

THE

LIONEL HAMPTON

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

2015



Concert line-up

Wednesday

8 p.m. **Vibraphonist Stefon Harris, Jeff Coffin, Grace Kelly with the All-Staff Quartet** International Ballroom — Bruce Pitman Center (Formerly Student Union Building)

9:15 p.m. **Vibraphonist Stefon Harris, Jeff Coffin, Grace Kelly with the Jazz Band 1** International Ballroom — Bruce Pitman Center

Thursday

7:30 p.m. **Holly Hofmann featuring Flutology** Administration Building Auditorium

8 p.m. **Airman of Note featuring Stefon Harris** Kibbie Dome

8:30 p.m. **Bria Skonberg featuring Jeff Coffin, Grace Kelly and All-Stars** Vandal Ballroom — Bruce Pitman Center

9 p.m. **Holly Hofmann featuring Flutology** Administration Building Auditorium

9 p.m. **Meschiya Lake and Dem Little Big Horns** International Ballroom — Bruce Pitman Center

10 p.m. **Bria Skonberg featuring Jeff Coffin, Grace Kelly and All-Stars** Vandal Ballroom — Bruce Pitman Center

10:30 p.m. **Meschiya Lake and Dem Little Big Horns** International Ballroom — Bruce Pitman Center

Friday

8:30 p.m. **The Jensen Sisters** Kibbie Dome

10 p.m. **Dianne Reeves** Kibbie Dome

Saturday

8:30 p.m. **Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival Big Band with Stefon Harris** Kibbie Dome

10 p.m. **Special Extravaganza** Kibbie Dome

'Left out of the history books'

Documentary sheds light on female jazz musicians

Erin Bamer
Argonaut

Director and producer Judy Chaikin got the idea for "The Girls in the Band" from one of her friends, the daughter of a jazz musician.

Chaikin, director and a producer of the award-winning documentary, said her friend had met an older woman who claimed to be a professional drummer during the jazz age after the great depression.

She didn't believe it, but after researching the woman, they found she was telling the truth.

"The woman had played in an all-girl band," Chaikin said. "They had been quite popular, had toured the country ... We were so fascinated by that, that I decided to look further to see if there were any more women like that."

The documentary, "The Girls in the Band," will show multiple times during University of Idaho's annual Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival.

Screenings of the film will be held 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Borah Theater of the Bruce Pitman Center, formerly the Student Union Building, 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Teaching and Learning Center room 030 and 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the Agricultural Science Building room 106.

Chaikin said when she looked further she discovered an entire generation of women who were "left out of the history books."

She said these female musicians were equally as popular

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It's a very enlightening piece for people because it's history that has never been told before.

Judy Chaikin, director and producer

as most of the men in the jazz age and faced just as many hardships — if not more. When the era was over, however, people forgot about the women, she said. This inspired Chaikin to produce the documentary.

Chaikin also has a personal connection to the film as well. She said she grew up in a musical family and played trumpet as a child until she began in junior high and faced similar obstacles to the women featured in the documentary.

"I could see very quickly that was no place for a girl," she said. "There was no future for me in that, and the guys in the band were kind of mean to me. So I just quit, and now I see that that was what happened to a lot of women."

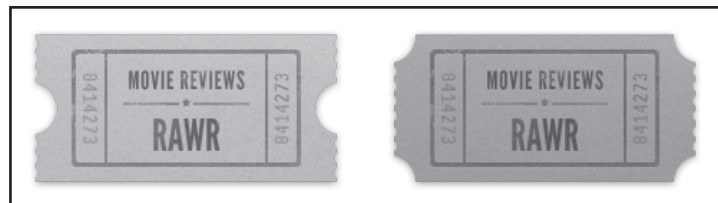
Chaikin said the documentary is eye opening and provides Jazz Fest with an opportunity to showcase another fraction of musical history.

"It's a very enlightening piece for people because it's history that has never been told," Chaikin said.

*Erin Bamer
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Courtesy | The Girls in the Band
Official poster of "The Girls in the Band." The film is about female jazz musicians throughout history.



Lionel's legacy



University of Idaho Library Special Collections

Left: Lionel Hampton plays a Trixon vibraphone at a workshop in Germany. Middle: Lionel Hampton plays the drums. Right: Lynn 'Doc' Skinner and Lionel Hampton pose for a photo during the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival in Moscow.



