, on summer break from Purchase, Aimée made a spur-of-the-moment decision to enter the Montreux Jazz Festival's vocal competition. She won, earning her the 10 days in a Swiss recording studio that resulted in her self-titled debut CD.

Recorded with college classmates and her childhood friend David Reinhardt, Django's guitar-playing grandson, the album was the first of Aimée's seven serpentining releases thus far. Those include duo efforts with Brazilian guitarist

villo.

Diego Figueiredo, who'd won the festival's guitar competition; live CDs including 2011's *Live at Small's*, with Aimée wowing the club crowd by scatting Thelonious Monk's "I Mean You," joined by trumpeter Roy Hargrove, saxophonist Joel Frahm and pianist Spike Wilner; and a 2013 turn fronting the Chicago Jazz Orchestra on *Burstin' Out!* Her latest, the guitar-centered *It's a Good Day*, was released in Japan in 2013 and domestically by Mack Avenue in 2014.

"I purposely look for things I haven't already done," says Aimée, who also finished third in the 2010 Thelonious Monk jazz vocal competition won by Cécile McLorin Salvant. Even



Aimée's Florida shows will be disparate. In Orlando, she'll participate in

a *Pink Panther*-themed all-star tribute to the late composer Henry Mancini. In Delray Beach, she'll sing much of the material from *It's a Good Day*, with steel-string acoustic guitarist Adrien Moignard, bassist Sam Anning, drummer Rajiv Jayaweera and her boyfriend, the Django Reinhardt-to-Jimi Hendrix-influenced electric guitarist Michael Valeanu.

Cyrille Aimée will perform on Jan. 16 in A Tribute to Henry Mancini at the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando with Monica Mancini, Tony DeSare, Nicole Henry, Tom Scott and Shelly Berg (Drphillips center.org), and on Jan. 24 with her quintet at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach (Artsgarage.org).





SATURDAY JAZZ MARKET Saturdays - 8am-Ipm

Saturday, Jan 3 – 9am–12pm Live Jazz at the Gazebo Along the Indian River waterfront in Ft. Pierce Funds raised support educational programs & local scholarships

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LITTLE G WEEVIL BAND BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/JAN. 3

With his room-shaking vocal and dexterous guitar picking, Little G Weevil evokes country-blues greats Son House, Robert Johnson and Bukka White. The Hungarian-born bluesman's acoustic 2013 CD, *Moving*, stands testament to the power of his performance, as do his IBC wins that year as Best Solo Act and Best Guitarist. But Little G also likes to plug in, as he does with his four-piece band. And he's equally adept on the electric ax, performing tunes like Fenton Robinson's mid-tempo "You Don't Know What Love Is" or Jimmy Rogers' slowburning "That's All Right " or his own down-tempo "Nobody Loves the Blues but Me." Thankfully for the guitarist, who grew up in Budapest,



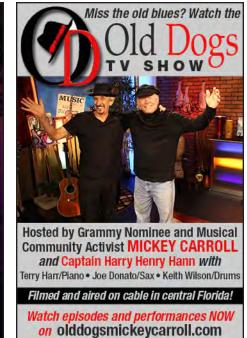
that's a bit of an overstatement. Little G created a stir in Birmingham, Ala., then in Memphis, gaining fans in both cities even as he supported himself by washing dishes. Although he'd returned to Hungary, his 2008 CD Southern Experience generated rave reviews from fans and critics. and he relocated to Atlanta, where he currently resides. BW

DON FRIEDMAN TRIO ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/JAN. 2

San Francisco-born pianist Don Friedman's harmonic style started with classical studies, which isn't uncommon among young future jazz musicians with an appreciation for improvisation. But the 79-year-old pianist crossed the jazz threshold through the influence of the West Coast swing of Stan Kenton, Les Brown and Billy May. Friedman's unique approach earned him work in California with horn-playing greats Dexter Gordon, Chet Baker and Ornette Coleman, and a young bassist named Scott LaFaro, who became Friedman's roommate after the two moved to New York City. The pianist thrived in the Big Apple, recording and performing with Joe Henderson, Elvin Jones and Clark



Terry, of whose big band he's a longtime member. Friedman also started his solo recording career in New York in the early '60s, and his signature style has made him a huge star in Japan, where he tours regularly. His trio at the Arts Garage will feature a South Florida A-list rhvthm section in bassist Chuck Bergeron and drummer John Yarling. BM



