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LBI Foundation to Bring Jazz to the Island's Music Scene

On July 3, the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences will be hosting its first Jazz Cocktail Hour as part of its summer concert series. The evening is hosted by Sara Michaels, a jazz vocalist and coordinator who, in coming to LBI, wishes to bring the unknown about jazz to the general public.

The evening offers a half-hour mingling session, followed by an hour-long performance by The Jost Project, a Philadelphia-based jazz and blues group made up of musical educators and artists. Paul Jost on vocals, Matthew Parrish on upright bass, Tony Miceli on vibraphone and Marko Marcink on drums have taken their group across the East Coast and abroad, performing unique jazz arrangements of popular music, such as The Beatles and Simon & Garfunkel. The group, according to the event's press release, aims to "bring new generations to jazz" through their covers.

Michaels also emphasized how misconceptions about jazz and its lack of accessibility are something that could be changed. This cocktail event, one of three for this summer, hopes to open the doors to jazz to an uninitiated public, with The Jost Project's performance to be followed by a Q&A session with the band and people behind the scenes.

Sound for the Cocktail Hour will be provided locally by Rock Solid Productions, and is sponsored by Benée Scola Realtors & Co. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the performance portion of the evening starting at 7. Tickets are \$25 at the door for adults, but only \$20 if bought online at lbfoundation.org. Whether they're bought online or on the day of, adult tickets include two cocktails. For students, tickets are just \$10 and include one beverage.

The next Jazz Cocktail Hour is on Aug. 21, also at 6:30, and the final one will be on Sept. 11 at 3 in the afternoon. Both will feature different artists than The Jost Project, such as Lynn Riley and The World Mix and Sara Michaels' own quartet, so each event hopes to be one of a kind. The July 3 performance will be at the LBIF, at 120 Long Beach Blvd., in Loveladies. Information about other upcoming events for the LBIF can be found on its website.