

PRESS RELEASE

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MIDWEEK JAZZ HEATS UP WINTER NIGHTS AND BLOSSOMS IN SPRING

TOMS RIVER, NJ – Ocean County College’s Arts and Community Center continues the **MidWeek Jazz Series** off-campus on **Wednesdays** at **8:00 p.m.** at Mancini Hall, Ocean County Library, 101 Washington Street, Toms River. Come hear acclaimed artists play classic jazz and swing in a single 90-minute set!

December 16: **Warren Vaché on the Cornet** – Versatile world-class cornetist **Warren Vaché** brings his accomplished all-star trio to MidWeek Jazz. For this outing, Vaché, who has been astounding audiences worldwide for decades, is backed by popular guitarist **Vinnie Carrao** and bassist **Nicki Parrott**, who was such a pleasant surprise to the MidWeek Jazz audience on a previous visit with another group. This collection of musicians is a perfect match for the intimacy of Mancini Hall.

January 20: **Midiri Brothers Band** – Back once again by popular demand, the **Midiri Brothers** return with an evening packed with all-time favorites. **Joe Midiri** is a brilliant clarinetist who can sound just like Benny Goodman but also has a musical personality of his own, while **Paul Midiri** plays high-powered vibes and occasionally joins in on drums and trombone. The popular Midiris opened the MidWeek Jazz series at its outset and have delighted audiences with annual performances ever since.

February 10: **Acoustic Guitarist Marty Grosz** – Guitarist and raconteur **Marty Grosz** is popular with fans for his interesting choices of material and the delightful and enlightening stories he tells between tunes. An evening with Grosz alone would be worthwhile, but for this return engagement, he brings two other noted musicians: trumpet star **Jon-Erik Kellso** and reed virtuoso **Dan Block**. The trio presents warm jazz, played with zest and a twinkle of humor, for all discerning fans.

March 17: **Big Bix Blast** – This year’s **Big Bix Blast** will be the largest and greatest ever, with both **Randy Sandke** and **Jon-Erik Kellso** playing cornets, plus clarinetist **Dan Levinson**, multi-instrumentalist **Scott Robinson**, pianist **Mark Shane**, and several other well-known musicians. Tributes to jazz icon Bix Beiderbecke, the legendary “young man with a horn,” are among the most popular themes of this awesome series.

April 14: **Atlantic City Jazz Band** – The complete, seven-piece **Atlantic City Jazz Band** will visit MidWeek Jazz for the first time, though they’re not strangers to the region. They have played for the Cape May and Tri-State Jazz Societies, among other groups well-versed in early jazz. Hear the music of Gershwin, Berlin, Arlen, Mercer, and many more from the band’s extensive repertoire, in styles that recall Louis, Bix, Benny, Jelly Roll, and the Duke. This band loves the music they play, and it shows!

May 12: **Vocalist Nancy Nelson with Pianist Keith Ingram** – Vocalist **Nancy Nelson** has been thrilling audiences in the northern part of the state for years, garnering recognition and a solid reputation. “She’s a remarkable singer,” writes Dan Morgenstern, “who takes her cues...from the great classic song stylists of jazz.” Grammy nominee **Keith Ingram** accompanies Nelson on piano, contributing his own original arrangements and an occasional thrilling solo.

June 16: **Bucky’s Back!** – Jazz legend **Bucky Pizzarelli** has brought his seven string guitar magic to Mancini Hall before, filling the room every time. Bucky’s career spans jazz history, and he has performed and recorded with a veritable *Who’s Who* of jazz and swing music. For this MidWeek Jazz performance, he’ll be joined by violin virtuoso **Aaron Weinstein** – called “the rebirth of hot jazz violin” by Nat Hentoff – and veteran bassist **Jerry Bruno**, so there won’t be a dull moment!

Admission: \$13 in advance and \$15 at-the-door. Advance tickets are only available through the Ocean County College Arts and Community Center Box Office. For information or to charge tickets, call 732.255.0500. Visit us on the web at www.ocean.edu. (*Tickets will be available at-the-door on the night of the performance, one hour before show time.*)