



Summertime inspires
outdoor jazz and blues

Description

Stephen Barry makes a guest appearance at Mary-Ann Lacey's August 13 concert

By Byron Toben

September 1, 2022

Jazz vocalist **Mary-Ann Lacey** continued her twice-monthly outdoor show at **La Petite Marche** on August 13. These sweet, jazzy and bluesy sounds of a summer evening can in a sense be traced back to Shakespeare's 1605 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for which Felix Mendelsohn wrote an overture in 1826 and incidental music in 1842.

In 1955, Ingmar Bergman wrote and filmed *Smiles of a Summer Night*, inspiring Stephen Sondheim's 1973 Broadway hit *A Little Night Music* and Woody Allen's 1982 film *A Midsummer's Night Sex Comedy*.

In this show, Ms. Lacey was joined by her frequent keyboard accompanist **Sylvain LeBuis**, and in the absence of her usual bassist **Paul Vandyk**, managed to track down and secure the contribution of the award-winning great **Stephen Barry**.

The program consisted of about 23 songs. Set One led off with the Fats Waller 1929 classic **Honey Suckle Rose**. Mr. Barry joined Ms. Lacey in a duet for part of it.

It continued with some of my favourites, such as Gus Kahn's 1936 *My Baby Just Cares for Me* and Johnny Burke's 1936 **Pennies from Heaven**.

Five other neat tunes later, the set concluded with two classics: Bill Monroe's 1945 *Blue Moon of Kentucky*, which motivated two bouncy ladies in the audience to dance along on the sidewalk as guitarist **Eric Sandmark**, on a night off, joined Ms. Lacey in a vocal duet; and Louis Jordan's 1943 *Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby?*



Set Two opened with the Sept/Clare 1930 hit *Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone*, followed by the Jacobs/Secunda 1932 mega-hit ***Bei Mir Bist Du Schein***.

The ever popular 1931 *All Of Me* by Marks/Simon soon followed, as well as two songs involving Tennessee, namely *Tennessee Blues* and the 1946 Stuart/King ***Tennessee Waltz*** which led to a dozen or so more audience couples joining in dancing along.

Ms. Lacey not only has a beautiful voice but is audience friendly. Surprising that the Montreal Jazz Fest has not picked this local star up – hint, hint.

Feature image: the Sandmark Trio (Sophie Charpentier, Mary-Ann Lacey and Eric Sandmark), by Signet

Byron Toben, a past president of The Montreal Press Club, has been WestmountMag.ca's theatre reviewer since July 2015. Previously, he wrote for since terminated web sites Rover Arts and Charlebois Post, print weekly *The Downtowner* and print monthly *The Senior Times*. He also is an expert consultant on U.S. work permits for Canadians.



FREE SHIPPING over \$99* LINEN CHEST SHOP NOW

Category

1. Music

Tags

1. Byron Toben
2. jazz and blues
3. Mary-Ann Lacey
4. Stephen Barry

Date Created

September 2022