



# Free & Easy Jazz

By Dilys Burke

## Sundays at Starbucks

**Paul and company encourage jazz fans to mark their calendars for Sunday, December 19th, when the Jazz Collective will playing big band music with a 9 piece band.**

Whether your jazz tastes runs to fusion, funk, Latin, Brazilian, or the old standards, you can get a pleasurable earful of it at Starbucks, every Sunday night.

The Jazz Collective, a rotating group of some of the top jazz musicians in the greater Boston area, gathers each Sunday evening to regale their audience with jazz tunes reflective of a wide range of artists, including Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Keith Jarrett, Charlie Mingus, Joe Zawmeul, and Horace Silver.

Originated by Paul Marcantonio, professional jazz drummer and teacher

at the Winchester Community Music School, the core group consists of he and Ed Lucie – Assistant Professor at Berklee College of Music, composer, and one-time bass guitar player for Buddy Richie – along with semi-regulars Sean Berry (tenor and soprano sax), and Steve Kirby (guitar and composer), and several other well-known professional musicians and vocalists who sit in as guests on a varying schedule.

A festive group of fans enjoy the music and welcome newcomers

On October 26, 2008, the lively crowd of all ages – even small children – were smiling and tapping happily to the



rhythm of the ensemble, which featured guest singer Kris Adams, a performer and vocal teacher at Berklee College of Music. Each



The Jazz Collective  
Sunday Evenings  
5:30 to 8:00 PM

Bedford Street  
Starbucks  
Lexington  
Free Admission



### Jazz Collective: Regular and Rotating musicians

**Drums**  
Paul Marcantonio  
Guitar  
Steve Kirby

**Bass**  
Ed Lucie  
Trumpet  
Don Heald  
Bo Winiker

**Saxophone**  
Sean Berry  
Tim Mayer  
Joe Raia  
Janusz Kowalski  
Doug Leafner

**Trombone**  
Dave Harris  
Don Heald

**Keyboard**  
Eric Osling  
Michael Valdez  
Rusty Scott  
Lefteris Kordis

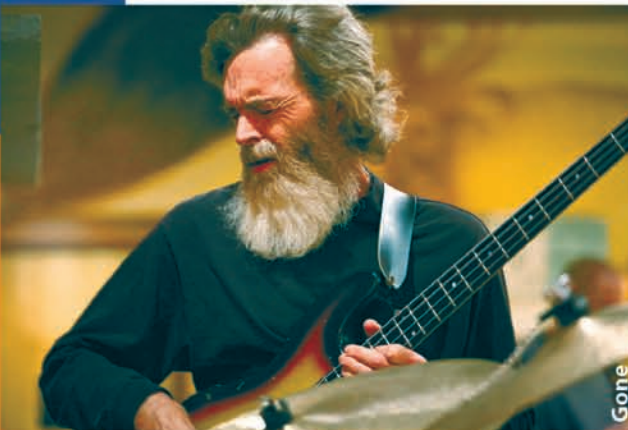
**Vocals**  
Kris Adams  
Panayota Chaloulakou  
Wendy Nottonson  
Patrice Monahan  
Brenda Keen

All Photos by Marv Goldschmitt

tune was greeted with fervent applause and shouts of praise; attendees shared their enthusiasm with one another and the musicians between songs. The sense of enjoyment and appreciation was palpable. People smiled and were welcoming to anyone who happened to come in, whether to hear the music or simply buy a cup of coffee.

According to many of those present, the festive atmosphere is what

you'll find every Sunday evening with the Jazz Collective performing at Starbucks. Many in attendance are "regulars", like Paras Traganos, a Lexington resident who is eager to share his enthusiasm: "These guys are flat out



affair. "I come every week with my daughter Augie; sometimes my husband and son join me." Augie, who is 12 years old, has become an avid jazz fan and aficionado. She enjoys noting the songs and looking up the original recordings on iTunes after she gets home.

You can even meet some of the rotating guest musicians, who come to listen to the ensemble on their "night off." Brenda Keen, a professional Jazz singer who performs in and around Boston with musicians like Al Vega, Steve

great... Lexington is lucky to have musicians of this caliber playing here." Paras often invites friends and neighbors to his house for an afternoon barbecue before the crowd heads over to attend the jazz sessions. "It's become something that we all look forward to on Sundays," he adds.

Julie Miller, another regular attendee, agrees. She and her friends come almost every week, noting that the variety of musicians, styles and tunes is something you never tire of. She loves not only the music, but also the lively, convivial atmosphere. Like Paras, she and her friends often make the music part of an expanded social event

that often includes a dinner gathering, followed by a trip to Starbucks to enjoy the music.

To Jamie Sherman, a professional tap dancer and tap teacher who comes regularly with her daughter, coming to see the Jazz Collective is a family

about the possibility of playing some regular Sunday night gigs. According to Paul, Starbucks had tried to offer regular musical entertainment on Sundays in the past, but none of the acts were able to play on a regular basis. Although busy playing professional gigs around Boston and teaching music, Paul liked the idea of playing in his hometown. Paul approached Ed Lucie with the idea and both agreed to give it a try.

"Our plan was to try it out for a month. We pulled together an ensemble and started doing Sunday evening gigs... it worked out so well, that we just kept going... we've been playing here on Sundays ever since," Paul explains. Because he and Ed are well connected in the regional jazz scene, they were able to entice many renowned musicians to play with the band. Some, like Sean Berry and Steve Kirby, play on a relatively regular basis, others more occasionally as their schedule permits. Jazz styles range depending on who is sitting in that night.

"What people should know is that Paul and Ed and most of the people they play with are well known professional jazz musicians in the Boston area," says Jamie Sherman. Indeed, big names such as Bo Winiker – a trumpet player who heads the Bo Winiker Jazz Orchestra – and Richard Greenblatt – vibraphonist, Assistant Professor at Berklee College of Music, and head of the Richard Greenblatt Vibes Group – are among the musicians who have played on Sunday evenings with the Collective.

"Where else outside of the city can you be treated to a professional level show like this?" Jamie asks with a smile, "and what's amazing is that it's free... the musicians are happy to play for tips only!"

"More people from the area deserve to know about this and come out to be treated to a great evening of music," Paras concurs, tapping his foot to the rhythm of the band as it starts up another song. As Kris Adams' vocal pierce the air, a broad grin spreads across his face. Clearly, it's time to stop interviewing and do what he came here to do... enjoy the music.

For more information,  
call Starbucks at 781-863-1189.

### The story behind the Jazz Collective

The Jazz Collective began last February after Paul Marcantonio was approached by a Starbucks manager