



# Jazz<sup>2004</sup> Picnic

**THE FIRST ANNUAL PONY BOY RECORDS JAZZ PICNIC  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2004  
SAND POINT MAGNUSON PARK GARDEN AMPHITHEATRE  
SEATTLE, WA**

## **ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

### **LARRY FULLER TRIO**

**Sponsored by the Seattle Piano Gallery**

Larry Fuller has established himself as a world-class jazz pianist firmly rooted in the hard swinging traditions of mainstream jazz. Raised in Toledo, Ohio, he began his musical studies at the age of 11 and immediately began showing an aptitude and talent for jazz. Candy Johnson, a veteran of the Count Basie and Duke Ellington Orchestras, took Larry under his wing both in and out of school by hiring him for regular paying gigs when he was 13 and 14 years old. He became a regular on the Midwest jazz circuit playing behind big-name artists and performing frequently in the nearby cities of Detroit and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In 1988, Larry began working with vocal-great Ernestine Anderson, and moved to Seattle as her pianist/musical director—traveling, performing, and recording with her worldwide through 1993. In the 1990's Larry joined the hard swinging trio of drummer Jeff Hamilton, a 12-year associate of the Ray Brown Trio / L.A. 4, and a member of the bands of Gene Harris, Woody Herman, Concord All-Stars, and Oscar Peterson. Larry toured and recorded several CDs in the US and Europe with the trio, working himself up the ranks of the jazz scene.

Through Larry's touring and jazz party performances, he began playing with many other of jazz's most respected all-stars, including several guest appearances with the exciting and world-renowned bassist Ray Brown. Larry has been a member of Greg Williamson's Big Bad Groove Society since 1994. Larry will be accompanied by Jon Hamar and Greg Williamson. Larry appears on the Pony Boy recordings *Live at Kellys* and *Swing Your Big Head* by Greg Williamson and the Big Bad Groove Society, *Legal at Any Age* by Edmonia Jarrett, and his own very successful release with Ray Brown and Jeff Hamilton *Larry Fuller Trio - Easy Walker*.

### **GREG WILLIAMSON AND THE BIG BAD GROOVE SOCIETY**

**Sponsored by Varlamos Pizzeria**

Greg Williamson & the Big Bad Groove Society is a hard hitting jazz sextet, formed in 1991 by a drummer known for his straight ahead drive. The musicians all come from the training ground of hard road travel with big bands (Woody Herman, Dorsey, Miller), where slamming the music home is the exciting priority. The all-original arrangements employ the harmony and swing of a big band, the depth of a philharmonia, and the attitude of Rhythm & Blues. Their widely acclaimed 1994 release "Live at Kellys" on Pony Boy Records captures their live energy at an

institute of jazz heritage. Their second release, "Swing Your Big Head", finds them recording live in the studio - complete with an audience. The musical material and playing stretch both ends of the harmonic and textural spectra, while grooving hard. Greg's release featuring two saxophones *Double Sax Quintet* appeared in Jazz Times Best of the Year List 2003.

### **JIM CUTLER QUARTET** **Sponsored by Quality Auto**

As a performer on saxophone and woodwinds, Jim has had the opportunity to work with many talented artists including Eddie Daniels, Dave Weckl, The Temptations, The Manhattan Transfer, Ray Charles, Johnny Mathis, Carmen Bradford, Dee Daniels and Richie Cole. Jim has also performed with both the Harry James Orchestra and the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra. Jim's recent Pony Boy release *For Real* has charted very well on many radio listings.

The Jim Cutler Quartet features Brian Olendorf, Philip Demaree and Chris Monroe:

Brian Olendorf boasts a Bachelor of Arts, a Masters of Music in Composition, and performed post-graduate work in computer music at Stanford University. Phil's been playing bass for over 25 years. A native of Boulder, Co, he attended the University of Northern Colorado under Gene Aitken. After several years touring the US and Canada he has appeared with with such artists as Ray Charles, The Mills Brothers, Dianne Schuur, Joe Williams, and John Gary. Phil appears on the Pony Boy recording *Live at Kellys* by Greg Williamson's Big Bad Groove Society and Cutler's *For Real*. Chris has performed with a wide variety of artists, including Lily Tomlin, Marvin Hamlisch, Dionne Warwick, the Bolshoi Ballet, the American Ballet Theater, Little Anthony, the Drifters and the 5th Dimension.

### **DAN O'BRIEN'S INSIDE OUT** **Sponsored by Print Time**

A Seattle native and one of the top bass players around, Dan studied privately with Gary Peacock while playing the club scene around Seattle in the 1970's. Dan completed graduate studies New England Conservatory Boston where he blew away Miroslav Vitous, under whom he studied. In the years that followed, he dominated the Boston Jazz scene before moving to New York City where he played until the late 1990's with just about every jazz luminary you ever heard of including Charles McPheerson, Mose Allison, Sam Rivers, Jackie Byard, Archie Shep and Rachel Z and Regina Carter. Dan now lives with his wife and son in Seattle. Dan O'Brien's Inside Out also includes Craig Hoyer, Mike West, Chris Fagan and Greg Williamson. Dan appears on the Pony Boy recordings *Shadow of Your Smile* by Brian Nova's trio and his own CD *Inside Out*.

### **CHRIS STOVER'S MINI-NARCISISM**

Chris' career highlights include lead trombonist with the Harry James Orchestra, he toured as trombonist with reggae superstar Pablo Moses and as trombonist, percussionist, and arranger with Jumbalassy, he has written over four hundred compositions and arrangements in a wide variety of genres, and has appeared as performer and arranger on over two dozen recordings. As a M.A., Eastman School of Music, Chris has taught Music Theory, Composition, Jazz History, Jazz Ensembles at the University of Washington, Central Washington University, and Yakima

Valley Community College. Chris' big band "Acquired Voluntary Narcisism" is slated for release on Pony Boy Records this fall. He will present a smaller version of the group the Jazz Picnic.

