

PRESS SCREENING BY SPECIAL INVITATION ONLY

A First Look at

THOMAS CHAPIN, NIGHT BIRD SONG

A New Music Film

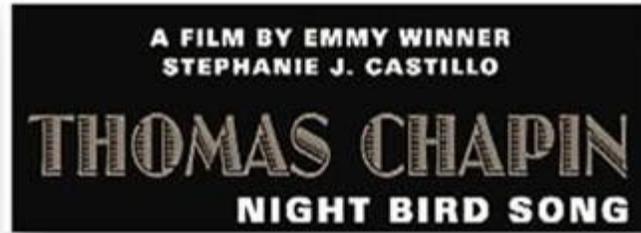
Sunday, February 21st or Sunday, February 28th from 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

at Michael Dorf's City Winery 155 Varick St, New York, NY 10013

Can't make it on February 21st? A second screening is set for Feb. 28th!



Destined to be among the great virtuosos of jazz, Thomas Chapin, an alto sax and flute master was nearing the pinnacle of his meteoric rise when leukemia took him at the age of 40 in 1998. **THOMAS CHAPIN, NIGHT BIRD SONG** draws an intimate portrait of this musical explorer who pushed and transcended the boundaries of jazz and music in the '80s and '90's. Because of this film, he will no longer be only a footnote in jazz. His indelible mark will be made known. **Please join us and meet EMMY-winning filmmaker Stephanie J. Castillo and members of her cast and crew.**



THOMAS CHAPIN, NIGHT BIRD SONG will start promptly at 2:00 p.m. and runs 150 minutes. There will be a 20-minute intermission with complimentary refreshments following Part 1.

SEATING IS LIMITED

City Winery is one of NYC's most respected music venues; the space for this event seats 75.

Please RSVP your preferred date - 2/21 or 2/28

Send your RSVP to: tcnightbirdsong@gmail.com

Please include your name, email and contact number.

Press members please confirm your affiliation.

We anticipate a waiting list; if you said YES in your RSVP and then find you are unable to attend, please email us at tcnightbirdsong@gmail.com to release your seat.

Ms. Castillo is looking forward to sharing her film and Thomas Chapin's incandescent life and music with you.

Come meet the cast and crew. For more information about the film and to view the 7-min. trailer, please go to <http://www.thomaschapinfilm.com>

Special thanks to Michael Dorf for hosting this event at City Winery and for sharing his memories about Thomas and The Knitting Factory in the film.

THOMAS CHAPIN, NIGHT BIRD SONG

He left us too soon.

We look forward to greeting you!

Please note: These City Winery private press screenings are in advance of the documentary's March 6 Advance Screening at Real Art Ways, Hartford, Connecticut and the March 13 FREE Screening for Donors, Supporters and the Public at the SVA Theater in Manhattan.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: THOMAS CHAPIN NIGHT BIRD SONG

FOR YOUR USE, THE LOGLINE

Destined to be among the great virtuosos of jazz, Thomas Chapin, an alto sax and flute master, was nearing the pinnacle of his meteoric rise when leukemia took him at the age of 40 in 1998. Fame and world recognition eluded him during his lifetime, despite the mark he left on jazz in the '80s and '90s. His passion for life and incandescent music remain unforgettable to fans who knew him and to musicians who played with him. Today, his music is inspiring a new generation of artists and musicians who have discovered him.

ABOUT THE FILM: Advance viewers who have watched **THOMAS CHAPIN, NIGHT BIRD SONG** say there is an immediate sense that Chapin made a profound difference in the lives of the people that knew and worked with him.

A dynamic, powerful and engaging performer, he is painted in this intimate film as a musical explorer who pushed and transcended the boundaries of jazz and dissolved the distinctions between sound and music. Chapin left behind an avid group of worldwide fans and supporters, along with a collection of recordings that include original compositions with sounds as relevant today as they were when he first recorded them.

In **NIGHT BIRD SONG**, Castillo draws from her more than 40 on-camera interviews conducted with world renowned luminaries in the world of jazz and music, including jazz broadcaster Alex Dutilh of Radio France Musique; Paul H. Jeffrey, the late Professor Emeritus, who mentored Thomas while teaching respectively at Hartt School of Music and Rutgers Livingston College; Dr. Larry Ridley Chairman, Rutgers/Livingston Music Department; Mario Pavone, Thomas Chapin Trio bassist (also an Associate Producer on the film); fellow musicians, among them Peter McEachern, Bob Musso, Arthur Kell, Saul Rubin, Su Terry, Walter Thompson, and Pablo Aslan; jazz legends Ray Drummond and Kenny Barron; City Winery's Michael Dorf (also an Associate Producer on the film), a New York entrepreneur, impresario and philanthropist; music promoters Danny Melnick, Bruce Lee Gallanter and Joel Chriss; and writers/music critics Bob Blumenthal, Larry Blumenfeld, Frank Van Herk and Gene Seymour. The director also shares personal stories from Thomas Chapin's family and friends, including Ted Chapin, Thomas's brother; Terri Castillo Chapin, Thomas's wife; and Gil Barretto, Thomas's spiritual counselor.

