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FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013 **1B**



Have grand piano, will play anywhere, anytime

Kazzrie Jaxen Quartet: From living room to stage

STORY AND PHOTOS BY FRANK RIZZO

The barnacles of myth and cliché built up around jazz are thick and formidable. We think of it as late night music of smoky clubs and an after-hours demimonde.

We think of the quintessential jazz musician as a creature of the night – and much else, thanks to the mythology.

Well, think again. How about jazz in the morning? Not the just-after-midnight early morning, but the just before noon morning. What about live jazz in a living room? What a concept.

At a time when performing jazz musicians of clichéd imagination might have just been getting to sleep, the Kazzrie Jaxen Quartet began a living room jazz concert at her Callicoon home one Saturday in late November.

After accounting for Jaxen's Steinway grand, the drum

set, and two standing musicians, there was room for maybe 15-20 attendees, some of whom had to listen from the kitchen next door.

"We love to play standards," Jaxen told her friends and fans before the concert, the second to take place at her house overlooking Route 97. "We never know what we're going to do. We don't have set arrangements and... we do some free improvisation."

She added, "You'll never know how it will unfold, but you're definitely a part of the unfolding and the creation."

From legendary jazz venues such as The Blue Note and Birdland to her living room to Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA, Jaxen is at home anywhere a grand piano can be wheeled in.

For those who could not



make her living room concerts, Jaxen and her quartet will be performing on Saturday, January 19 at The Cooperidge, 1030 Main St. in Honesdale, PA. Doors open

at 6:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$15.

For info, call 570-253-2020 or visit www.thecooperage-project.org.

Clockwise from above left: Performing late last year in Kazzrie Jaxen's living room were, from left, Charley Krachy on tenor sax, Don Messina on double bass, Jaxen on piano and Bill Chattin on drums.

Getting into the emotion of the music, Kazzrie Jaxen accompanies her vocals with expressive facial gestures.

Charley Krachy's tenor sax has obviously seen lots of use over the years.

Don Messina's fingers fly over the strings on his double bass.

