

The Saratogian
Saratoga Springs, New York
Friday, June 24, 2005

**PHOTOGRAPHER LEE WHITEMAN BRINGS JAZZ WORLD TO GALLERY 100 IN JUNE & JULY
EXHIBIT COINCIDES WITH SARATOGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER JAZZ FESTIVAL, JUNE 25-25**

Jazz aficionado Lee Whiteman welcomes his guests to his “world of music” through their power of sight instead of through sound. A photographer with a unique perspective, Whiteman says he comes “equipped with a 35 mm camera, several rolls of fast film, and an eye on the musicians that created some of the most inspiring sounds man has to offer.” He has followed the purely American music form since high school, and spent a quarter-century documenting it. He brings his vision to Gallery 100 in Saratoga Springs, June 16-July 31.

The Queens-bred and raised Whiteman will exhibit his jazz-themed photographs in Saratoga Springs at Gallery 100, 445 Broadway, in a very special showing timed to coincide with Freihofer’s 28th Saratoga Jazz Festival at Saratoga Performing Arts Center, June 25 and 26, both days beginning at noon. Whiteman will attend the Festival with his wife, Brenda.

“Music has always been a love of my life. Photography has always been a love of my life. Through this marriage of these loves comes this exhibit,” Whiteman says. “The artists and their music speak for themselves. They tell their stories through their musical talent -- I hope I can express it through these pictures.”

He captures it all: jazz and rock, gospel and classical, rhythm and blues. Whiteman’s inspiration “is always the quality of the music and the standards of the artists who create it.”



Figure 1. B. B. King

Driven to record and preserve the essence of people in action -- particularly musicians --Whiteman leads onlookers in a photographic journey through the hot mainstream, bebop jazz scene, and soul-stirring fusion and acid jazz concerts, spotlighting his musical heroes and heroines on the path, and pointing to “the music behind the pictures” at the center of his work.

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Figure 2. Ray Charles

Snapping artists since 1975, Whiteman feels privileged to “take pictures of musicians during their act of creation. Through my creation, I say thank you to these true artists who have stimulated my respect and affection.”

The Robbinsville, N.J. resident’s collection has been showcased at Rider University, Syracuse Jazz Festival, International Art of Jazz Concert Series, New York State Fair, and Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage Black History Exhibition.



Figure 3. Dizzy Gillespie

Whiteman earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from State University of New York at Stony Brook and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. While at SUNY Stony Brook, he worked as a disc jockey at WUSB 90.1 FM. He earned his Project Management Professional Certification from Project Management Institute. Today, he is Senior Manufacturing Engineer at American Competitiveness Institute in Philadelphia.

To contact Whiteman email lwhitemn@optonline.net. View his website at <http://www.lwphotographs.com/>.