

Music school celebrates with the Jazz All-Stars

By Karl Stark
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If you ever wondered where musical lessons could take you, there were some intriguing models on stage Sunday afternoon at the Independence Seaport Museum.

As part of its 100th-year celebrations, the nonprofit Settlement Music School presented its Jazz All-Stars, improvisers of some renown who had either studied or taught at one of Settlement's six campuses. (A seventh is planned for Bucks County.)

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The 3 p.m. gig featured large doses of big band and smaller combos over 2½ hours. The cost was just \$20, and there was even catered food and free wine afterward.

Baritone saxophonist Joe Sudler, who runs Sudler's Swing Machine, a big band in Philadelphia, was the conductor and MC. He thanked his mom, who was in the audience, for taking him to Settlement years ago and noted that his 8-year-old son, Joe Jr., is pursuing musical studies there.

Then he led the big band into a torrid version of "Love for Sale," featuring a precise solo from trumpeter and former student Duane Eubanks, whose brother

Kevin is music director of *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*.

The horns produced hot blasts throughout that were impressive, if ear-splitting at times. A few solos were poorly miked and lost amid the hubbub. But trumpeter Wallace Roney, clad in sunglasses and a gold jacket, offered some dramatic high notes and exotic intervals on "Stolen Moments." Later he joined with pianist Dave Posmontier for a picturesque duet on the intro to "Skylark."

Pianist Sumi Tonooka, a Philly native who relocated to the New York area years ago, made her presence felt with tasteful lines, while alto saxophonist Jaleel Shaw, another Philly export to New York, was a sly terror, quietly igniting Billy Strayhorn's "Intimacy of the Blues."

Drummers Craig McIver and Dave Gibson took turns keeping the various groups pulsing forward along with bassists Kevin MacConnell and Leonard "Hub" Hubbard, formerly of the Roots. Other soloists included tenor saxophonist Bob Howell, violinist John E. Blake Jr., and trumpeter Tony DeSantis. And tenor saxophonist John Simon, another expat, joked that he would like a Philly gig, if anyone had one.

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