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- Jan 2 Bert's, Matlacha
- Jan 3 Marco Island Fish Co., Marco Island
- Jan 9 George & Wendy's, Sanibel
- Jan 10 Hookers, Punta Rassa
- Jan 16 Space 39, Ft. Myers
- Jan 23 Space 39, Ft. Myers
- Jan 24 Hookers, *Punta Rassa*
- Jan 31 Englewood's on Dearborn, Englewood

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2/28	BAYSIDE GRILLE, KEY LARGO

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RUFUS REID NEW WORLD CENTER, MIAMI BEACH JAZZ FEST/JAN. 10

Rufus Reid is among the most well-versed American double bassists in jazz, touring in configurations from trio to the big-band lineup on his latest release, *Quiet Pride: The Elizabeth Catlett Project*, an ode to its namesake sculptor and civil rights activist. Reid's versatility may well be the product of the various places he's resided while sculpting his career. Since graduating from Northwestern University in Illinois, the Atlanta-born Reid, now 70, has been based in New Jersey and has played with Dexter Gordon, Thad Jones, Eddie Harris and Nancy Wilson. Reid's symphonic side emerges on *Quiet Pride*, as does his virtuosity. Original compositions



such as the startling "Recognition" and the serene "Glory" feature him among piano, guitar, drums, vocals and a 15-piece horn section. By contrast, the master bassist, also a prominent educator, will school Miami Beach Jazz Fest audiences about the possibilities of the acoustic trio along with pianist Steve Allee and drummer Chris Beck BM

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BOBBY RUSH & SUPER CHIKAN DUO BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/JAN. 10

Two of the blues world's most entertaining performers join forces for what's sure to be a dynamic and hilarious evening of music. Rush has thrilled audiences for decades with his raunchy, high-energy shows. Backed by his booty dancers, the chilin-circuit vet frequently sings funky, adult-oriented fare like "Chicken Heads" and "I Ani't Studdin' You," his animated performance belying his 79 years. On his 2013 CD, *Down Home in Louisiana*, Rush revisited his rural roots; the stripped-down set of country blues earned him a Grammy nod. He followed that with 2014's *Decisions*, a funky return to form, which copped a Blues Blast Music Award for Soul Blues Album of the Year. James "Super Chikan" Johnson, 63,



has also won fans for his original take on down-home blues. His powerful playing on homemade guitars and a songwriting style rooted in Southern soil mark him as a distinctive blues voice. Together, Chikan and Rush, who also blows harmonica, have а wealth of material to choose from. Their onstage rapport should be a real treat. BW



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ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES CLUB DOWNUNDER, TALLAHASSEE/JAN. 14 THE SOCIAL, ORLANDO/JAN. 15 VINYL MUSIC HALL, PENSACOLA/JAN. 25

If you love horn-driven soul music, you'll want to get hip to St. Paul & the Broken Bones. On their 2014 debut CD *Half the City*, the Birmingham, Alabamabased band recall the vintage soul of Johnny Taylor and Tyrone Davis while still sounding fresh on original material. Of course, any outfit worth the brass of its horn section needs a great singer. And St. Paul has one and then some in Paul Janeway. While his emotional tenor instantly conjures Simply Red's Mick Hucknall, Janeway is closer to the source, having been raised not just in the American South, but in



the Southern church. And, like Al Green and Sam Moore, Janewav combines the sacred and secular in deeply satisfying ways. Cue up Half the City's "Don't Mean a Thing" to hear this confluence at its finest. Horn arrangements are as good as it gets, and on stage, Janeway is taken by the spirit like an evangelist preacher. BW

PHIL WOODS QUINTET SEA OF JAZZ FESTIVAL, POMPANO BEACH AMPHITHEATRE/JAN. 23

Along with Cannonball Adderley and Sonny Stitt, Phil Woods became a contender for bebop alto-saxophone supremacy after Charlie Parker's death in 1955. Woods outlived them all and even married Bird's widow, Chan. Ageless and graceful, with a lithe tone and an open mind, Woods, 83, played with some of the greatest names of the bop and swing eras, including Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Benny Goodman and Buddy Rich. Proving he was no nostalgia act, he won four Grammys in the '70s and '80s, while simultaneously recording solos on albums by pop artists such as Steely Dan and Billy Joel. Woods' simpatico rhythm



section, bassist Steve Gilmore and drummer Bill Goodwin, has been in place since the mid-'70s, with trumpeter Brian Lynch on board for more than 10 years and pianist Bill Mays for more than five. With 60 years of recordings at Woods' disposal, anything is possible for one of the best acoustic jazz acts of the past four decades. BM





