

FEATURES

Piedmont Jazz Festival shines



The Piedmont High band performed at this year's Jazz Festival.



The Bob Rodden Quintet (minus two in the photo).

The 20th Annual Piedmont Jazz Festival, organized by Greg Slatoff, brought rhythm and delight to an appreciative crowd on Sunday September 22, as part of the city's Harvest Festival. Under the late summer sun the afternoon was devoted to local musical talent celebrating America's original art form – Jazz.

The Festival opened with the piano stylings of soloist Danny Mertens. Using lush, well led, chord voicings Mertens used the breadth of the keyboard to remind the audience of the concert quality and power of solo jazz piano. Selections included gems from the “back pages” of the American Songbook such as “How Deep is the Ocean” and



Jim Fleser performed with the Wild Woodsmen at the festival.

“Just Friends”.

The Piedmont High School Jazz Band under the baton of Andria Mullan then opened the scope of the festival with a progressive, hard driving set that

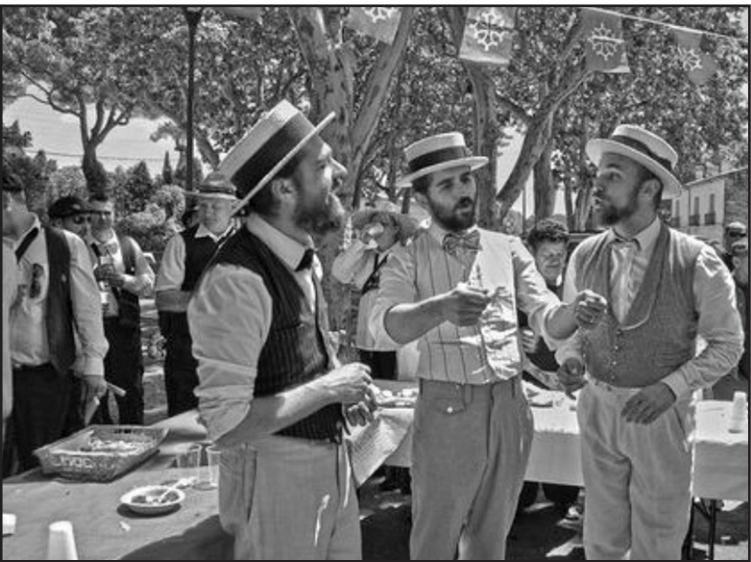
ranged from “Gibraltar” to Dizzy Gillespie’s whimsical “Berk’s Works”. The Band then produced a quintet composed of Liam Charron (piano), Will Davies (drums), Iain Brown (trombone), Connor Stratman (sax) and Alex Tafapolsky (bass) that swung a set featuring their original composition, “Bean Bounce”, a lyric piece that rode smoothly on a driving drum beat.

The Bob Roden Quintet – Roden (trombone and conga), Ron Jackson (sax), Mark Rossi (piano), Jamie Dowd (bass) and Dave Casini (drums) – then took the stage with a tight eclectic set that ranged from Tin Pan Alley (“Almost Like Falling in Love”) to Frank Zappa (a waltz rendition of “Brain Police”). Roden’s trombone and Jackson’s sax form the focus of the band’s lyricism with the instruments, as needed, soloing, harmonizing or calling and responding. Rossi’s piano gave symphonic depth to the group’s sound with rich chord voicings and a driving Bud Powell style bassline.

The Albany Big Band, a popular part of the festival each year, provided high-powered charts that fuel true big band jazz. The Band toured the American Song Book with vocals and instrumentals that included “Night Train”, “Sway” and of course the Benny Goodman classic, “Sing Sing Sing”. The Fletcher Henderson arrangement is timeless in its ability to highlight each voice in a big band. Albany’s rendition was inspired and brought the crowd to its feet.

Piedmont’s own Wild Woodsmen closed the Festival with a program of original rock and blues compositions that tied wit and wisdom to lyrical rhythms. The Woodsmen began as a Wildwood Dad’s Club Band and has evolved into Piedmont’s “House Band”. Composed of Jim Fleser (guitar),

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Mon cher ami, s’il te plait, viens avec moi à Paris!

