

News Release

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“HOT JAZZ - 6 COOL NITES” CONCERT SERIES JULY 16-22

NAPERVILLE, IL --- Jazz vocalists and recording artists **Janice Borla, Jay Clayton** and **Rosana Eckert** will combine talents for the “Hot Jazz - 6 Cool Nites” concert series July 16-22 at North Central College. The concerts will be presented in Meiley-Swallow Hall, 31 S. Ellsworth, Naperville. Performances will be presented Saturday, July 16 and Monday through Thursday, July 18-21, all at 7:30 p.m.

The concert series is presented in conjunction with the 23rd annual Janice Borla Vocal Jazz Camp, and features the eight jazz artists who comprise its faculty roster for the weeklong educational workshop. Each evening of the series will feature a different combination of artists and musical selections. The camp and concert series, recognized for presenting the most innovative vocalists on the contemporary jazz scene, has been featured on the national PBS news program “The News Hour with Jim Lehrer,” WGN-TV and WTTW Channel 11 Chicago. The concert series will conclude on Friday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m. with a concert featuring all of the camp’s participants.

Featured Vocalists

Janice Borla’s recordings and performances have earned her consistently high praise for her beautiful sound, superb technique, adventurous repertoire and imaginative vocal improvisations. She has been described as “a one-woman jazz tornado” (*Jazz Times*) and “a stunning singer with a lustrous voice and the technique, imagination and daring of the best improvising instrumentalists” (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*). Her CD ***From Every Angle*** was named one of the “Best CDs of the Year” by *DownBeat Magazine* and hailed by *JazzWeek* as “another fine effort from a singer who seems to do everything right.” Borla’s previous CD *Agents of Change* was named “#1 Jazz CD of the Year” by WBEZ-FM Chicago Public Radio, and praised by *Jazz Times* as “Genius. Pure genius.”

Jay Clayton has worked with such jazz luminaries as Bobby McFerrin, Fred Hersch, Steve Reich, and the internationally-acclaimed improvisatory vocal group Vocal Summit. Currently based in New York City, she has been described as “one of the most phenomenal vocalists in creative improvised music” (*All Music Guide*). Her current CD release ***The Peace of Wild Things*** (Sunnyside) has garnered her wide critical praise. Francis Davis (*Downbeat Magazine*) writes: “Clayton is an important singer...one who proposed dramatic change in style and roles...Her musicianship is impeccable.” Debra Bresnan (*Woodstock Times*): “Clayton can swing, percolate, lay down a blues, soar in ethereal realms, avant you, romance you, and generally spin your concept of jazz singing a full 360...”

New to the artist lineup this year is **Rosana Eckert**, a multi-faceted vocalist, pianist, French hornist, composer and arranger based in Dallas. Her new CD *Small Hotel* highlights the instrumental quality of her vocal style and her ability to breath new life into beloved standards with her contemporary arranging style. She has performed with jazz artists George Duke, Lyle Mays, Kenny Wheeler and Marvin Stamm, who in his liner notes for her CD praises her “beautiful tone quality, horn-like phrasing and an improvisatory style...reminiscent of Miles Davis.”

In-Residence Instrumentalists

Trumpeter **Art Davis** is a former featured soloist with the Ray Charles Orchestra. Based in Chicago, he has performed and/or recorded with such notable artists as Louis Bellson, Joe Williams, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie and Frank Sinatra, and is a member of the Janice Borla Group.

Guitarist **John McLean** is widely considered to be among the most accomplished and distinctive guitarists in Chicago. He has performed with such jazz talents as Kurt Elling, Randy Brecker, Jane Ira Bloom and Patricia Barber and is a member of the Janice Borla Group. His own current CD *Better Angels* is available on the Origin record label.

Pianist **Dan Haerle** is an alumnus of the Clark Terry Group and has performed with Al Jarreau, Joe Henderson, Pat Metheny and Mel Torme. He is leader of the Dan Haerle Trio, whose current CD *Standard Procedure* (Blujazz) was selected by *Downbeat Magazine* as among its “Best CDs of the Year.”

Bassist **Bob Bowman** has played with such jazz greats as Thad Jones and Mel Lewis, Toshiko Akyoshi, Carmen McRae and Karrin Allyson. Based in Kansas City, he is currently the leader of “Interstring” as well as a member of the Dan Haerle Trio and the Janice Borla Group.

Drummer **Jack Mouse** is a member of the Janice Borla Group and the Dan Haerle Trio. A staff artist for Yamaha Drums, Sabian Cymbals, Aquarian Drum Heads and Vic Firth Drum Sticks, he has performed with James Moody, Clark Terry, Bunky Green, Randy Brecker and Stan Kenton.

In honor of the camp and concert series, Naperville Mayor George Pradel will proclaim July 16-22 “Vocal Jazz Week.” The proclamation recognizes the camp, “which has gained an international reputation as one of vocal jazz’s most prestigious and unique events” and “urges all residents to support this assemblage of world-famous jazz vocalists and instrumentalists who will be performing in Naperville, Illinois this week.”

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Community Arts Access Regranting Program, which is funded by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and Hinsdale Center for the Arts. Other event sponsors include 90.9fm WDCB Public Radio from College of DuPage, Shure Brothers, Inc., Sun Publications and *Naperville Magazine*.

Tickets to the concerts Saturday through Thursday are \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for students/senior citizens. A 4-night concert pass can also be purchased for \$60.00 (adults) or \$45.00 (students/seniors). Tickets for the student performance on Friday are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students/seniors. For details about the nightly concert lineup, concert reservations and further information, contact the North Central College Box Office at 630-637-SHOW (7469), or purchase tickets online at www.northcentralcollege.edu/show.