



Sketches

April 2007 Newsletter

Fifth Annual Redwood Coast Whale & Jazz Festival Focuses on Women and Youth Thursday, April 5, through Sunday, April 8



With a reputation that is growing among jazz aficionados and jazz professionals, this event promises to continue delighting music lovers with its now-established venues. The Easter weekend festival begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday night at the **Point Arena CityArt Gallery with Poetry & Jazz** which will present local poets, along with the featured guest poet, **Q. R. Hand Jr.** – all reading original work accompanied by the **CityArt Jazz Combo**.



Tom Barnebey

From **noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, Barnebey's Hot Four** returns to Gualala Arts' Coleman Auditorium to play their New Orleans traditional jazz at the popular **Chowder Challenge and Tasting** where local chefs, both professional and amateur, vie for the honor of best chowder recipe. The \$20 admission ticket includes a commemorative beer or wine glass and 15 tickets to purchase chowder as well as beer or wine from Mendocino wineries and microbreweries, who will offer selections of their premium products.

The Main Event at 7:30 p.m. on **Saturday, April 7**, showcases **The Montclair Women's Jazz Ensemble**. Bandleader, **Ellen Seeling**, an award-winning trumpeter, leads the six-member group that can play tenderly on poignant ballads as well as swing mightily on blues and standards. In addition to vocalist **Rhonda Benin**, the concert will feature the fantastic twelve-year-old jazz flute sensation, **Elena Pinderhughes**. Festival Music Coordinator and KTDE 100.5 FM personality **Fred Adler** will emcee the concert.



Ellen Seeling

Local restaurants will participate with **Dinner & Jazz at St. Orres on Friday April 6. Susan Sutton** on piano and **Terry Simcik** on acoustic guitar will play at both seatings: one at 6 and one at 8:30 p.m. On Sunday is **Brunch & Jazz at Oceansong** with seatings at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Performing will be **Pilar Duran** on guitar, and **Burton Segall** on acoustic bass, and a special surprise guest. The festival concludes on Sunday evening with **Sunset & Jazz at The Sea Ranch Lodge** where the **Tipsy Gypsy Trio** will perform with special guest Wayne Harris on the mouth harp. Seatings will be at 6 and 8:15 p.m.

Tickets for the Main Event in the evening at Gualala Arts Coleman Auditorium are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the concert. Plan to buy tickets and make restaurant reservations early because these popular events traditionally sell out ahead of time.

And what about the whales? There will be plenty of opportunities around the jazz events to observe the gray whale migration at the Point Arena Lighthouse and Gualala Point Regional Park.

More up to date information is available on-line at the special whale and jazz website: whaleandjazzfestival.com. To purchase tickets for the Main Event and for the Chowder Challenge call the Gualala Arts office at 884-1138 (MC/VI accepted) daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or visit local outlets at The Dolphin Gallery, Violet's Boutique, and Four-Eyed Frog Books. Call the restaurants directly to make dinner reservations.



Elena Pinderhughes



Rhonda Benin