

# Clark explores impact of sax giants at Library

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Jim Clark's latest music presentation program, "Ten Greatest African American Jazz Saxophonists," celebrates the contributions of legends like John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, and Lester Young. Part performance, part presentation, the program, which takes place at the Norwalk Public Library at 3 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 21 in the Main Auditorium as part of the Library's Black History Month celebration, explores how these jazz giants' contributions have impacted the music and musicians that came after them. Others included in Clark's program are Cannonball Adderley, Sidney Bechet, Dexter Gordon, Coleman Hawkins, Grover Washington, Jr., and Ben Webster. "I've chosen to spotlight the first generation of jazz sax



masters in roughly chronological order of their careers," said Clark, who himself plays tenor, alto and soprano sax. "This is an admittedly arbitrary list," he explained. "There are many great saxophonists who came after this 'first wave.' I could easily name another ten off the top of my head who have been major contributors to the world of jazz. But as a lifelong saxophonist, these are my personal choices."

Clark is a Norwalk-based composer, educator, and multi-instrumentalist who leads his own groups and records in a variety of formats. The program is one of several that he has organized and presents regularly. Others include "What is Jazz?," "Saxology," and "Jazz Saxophone Masters of the 1940s & '50s" plus an entire series centered on the Great American Songbook. "Every program includes anecdotes and historical references, which to my mind, add entertainment and educational value to these events," said Clark, who recognizes the reciprocal value of being an educator. "I love to learn," he said. "So I keep educating myself, questioning concepts I was taught, testing them and trying to simplify them without losing important content. This keeps me evolving as an artist. Many of these concepts find their way into my private teaching. The fact that I am constantly learning helps keep my teaching fresh and engaging."

Clark just launched a new website, [www.jim-clarkjazz.com](http://www.jim-clarkjazz.com), which focuses on his themed jazz programs. His other sites include [www.jim-clarkperforms.com](http://www.jim-clarkperforms.com), for his live gigs, and [www.re-alsax.com](http://www.re-alsax.com), where Clark offers sax and horn solo performances and arrangements online. And he continues to write and record horn arrangements for Band-In-A-Box, an auto-accompaniment software program. He also gives private lessons, teaching trumpet, saxophone and flute and is currently recording an album of original jazz compositions. Sunday's show "is a solo performance," he said. "I'll have backing tracks as my jazz ensemble."

As part of its Black History Month celebration, the Norwalk Public Library is offering a special

exhibit featuring photos, books, ephemera, vintage concert posters, and wooden sculptures of various jazz musicians. There are also examples of early sheet music from the 1890s through the 1920s, and a special look at Duke Ellington and his orchestra. Ellington's autograph along with those of his band members and collaborators like Bill Stravhorn, Wilson Myers, Johnny Hodges, Shelton Hemphill and Cat Anderson are on display. The Norwalk Public Library is located at 1 Belden Avenue, in Norwalk.

Wilton Library's "Hot & Cool: Jazz at the Brubeck Room" features the Jamie Baum Septet+ at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. Ms. Baum is a New York City-based jazz flutist/composer who has toured 28 countries. She has often been recognized in Down Beat's Critics Poll, named #1 Rising Star Flutist in 2012, and #3 in the 2014

Top Flutist category. She also was a 2014 Guggenheim Fellowship Award recipient. Baum and her band go into the studio to record a disc later this month, so audience members will be getting a sneak preview of the new original material. Advance registration recommended.

137 Old Ridgefield Road in Wilton. A donation of \$10 per person is suggested. Call (203) 762-3950, or visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org)

*Mike Horyczun's Sound Surfing column returns March 3. Got music news? Send it to [news2mh@gmail.com](mailto:news2mh@gmail.com)*

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