

Steve Turre Plays The Dirty Dog!



ON STAGE

CHICK DIGS DETROIT!

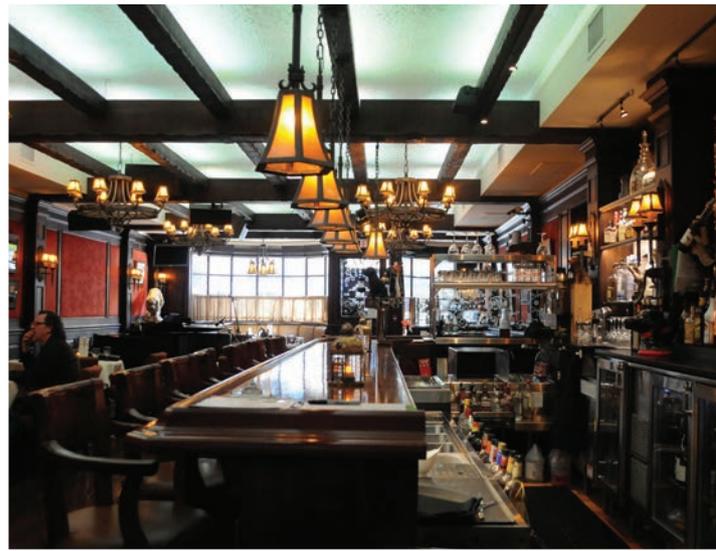
DETROIT JAZZ FEST
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE
CHICK COREA



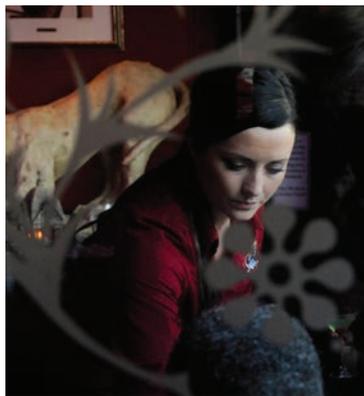


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Gretchen's Place

The Philanthropist as Jazz Angel



For fans of The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Gretchen Valade is well known as the club's owner and chief fan of the music. From the third stool at the left of the bar, she catches nearly every act that comes into the club. But she also has captured the hearts of musicians and jazz fans around the world with her tenacity and generosity in promoting this art form.

For this installment of Gretchen's Place, we asked some key people who know Gretchen very well one important question: What has Gretchen Valade's impact on jazz been?

She founded Mack Avenue Records in 1999, at a time when jazz labels (and many other music labels) were going through a difficult time. During the past 20 years, the label has developed into one of the leading voices in discovering new talent, as well as a home for such artists as Cécile McLorin-Salvant, Christian McBride, Tia Fuller, Brian Bromberg, Cyrille Aimée, Danilo Pérez, Freda Payne, Kirk Whalum, Stanley Jordan and so many more.

As a champion for the city, Gretchen has few equals. When the Detroit Jazz Festival nearly collapsed due to financial pressures in the late 1990s, Valade endowed the festival with \$15 million on the condition that it had to remain free. It remains the world's largest free jazz festival today.

Then, she looked toward the future of jazz,

giving nearby Wayne State University \$7.5 million to fund construction of the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center and to support the Jazz Studies program at the university.

"We call her the Angel of Jazz," said Chris Collins, the saxophonist who directs the jazz studies program at WSU, and serves as president of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation and the fest's artistic director.

"She's created tremendous synergy," he added. "It's a great reflection of the jazz heritage here, and the university is becoming the new gravity center of the city's arts community."

Finally, there's The Dirty Dog itself. A decade ago, Gretchen owned the building and wondered what to do with it. Her choice couldn't have been better. With The Dirty Dog, she created a home for Detroit's rich jazz scene as well as a touring spot in the Detroit area for national artists.

For his take on Gretchen's impact, we asked Willie Jones, the manager of The Dirty Dog.

His response borders on poetry.

"Thanks to Ms. Gretchen, The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe is the only jazz venue in metropolitan Detroit that intimately combines upscale dining, great service, a beautiful setting and live entertainment.

"Thanks to Ms. Gretchen, the musicians who perform here at The Dirty Dog love to play here, and are treated with the professional respect and attention they are entitled to. Ms. Gretchen has made that a top priority, because her position is, 'A happy musician is an entertaining musician.'

"Thanks to Ms. Gretchen, our regular guests share one singular sentiment—that The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe is Ms. Gretchen's living room that she invites guest into on a nightly basis. They all consider Ms. Gretchen to be a very gracious host.

