

THE LOUISVILLE JAZZ SOCIETY PRESENTS:

JAMEY AEBERSOLD BIRTHDAY JAM SESSION

THE MONET ROOM MELLWOOD ART CENTER

7 PM SUNDAY JULY 21, 2024

Tonight's show is a little different. It's a celebration of the 85th birthday of local jazz legend Jamey Aebersold and will feature not only Jamey's band but also several of his friends who will sit in to jam with him. Not to mention the pizza and birthday cake on offer.

Wilton Jameson "Jamey" Aebersold was born in New Albany on July 21, 1939 and has lived there much of his life. He is a renowned jazz musician, educator and publisher, and has probably helped more people learn and enjoy playing jazz than anyone else in the world through his Play-A-Long records, CDs and now streams. The Play-A-Longs originated in 1966 when a student at a jazz workshop in Connecticut asked Jamey for a recording of his piano accompaniment to play along with at home. The result was *How to Play Jazz and Improvise*, which has since been translated into six languages and was the first of 133 Play-A-Longs recorded over several decades. These backing tracks are sold all over the world and have sold over five million copies. The Play-A-Longs enable jazz students to improvise and rehearse with professional jazz musicians, including Kenny Barron, Randy Brecker, Dave Brubeck, Ron Carter, Dave Liebman, Mulgrew Miller, Jimmy Raney and Cedar Walton.

Many of the students who started with the Play-A-Longs went on to attend the Summer Jazz Workshops which Jamey started in 1965 and continued around the world for over 50 years and which enabled thousands of students to take classes from, play with and listen to professional jazz musicians, some of them big names who had themselves studied at the workshops in years past.

Jamey was awarded a National Education Association Jazz Master Fellowship, the highest award for jazz artists in 2014 for exceptional contributions to Jazz Advocacy. Asked what he hoped his legacy would be (in an interview available on the jazz society's website), he said it would be that he enabled people to express their inner music by combining imagination with the jazz fundamentals taught in his Jazz Handbook.

THE PLAYERS

Jamey Aebersold, Saxophone

Phil DeGreg, Keyboards. Phil has made his mark in the jazz world as a recording artist, composer, and educator. He has toured with The Woody Herman Orchestra and performed with Randy Brecker, Ira Sullivan, Claudio Roditi, J.J. Johnson, Harry Allen and Conrad Herwig, and led 12 albums. He is retired from teaching in the University of Cincinnati's jazz program.

Doug Elmore, Bass. An active jazz musician, teacher and conductor in the greater Louisville/Southern Indiana area, Doug is also the Music Director and Conductor for the Louisville Youth Orchestra and Orchestra Director of the Floyd Central High School Orchestra.

Evan Price, Drums. Evan is a senior in UofL's School of Music program.

In addition to the players above in Jamey's group, a number of great players who are friends of Jamey's will sit in with the band, including:

Zach Brock (violin), Jack Wilkins (guitar), Shelley Yoelin (sax), Meghan Pund (sax), Pat Harbison (trumpet), Rich Armandi (bass), Craig Wagner (guitar) and Rachel Caswell (vocals).

THE TUNES

While this is a jam and there's no fixed set list, you'll hear jazz standards by great musicians such as John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock, Duke Ellington, Dexter Gordon and Cannonball Adderley, plus maybe a couple of Aebersold originals.

Thanks for coming out tonight, folks. See you at Tyrone Wheeler's Vintage Keys show on August 25 at the Cafe, 731 Brent St.