

## The Interviewers:

**Scott Billington** has over 100 albums to his credit, including two *Grammy* winners and 11 *Grammy* nominees. He is a record producer and Rounder Records vice president of A&R, known for his work in the music industry as a writer, graphic designer, musician, and educator. Among the artists he has produced are Charlie Rich, Irma Thomas, Ruth Brown, Johnny Adams, Beau Jocque and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band. His writing has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Oxford American*, and other publications.

**Fred Kasten** is an Edward R. Murrow award-winning radio producer and interviewer. In 2007, he retired from a two-decade-plus tenure at the New Orleans NPR affiliate, 89.9 WWNO, but continues to produce work for the station. Projects include a 15-part series with *Pulitzer Prize*-winning journalist Bob Marshall on coastal restoration issues in Southeast Louisiana, *The Louisiana Coast: Last Call*, and a weekly jazz program, *Jazz New Orleans*, heard Friday nights on WWNO and at [wwno.org](http://wwno.org). During his years at WWNO, Kasten hosted the station's popular *Saturday Night Jazz*, created and produced the sketch comedy/*New Orleans* music variety program *Crescent City*, and was WWNO's Program Director and Associate General Manager.

**John Wirt** has written about music, film and other arts in Louisiana since 1992. A former staff writer at *The Advocate* newspapers, he's also the author of "Huey 'Piano' Smith and the Rocking Pneumonia Blues."

**Keith Spera**, a native of New Orleans, has written about music for more than 25 years. He served as editor of *Offbeat Magazine* in the early 1990s before joining the staff of *The Times-Picayune*. He was a member of the *Picayune's Pulitzer Prize*-winning Hurricane Katrina coverage team. His first book, *Groove Interrupted: Loss, Renewal and the Music of New Orleans*, was published by 2011. He is currently a music/feature writer at *The New Orleans Advocate*.

**Michael Tisserand** is author of "Krazy: George Herriman, A Life in Black and White," which was named one of the *New York Times'* one hundred notable books of 2017. His other books include *The Kingdom of Zydeco* and *Sugarcane Academy*.



## Let Them Talk...

CONVERSATIONS ON LOUISIANA MUSIC

presented by  
Jones Walker



April 14 and 15, 2018  
New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Mint  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 400 Esplanade Avenue

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## Saturday April 14, 2018

11:30 am – **LOUISIANA'S MULTI-TALENTED FRENCH CONNECTION** - Singer-songwriter, poet, cultural activist, and environmentalist, **Zachary Richard** is one of the most prominent exemplars of the deep, profound and on-going connections between Louisiana and the wider French-speaking world. Best known as a recording artist and performer, Richard scored several gold and platinum albums among the 20 recordings in his international music career so far. Richard talks about his many-faceted career with award-winning author Michael Tisserand.

12:30 pm – **40 YEARS ON AND STILL GOING STRONG!** – Founding band member and longtime leader of The Dirty Dozen, trumpeter **Gregory Davis** talks with interviewer Fred Kasten about the challenges and rewards of keeping a critically acclaimed ensemble together for over four decades.

1:30 pm – **GREET THE DAWN, NAUGHTY SWEETY** - New Orleans jazz singer and songwriter **Linnzi Zaorski**, recorded six cds in the last 10 years, including the two mentioned in her panel title. The Frenchmen Street vocalist will talk about her life and music with interviewer Fred Kasten.

2:30 pm – **PIANO MAN PLUS!** – **Richard Scott** is an accomplished songwriter as well, with a knack for wrapping his often wry lyrics in a captivating New Orleans traditional jazz package. He'll talk about his life and music with interviewer Fred Kasten.

3:30 pm – **TRIBUTE TO FATS DOMINO** – When the great Antoine “Fats” Domino passed away in 2017 he left a rich legacy of artistry and accomplishment. Domino, his songwriting partner and producer Dave Bartholomew, and the plethora of great musicians that they collaborated with, created over 25 gold singles. Multiple Grammy-winning producer Scott Billington moderates the panel which includes: writer **Rick Coleman**, author of the acclaimed biography *Blue Monday: Fats Domino and the Lost Dawn of Rock'n'Roll*; and longtime Domino friend **Haydee Ellis**.