"Thanks to Ms. Gretchen, her endowment to the Detroit Jazz Festival continues to impact millions of jazz lovers year after year.

"Ms. Gretchen, known as the 'Queen of Detroit Jazz,' has a vision of impacting jazz in a very positive way, throughout the world, not just metropolitan Detroit."

Collins, in a 2017 Forbes magazine article, echoed that sentiment to the business world.

"What we all love her for, as musicians and patrons alike, is she puts it right out front," he told Forbes. "At the Festival Foundation, and everyone that works here and our volunteers and even our community, we put the artist first, from the production of stage and sound and how they're treated, the green rooms, where

"We call her the Angel of Jazz."

—Chris Collins

they travel. Whatever we can do so they can put the best performance of their life on. And then as far as what it means to the city of Detroit, before I leave that subject, it's worth noting if you know Ms. Valade, it's not just the jazz festival. Of course, it's Mack Avenue Records. It's The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe. These are the things that touch so many people."

Jazz Angel, indeed.



Jazz Fest LOVE!

2018 Artist-in-Residence Chick Corea talks about his love for playing the Detroit Jazz Festival

Chick Corea is ageless. The jazz icon turned 77 in June, but when he sits down at the piano, the decades melt away. At the final show of a recent five-night residency at Catalina Bar and Grill in Los Angeles, Corea led his Elektric Band—bassist John Patitucci, drummer Dave Weckl, saxophonist Eric Marienthal and guitarist Frank Gambale—through a 90-minute set with youthful enthusiasm.

“This is the original Elektric Band. We’ve been together since 1931,” he joked at one point, belying the energy of all the players onstage—as well as the inventiveness of Corea compositions from throughout the band’s history, from their still-fresh 1986 debut to the 2004 concept album *To The Stars*, whose futuristic themes were reflected in a progressive mix of genres (everything from flamenco to reggae) on the songs “Johnny’s Landing” and “Alan Corday.”

Fans will have the opportunity to hear Corea play with three different ensembles, including the Elektric Band, at the 2018 Detroit Jazz Festival, where the venerated keyboardist will be the artist-in-residence. Corea also will appear with the Akoustic Band (a trio featuring Patitucci and Weckl) and his sextet featuring Patitucci, Weckl, Marienthal, saxophonist Steve Wilson and trombonist Steve Davis, in a special performance with the Detroit Jazz Festival Symphony Orchestra. It all starts with the Akoustic Band (Aug. 31), followed by the Elektric Band (Sept. 1) and the sextet and orchestra on the festival’s closing night (Sept. 3).

“The program for closing night will be a sextet set followed by the sextet and orchestra, with Steven Mercurio conducting, playing the first two movements of *Concierto de Aranjuez* into my orchestral arrangement of ‘Spain,’” Corea explained.

Corea sounded especially excited about his recent work with the Akoustic Band. “Earlier this year, we got together as a trio for the first time in a long while and made a brand new live recording. Our set at the Detroit Jazz Festival will be the concluding concert of a lengthy tour through Europe and the U.S.”

The veteran bandleader and composer has played the Detroit Jazz Festival numerous times and said he is “thrilled” to be returning as artist-in-residence. “I spent a day with [Artistic Director] Chris Collins and the other organizers of the Detroit Jazz Festival. I really got to see what a wonderful effort this festival is,” Corea said.

He expressed particular admiration for the festival’s longstanding tradition of being free and open to the public. “When I’ve played the festival in the past, this has been a major plus—being able to bring this music to so many that might not have been able to attend because of ticket prices.”

Corea also praised the current Detroit jazz scene, including The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe in Grosse Pointe and its owner, Mack Avenue Records founder and philanthropist Gretchen Valade, who he called “a wonderful lady and a true lover of our music.” After seeing a recent performance at The Dirty Dog, Corea said, “It was inspiring to me to see musicians caring for the musical traditions that I grew up with and playing so creatively and passionately.”

Jazz fans from not only the Midwest but also from around the globe flock to the Detroit Jazz Festival every year to see world-class artists. This year’s attendees are certain to include longtime fans who’ve been dazzled by Corea before.

“I’m really looking forward to the Detroit Jazz Festival,” Corea said. “It should be challenging and it’s sure to be a lot of fun.”