Doc Skinner remembers long-time friend Lionel Hampton's life, legacy

Shannon Kelly
Argonaut

A vibraphonist, a bandleader and a mentor to many, Lionel Hampton left a legacy in the jazz community and at the University of Idaho.

"Lionel was an incredible man and musician," said Lynn 'Doc' Skinner, who was the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival director for 29 years. "He was African-American and I'm white, but we were dear friends. He cared so much about people. He believed that music can touch people and is best when shared."

Skinner will share stories about his friend Lionel Hampton and Jazz Fest at his workshop presentation "I Remember Hamp: His Life and Music," at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Clearwater Room in the Idaho Commons. His friendship with Lionel Hampton was a close one that lasted until Hampton's death in 2002, he said. Jazz Fest started in 1967, but it wasn't until 1984 that it received its current name and a pledge of

support from Hampton. It was the first jazz festival named for a jazz musician and the first to be named for an African-American musician, something that meant the world to Hampton, Skinner said.

Skinner said Hampton became a proponent of the festival and donated \$15,000 to Jazz Fest after visiting.

"That was when we knew we had to honor this man and rename the festival," Skinner said.

When Skinner called Hampton to tell him about the renaming, Skinner said he could hear Hampton begin to sob over the phone. Skinner said Hampton used his connections to bring in world-class jazz musicians to Jazz Fest to promote his mission of bringing jazz to a younger generation.

"You wouldn't even be off the stage after performing and Lionel would ask, 'What about next year?'" Skinner said.

The festival resonated with the famous musicians who attended as well.

"Lionel told me about how excited the singer Sarah Vaughan was about what was happening at UI when he ran into her at an airport. 'You will not believe it when you come out on that stage at Idaho and there

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He was African-American and I'm white, but we were dear friends. He cared so much about people. He believed that music can touch people and is best when shared.

Lynn 'Doc' Skinner

are thousands of young people. I've played all over the world and I've never seen anything like it," Skinner said.

In 1986, Dizzy Gillespie was scheduled to perform at Jazz Fest, but received an eye infection the night before he was to leave to come to Moscow, Skinner said.

"You know how Gillespie is known for how he puffed his cheeks to play trumpet? The doctors told him if all that pressure in his cheeks got into that eye it would damage his vision. So he couldn't come that year," Skinner said.

Undeterred, Hampton was determined to make sure the students got to watch someone special, Skinner said.

"It was too late to notify the press, so Lionel went onstage that night and said 'I've got some good news and some bad news,'" Skinner said. "First of all, my dear friend Dizzy can't make it tonight because of illness so he'll have to make it another year."

Then, Skinner said Hampton turned everything around.

"We have one of the most incredible young singers. Doc's been working with her for years and she's going to sing with my band. You're going to love her. Meet Dianne Reeves," Skinner said.

Dianne Reeves is now a Grammy award-winning artist and will perform at this year's Jazz Fest. Among Skinner's favorite jazz festival memories is when singer Ella Fitzgerald performed in the Memorial Gym at Jazz Fest.

"No one believed she was actually coming to Idaho," he said. "We kept on getting calls asking if any of the rumors about her quitting the event were true. We told them 'No, Ella is definitely coming.'"

At the same times Fitzgerald was to perform, the Vandals were playing an important game in the Big Sky basketball tournament in the Kibbie Dome.

"Ella refused to start her concert until the basketball game ended so the kids and the university students could come and hear her," Skinner said. "Like many jazz festival artists past and present, Ella Fitzgerald cared about the festival's aim to bring jazz and the joy of music to the youth."

The concert didn't start until nearly 10 p.m., but Fitzgerald was happy to accommodate for the UI students.

"The Idaho Vandals won, so Ella scattered some 'Go Vandals' into one of her songs. The crowd went crazy and everyone had a lot of fun with it," Skinner said.

During her stay in Moscow, Skinner accompanied her to a reception at a friend's house and it seemed everyone on the Palouse wanted to meet the world-famous jazz singer. Despite the attention, Skinner noticed how kind and sincere she was for each person.

Hampton's drive led Jazz Fest to inviting some jazz musicians from the Soviet Union to perform in 1989. The musicians

More info

"I Remember Hamp: His Life and Music" with Doc Skinner will take place at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Clearwater Room in the Idaho Commons.

were amazed by how easy it was for them to get food compared to back home, Skinner said, and he and his wife are still friends with those musicians.

Skinner said musicians who come to the festival appreciate how much of an impact it has on the children who participate.