4:30 pm – **JOSHUA FIT THE BATTLE OF BOOKER AND 'FESS** – **Joshua Paxton** is a gifted and highly versatile pianist with wide-ranging musical interests. Paxton moved to New Orleans from Ohio in the mid-90s to study with Ellis Marsalis at UNO and quickly established himself as a key player on the scene. He's worked with artists such as Maria Muldaur, Bruce Hornsby, and the Wild Magnolias – and has a long-running duo with Debbie Davis. Josh will share stories of his life in music with interviewer Fred Kasten.

5:30 pm - **A FUNKY THIRTY EIGHT** – It's been 38 years since Grammy-winning keyboardist, vocalist, guitarist, and songwriter **Jon Cleary** landed in New Orleans from the British village of Cranbrook, Kent, with \$100 in his pocket and the address of the Maple Leaf Bar. Nearly four decades later, Jon became one of the most accomplished performers and acclaimed songwriters we have. He'll talk about his musical journey with interviewer Fred Kasten.

## Sunday April 15, 2018

11:30 am – **VANESSA NIEMANN TALKS “GAL HOLIDAY”** – **Vanessa Niemann** is the “Gal” in **Gal Holiday** and the Honky Tonk Revue. The Maryland native originally moved to New Orleans with the idea of fronting a traditional jazz band, but ultimately decided to go country- in a western swing, honky tonk vein. Niemann tells tales of “Gal” and honky tonkin’ in New Orleans and beyond to interviewer Fred Kasten.

12:30 pm – **ON A MISSION FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC** – **Dr. Jee Yeoun Ko** is an accomplished cellist and educator. She grew up in Korea, where she studied piano first and then at 13, cello. Cello studies in Germany followed, then a doctorate from LSU. A former member of both the Baton Rouge and Acadiana Symphony Orchestras – Dr. Ko joined the faculty of the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA) a decade ago. As both a performer and educator she is on a mission to introduce the joys of classical music to the widest possible audience – and will talk about those efforts with interviewer Fred Kasten.

1:30 pm – **GREAT NAME, BIG TALENT** – Jazz singer **Christien Bold** has a ready-for-the-spotlight name – and the musical chops and performing savvy to shine brightly in that light. Whether sitting in with a master like Ellis Marsalis, or fronting his own band, Christien Bold brings a beautiful voice and musical sophistication to his interpretations of ballads, blues and standards. He'll talk about his jazz journey with interviewer Fred Kasten.

2:30 pm – **ALONG THE CLARINET ROAD** – **Evan Christopher** combines virtuosity, immaculate taste, and enthusiasm with a commitment to exploring the full range of possibilities in the New Orleans clarinet tradition. His highly personal brand of “contemporary early jazz” strives to extend the legacies of early Creole clarinetists such as Sidney Bechet, Barney Bigard and Omer Simeon. He'll talk about the challenges and rewards along the “Clarinet Road” with interviewer Fred Kasten.

3:30 pm – **THE LORD IS WAITING AND THE DEVIL IS TOO** – is the title track from **Johnny Sansone's** award-winning 2011 cd. Son of the saxophonist who played for Dave Bruck during WWII, Johnny held his first sax at an early age, and never looked back. He'll talk about his life as a bluesman and songwriter with veteran music writer John Wirt.

4:30 pm – **ROCKIN' IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY NEW ORLEANS** - “It can be hard to be a rock musician in New Orleans, and we knew we needed elements to make it a little different,” says **Darcy Malone**, lead singer of Darcy Malone and the Tangle. “What we're trying to achieve is rock/soul, with elements of something catchy—something like Ike & Tina Turner meets XTC.” The inherent contradiction in those disparate reference points, is the driving force behind Darcy Malone and the Tangle. Since its inception, band founders Malone and her husband, Tangle singer/guitarist Christopher Boye, wanted a project unburdened by traditional genre limitations. Darcy Malone talks about the Tangle's genre-defying journey with author and music writer Keith Spera.