

Madison Jazz

for musicians and fans

November Mary Lou Williams Centennial Newsletter

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Howard Landsman sent in this newsletter:

MARY LOU WILLIAMS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION NEWSLETTER

Issue #7, November 2010

www.marylouwilliamscentennial.org

“MARY LOU WILLIAMS YOUTH EXPLOSION” CONCERT, 11/22/10, AT THE OVERTURE CENTER. In its final production of the year, Madison’s Mary Lou Williams Centennial Coordinating Committee presents the “Mary Lou Williams Youth Explosion,” a multi-dimensional and free concert of music and poetry, at the Overture Center’s Promenade Hall on Monday, November 22, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM. Produced in association with the UW Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives, the concert line-up will include jazz ensembles from Stoughton and Madison West High Schools presenting Ms. Williams’ big band music, performances by the best of a group of area middle and high school students who have been creating original spoken word poetry inspired by Ms. Williams’ music and life story, and choral excerpts from “Mary Lou’s Mass” performed by members of Madison Youth Choirs and other outstanding student singers. A live DJ from UW-Madison’s First Wave Hip Hop Theater Ensemble will keep Mary Lou’s music flowing throughout the evening.

This concert is made possible by support from the Madison Community Foundation, Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools, Madison Arts Commission, CUNA Mutual Group, Wisconsin Arts Board, Overture Center’s Community Arts Access Program, and media sponsors Isthmus and WORT-FM.

UPCOMING YOUTH PERFORMANCES FOR MARY LOU. The 11/22 concert is one of several youth concerts being presented in the coming weeks by the Centennial Committee’s program partners. Come out and see our community’s youth launch Mary Lou’s legacy into the next 100 years.

- **Saturday, 11/13/10, 7:00 PM, Stoughton High School Performing Arts Center, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Stoughton.** The Stoughton High School Jazz Ensemble and UW Jazz Orchestra will perform a joint concert of Mary Lou Williams’ big band music, along with works by other legendary jazz composers such as Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, and Duke Ellington. For details, click on the hotlink from the Centennial’s homepage, at www.marylouwilliamscentennial.org.
- **Sunday, 11/14/10, 2:00 PM, Mills Concert Hall, UW Humanities Building, 455 North Park Street, Madison.** As part of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras Fall Concert, the WYSO Youth Orchestra will perform Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Harbison’s “Mary Lou:

Four Symphonic Memories of Mary Lou Williams.” Tickets (\$8 adult/\$5 youth) are sold at the door, starting 45 minutes before the concert.

- **Wednesday, 12/1/10, 7:30 PM, Mills Concert Hall, UW Humanities Building, 455 North Park Street, Madison.** Under the direction of Jim Doherty, the UW Jazz Orchestra dedicates its Fall Concert this year to Mary Lou Williams with a mostly-Williams program which also includes charts from the repertoires of big bands with a connection to Ms. Williams, including Ellington and Goodman. Free admission.
- **Saturday, 12/4/10, 8:00 PM, Mills Concert Hall, UW Humanities Building, 455 North Park Street, Madison.** The UW Jazz Orchestra will cap off a day-long Mini-Camp with the Madison East, Memorial and West High Jazz Ensembles with a joint concert featuring all four bands in a mostly -Williams program. The concert will also include guest soloists Laura Caviani (piano) and Matt Hong (alto sax and clarinet), two of the outstanding clinicians who will be working with the high school bands during the Mini-Camp’s clinic. Free admission.

MARY LOU AT THE IMW, 11/19/10. As its name says, the Improvisational Music Workshop (IMW) is NOT a jam session or a gig or a cutting session. Produced and hosted by bassist Laurie Lang, the IMW is synergistic, not competitive: a safe space for good music to begin and evolve. It’s a place where people play music together, listening and responding to what is happening, with a goal of making the best possible ensemble music and nurturing musical relationships in our community.

On Friday, 11/19/10, the bi-weekly IMW will kick off with Ms. Lang joining pianist Jane Reynolds in a 40-minute set of music composed by Mary Lou Williams. Ms. Reynolds is the foremost interpreter of Mary Lou’s music in the Midwest. Other musicians, amateur and professional, will then be invited to join in and improvise on Ms. Williams’ music. As with each program in this series, the music runs from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Washington Hotel Coffee Room, downstairs at 402 West Lakeside Street, on Madison’s Near South Side.

The IMW welcomes people of all ages to bring friends and family members to listen, cheer on the musicians, join in the music-making, eat the local salads, sandwiches, and drink the wine, the beer, and (of course) the coffee. The IMW is a program of the Madison Music Collective, with additional support from the Madison Jazz Society.

MADISON MUSIC COLLECTIVE PRESENTS MARY LOU FILM BIOGRAPHY, 11/11/10. Director Joanne Burke’s great labor of love, her 1990 film “Mary Lou Williams: Music on My Mind,” will receive an encore showing courtesy of the Madison Music Collective, on Thursday, 11/11/10, at 7:00 PM, in the Grand Hall at Capitol Lakes Retirement Community, 333 West Main Street, in Downtown Madison. A hit at its Madison premiere during last month’s Mary Lou Williams Fall Festival Weekend, this authoritative 60-minute film interweaves the musical and personal elements of Ms. Williams’ dramatic life, including her charitable work helping drug-addicted musicians in Harlem.

Narrated by Roberta Flack, this film includes extensive and rarely seen interview and performance footage of Ms. Williams as well as interviews with people who knew her well, such as jazz giant Dizzy Gillespie, saxophonist Buddy Tate, and writer Barry Ulanov. After its release in 1990, this film was broadcast on PBS, CBS, LaSept/Arte and other European channels, and was a finalist at the American Film and Video Festival and an entry at the National Educational Film Festival and the Sydney Film Festival.

Madison's Mary Lou Williams Centennial Celebration is made possible by gifts from the John and Carolyn Peterson Charitable Foundation, Madison Community Foundation, Pleasant Rowland Foundation, Attie Foundation for Madison's Public Schools, Wisconsin Arts Board (with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts), Sue Goldwomon, Evjue Foundation (the charitable arm of the Capital Times), Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission (with additional support from the Overture Foundation), Arts Midwest's Performing Arts Fund (with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts), Alexander Company, Madison Arts Commission, Perry & Virginia Henderson, Art & Sue Lloyd, Haywood & Audrey Gilliam, University of Wisconsin Chancellor's Office, Housing Ministries of American Baptists of Wisconsin, MGE Foundation, Full Compass, CUNA Mutual Group, Madison Jazz Society, Amos & Marcia Anderson, Tom Terry, Terry Haller, Harry & Karen Roth, and dozens of additional individual and corporate donors. Significant in-kind support for the Centennial Celebration has been provided by American Family Insurance, Isthmus Publishing, WORT-FM, Madison Music Collective, the Community Arts Access Program of the Overture Center for the Arts, Community Arts Access program, the Capital City Hues, and UMOJA Magazine.

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