Homegrown jazz will be a key part of this year’s fest, starting with a tribute to pianist and Detroit-area native Geri Allen (1957–2017), featuring two of her frequent collaborators: vocalist/bassist Esperanza Spalding and drummer Terri Lyne Carrington. The fest will host a 25th anniversary reunion performance by Straight Ahead, the Detroit-bred, all-female quartet featuring Regina Carter (violin), Marion Hayden (bass), Alina Morr (piano) and Gayelynn McKinney (drums). Plus, the Detroit Jazz Festival All-Star Generations Band will feature guest drummer and Motor City native Karriem Riggins.

Among the festival’s many other highlights will be performances by saxophonist Ravi Coltrane, guitar legend Pat Martino, bassist Marcus Miller, guitarist Julian Lage with his trio, organist Joey DeFrancesco’s Project Freedom, Trio of Oz featuring Omar Hakim and Rachel Z, and an 80th birthday tribute to the late trumpeter Freddie Hubbard. It’s a lineup that features numerous legends as well as the stars of tomorrow—made all the more remarkable by the fact that general admission is free. —Andy Hermann



Writer Judy Adams chats with Corea after his Dirty Dog performance.

CHICK PLAYS THE DIRTY DOG

Each spring, the Detroit Jazz Festival chooses one of the top musicians in the idiom to be its artist-in-residence.

This year the fest has bestowed the position on iconic pianist and composer Chick Corea. Previous resident artists have included such luminaries as Ron Carter, Wayne Shorter and Pat Metheny.

The role includes a special performance at The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, whose proprietor is Gretchen Valade, jazz philanthropist and chair of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation.

The acclaimed Dirty Dog hosts local and national talent five nights a week. Valade, a lifelong jazz fan, has worked hard to ensure that the club is state-of-the-art—from its design to its intimate seating arrangements and special lighting, to the new seven-foot Steinway piano that is tuned weekly.

An NEA Jazz Master and an inductee in the DownBeat Hall of Fame, Corea’s palette includes bebop, avant-garde, fusion, Latin and classical music. All those elements were reflected in his Dirty Dog concert on April 11, with a program that included original compositions and renditions of tunes by George Gershwin, Thelonious Monk, Bill Evans, Joaquín Rodrigo and Stevie Wonder.

For fans who had seen Corea perform many times in concert halls and outdoor venues, nothing compared to hearing him play a solo concert in the cozy confines of the Dirty Dog before an audience of about 60 friends. What a treat it was to witness his artistry up close and personal. Some fans said, “This show was like being in his living room.”

Corea’s playing was flawless, with spectacular displays of precision, emotional expression, clarity and speed: a true virtuosic master. His personable demeanor helped create a relaxed, friendly atmosphere as he told the stories behind the music he chose to play. He truly enjoyed himself and even stuck around after the show, casually mingling with the crowd, giving fans an unforgettable experience.

— Judy Adams



A Club Worthy OF JAZZ!

The Dirty Dog has been developed as the best environment possible for jazz artists and jazz lovers to meet!
Here are just a few reasons why.



THE BOARD ROOM

Whether you're a party of two or 25, The Board Room at The Dirty Dog supplies just a little more intimacy, warmth and beauty to the world!

WILLIE'S TAKE 5

Willie Jones has been passionately overseeing the music, food and spirits at The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe since day one. He previously worked at some of Detroit's top restaurants. Here, Willie counts off his five favorite saxophonists who have played The Dog. But rest assured, that can change with the next set!



DAVE McMURRAY

Willie loves Detroit's own Dave McMurray because he plays with "honest expression." He says the saxophonist's ability to cross multiple genres has "cemented Mr. McMurray's reputation for versatility."



CHRIS COLLINS

Chris Collins holds "a singular place in Detroit's jazz scene." The artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Festival leads Wayne State University's Jazz Studies program and performs as a saxophonist.



MARCUS ELLIOT

Willie says performer and educator Marcus Elliot "is one of the young guns in Detroit who gives his saxophone an emotive voice as he plays with relentless passion and depth."



TIA FULLER

Tia Fuller is a "diamond in the rough" who puts limitless energy, precision and personality into her performances, Willie says. She has worked with a wide variety of top musicians in multiple genres.



DIEGO RIVERA

Diego Rivera is a jazz educator and active performer known for his muscular tone, smooth vibe and unique blend of straightahead jazz fused with music inspired by his Latin heritage.



Steve Turre

Turre's Dirty Dog Return!

Steve Turre is a force. He has a powerful physical presence and musical sound that can be intimidating ... until you look past his imposing trombone and notice his playful eyes and his perpetual good-natured grin. He seems to have a secret that he wants to share with us.