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Saturday 01/17 8:00PH Lucky Peterson Blues



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Sunday 01/25 8:00PH **Billy Rogan** Jazz



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CLAYTON BROTHERS SEA OF JAZZ FESTIVAL, POMPANO BEACH AMPHITHEATRE/JAN. 24

John Clayton, 63, is among the most respected bassists in jazz. As a sideman, he's worked with the diverse likes of Diana Krall, Carmen McRae, Natalie Cole and Whitney Houston. He also co-leads the Clayton Brothers with brother and saxophonist Jeff Clayton, 60, whose love for small groups hastened the quintet's formation more than 30 years ago. Shortly thereafter, the big-bandloving bassist made Jeff part of the heralded Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, the large group John co-leads with drummer Jeff Hamilton. The Clayton Brothers' family of sophisticated sound extends to John's pianoplaying son, the gifted Gerald Clayton. The lineup is



rounded out by trumpeter Terell Stafford and drummer Obed Calvaire. Attendees of the inaugural Sea of Jazz Fest in Pompano can expect a sampling of originals from their latest release, 2012's The Gathering, which democratically features a tune written by Gerald, two standards, and several compositions each by the bandleading brothers. BM



JAN 2015

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With the Allman Brothers calling it quits, slide-guitar ace Derek Trucks can concentrate on the outfit he leads with his wife, singer-guitarist Susan Tedeschi. The pair have carved out a niche in the blues, rock and jam worlds, showcasing depth, versatility and taste in a mix that appeals across genre lines. Trucks, a former child prodigy and nephew of Allmans drummer Butch Trucks, has proven a creative force, building on Duane Allman's inclusive example while maintaining the grit and emotion of the blues. Tedeschi is a first-rate talent,



her smoky voice recalling Etta James, Irma Thomas and Bonnie Raitt. The group's 2013 CD, Made Up Mind, provides a sterling example of their deeply rooted yet contemporary-sounding artistry on 11 superb original songs. Trucks is masterfully understated, allowing the song to dictate what he'll play - which is right on the money. BW

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LUCKY PETERSON ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/JAN. 17 RITZ THEATRE, JACKSONVILLE/JAN. 30

Having just turned 50 in December, Lucky Peterson has reason to celebrate. The fiery bluesman, a triple-threat on keyboards, guitar and vocals, seems to be in a good place, having beat back the demons of addiction. And he's attacking his music with new vigor, as can be heard on a trio of 2014 releases: the autobiographical *Son of a Bluesman*; the old-school *Travelin' Man*; and the joyful live recording *I'm Back Again*, which captures Peterson and his four-piece at the 55 Arts Club in Berlin in 2012. On the latter, the versatile showman's commitment to hard-grooving blues remains undiminished. He digs in on Hammond



B-3 organ, unleashes molten leads on guitar (when not turning them over to Sean Kellerman) and sings in a gas-fire vocal that recalls his father, the late James Peterson. And Peterson's more than credible on his heartfelt read of Ray LaMontagne's "Trouble," which must hit close to home. As always, he leaves it all on the stage. BW

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GALACTIC

VINYL MUSIC HALL, PENSACOLA/JAN. 27 PLAZA LIVE, ORLANDO/JAN. 28 FREEBIRD LIVE, JACKSONVILLE/JAN. 29 HOLLYWOOD ARTSPARK, HOLLYWOOD/JAN. 30 Jam bands essentially play rock with some jazz nuances. They also tend to emphasize rhythm, which explains why several have emerged from the danceable melting pot of New Orleans. Yet none has done it better — or been at it longer — than Galactic. Formed in the Crescent City nearly 25 years ago, the group's engine has always been founding drummer Stanton Moore, whose influences include Zigaboo Modeliste (The Meters), Clyde Stubblefield and Jabo Starks (James Brown) and John Bonham (Led Zeppelin).



Original bassist Robert Mercurio, guitarist Jeff Raines and keyboardist Rich Vogel, along with longtime saxophonist/ harmonica player Ben Ellman, add to the instrumental foundation, often augmented by guest vocalists like Living Colour's Corey Glover or Mofro's JJ Grev, the latter of whom sings on Galactic's 2014 release, Higher and Higher. BM



"YEAH, WELL I THINK I'LL GO DOWN IN GAINESVILLE, JUST TO SEE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE ..."

"DEEP DOWN IN FLORIDA," BY MUDDY WATERS (MCKINLEY MORGANFIELD)



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