

Jack Kleinsinger  
*presents*  
**Highlights In JAZZ**

*New York's Longest Running Jazz Concert Series*

**TWO GREAT JAZZ CELEBRATIONS**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005 - 8 P.M.**

**HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ 52<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**THE HEATH BROTHERS**



**JIMMY DEBEY ALBERT "TOOTIE"**  
WITH  
**JED PATTON**



**KEVIN  
MAHOGANY**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005 - 8 P.M.**

**Salute to Jimmy Cobb**



**Clark TERRY - Bill CHARLAP**

**Lou DONALDSON - Eric ALEXANDER**

**Peter BERNSTEIN - Mike Le DONNE**

**Kenny WASHINGTON**

**Jimmy Cobb  
and Cobb's Mob**

*Specify February 10th or March 10th concert when ordering*

Concerts Produced in Association with  
**TRIBECA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers St. - (212) 220-1460

TICKETS: \$27.50 • STUDENTS: \$25.00

Tickets at Box Office or by Mail Order to

**HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ • 7 Peter Cooper Road • New York, NY 10010**

Make checks payable to Highlights in Jazz • Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope

This event is made possible with public funds from the *New York State Council on the Arts*,  
a State agency



**pick of the week**

# 32 and Counting

## Highlights in Jazz Series Celebrates More Than Three Decades of Hot, Live Music

By Barry Bassis

Jack Kleinsinger draws a distinction between a "producer" and a "booker." He says in a recent interview that he fits into the first class because he puts on shows according to his taste rather than an economic bottom line. (Obviously, his definition differs from that of the characters in the Mel Brooks musical.)

Jazz has been the love of Kleinsinger's life but never his means of support. An attorney, he worked for the city's corporation counsel before spending 27 years at the state attorney general's office.



Kleinsinger: 'Ed Sullivan with adrenaline'

His connection to jazz was established early. He recalls attending jazz shows in the early 1950s, hosted by Billy Crystal's father.

During the early 1970s, two jazz musicians, guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli and reed player Phil Bodner, suggested that Kleinsinger present jazz in a setting that would attract those who didn't usually frequent clubs: people who wanted to hear the music without the smoking and drinking and high prices.

As a result, Highlights in Jazz (212-220-1460) debuted at Theater De Lys (now the Lucille Lortel Theater on Christopher Street), and then moved to Hunter College. It spent 15 years each at New York University and Pace University. For the past two seasons, the shows have been held at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (199 Chambers St., between Greenwich and West streets).

The enthusiastic and loquacious Kleinsinger introduces each of the shows. (Gary Giddins once clocked his opening remarks as running more than nine minutes, and Leonard Maltin described him as "Ed Sullivan with adrenaline.")

Kleinsinger chooses the performers and the format, but the musicians pick the tunes. His tastes run from early jazz to bebop (no fusion or avant-garde). One of his trademarks is a surprise guest; some notables who have dropped by include Dizzy Gillespie, Earl Hines, Branford Marsalis and Stan Getz.

When Kleinsinger spots jazz musicians in the audience, he coaxes them into performing. These shows are not simply groups performing their usual material in a different setting. Instead, Kleinsinger either presents them in jam sessions or, if they are not comfortable in that format (often a problem for younger artists), he adds additional musicians to the groups or programs two ensembles to play together.



### HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ TRIBECA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER/ FEBRUARY 10

For his February concert, Jack Kleinsinger has lined up not only the Heath Brothers - by themselves, reason enough to attend - but also vocalist Kevin Mahogany, whose rise to prominence has heartened those wondering where all the great new male jazz singers were. Three early-90s releases on Enja had the critics buzzing. Then four more for Warner Brothers brought him to a far larger audience. Along the way, he's guested on CDs under Carl Allen's, Ray Brown's, Elvin Jones' and T.S. Monk's names. Jon Hendricks, Mark Murphy and Kurt Elling admire Kevin enough to include him in their concerts together. Ample recommendation!

Frequent tributes to living greats are based on three criteria. The honoree must be an important musician, he or she must have performed at one of the Highlights concerts in the past, and he or she must be popular among jazz artists. The next program of this type is the March 10 "Salute to Jimmy Cobb," with Clark Terry, Bill Charlap, Lou Donaldson, Eric Alexander, Peter Bernstein, Mike LeDonne and Kenny Washington.

Kleinsinger also takes pride in presenting high-school students who go on to make a name for themselves, such as Peter Cincotti (who will appear later in the season), John Pizzarelli, as well as Bernstein and Washington. Jane Monheit was a student at the Manhattan School of Music when she first appeared at a Highlights concert.