On various shoot locations, Castillo's video photographers filmed on Canon FX Series cameras, shooting high-definition footage. The principal photography was done by New York City cinematographer Hugh Walsh. Over a two-year period, the film shoots took place in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Hartford, Phoenix, and Tucson and in Europe (France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands).

When asked why she made the film, Castillo replies, "After my research, I realized what an incredible opportunity I had to bring Thomas's story and music to a world that might have never known him or might have forgotten him. I wanted to invite those who have never heard of Thomas Chapin to take the time to discover his genius, which came out through his music. I also wanted them to discover as I had in making this film the depth of talent, dedication and passion this man had about life and music. I was convinced his story would have the power to lift us all! And so in 2012, I set out to make it and to truly honor him, his music and his story, and to ensure his legacy."

The forty-two interviews that made the final cut in the film's 150-minute Showcase Version for premieres and showcases form the narrative backbone for film's structure and are interwoven with a series of Thomas Chapin performance concerts from archived footage and audio recordings stored at Thomas Chapin's archives at Duke University.

Castillo also gathered performance footage from several jazz festivals, including the 1995 highly-acclaimed performance of the Thomas Chapin Trio at the Newport Jazz Festival; from various performance venues, including Michael Dorf's Knitting Factory; and from friends and fans who had videotaped live performances primarily in Connecticut.

Castillo spent a year scripting the film with co-writer and co-producer Noel "Sonny" Izon, her long-time filmmaking partner. His prolific documentary work includes nationally televised programs produced mainly for PBS and for National Geographic Television.

Castillo edited the film herself, ensconced for 8-months in the quiet haven of Belmont, Vermont. Her final post-work on graphics, titles and a stereo soundtrack was done by editors in Honolulu, Hawaii this past December.

MORE ABOUT CHAPIN: Initially Chapin spent a good portion of his time performing and working with the important names in various factions of jazz. Aside from Hampton, he performed with Chico Hamilton, John Zorn, Dave Douglas, Ned Rothenberg, Marty Ehrlich, Ray Drummond, Betty Carter, Ronnie Mathews, Peggy Stern, Tom Harrell, Anthony Braxton and many more. For nearly 10 years, Chapin pursued his own music as band leader and composer, working with his various ensembles at festivals and clubs around the world. Chapin's various bands and recording projects included work with The Thomas Chapin Trio, The Thomas Chapin Trio Plus Brass, Plus Strings, The Thomas Chapin Quartet, Spirits Rebellious (Brazilian group), ZASIS and Machine Gun. People that were lucky enough to have known him and/or attend one of his concerts were mesmerized by his inner and outer beauty and with his iridescent and inherent relationship to his instrument, through his body, mind and soul.

You can still feel the impact the artist made on the lives of all that came in contact with him. Laurence Donohue-Greene, Managing Editor of The New York City Jazz Record, recalls, "Thomas performing at Newport in 1995... That was a life highlight in music for me. Over 20 years ago and I vividly remember that set to this very day as still being one of the greatest Newport Jazz Festival sets I've ever seen."

The film's title **NIGHT BIRD SONG** is from a Thomas Chapin Trio's signature tune inspired by the striking melodic turns of a bird's song that Chapin heard while on a midnight walk.

Composed and arranged by Chapin and his bassist, Mario Pavone, the title evokes the arc in his music career that reveals he was solidly rooted in tradition yet straining its boundaries at every turn. Jazz critic Larry Blumenfeld shares about the arc, "The arc corresponds less to common categories of 'downtown,' 'mainstream' and more to the flight paths of birds Chapin seemed to favor in song titles. With grace and individuality, Chapin took us to places—lofty and striking and sometimes dangerous—that forced a change

ABOUT THOMAS CHAPIN: Alto saxophonist Thomas Chapin was born on March 9, 1957 and passed away Chapin died of leukemia in 1998 at age forty. Born in Manchester, Connecticut, he attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts where he studied classical music and jazz. He began his serious studies in the late 1970s, attending the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford in Connecticut, studying with saxophonist Jackie MacLean.

