

Oregon's Jazz Magazine March 2016

JAZZSCENE™

Time Remembered A New Film About Bill Evans

+ CD Reviews by Tree Palmedo
Jonathan Rowden
Venue Spotlight
and more...



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Ralph Peterson's Triangular - Winningstad Theatre, PDX Jazz Festival, February 17

From the President's Desk

Greetings, Fellow Jazz Supporters. It is my turn to say "hello" in this month's Jazzscene. I have been a member of the Jazz Society of Oregon since 2002 when my husband and I moved to the Portland area. I joined the Board of Directors after our first meeting, and have enjoyed the friendships and working on many projects that support jazz music in our area.

The Jazz Society of Oregon never shies away from the big challenges. We continue to provide all of our members with a truly outstanding and unique magazine every month that supports our musicians and venues. JSO recognizes



and supports many jazz events in the Great Pacific Northwest. We organize several of our own jazz functions each year: the high school jazz band competition, the amateur jazz vocalist competition, the JSO Hall of Fame induction, and Cathedral Park Jazz Festival.

Right now, Cathedral Park Jazz Festival is being organized for July 14th-16th. We could sure use your help! It is easy to sign up as a volunteer on the website: jazzoregon.com

Looking forward to meeting you at a JSO event.

Sincerely,
Margie Smith

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Portland OR 97280
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503-888-2781 - Billing Questions

Web site: www.jazzoregon.com/
Jazzscene is published monthly & distributed to JSO members.

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JSO Board of Directors

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Margie Smith
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Lloyd Love
Robert Lubach

Board Meeting

(Public Welcome)

March 8th

7:00 pm

Beaverton Library (Cathy Stanton Room)

12375 SW Fifth Street, Beaverton, OR

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Time Remembered

A New Film About Bill Evans

By Dan Davey

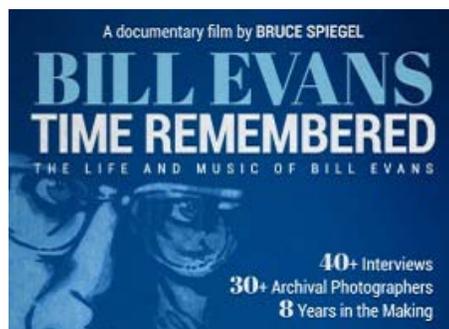
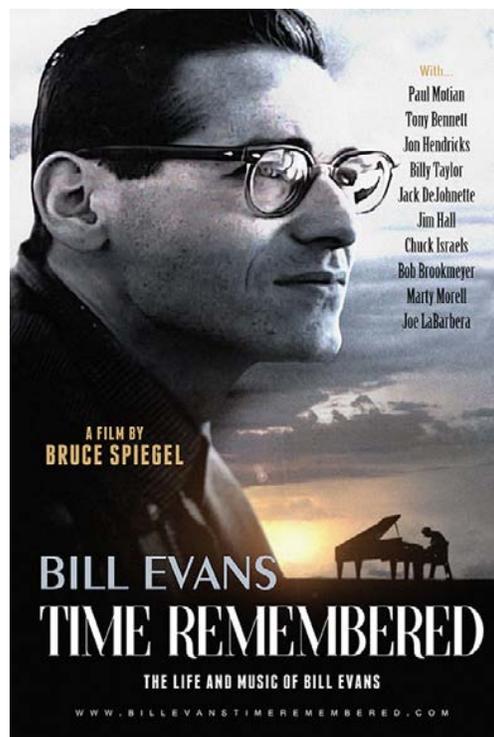
A painter dips a brush into a color and personifies the beauty of imagination on canvas. Bill Evans builds music from the bottom up with a colorful harmonic palette to arrive at the destination of his unique and forever-influential style of jazz.

Bruce Spiegel spent eight years developing this ninety-minute documentary film about the music and life of pianist Bill Evans. The film was released in 2015 and is only the second known documentary to focus on Evans. Noticing that many of Bill's contemporaries and bandmates were aging, Spiegel sought to document the pianist's life through the memories of those closest to him. He conducted interviews with Portland's Chuck Israels (bass), Tony Bennett (voice), Jon Hendricks (voice), Paul Motian (drums), Gary Peacock (bass), Jack DeJohnette (drums) and many more who were friends, fans, family, and fellow musicians.

The film traces the development of Bill's sound and style, beginning in North Plainfield, NJ with his brother Harry, who was also a musician and a big influence on Bill's early musicianship. His studies at that time were of classical Russian composers such as Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky. His early influences include Nat Cole, Earl Hines, Ben Webster, Buck Clayton, and Benny Morton. He deepened his music education by studying at Southeastern Louisiana College along with his brother Harry, who later became a music supervisor in a school system. After college, Bill joined the 5th U.S. Army band for two years in Fort Sheridan, Illinois before moving to New York City. Playing sessions with some of New York's finest eventually landed him a call from Miles Davis, which opened up the doors for what would become an incredibly successful musical career for Bill.

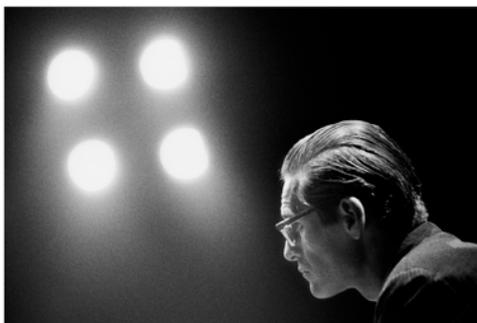
The film features rare recordings and performance footage of Bill's music from the early years to his last performances. You have the opportunity to meet the many musicians who made up the Bill Evans trio throughout his career as well as family members and loved ones of both Bill and his bandmates.

Spiegel also paints a portrait of the struggles and demons that followed the pianist through his life. Bill repeatedly suffered loss that touched too close to home. His brother Harry committed suicide; Scott LaFaro, the original bassist in his trio died in a car accident after their



first appearance at the Vanguard; and his long-time lover Ellaine committed suicide after Bill fell in love with someone new. He sometimes doubted his musicianship and wanted to deal with the work but not feel the pain. Bill turned to a drug addiction that would resurface many times throughout his life. This ultimately ruined his marriage and hurt many people who were involved with him. Towards the end of his life, his motivation was music alone and his exterior appearance reflected his lack of passion and overall indifference. The music, however, remained deep and intact until he died on September 15, 1980 from a hemorrhage. Finally, his struggles were over.

Those who are unfamiliar with the work and genius of Bill Evans will find inspiration and admiration in this documentary as they experience the soundscapes of his music, the outpouring of his heart, and the risks he took that created a unique and masterful artist.



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Click on the Join Us link at the top of the home page.

Benefits of membership in the Jazz Society of Oregon!

- Monthly *JazzScene* magazine
- Support America's original art form - JAZZ!
- Support local jazz musicians, clubs and events
- Support students of jazz
- JSO is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

Membership Categories

Regular	\$42
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Soloist	\$500
Band Leader	\$1000

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Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Jazz Society. Without volunteers, nothing gets done. And we've got lots of exciting things to do!

There are opportunities to serve and engage with the Jazz Community in many areas that might match your skills, for example:

- Board members
- Events coordination
- Web and social media
- Sponsor outreach and grant applications
- Accounting and administrative support
- Publicity and marketing
- Fundraising

If you'd like to express your love for jazz music and meet like-minded enthusiasts, just send mail to volunteer@jazzoregon.com. Please indicate what areas you would like to work in.

Questions: info@jazzoregon.com, 503-427-1676