

Tonight's best bet: Jazz at Notes

by Ben Johnson



We've been in touch with Joe Piazza quite a bit recently regarding his new Monday night jazz series at Bobby Digi's Notes on Water Street off Bay. Tonight's is 7-11 p.m., and fans of jazz music may dig it.

Wednesday blues jam sessions at Adobe Blues, Thursday jazz performances at Cargo, and the regular live music at venues like Karl's Klipper all keep good sounds happening during the week and weekends, but it's good to hear news of even more swingin' music gracing the North Shore, and it sounds like Piazza has the goods to serve up some cookin' performances.

Piazza has an impressive resume of jamming with serious musicians, and now it's time to pay the piper--or drummer, as it were. "I'm calling in favors," he chuckled over the phone in a recent interview, talking about how after traveling to all of the city's boroughs to session with other musicians, he was finally asking some of them to ante up and head to SI for a few gigs.

Tonight's featured guest playing with Piazza is jazz organist Reuben Wilson. Wilson, like Piazza, is an experienced musician with a long resume. An excerpt from his bio on myspace: "Reuben Wilson was one of many soul-jazz organists to emerge in the late '60s, but he was one of only a handful of new organists from that era to be signed to Blue Note. By that point in the label's history, most of their artists were concentrating on accessible soul-jazz, and while he occasionally strayed outside of the conventions of the genre, Wilson more or less followed their rule. Between 1968 and 1971, he recorded five sessions for the label. None of his records received much acknowledgment at the time, but they were later rediscovered by a new generation of soul-jazz fans, becoming collector's items within acid jazz and soul-jazz revivalist circles."