Piedmont Scout Council gala: A Night in Paris

The Piedmont Scout Council will host an event on Saturday, October 26 as its annual fundraiser, titled A Night in Paris. Guests will be transported to a bistro in Paris (think Clif Bar headquarters in Emeryville). Enjoy French cuisine and live music, plus a live and silent auction.

The public is invited to attend. The host committee includes Katherine and Stefano Bini and Cori and Zach Kau from Troop 1, Atlantis and John Langowski from Troop 4, Sara and Bill Cumbelich from Troop 6, Julie and Jason Stein from Troop 11, Heidi and Mark Sawicki from Troop 15, Tracey Broadhead Frith from Troop 100, Erin and David Ashton from Pack 3, Kristin and Tim Ogles from Pack 4, Rebecca Fischer from Pack 5, June Behrendt from Pack 6, Linda Horne and Katherine Campbell from Piedmont Community Service and Cooking Crews.


The event will be chaired by Claire Arno with committee members Lisa and Bryan Gros, Anne-Marie Lamarche and Mark

Menke, Lisa Ashton, Debbie Kelley, and Stephane and Jaime Bezian.

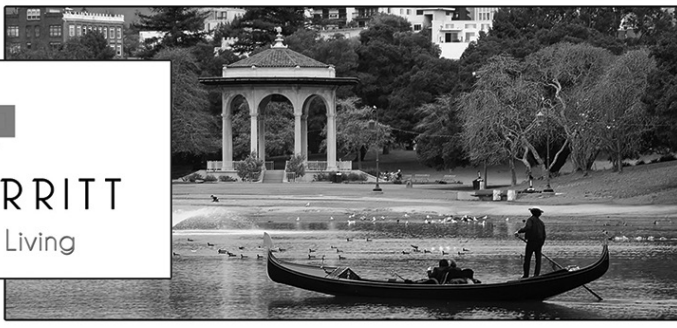
Proceeds from the event help to cover camp scholarships, outreach and program support. Scouting in Piedmont benefits all Piedmont kids who are interested. It’s programs include traditional Cub Scouts for boys and girls from first to fifth grade,

Scouts for boys and girls from age 11 through 18, and co-ed Venturing units for high school-age teens. The units include the Community Service Crew, High Adventure Crew, Piedmont Language School, Piedmont Police Explorer Post and Sea Scouts. There is also a Service Squad for 6th through 8th graders.

Tickets for the A Night in Paris gala are \$110 per person through today, September 25, and \$125 from now until the event. To register online click on www.piedmontbsa.org. For questions or to make a donation for the auction, contact Claire Arno at clairejohnstonarno@gmail.com.



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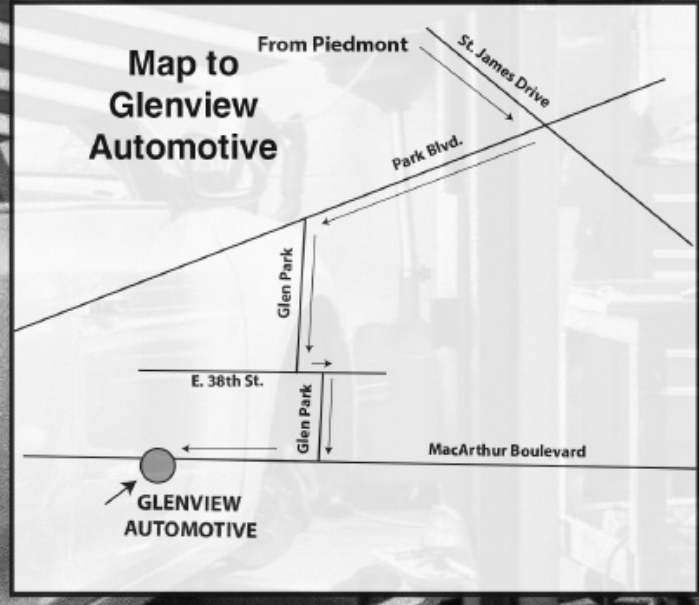
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