



Jones Walker

Let Them Talk Stage

CONVERSATIONS ON LOUISIANA MUSIC AND
THE ARTISTS WHO CREATE IT

JONES WALKER

Saturday April 13th & Sunday April 14th, 2019
New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Mint
3rd Floor, 400 Esplanade Avenue

Come back to see us for Satchmo SummerFest
August 2-4, 2019
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The Interviewers:

Alison Fensterstock lives in New Orleans and has written about its music and culture for places including Rolling Stone, Pitchfork, NPR and the New York Times.

Gwen Thompkins is a journalist and writer based in New Orleans and host of the weekly public radio program, *Music Inside Out*. She is a former East Africa correspondent for National Public Radio and senior editor of NPR's *Weekend Edition with Scott Simon*. In 2011, Thompkins was a Nieman Foundation for Journalism fellow at Harvard University. She continues to file stories for NPR's news magazines and has written for NPR Music, The Library of Congress National Recording Registry and *The New Yorker* online.

Jennifer Odell has covered New Orleans' jazz, brass band and creative music communities on a freelance basis since the late '90s for outlets including Downbeat, Jazz Times, Rolling Stone, Offbeat, the Gambit and 64 Parishes. After 10 years in music production and jazz management, she switched gears to earn her M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University before returning to New Orleans to write full-time. In 2014, Jennifer founded the local chapter of the Jazz Journalists Association. She currently serves on the Downbeat Critics Poll Veterans Committee and as the Special Events Chair of the Camel Toe Lady Steppers.

John Wirt has been writing about music, film and other arts and entertainment in Louisiana since 1992. He's a 23-year, former staff writer at The Advocate newspapers and the author of the New Orleans music biography *Huey "Piano" Smith and the Rocking Pneumonia Blues*.

Maurice Carlos Ruffin, has been a recipient of an Iowa Review Award in fiction. A native of New Orleans, Ruffin is a graduate of the University of New Orleans Creative Writing Workshop and a member of the Peauxdunque Writers Alliance. His first novel *We Cast a Shadow* was published in 2019 by One World Random House and named a New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice.

Michael Tisserand is a New Orleans-based author whose most recent book, *Krazy: George Herriman, a Life in Black and White* (HarperCollins), received the Eisner Award and was listed in the New York Times' hundred notable books for 2017. His previous books include *The Kingdom of Zydeco* and *Sugarcane Academy: How a New Orleans Teacher and His Storm-Struck Students Created a School to Remember*.

Slangston Hughes, a New Orleans native, is a Hip-Hop artist whose work as an MC, musician, and bandleader makes him one of the most dynamic talents emerging from the city, and one whose live performances rival many of his contemporaries. Slangston's energetic, live instrumentation Hip-Hop stage show has been featured by Revolt TV's Local Love Tour, Hard Rock Cafe's Rock Local/Win Global contest and led to him providing opening support for acclaimed acts like Freddie Gibbs, Big Freedia, Akil of Jurassic 5, Oddisee and more. This former New Orleans Music Awards winner is also a contributing author to the 2010 guidebook *New Orleans: The Underground Guide*, now in its third printing and founder of the monthly talent showcase Uniquity, celebrating its 10th anniversary this month.

Saturday April 13, 2019

12:00 pm – **QUIANA LYNELL**
INTERVIEWED BY JOHN WIRT

Quiana released her album debut, *A Little Love*, April 5 via The Concord Jazz label. The album includes Lynell's interpretations of songs by Nina Simone, Irma Thomas, George and Ira Gershwin, Chaka Khan and Donny Hathaway. Lynell is the 2017 winner of the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. Her fans include the Oscar-nominated New Orleans composer and jazz musician Terence Blanchard. "When I first heard her sing," Blanchard said, "my initial thought was, 'Who are you, where have you been and why am I just hearing now?'"

1:00 pm – **RORY DANGER & THE DANGER DANGERS**
INTERVIEWED BY GWEN THOMPCKINS

Gwen will interview one of the most creatively and musically gifted bands in New Orleans. Rory Danger and the Danger Dangers are known for their original, rockabilly-ish, rip-roaring, spit-on-the-floor repertoire and concept recordings, including songs inspired by polar expeditions. They've tackled Ernest Shackleton and Santa Claus. We'll cover it all, except — that is — for the spit.

2:00 pm – **LUKE ALLEN**
INTERVIEWED BY JENNIFER ODELL

In both his long-running rock outfit Happy Talk and more recently with his solo work, Luke Spurr Allen's songs speak to a world charged with life's darkest ironies. For better or worse, it's a familiar world for many of us -- and Allen's rare storytelling expertise combined with his knack for chasing melodies that yank at your heart with a dry lyrical wit back, of sorts, casts that world in a specific, local light. Join us for a conversation about literary songwriting, musical stories and the art of reaping beauty out of the shadows.

3:00 pm – **"TALKING KRAZY" WITH JOHN BOUTTÉ & BEN SCHENCK**
INTERVIEWED BY MICHAEL TISSERAND

John Boutté and Ben Schenck talk with author Michael Tisserand about their music and collaborations, including their new version of the song "Happy Land," which pays homage to New Orleans cartoonist (and Boutté cousin) George Herriman and the comic strip *Krazy Kat*.

4:00 pm – **CARL LEBLANC & JONATHAN FRELICH**
INTERVIEWED BY JENNIFER ODELL

The right bond between music teacher and student can inspire decades of new musical ideas while helping to strengthen traditions embedded within the music's past. That's certainly been the case for guitarist and composer Jonathan Frelich and his first New Orleanian musical mentor, Carl LeBlanc, whose unique experience working with avant-garde and traditional New Orleans jazz continues to inform the creative output of his onetime student and vice versa. LeBlanc and Frelich look back on their journeys through one another's creative orbits with an eye to how that experience continues to impact their work today.

5:00 pm – **ALFRED BANKS**
INTERVIEWED BY SLANGSTON HUGHES

Celebrating his tenth anniversary as a Hip-Hop emcee, Alfred Banks' career has traversed quite the path of peaks and valleys, from Loyola University student (similar to his peer and collaborator, G-Eazy) to this year's *Offbeat Magazine* Best of the Beat Best Hip-Hop Artist and all of the struggles in between. We'll also discuss his work ethic which has led to being managed by the Mid Citizen imprint, touring with Tank and the Bangas and his advocacy work for mental health which allowed the New Orleans based rapper to turn the pain of his brother's death into powerful art with his 2017 release "The Beautiful."

Sunday April 14, 2019

12:00 pm – **MAGGIE KOERNER**
INTERVIEWED BY GWEN THOMPCKINS

Maggie Koerner has a voice so strong it can bounce around a room and make the windows rattle. She talks about finding her identity in an age of powerful singers and building a career as songwriter, solo artist and collaborator.

1:00 pm – **DAYNA KURTZ**
INTERVIEWED BY ALISON FENSTERSTOCK

Dayna Kurtz is a fierce blues belter with an international fan base whose latest project, *Lulu & the BroadSides*, heats up the dance floor with classic, upbeat rhythm and blues.

2:00 pm – **ROBIN BARNES**
INTERVIEWED BY ALISON FENSTERSTOCK

Robin Barnes comes from a deep-rooted New Orleans musical family, but her style and sound are all her own. Her EP "The Songbird Sessions" debuted in *Billboard's* Traditional Jazz top ten.

3:00 pm – **JAMES ANDREWS**
INTERVIEWED BY MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN

New Orleans has one of the largest populations of working musicians in the world. We'll talk to James Andrews about the nitty gritty work of being a working musician, the state of New Orleans music, and his hopes for the future.