When Turre returned to The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe last May, this masterful trombone player and ray of sunshine seemed to bring a certainty that the long Detroit winter was finally over. In Detroit, we don't assume anything about the onset of spring until we feel warmth get deep inside us. When Turre brought his trombone and seashells to town, we had all the confirmation we needed.

We sometimes forget how much fun some people can have while doing their job. I asked Turre if it would be fair to say he liked his work. He became animated and alive with his answer, which was, "Why wouldn't I?" And with even more of a grin, "I love all of life." For two nights, his spirit was contagious, and he remained animated.

Indeed, why *wouldn't* Steve be pleased with a life that has included Ray Charles, *Saturday Night Live*, a discovery of his ancestors making music from seashells found on the beach, Art Blakey, Dizzie Gillespie, Woody Shaw, Herbie Hancock, a loving family and bandmates who share his passion?

Turre is an example of why jazz lifts us up. He is an artist who trusts his instincts enough to take risks, to pick up a conch shell and expect something good to come out.

At The Dirty Dog, we got two magical evenings and a certainty that things were going to be all right. We found ourselves smiling again.

—John Osler

STAFF CONFESSIONS

Miss a little, miss a lot at The Dirty Dog! And there's only one way to catch up on all the nuances the club has to offer—through Staff Confessions by the waitstaff!



Dana Mico

Dana Mico's favorite Dirty Dog experience was seeing Chick Corea's solo performance in April. "It was very special having such a big-name artist play here in this small club setting," she says. Another favorite is her supervisor, Willie Jones: "He's the best boss I've ever had. He's a problem solver who's always willing to help." She also admires Dirty Dog proprietor Gretchen Valade, a champion for jazz in Detroit.



Lauren Peplinski

Lauren Peplinski says she loves the subdued lighting and overall ambience of The Dirty Dog, especially when the musicians are on stage. "You get the feeling that you're in this special place where you get to escape the outside world. I've never been in a place like this before, and luckily I get to work here!"



Melissa

What Melissa likes best about The Dirty Dog is the people. "They are so welcoming, it makes you feel like you are part of the family. This pertains to the staff, and the guests, especially the regulars who we see quite often. It also comes from many of the artists who play here frequently. They are also a major part of the Dirty Dog family."



Devon Fletcher

Devon Fletcher adds that it's the warm décor and intimate atmosphere of The Dirty Dog for him. He says he "loves how small and secluded it is. It brings the staff, the guests and the musicians closer together." He also likes meeting all the great artists who play the club. "When I serve them in the green room, I see how humble they are."



CHEF'S CORNER

Chef André Neimanis is at it again! Summertime means new seasonal delights from the kitchen of The Dirty Dog. What goes better with great jazz than amazing food? Here's what he's cooking up!

Seasonal Pastas

Our seasonal pastas change three to four times a year and feature seasonal ingredients along with optional additions, such as shrimp or chicken. We start with our delicate, made-in-house semolina pasta. Right now, we're giving it a spring and summer twist with sun-dried tomatoes, extra-virgin olive oil, toasted garlic, asparagus and whatever other fresh ingredients are on hand. We're making it with a lighter feel for summer.



Filet Mignon

We just changed our filet mignon with a new preparation that's simple and elegant. It features a 7-ounce center cut filet with roasted trumpet mushrooms and whipped potatoes in a natural veal stock reduction, adding a fun twist with a bone marrow fritter. Adding the fritter in this unique preparation is pretty special. The idea is to eat the filet hand-in-hand with the bone marrow fritter!



Vegetarian Eggplant Stack

Our Vegetarian Eggplant Stack is a perfect summer dish with grilled eggplant, roasted tomatoes and red peppers, forest mushrooms, fried Brussel sprouts, chive lemon chèvre and pesto vinaigrette. Our goal was to make an attractive offering for vegetarians, and it has become quite popular with vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. We even offer a delicious plant-based "Impossible Burger," served with aged cheddar on toasted brioche.



COMING SOON!



FREDDY COLE
August 24-25



SEAN DOBBINS
September 4-8



DAVE BENNETT
September 18-22



FREDA PAYNE
October 12-13



STANLEY JORDAN
October 19-20



RODNEY WHITAKER
October 23-27



CAMERON GRAVES
November 2-3



And... Tuesday Nights with the
CHARLES BOLES QUARTET!



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Early Dinner Special: 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Showtimes: 6 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

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Located just 20 minutes north of the heart of Detroit, The Dirty Dog has become one of the world's best jazz clubs, connecting artists and audiences in a one-of-a-kind jazz setting!



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