"It really gives the kids a chance to do what they love and grow in it," Skinner said. "They also get to see amazing artists. These are opportunities that most of these kids would never have otherwise. Who knew it could happen in Moscow, Idaho?"

Skinner said he was grateful to call Hampton a friend until his death.

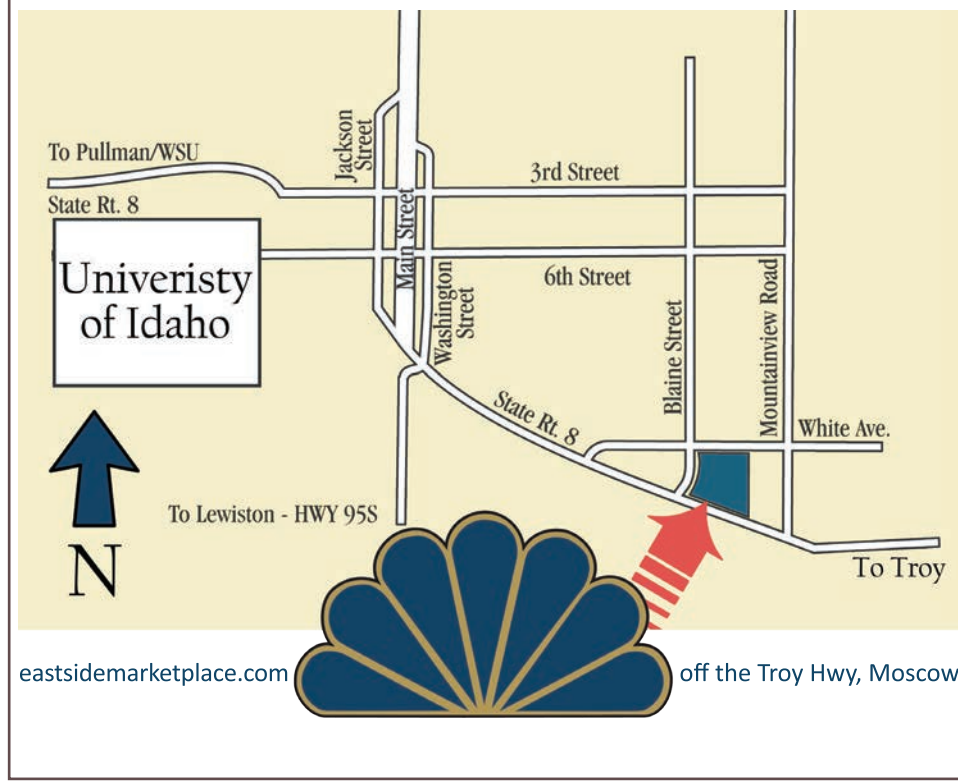
"To be asked to be one of his pall bearers at his funeral was certainly one of the great moments of my life," Skinner said.

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Visualizing jazz

A workshop on jazz and visual improvisation by Josh Nelson

Mary Malone
Argonaut

Explore a new world of music with jazz musician Josh Nelson as he demonstrates visual improvisation from “The Discovery Project” and his newly released album, “Exploring Mars.” During the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, Nelson will host an interactive workshop where music students can experiment with visual improvisation to a backdrop of classic sci-fi clips and NASA footage. The workshop will take place from 1-2 p.m. Thursday in the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. As the clips play, Nelson said he will demonstrate how to improvise to the clips and encourage students to improvise their own music with the visual element.

“We talk about how visual stimuli influence our musical thoughts and improvisatory nature,” Nelson said. “It’s really about having fun, and letting the music ideas flow out in response to cool old movie montages.”

Nelson created “The Discovery Project” in 2011, along with the release of his album “Discoveries,” as a multi-media experiment, which he continues to work on. The album combines modern jazz with classic

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It’s really about having fun, and letting the music ideas flow out in response to cool old movie montages.

Josh Nelson, jazz musician

sci-fi and fantasy films to create an event jazz enthusiasts and newcomers can all appreciate.

Nelson said he will provide a condensed version of “The Discovery Project” with an acoustic grand piano, a projection screen and a projector. The workshop, he said, is an educational outreach component of the group.

His album, “Exploring Mars,” released Feb. 17, is his most recent addition to the group. The album incorporates Nelson’s music with the red planet and NASA/JPL Martian footage.

Chloe Rambo, spokeswoman for Jazz Fest, said all of the workshops are open to the public and everyone is welcome to watch and listen to the artists. For Nelson’s workshop, music students are encouraged to bring their own instrument so they can be involved with the

interactive component.

