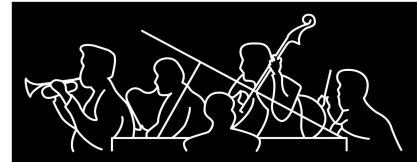


## ARTISTS' QUARTER / September 2009 Calendar

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the ARTISTS' QUARTER

- **Jon Pemberton Quintet – Tribute to Lee Morgan (Fri. & Sat., Sept. 4 & 5, 9:00 pm, \$10 cover).** Versatile trumpeter Jon Pemberton has proved his *bona fides* in the worlds of jazz, ska, reggae and more. This weekend, the JPQ focuses on towering troubled/brilliant Blue Note artist Lee Morgan. Raised in Philly, Morgan was one of the finest hard-bop trumpet players ever. Whether leading the way on his classic 1963 release *The Sidewinder* or serving as a teenage sideman in the incredible lineup on John Coltrane's *Blue Train*, Morgan was stunning. Morgan's life ended too early, at age 33, when Morgan was shot and killed by his common law wife at an NYC gig.
- **Lucia Newell Quartet (Fri., Sept. 11, 9:00 pm, \$10 cover).** Thrush deluxe Lucia Newell has graced the stands of Twin Cities jazz clubs for many years. The Minneapolis native enjoyed vocal runs in NYC, Los Angeles and two years in Rio de Janeiro during her boho/wanderlust period. Back in town for good (hers and ours) since 1982, this evocative and sultry singer has released two wonderful CDs – *Enter You, Enter Love* (with Joan Griffith in 1995) and *Steeped in Strayhorn*.
- **How Birds Work (Sat., Sept. 12, 9:00 pm, \$10 cover).** Doses of rock and funk can be found in the post-bop explorations of How Birds Work, always with a sense of purpose and an intoxicating rhythmic force. *City Pages* had this to say about HBW's residency at the AQ: "[M]usic this simultaneously assured and expansive deserves a good home – and How Birds Work has found it." Kenny Horst (drums), Peter Schimke (piano), Chris Bates (bass) and Dean Granros (guitar).
- **Tribute to Jack McDuff featuring The Tuesday Night Band with guest Pete Whitman (Fri. & Sat., Sept. 18 & 19, 9:00 pm, \$10 cover).** To say that Captain Jack McDuff was one of the most revered titans to ever call the Twin Cities music scene home is to sell the Hammond B-3 organ master short. Truth is, Brother Jack McDuff was such a commanding force in the entire world of jazz that he earned two solid and enduring nicknames. With a career spanning more than 40 years (the last 10 of which were based in the Twin Cities), McDuff was a bandleader who developed talents like George Benson and Red Holloway, a composer with a wickedly melodic sensibility and a penchant for bluesy soul, and a jazz organ pioneer who influenced every great who followed in his path (Joey DeFrancesco comes to mind). He released classic recordings on labels like Prestige (1961's *The Honeydripper* hangs on the AQ's back wall) and Atlantic. Jack passed away in early 2001, and he has been dearly missed ever since. Every member of the Tuesday Night Band had a close musical and personal connection to Jack, and their always emotional sound should have an extra dose of that McDuff magic. Jack's wife Kathy McDuff will be on hand to share in some memories with the band (including, no doubt, the story of how she and Jack met at the AQ). The Tuesday Night Band, made up of McDuff friends, admirers and musical compatriots, features Bill Brown (B-3 organ), Kenny Horst (drums), Billy Franze (guitar) and special guest Pete Whitman (sax).
- **Astral Project (Fri. & Sat., Sept. 25 & 26, 8:00 & 10:30 pm, \$20 cover).** Since 1978, Astral Project has been New Orleans' most exciting, inventive and respected modern jazz group – considered standouts in a city where that title is not easily bestowed. *Down Beat* calls Astral Project "one of the most distinctive and cohesive groups in jazz." *JazzTimes* calls Astral Project "one of the more adventurous working units in modern jazz today." *OffBeat* magazine, from the Crescent City, says Astral Project is "the finest modern jazz ensemble in New Orleans, and undoubtedly one of the most unique jazz groups period." Their sound is heralded for its unique mix of funky street rhythms, exotic melodies and brilliant improvisation. Saxophonist Tony Dagradi, a devoted student of Eastern philosophy, coined the band name as a reflection of the group's quest for a higher plane. As anyone who has seen the band in concert knows, every performance finds the band members reaching for the stars. "All of my life what I've enjoyed most is that I get to play all kinds of different gigs with different people," says John Vidacovich, the undisputed master of modern New Orleans drumming. "But this is what we do. What makes us cool as a group is that when we get together – for so long over so many years – we bring these other little trips we've been on." In addition to Dagradi and Vidacovich, the stellar group features guitar god Steve Masakowski and the great James Singleton on bass. This is Astral Project's first AQ visit, and it promises to be one of the highlights of the year.