Jazz Heroes 2014

The Jazz Journalists Association has named 24 Jazz Heroes, recognizing them as "activists, advocates, arrangers, educators and elders of jazz." Among them is Jim Wilke, whose Sunday Jazz Northwest program we at Riffiges sometimes tell you about. It airs today at 2:00 pm PDT on KPLU-FM, 88.5 in Seattle and streams here on the internet. Jim features artists who will be playing at this week's Ballard Jazz Festival, among them Sonny Fortune, Mimi Fox and Joy Thomas. For details about the festival, go here.

Below is the complete list of the JJA's Jazz Heroes. Maybe you'll find someone from your neighborhood.

Harold Battiste, New Orleans-based saxophonist, composer-arranger and producer

John Blotki, co-producer of the Wall Street Jazz Festival, Kingston NY

Cephas Bowles, president and CEO of WBGO, Newark NJ

Raymond Brown, trumpeter and head of jazz studies at Cabrillo College near Santa Cruz, CA

Faye Carol, vocalist and educator in the SF Bay Area

Bill Foster, founder of Detroit's Jazz Network Foundation

Bobby Hill, writer and broadcaster at WPFW, Washington DC

Joseph Jennings, saxophonist and retired educator in Atlanta

Jennifer Johnson Washington, director of programming for Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

Dr. John Lamkin II, cross-genres trumpeter and educator in Maryland

Emilio Lyons, the Sax Doctor of Boston

Thara Memory, composer, trumpeter and educator in Portland OR

Vita West Mair, founder and producer of the Lithfield Jazz Festival and Jazz Camp

Thomas Pierce, activist for the Schenectady-based Swingtime Jazz Society and A Place for Jazz

Jon Poses, founder and executive director of the "We Always Swing" Jazz Series in Columbus OH

Geraldine "Gerry" Steay, owner/operator of B Sharps Jazz Cafe, Tallahassee

Meghan Stabile, founder of Revive Music Group

Peggy Stern, pianist and co-founder/producer of the Wall Street Jazz Festival, Kingston NY

Janis Stockhouse, trumpeter and director of bands at Bloomington High School North, Bloomington IN

Bill Strickland, founder of Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

Patrick Taylor, founder and producer of the Toronto Jazz Festival

Larry Reni Thomas, journalist and radio broadcaster working with Art of the Cool, Durham NC

Wayne Thompson, writer and Portland Jazz Festival board member, Portland OR

Jim Wilke, Jazz After Hours radio show producer, Seattle

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