



SOUND SURFING

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kicks off  
Norwalk  
Library series**

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# New year brings concert series to library

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**The library is presenting a free, six-concert music series over the winter months, offering its patrons an opportunity to “warm up Winter 2017” with live music.**

Finding the right person at the right time for the right assignment can be tricky. But the Norwalk Public Library did just that when it approached Jim Clark, the noted saxophonist, jazz musician and music educator, about helping to organize a winter concert series.

Clark agreed, and local music audiences will be reaping the benefits. The library is presenting a free, six-concert music series over the winter months, offering its patrons an opportunity to “warm up Winter 2017” with live music. The Jim Clark Quartet kicks off the series this weekend at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Clark, a Norwalk resident, explained how the series developed: “Chris Bradley, director of the Norwalk Public Library, thought it would benefit library patrons to have a concert series during the winter, and asked her program director, Cynde Lahey, and I to meet around this idea. Originally, I was asked to start and conclude the

series, but I thought it might be more interesting for everyone if we concluded the series a little differently, and suggested a ‘Jim Clark & Friends’ concert. The idea would be to use my quartet as the backing band and feature all the headliners from the concert series. This will provide each artist a chance to expand their fan base, sell CDs and merchandise and collaborate with others proficient in the genre. Oh, and it will be fun, too.”

Clark said he chose performers who were “local artists who were influenced by repertoire from the Great American Songbook.” That list includes jazz vocalist Margi Gianquinto, who often appears on the New York jazz scene, on Jan. 22; another talented vocalist, Richard “Cookie” Thomas, performs on Jan. 29; the Neddy Smith East West Trio plays what it calls “freshly brewed contemporary jazz

compositions with a difference” on Feb. 5; noted vocalist Maria Tiscia comes in on Feb. 12; and for the finale on Feb. 26, Jim Clark & Friends features all the headliners from the series performing in one concert.

For his show on Sunday, Clark brings in a quartet that includes Chris Coogan on keyboards, John Mobilio on upright bass and Jim Royle on drums. Chances are good the saxophonist will play material from his excellent new album, “Old as New — Songs from the Imaginary Great American Songbook.” He’ll have copies available for sale at the show. Direct downloads are available at jimclarkjazz.com. The album, Clark says, is “getting an excellent reception.”

Cynde Lahey, director of library information services, sees the concert series as a win-win situation. “What better way to enjoy the warmth and friendship of



Contributed photo

**Jim Clark, noted saxophonist, jazz musician and music educator, will perform with his quartet at the Norwalk Public Library on Sunday.**

our neighbors than to share an afternoon of music at our library on a frosty winter afternoon,” she said. “This inaugural Winter Concerts series kicks off what I hope will be an annual series.”

The live music also fits into the broader programming goals of the library.

“We provide free of charge a variety of programs combining an educa-

tional perspective with culture and entertainment for our community. And concerts like these are very important to fulfilling our mission,” she said.

That mission states “that the Norwalk Public Library with our open access to diverse resources, is the information and cultural center for Norwalk residents and businesses.”

All shows take place on Sundays, from 3 to 4 p.m. And the price is right. As noted, they are free. The Norwalk Public Library is at 1 Belden Ave. Visit norwalklib.org

*Mike Horyczun’s Sound Surfing column appears every Saturday in The Hour. He can be reached at news2mh@gmail.com.*