Nelson is a jazz pianist, composer and recording artist in Los Angeles. He also teaches as an adjunct faculty member at California State University, Northridge.

Nelson has performed with many known jazz artists and for the past 10 years has paired with vocalist Sarah Gazarek, penning the name of her debut album “Yours.” The album was in the top 10 on the Billboard Jazz Charts in 2010. They are working on a duo album to be released this year. He is currently touring with Gazarek, along with vocalist Natalie Cole, Richard Galliano and Christian Howes.

Rambo said Nelson is a veteran artist to Jazz Fest and performed with the All-Star Quartet for 10 years.

“Josh is an artist we’ve had multiple times,” Rambo said. “He’s enjoyed the festival and he’s come back, which it’s great to have these high-caliber artists who really love the festival so much that they’re willing to come back to Moscow ... They’re used to playing clubs in L.A., clubs in New York and Chicago, so it’s really incredible to have artists like that.”

Mary Malone can be reached at arg-arts@uidaho.edu



Josh Nelson | Courtesy



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Flames, flutes, physics

Jazz Fest workshop demonstrates the physics of music

Corrin Bond
Argonaut

Physics professors Christine Berven and Marty Ytreberg are musicians, but they both decided to share their passion for music in a different way for the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival.

Using flames to teach the physics of flutes, Berven and Ytreberg will explain the science of sound waves with conceptual physics lessons and demonstrations in their workshop “Making Waves with Music.” The workshop takes place 2:30 p.m. Friday in Renfrew Hall room 112 and is open to the public.

These demonstrations range from drawing pictures of sound waves on a blackboard to constructing a standing wave flame tube known as a Ruben’s Tube.

“The workshop is about trying to teach people how physicists think about sound,” Ytreberg said.

Ytreberg said the majority of the workshop revolves around conceptual physics and there is little math involved.

These concepts, he said, are illustrated mainly through pictures and anecdotes.

“We first explain the basics, like how to make a sound wave,” Ytreberg said. “We draw pictures and give re-world examples and then apply all of those concepts to how a wind instrument works.”

Throughout the workshop, their demonstrations explain how simple physics principles apply specifically to wind instruments, Berven said.

Demonstrations that are aided, she said, by her own experience with music.

“Marty is a guitarist, and I’ve played saxophone and clarinet,” she said. “Our music backgrounds help give us credibility and students can also see that physicists do have lives outside of their work.”



File photo by Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Professors Christine Berven and Marty Ytreberg demonstrate a visualization of sound waves using a Ruben’s tube. The pair discussed the physics behind sound waves of various musical instruments. The duo will host the workshop at 2:30 p.m. Friday.

Berven said the mechanics of music is essential, because an understanding of what is going on inside the instrument will help individuals grow as artists.

Ytreberg and Berven were initially approached to conduct the workshop by Mark Nielsen, associate dean of the College of Science, and were asked to return every year since.

Berven and Ytreberg said although this is their fourth year hosting the workshop, audiences can always expect a new experience.

“There is a lot of improv, a lot of going off of the cuff,” Berven said. “The concepts that we teach are the same, but the workshop

is different every year.”

Berven said she and Ytreberg also usually see familiar faces in the crowd.

Ytreberg said while they try to add a fresh angle to the subject each year, there are always audience favorites, such as the Ruben’s Tube.

“The Ruben’s Tube is the best part, so we save it for the grand finale,” Ytreberg said. “It allows you to visualize the wave in the height of the flame.”

The Ruben’s Tube, Berven said, is a cylinder about a yard long with holes on top through which propane can escape.

One end of the tube has an elastic membrane with a

speaker placed next to it so when the flame is lit, the sound waves couple and are sent back and forth along the length of the tube.

“We set up these standing waves and the pressure differences cause the flames heights to vary,” Berven said. “It demonstrates the length of each frequency and is a model of what is going on inside of the instrument.”

Berven said she hopes these demonstrations dissolve the stigma that physical sciences are difficult and unapproachable subjects.

“We really want to convey that these things are understandable,” Berven said. “It

doesn’t take a lot of math, just a few basic principles to understand how instruments work and how sound functions in general.”

Berven said she enjoys the workshop as an opportunity to share her love for physics with others in a dynamic way.

“Too often people have an unnecessary fear of science and math, but these subjects don’t have to be scary,” Berven said. “You don’t have to be a scientist to appreciate physics, just like you don’t have to be a professional jazz musician to appreciate jazz.”

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