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Tennis, anyone?

Anna Kournikova, in town for tennis, on retirement talk, the tabloids and her special passion – the Boys and Girls Clubs.

C12



By **ELIZABETH COBB** / ecobb@ajc.com

From Two Urban Licks to the lawn at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, the Atlanta Jazz Festival spreads across the city this month. It culminates with three straight days of jazz in Piedmont Park over Memorial Day weekend. But with more than 60 acts, how do you choose who to see?

It largely depends on what type of jazz you like. Do your tastes favor Ella Fitzgerald, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock or Jason Moran? Styles have evolved mightily since New Orleans horn player Buddy Bolden led what is considered the first jazz ensemble in the 1890s but have held onto the core that makes jazz jazz. Still, most experts agree (aficionados can fight it out among themselves) that jazz is an improvisational impulse coupled with an almost indescribable “swing.”

A TRIO OF SIDENOTES

1 While **Nina Simone** disliked the term jazz, (saying, “Jazz is a white term to define black people. My music is black classical music”), she defined an era of inventive song interpretation.

DOWNLOAD: “My Baby Just Cares for Me.”

CHECK OUT: **Jhelisa Anderson** (May 7, Hammond House), **Nefetari Bey** (May 19, City Hall and May 20, the Green Market at Piedmont Park) or **Rene Marie** (May 27, Piedmont Park).

Monthlong festival grooves around town

It’s hard to define, but you know it when you hear it,” says John Hesse, author of “Jazz: The First Century” and curator of American music at the Smithsonian Institution, specializing in jazz. “It’s all about how to make something new and exciting from the old and familiar.”

Alonzo Craig, performing arts program manager of the festival, promises a variety. “Jazz started in swing, then the big band era to bop, and keeps evolving,” he said. “It went from light-hearted dancing music to serious listening music. I plan to run the gamut, to have all those moments.”

After consulting a variety of sources, including Dave Frackenpohl, a jazz studies instructor at Georgia State University, we’ve created a jazz guide for beginners. While it doesn’t parse out every single strain of jazz, it hits the highlights.

Download a few songs and, if you like what you hear, check out some Jazz Fest performers who have a somewhat similar sound.

JAZZ GENRE

Swing

A rhythmic approach to improvisational jazz, usually a big band with complex arrangements. Swing also defines an era.



“Take the A Train,” Duke Ellington

“West End Blues,” Louis Armstrong (left)

CHECK OUT

Gwen Hughes & the Retro Jazz Kats (May 12, Jazz on the Lawn at Callanwolde)

The Jazz Ambassadors (May 16, Jazz at the Airport)

Kendrick Oliver & the New Life Jazz Orchestra (May 28, Piedmont Park)

Bebop/Hard bop

Faster and based on harmony rather than melody, bebop keeps a steady beat usually in the bass line. Hard bop goes a bit further, adding gospel and blues infusions often with intricate brass.

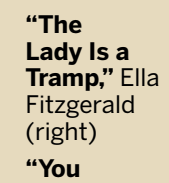


“Moanin’,” Art Blakey (left) and the Jazz Messengers

“Song for My Father,” Horace Silver

Classic jazz

More accessible than many stylized hybrids, it keeps the backbone of improvisation by trained artists, usually employing what is considered the great American songbook.



“The Lady Is a Tramp,” Ella Fitzgerald (right)

“You Are Too Beautiful,” Johnny Hartman with John Coltrane

The Gary Motley Trio (May 16, Oglethorpe University and May 20, First Congregational Church)

Ramon Pooser (May 24, Woodruff Park)

Rita Graham (May 27, the Wine Store)

Fusion

Improvisation meets funk. Sometimes called acid jazz, this style’s marked by electronic instruments and the infusion of soul and rock.



“Watermelon,” Herbie Hancock (left) and the Headhunters

“Birdland,” Weather Report

Dee Lucas & Xpressions Jazz Band (Tuesdays and Thursdays, Arizona’s)

William Green (May 12, Hyatt Regency Suites Windy Hill Road)

Days Ahead (May 17, Woodruff Park)

Yellowjackets (May 29, Piedmont Park)

Robert Glasper Trio (May 29, Piedmont Park)

Modern jazz

Blends in beats from around the world, while keeping the core of improvisation



“Kinda Dukish,” Jason Moran (left)

“Happy People,” Kenny Garrett

Southern Art Music Ensemble (May 23, Jazz at the Airport)

Ede Wright (May 28, Piedmont Park)

International Groove Conspiracy (May 27, Piedmont Park)

Pyeng Treadgill Octet (May 29, Piedmont Park)

Smooth jazz

Not jazz by standard definition. It’s most often instrumental versions of Motown and soul, or vocal melodies of rock with light rhythms derived from jazz. (“Smooth jazz DJs have been misleading American audiences for years,” says Hesse of the Smithsonian. “It’s instrumental, easy listening or soul. I love soul and Motown, but it’s not jazz.”)



“Giving You the Best That I’ve Got,” Anita Baker

“No Ordinary Love,” Sade (left)

Smooth Jazz Martinis and Imax (Friday nights at Fernbank)

Sounds of Essence (May 21, the Wine Store, Alpharetta)

ON AJC.COM

Hear the different genres and styles of this distinctly American music online at ajc.com.

2 Not sure what you like? Check out **Contagious** (May 31, Woodruff Park), a cover band promising to sample many of the jazz genres. Plus, most experts say novices should start their record collection with Miles Davis’ “Kind of Blue.”

3 Do not miss the **Jazz Masters**. Named by the National Endowment of the Arts for their “exceptional contributions to jazz,” **Barry Harris** (May 28, Piedmont Park), **Benny Golson** (May 27, Piedmont Park), **Donald Byrd** (May 28, Piedmont Park) and **McCoy Tyner** (May 27, Piedmont Park) not only continue to innovate, but were on the forefront of the genre.

IF YOU GO

Atlanta Jazz Festival
Through May 31. For more information, go to www.atlanta-festivals.com.

ANDREAS HERPENS / iStockphoto.com

Come out from behind your curtain, Wizard of Ounce, and fess up to this

By **JOHN KESSLER** / jkessler@ajc.com

The Association of Food Journalists listserv gives food writers a forum to chew on tough issues. How long do you wait before reviewing a new restaurant? What’s a real Pittsburgh-themed dish for a Super Bowl tailgate?

Earlier this week the listserv was abuzz over an unknown word. Valerie Phillips, food editor at the Deseret Morning News in Salt Lake City, sent out this plea: “... I’ve come across several recipes

{**Frounceen:** *adj.* kept below 32 degrees, as in a recipe ingredient}

that call for ‘frounceen’ orange juice, lemonade, and strawberries ... I suspect it means ‘frozen’ but I’m wondering if it’s a brand name or frozen concentrate. I certainly need to explain it to my readers if I’m running the recipes!”

Food writers around the country were immediately on the case. Sure enough, Google pulled up all kinds of references to frounceen ingre-

dients. Frounceen spinach. Frounceen yogurt. Frounceen Bacardi piña colada mix.

Perhaps it was an archaic term that had fallen into disuse. Alternately, these evidently frozen foods could have been turbo-chilled in a specific way.

Eventually, syndicated nutrition columnist Ed Blonz came across a food blog that addressed

the frounceen quandary. The blogger said the word simply meant frozen in the manner that “dounceen” – a term that also occasionally shows up in recipes – meant “dozen.”

Dounceen? Blonz’s aha moment came quickly. In both cases, he deduced, the hurried recipe writers had changed the abbreviation “oz” to “ounce” with a universal search-and-replace.

So remember, when you come across one of these odd words: Six of one, half a dounceen.