At least 50 people have attended Kleinsinger's concerts since the 1970s. His major regret is that few youngsters and few African-Americans of any age attend. To remedy the situation, he lectures at colleges and volunteered at an Inwood school as part of the "Adopt-a-Class" program.

This season promises to be yet another exciting one for Highlights in Jazz. On Feb. 10, the series will celebrate its 32nd anniversary with the Heath Brothers (saxophonist Jimmy, bassist Percy and drummer Albert "Tootie") and the terrific jazz and blues singer Kevin Mahogany.

On April 14, singer/songwriters Blossom Dearie and Dave Frishberg will star with the Young Hoofers. On May 12, the theme is "Keepers of the Flame," with Dick Hyman and Vince Giordano; and a Salute to Doc Cheatham, with Randy Sandke, Theodore Cheatham Croker, Chuck Folds and Peter Cincotti. As always, there will be a surprise guest at each show. ■

Barry Bassis is a contributing writer to New York Resident. Please send responses to features editor Sara Bonisteel at [sarab@resident.com](mailto:sarab@resident.com).

# THE BATTERY PARK CITY BROADSHEET

February 8 - February 23, 2005

## "HIGHLIGHTS IN JAZZ"

The Heath Brothers, featuring the saxophonist Jimmy, the bassist Percy, and the drummer Albert, give family unity a good name. The blues-belted Kevin Mahogany rounds out the bill. (Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers St. 212-220-1460, Feb. 10 at 8.)

THE NEW YORK SUN

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2005

# KNICKERBOCKER

**THE POWER OF MUSIC** Teacher Jack Kleinsinger is a retired assistant attorney general of the State of New York. He also produces and directs "Highlights in Jazz," which he describes as "New York City's longest running jazz concert series." His 32nd anniversary concert will take place February 10 at the TriBeCa Performing Arts Center at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

At a special luncheon February 8 for the National Council for Jewish Women's New York Section, Mr. Kleinsinger will share anecdotes and a video presentation compiled from footage from the last 30 years of his concerts. He will talk about entertainers such as Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and Fats Waller.

Mr. Kleinsinger told the Knickerbocker that Cab Calloway appeared three times at "Highlights in Jazz," twice as a surprise guest. The last time he appeared, late in his life, he came onstage in a wheelchair and wearing white tie and tails, accompanied by his valet.

During performance of the song "Minnie the Moocher," Calloway rose from the wheelchair and danced.

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## Highlights in Jazz

See the Heath Brothers, Kevin Mahogany, Jimmy Percy Albert "Tootie," with Jeb Patton. \$27.50, \$25. 8pm, Tribeca Performing Arts Center, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers Street, 212-220-1460.

FEBRUARY 10-16, 2005 | TIME OUT NEW YORK

## MUSIC

Thursday 10

Jazz & experimental

### \* The Heath Brothers + Kevin Mahogany

Tribeca Performing Arts Center (at the Borough of Manhattan Community College). 8pm; \$25, \$27.50. The Heath Brothers aren't the only veteran sibling team in jazz, but they've probably made more history than the others. Jimmy, the little tenor man with the great big sound, has written classic tunes ("Gingerbread Boy," "C.T.A."); Percy, a bassist, was the anchor of the Modern Jazz Quartet; and Albert "Tootie" has played drums with bandleaders both mainstream and avant-garde. They share the bill with the famed Kansas City saxist-turned-singer Kevin Mahogany.

February 2005 | ALL ABOUT JAZZ

## CALENDAR

To be listed, please contact Andrey Henkin at [ahenkin@allaboutjazz.com](mailto:ahenkin@allaboutjazz.com) no later than the third Saturday of the preceding month.

ALL LISTINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

★ = Recommended shows

# February

Thursday, February 10

- ★ Black February 2005: Butch Morris' Phantomstation Issue Project Room 8 pm \$10
- ★ Highlights in Jazz: The Heath Brothers with Percy, Jimmy and Tootie Heath, Jeb Patton; Kevin Mahogany Tribeca Perf. Arts Center 8 pm \$27.50
- ★ Matt Wilson's Arts and Crafts with Terrell Stafford, Larry Goldings, Dennis Irwin Jazz Standard 7:30, 9:30 pm \$20
- ★ J.D. Allen Trio with Eric Revis, Nasheet Waits Sweet Rhythm 8, 10 pm \$15
- Carla Cook Baruch College 1 pm





