



**Jazz in AZ** cordially invites you

to an extraordinary in-home jazz concert

with world-renowned and all-time Valley-favorite vocalist

## **Francine Reed**

with accompaniment contributed by pianist Joel Robin

**Thursday, May 5, 2011**

Party starts at 5:45 p.m.; 2 sets of music beginning at 6:30

**~ Cinco de Mayo-themed libations and food ~**



This is an exclusive event in support of the forthcoming  
**Lewis Nash-Jazz in AZ Community Center**  
to be located in the Roosevelt Arts District of downtown Phoenix:  
a facility that will be a new focal point for jazz in the Valley,  
with an emphasis on creating performance opportunities  
for young musicians and cultivating a young jazz audience.

Minimum donation: \$75 per person  
with larger donations encouraged to create and sustain the Center

Space limited to 70 guests. Located in north central Phoenix  
RSVP no later than Monday, May 2nd  
to Joan at 480-947-6119 or [joan@jazzinaz.org](mailto:joan@jazzinaz.org).



*See other side for more info on Francine Reed and the Center*



## About Francine Reed

Known to most of the world as Lyle Lovett's duet and back-up vocalist, Francine Reed will forever be regarded by many as the Valley's "first lady of song." This Chicago-born songstress has been singing professionally since she was a child in her family's gospel group. "I always say I was born singing," recalls Francine. "When the doctor slapped me on the ass, I sang, 'Look at me!'" Francine moved to the Valley in the mid-'70s and was undeniably the most popular female vocalist in the area for two decades. In fact, for a number of years after she departed the market for Atlanta in 1994, she still won the New Times "Best of Phoenix" polls!

Until 1984, Francine sang a predominantly jazz repertoire in her own inimitable fashion -- most often with her good friend and favorite accompanist to this day, Joel Robin at the piano. In 1985, she met then-unknown singer Lyle Lovett and they formed a strong alliance. Francine provided "Lyle Lovett and his Large Band" with an indomitable stage presence and harmonic texture that wowed fans and critics worldwide. Performing with Lovett's ensemble for over a decade, Francine appeared on several of the artist's platinum discs, and sang alongside Lovett on "*Late Night with David Letterman*," "*The Tonight Show*" with Jay Leno and "*Regis and Kathy Lee*." In addition to her touring schedule with Lovett, Francine has sung on recordings by Delbert McClinton and Roy Orbison, and performed in a major televised concert with Willie Nelson. Francine's distinctive vocals can also be heard on several television commercials including Senekot Laxative ("I Feel Good") and in a scene from the 1993 hit film, *The Firm*, via Tom Cruise's character's disc player.

Francine has released a number of her own CDs, including her most recent release, *Shades of Blue*, that features her equally talented sister, Margo Reed, on "Got a Right to Sing the Blues." Francine also stars frequently in Teatro ZinZanni, a rousing world-class dinner-entertainment show in Seattle and San Francisco.

There is only one Francine Reed. If you've seen and heard her before, then you know that her charisma and vocal abilities cannot be overstated. If you have not experienced Francine, then this is your chance to be in an intimate performance setting with a truly great artist who will dazzle you. In either case, this is an exclusive event in support of The Lewis Nash-Jazz in AZ Community Center that is not to be missed!

## About The Lewis Nash-Jazz in AZ Community Center

**The Lewis Nash-Jazz in AZ Community Center** arises out of the strong commitment of Jazz in AZ to continue the legacy of jazz, America's proud original art form. To meet this commitment, Jazz in AZ, its benefactors and partners will provide young jazz artists a venue with amenities conducive to their educational and performance needs, an ambiance attractive to them and to young audiences, and where educators as well as established jazz musicians will interact to encourage an appreciation of jazz. In addition to the physical structure and design to meet these needs, the Center will provide unique educational programs and bring noted jazz musicians to this venue for performances, workshops and clinics. Lewis Nash, a world-renowned jazz percussionist and Phoenix native, has lent his name to the venue and is committed to help support the mission of the Center and to contribute his talents to the endeavor.

It is a fact that no such venue is currently available to young people in the Valley, nor is there an existing venue that serves as a dedicated focal point for jazz information, education and performance. Young jazz artists, educators, mentors and parents have confirmed the need for such a venue and have voiced their enthusiasm. Multiple meetings have been held to solicit their ideas as to the characteristics of a venue that would meet their needs and draw young audiences. In accordance with their invaluable input, this venue is designed to include a performance area that will accommodate rehearsals, performances and jam sessions of musicians, including combos and big bands. Permanent fixtures will include a piano, drum set, microphones, monitors, music stands, chairs, stools, power drops, lighting board and sound console. Appropriate acoustical design elements will be applied to help tailor the sound quality for jazz performances in an intimate setting. Educational programs will include professional combo-coaching to the community-at-large, which is critical to jazz performance and unavailable to the public outside of college and university settings.

Seating will be flexible – ranging from casual with tables, chairs and lounge furniture; to theater-style with an audience capacity of 120 people. Jazz in AZ is now in final lease negotiations for a space at First Street and Roosevelt. A leadership pledge of \$100,000 has been made by Herb and Lorene Ely. Our goal is to match their pledge during the next 90 days in order to secure the start-up and initial operating costs of the Center. A packet enumerating gift opportunities in support of the Center will be available at the May 5th event, and subsequently via mail and at [www.jazzinaz.org](http://www.jazzinaz.org).