

Cheryl Jewell Wins First Runner-up in Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Competition

Local Jazz Vocalist Cheryl Jewell placed first runner-up at the prestigious 2009 Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocal Audition held March 23 at Seattle's Jazz Alley. Sponsored by the Seattle Kobe Sister City Association (SKSCA), the competition judges select one adult female jazz vocalist and one high school vocalist from the greater Seattle area to perform in Kobe, Japan, at the Kobe Jazz Queen Vocalist Contest. Jewell placed second only to Seattle jazz icon Greta Matassa, whom readers of Seattle jazz magazine *Earshot* have voted as best Jazz Vocalist in the Northwest four times.

"I was nervous even entering the competition among such local greats as Trish Hatley and Greta Matassa," says Jewell, who calls Matassa's jazz scatting skills "untouchable." She adds, "When they called my name, I was absolutely thrilled to be standing in the winners' circle as first runner-up to Greta."

Accompanied by Seattle guitarist Milo Petersen and using his arrangements, Jewell performed "Cry Me a River" and "Lover Come Back to Me." Petersen, who works regularly with Jewell, says, "I've known Cheryl's singing since 1976. Her sound and her pitch and her timing make

her a joy to work with, and it is great to be around her positive energy."

Jewell considers herself a relative newcomer to jazz. She's been developing her vocal jazz prowess over the last decade and notes that it's a deceptively difficult medium, yet she finds, "Jazz feels like home. For me, it's a culmination of styles distilled into this one, passionate art form. I've navigated to the genre that's a perfect expression for me."

In a long career in music that spans pop, rock and blues, TV jingles and alt-country-rock, Jewell has worked with such notables as Lou Rawls, Eddie Van Halen, John Entwistle of The Who, and Steve Stevens of Billy Idol. Singing as backup vocalist for the National Association of Songwriters (NAS) Concert, she found herself on stage backing Roger McGuinn, the Motown songwriting team of Holland/Dozier/Holland, and Randy Newman. With her various bands, she has been the opening act for Jerry Lee Lewis, Edgar Winter, Leon Russell, and others.



Greta Matassa, 2009 Female Jazz Vocalist Winner/Adult Division; Lucy Horton, Winner/Special Mention, High School Division (Bellevue High School); Katherine Stuber, Winner/High School Division (Roosevelt High School, Seattle); Cheryl Jewell, Winner/Special Mention, Adult Division

Jewell was lead singer for the all-girl rock band Rachel, and while living in Los Angeles, joined the alt-neo country-rock band Tin Star. The L.A.-based *Music Connection* described her as bringing "...a powerful voice and playful charm..." to the band.

Currently in the recording studio with co-producer and engineer Chip Westerfield of Bayside Recording in Bellingham, Jewell's jazz standards album will be ready for release by early fall, at which time she also plans on taking on students for performance coaching. "I've had so many requests for voice and performance lessons that I am structuring time in my schedule to take on students this fall."

Upcoming performances include:

- Cheryl Jewell with the Saltwater Octet - July 5, 3:00 pm, Fairhaven Village Green
- Cheryl Jewell with the Saltwater Octet - August 6, 6:00-8:00 pm, Elizabeth Park



Cheryl Jewell, Winner/Special Mention, Adult Division

• Jewell Jazz Ensemble - October 16, Time & venue TBD, Anacortes Jazz Festival

For more information about Cheryl Jewell, visit her website or Myspace page: www.cheryljewell.com or www.myspace.com/cheryljewelljazz

Northwest Hawai'i 'Ohana Presents An Evening with Hapa

"Hawaii's hottest group!" (*Billboard*).

The award-winning duo, Nathan Aweau and Barry Flanagan, will play one show on Fri., July 17 at 7:30pm at McIntyre Hall Performing Arts Center in Mount Vernon. "Hapa draws from a wellspring of Polynesian traditions, but with a sure-footed pop sensibility" (*The New York Times*). Spend an evening with "Hawaii's super group" (*Elle*).

Part traditional, part contemporary, part musical genius, part stunning vocals, Hapa creates a soundtrack for twenty-first century Hawaii - native art, history and music pulled together by the powerful force of Maui. Add their signature blend of American acoustic folk/rock, Celtic and world influences and you have music that is "beautiful, fragile, spiritual, powerful" (*Los Angeles Times*). Hapa's pioneering sound has established them as "Hawaii's most ambitious, diverse and imaginative music group" (*John Berger, Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). Read and hear more at www.hapa.com. Tickets \$35 general, \$25 students/seniors and \$15 children under 12, available at www.mcintyrehall.org, 416-7727 or 866-624-6897. More info: Skagit: 766-6489 or Whatcom: 676-9543, info@minstrelcafe.com, nwhawaiiohانا@yahoo.com. McIntyre Hall is located at 2501 E. College Way, Mount Vernon.



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