In 1980 he graduated from Rutgers University where he studied with saxophonist Paul Jeffrey, pianist Kenny Barron and guitarist Ted Dunbar. From 1981 to 1986, he toured with the jazz grand master Lionel Hampton and his big band as lead saxophonist and musical director. The New York Times said of Chapin, one of the more exuberant saxophonists and bandleaders in jazz” and “one of the few musicians to exist in both the worlds of the 'downtown' experimentalist scene, and mainstream jazz.”

ABOUT STEPHANIE CASTILLO: Stephanie J. Castillo, a former newspaper journalist who wrote for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in the 1980's, is from Hawaii but has been fundraising and traveling full-time for four years to complete **NIGHT BIRD SONG** by the start of 2016. She heads a Hawaii-based production company 'Olena Productions with partners in Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. Currently she is based in Brooklyn to set up the film's premieres and screenings. She is available for interviews at castillosj@aol.com and welcomes reviews of the film from the press community. Her 30-year filmmaking career alone is worth a look, should any media be interested in doing a profile article. For filmmaker Castillo's personal website and for information about her other films, go to <http://www.olenamedia.com>

ABOUT THE SCREENINGS

The Hartford Advance Screening- Real Art Ways, on Sunday, March 6 - 56 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: 860-232-1006 **Doors open at 1:30 p.m. film begins at 2 p.m.** For ticket sales, phone 860-232-1006

Real Art Ways is an alternative multidisciplinary arts organization that presents and supports contemporary artists and their work, facilitates the creation of new work, and creatively engages, builds, and informs audiences and communities. Real Art Ways is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that depends on the support of its members and community to continue delivering on its mission of innovative exhibitions and programming. www.realartways.org

This advance screening will occur three days before Thomas Chapin's birthday; he would have been 59 on March 9. Expected to be among the ticket-holders will be many of Chapin's faithful fans, friends, and family and film donors from his native Connecticut who are expected to attend the screening to remember him and to celebrate the Thomas Chapin they knew and loved. That night and after the film screening's dinner break, ticket holders for the special concert to follow will experience Thomas Chapin's music *live* and will surely come to better understand the depth of his talent and intense genius in composing Chapin possessed. The Thomas Chapin Brass Music, conducted by Dave Ballou, features Mario Pavone, Michael Sarin, Peter McEachern, Marty Ehrlich, Tony Malaby, Art Baron, Ben Stapp, and Nick Roseboro. Pavone and Sarin are from the original Thomas Chapin Trio.

Hartford, Connecticut is where it all started for Thomas Chapin—growing up in nearby Manchester, playing in clubs as a teenager and throughout his career. Heading off to Phillips Academy Andover where he discovered the sax; attending the Hartt School of Music; leaving for Rutgers University/Livingston College where his formal jazz studies intensified; and then launching into a career that began with a 6-year stint in the Lionel Hampton Band where he was musical director and lead alto sax, Chapin roots were entrenched in Hartford up until his last concert, in 1998 when Chapin returned to Manchester for his last performance. He passed away 12 days later on Feb. 13, 1998 at age 40 following a year-long battle with leukemia.

The New York FREE Screening, SVA Theatre, on Sunday, March 13 - 333 West 23 Street, NY, NY 10010. For Donors, Supporters and the Public. **Doors open at 1 p.m.; the film begins 1:30 p.m. RSVP TO: TCNIGHTBIRDSONG@GMAIL.COM** RSVPs required. For other questions, email castillosj@aol.com or keymediagroup@verizon.net

Thomas Chapin left us too soon. The free SVA screening and other pending screenings in NYC will be the stage for introducing Chapin to many who never had the chance to know him or to hear him play. Chapin was well known for being a bridge to both the uptown and the downtown scenes. Pending screenings will include uptown jazz venues in Manhattan and Queens where Chapin also lived and performed.

FOR MORE ON THE FILM, LOG ONTO: <http://www.thomaschapinfilm.com/>

TO VIEW THE FILM'S 7-MINUTE TRAILER, GO TO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvWHsVSoPME>

TO SCHEDULE A SCREENING OF THE FILM: Contact the film's Associate Producer and film's screening coordinator, Abby Lincoln-Crawford at abrajazzbra@aol.com.

PR CONTACT: Denise Marsa, KeyMedia Public Relations: Cell: (347) 224-2294, E-mail: keymediagroup@verizon.net

ABOUT KEYMEDIA PUBLIC RELATIONS: KeyMedia Public Relations is a New York City Based Public Relations and Production Company with a Focus on the Performing Arts, Health & Wellness and Non-Profits. Its owner, Denise Marsa, is an award winning international recording artist, producer and songwriter.



WWW.THOMASCHAPIN.COM

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