### **Featured individual artists performing at the PBR Jazz Picnic include:**

#### **BUDDY CATLETT**

Buddy Catlett began playing clarinet and saxophone as a youngster in late 1940's in Seattle gigging with Quincy Jones and Ray Charles. He soon switched to playing the bass and spent most of the 50's, 60's and 70's on the road. First with Quincy Jones and Cal Tjader. In 1961 he joined Count Basie's Band, recording several landmark albums with Basie & Frank Sinatra. In the late 60's, he joined with Louis Armstrong, recording the famous "What A Wonderful World" among others, staying almost 10 years. While not on tour, he beat 'round New York's bebop scene with the likes of Johnny Griffin, Lockjaw Davis, Zoot Sims and Thad Jones. In 1978 he landed back in Seattle, where he's been a true fixture and inspiration to both musicians and fans. Needless to say, Buddy is on many classic recordings. Buddy appears on the Pony Boy recordings *Live at Belltown Billiards*, *Blue and Bossa Nova* and *Shadow of Your Smile* by Brian Nova's trios and quartet.

#### **CAROLYN GRAYE**

Singer/pianist/composer Carolyn Graye has performed in West Coast clubs, concerts and theatres since 1976. Locally, she has appeared at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Bumbershoot, the Bellevue Jazz Festival, the West Seattle Jazz Festival, Earshot's New City Series and A Contemporary Theatre (ACT.) She lived in Prague (1997-1998) and performed at festivals and clubs throughout the Czech Republic in addition to touring the Balkans (Serbia, Bosnia and Macedonia) on a USIA performance and teaching grant. She also performed in La Paz, Bolivia at the invitation of the U. S. Embassy there. She won an Artist Assistant Grant from the Jack Straw Foundation in 2000 and was a participant in their 2001 Washington Composers Forum/Composer Spotlight Series. She was awarded a 2003 Artist Trust GAP grant for the Levertov project and is a regular contributor to All About Jazz - Seattle. She has a BFA and MA in music. Carolyn appears on the Pony Boy recording *Carolyn Graye*.

#### **RANDY HALBERSTADT**

Randy Halberstadt has been a major figure on the Pacific Northwest jazz scene for many years. A multi-dimensional pianist, he is equally at home playing be-bop, Latin, down-home blues, straight-ahead swing, free and eclectic jazz. He has performed with Herb Ellis, Buddy de Franco, Nick Brignola, Terry Gibbs, Slide Hampton, Pete Christlieb, Bobby Shew, Joe LaBarbera, Lanny Morgan, John Stowell, David Friesen, Kim Richmond, Don Lanphere, Jiggs Whigham, Roswell Rudd, Jack Walrath, Gary Smulyan, Julian Priester, Mel Brown, and many others. Recently, Randy recorded with Bay area guitarist Mimi Fox and the world renowned Ray Drummond on bass. In the Seattle area, Randy works regularly with drummer Clarence Acox, saxophonist Hadley Caliman, vibraphonist Susan Pascal, cornetist Jon Pugh, and his own trio. In the strength of his large repertoire, great sense of swing, and acute listening skills, Randy has established himself as a first-call accompanist for many jazz vocalists. Randy lives in Seattle, Washington with his wife Chris. Randy appears on the Pony Boy recordings *Clockwork* and *Inner Voice*.

#### **HB RADKE**

HB Radke has performed for over twenty-five of his thirty something years. A whiz on the trumpet at the age of 6, HB played his first gig with Connie Stevens and Rich Little. With the helpful tutelage of HB's father, former Harry James lead trumpeter, Fred Radke, he started his

own big band just a year and a half later. The HB Radke Orchestra became an instant hit in the Seattle area. Local TV performances ultimately led to command performances for Presidents, Ronald Reagan and George Bush, as well as national TV shows.

He currently leads HB Radke and the Jet City Swingers, one of the most popular social bands in the Pacific Northwest and has performed with some of today's entertainment legends including: Mel Torme; Tony Bennett; The Harry James Orchestra; and many more. HB appears on the Pony Boy recordings *HB Radke and the Jet City Swingers – Live*, other HB EPs.

### **CRAIG HOYER**

Hailing from the dustbin of Tacoma, Craig Hoyer studied piano and jazz at the famed Berkeley College in Boston. He has been a fixture on the NW jazz scene playing with the likes of Bert Wilson, Greta Matassa, Andrienne Wilson, HB Radke and many others. His quick wit and sharp style will take you the edge and push you off. Most times, he'll jump off after you. His pianistic styling is well known, yet his lyrical vocal twists will be a surprise to all. Craig appears on the Pony Boy recordings *HB Radke and the Jet City Swingers – Live*, other HB EPs, and *Dan O'Briens Inside Out*.

### **JON HAMAR**

In 1998 Jon Hamar earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Double Bass Performance at Eastern Washington University studying under Roma Vayspapir. He then moved to The Eastman School of Music completing a Master's Of Music in Jazz and Contemporary Media in 2001. While at Eastman Hamar studied with James Vandemark and Jeffrey Campbell, toured Japan with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, and made guest appearances with the Eastman Jazz Ensemble at the 2001 IAJE Jazz Conference and the Eastman Jazz Combo at the 2001 JVC Jazz Festival. Currently Hamar resides in Seattle and is an active freelance and studio musician as well as performing regularly with the Tacoma Symphony. In addition to his duties at Central Washington University Jon teaches at Northwest College and Musicworks Northwest. Jon appears on the Pony Boy recordings *Greg Williamson's Double Sax Quintet* and his solo release *Basso Profundo*.