



Savage-GuilfordPatch

ARTS

Liz Fixsen's Music Column: The Majestic Notes

Coco's Butter Café features live jazz on a weekly basis in Jessup.

By **Elizabeth Fixsen** November 3, 2010

Coco's Butter Café is in a rather unlikely location for a classy jazz club. It faces on a small lane past the Fortune Star Chinese buffet in the Columbia East Marketplace. That's the building that once housed the Burlington Coat Factory, at the southeast corner of Route 175 and Route 1, not far from a truck stop and a group of wholesale produce dealers.

But classy it is, and yet cozy -- seating at most only around 50 people including the tables and the bar. It has the friendly feel of a neighborhood tavern but the stylish look of a European bistro.

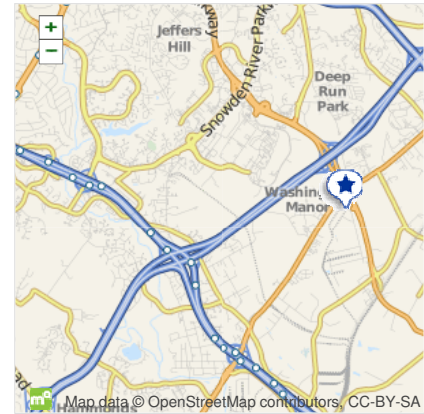
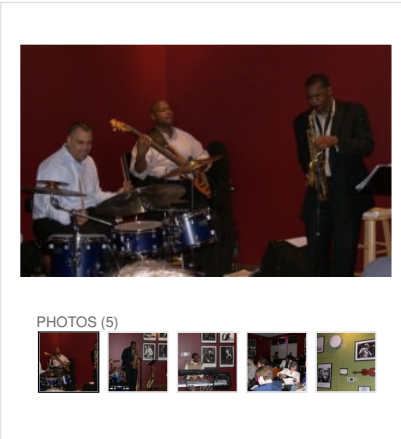
The dining area walls are painted a rich Venetian red and are adorned with various brass instruments and large, handsome framed black-and-white photos of jazz legends such as Billie Holiday and Miles Davis. More jazz portraits, and a violin, as well as two wine display cases, hang on the creamy avocado-colored wall behind the granite-topped bar.

Coco's offers live jazz every Saturday night from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., with a \$15 cover. Some of the area's best musicians perform there. Flutist Marsha Meekins appeared in May; Our Moods Swings and SolKlectic were featured in September; vocalist Gwendolyn Collins performed in March and April.

The night I visited, October 23, the place was nearly full for the appearance of the Majestic Notes, a quartet led by saxophonist Stuart Dailey, with Derrick Thompson on keyboards, Mitchell Coates on electric bass, and Jesse Moody on drums; Derrick and Jesse are regular performers at Coco's. The band played two virtuoso sets of funk and jazz standards for an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. I particularly enjoyed their uptempo salsa version of "The Girl from Ipanema."

The menu offers a delectable choice of international wines, chocolates, and gourmet desserts as well as an epicurean array of appetizers such as seafood salad, chicken salad, spinach dip, Caprese salad, artisan cheeses with Spanish almonds, and a medley of cheeses with salami, sausage, and almonds. Beer, tea, coffee, and sodas are also available.

The café is open Thursday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; it is closed on Sunday through Wednesday or available for private events. On the first and third Fridays of the month, Open Mic Poetry happens from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., with a cover charge of \$5 for the poets and \$10 for the general audience. Thursday happy hour menu specials are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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