

# CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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## Strong Bay showing in California Hall of Fame

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SACRAMENTO — All Jazz legend Dave Brubeck really wanted to do growing up in Concord in the 1920s and '30s was to follow in his father's footsteps as a cattle rancher.

"My father was the No. 1 roper in California in calf roping, roping steer," Brubeck said Thursday. "I wanted to be like him."

So, when he is inducted into the California Hall of Fame tonight, a glass-enclosed exhibit will display music sheets, vintage album covers and a pair of his iconic horn-rimmed glasses as emblems of his storied career. But it will also contain a cattle brand he once wielded that evokes at least part of the robust spirit with which he was raised in his Depression-era rearing.

Brubeck, who just turned 88, will be one of 12 to be inducted into the three-year-old Hall of Fame — alongside cultural icons such as Jack Nicholson, Jane Fonda and Quincy Jones. Five of this year's inductees have a Bay Area connection: Brubeck (Concord), fitness king Jack LaLanne (San Francisco), photographer Dorothea Lange, architect Julia Morgan (Oakland) and restaurateur Alice Waters (Berkeley).

Raised in the bucolic farming community that once was Concord — population 2,600 in 1920, when he was born — Brubeck said one of his most "wonderful" memories was traveling in a Model T to

Martinez to buy his first bicycle when he was 10.

It cost him \$42, money he'd been putting away in his own bank account for years by selling apples "all over Concord" at 25 cents a bucket, selling to neighborhood kids bicycles he'd assembled with restored spare parts, and as a paper boy for the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner.

He once complained about having to take music lessons from his mother, an accomplished pianist in her own right, telling her that she should limit her visions of musical grandeur to his two older brothers. "Ma, you already have two musicians," he said once. "I want to be a cattleman."

After sending their eldest two sons to college to study music, Brubeck's father told his wife, "Dave is mine!" insisting that Dave had the skills and strength to follow him into ranching.

His father only agreed to allow Dave to go to college if he studied agriculture, which he did for a year at the then College of the Pacific in Stockton.

But the draw of music was too strong — he grew up in a five-piano house, and he'd fallen in love with jazz as a young teen — and after a year, he transferred to the music department. There, it turned out, professors were aghast at Brubeck's inability to read sheet music — thanks to habits he'd developed through poor eyesight. The department was ready to expel him before a contingent of professors who recognized his abundant talents interceded. Only when Brubeck promised to never teach music was he allowed to graduate.

Soon, he would be playing in nightclubs in San Francisco and Los Angeles, establishing what jazz aficionados would later recognize as the West Coast School. It grew into a coast-to-coast following, sending him and his quartet on the road, with

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Brubeck at the wheel of his trusty 1949 Kaiser Vagabond with a string bass dangling from the roof inside. On some trips, he'd take to the air, flying from city to city in prop planes, standing for the duration of the long, loud and pitchy flights. He'd produced the "strangest and loveliest music ever since jazz was born," wrote Time Magazine, in its Nov. 8, 1954, cover piece on Brubeck — only the second jazz musician to grace the covers of Time to that point, after Louis Armstrong. It was "intense, quiet music," a "new type of jazz" that found a home in "garish cellars and august concert halls" alike.

"I never was aware it was a great era until my eldest son, Darius, did his master's thesis on the 1959 year in jazz, and that seemed to be the year, where Miles Davis, I, and Thelonious Monk were all doing our things," Brubeck said. "Now that you look back on it, I guess something was happening."

It was in a key scene in the 1998 movie Pleasantville that Brubeck's most famous song, Take Five, was used to dramatic effect: teenagers growing up in a monochrome community of conformity and repression saw color and imagery once they began to think for themselves, question authority. As the kids grow aware of their powers, Brubeck's Take Five — recorded in 1959 and still the best-selling instrumental jazz single of all time — washes over the scene with melodic purity and grace.

It is precisely the power of jazz, Brubeck said, that helped break the United States out of its stifling conformity of the 1950s, and beyond that, around the world. He was the first U.S. jazz musician to perform behind the Iron Curtain, a 1958 mission sanctioned by President Eisenhower that took the Brubeck quartet into Poland, and from there into democracy starved Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka.

"People don't realize that jazz is a voice of freedom,"

Brubeck said. "When Eisenhower sent us to Poland, it was to show the Russians the power of America, and he chose jazz. What I'm disappointed in is that the public is slowly forgetting how much jazz did for our cultural life and cultural exchange."

Brubeck is not slowing down. He gives about 80 concerts a year. He's planning a musical tribute to Ansel Adams at his University of the Pacific Brubeck Institute in April. And having just put on a birthday performance in Boston two months after filling Davies Hall in San Francisco, Brubeck isn't leaving it to others to keep the sounds — and messages — of jazz alive.

Please contact Steven Harmon at 916-441-2101 or [sharmon@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:sharmon@bayareanewsgroup.com).

**2008 inductees to California Hall of Fame Dave Brubeck Jane Fonda Robert Graham Quincy Jones Jack LaLanne Dorothea Lange Julia Morgan Jack Nicholson Linus Pauling Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel Leland Stanford Alice Waters**

If you go

The induction ceremony is 7-8 p.m. Monday (after a 6 p.m. red carpet arrival of living inductees) at the California Museum in Sacramento. The public will be able to visit new exhibits beginning Tuesday.

The California Hall of fame is located at the California Museum, 1020 O St. in Sacramento, one block from the state Capitol.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Admission: \$7.50 for adults, \$6 for students with ID and seniors; \$5 for ages 6-13.

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For more information, visit [www.CaliforniaMuseum.org](http://www.CaliforniaMuseum.org) or call 916-653-7524

Artifacts on display  
Dave Brubeck  
Gold Album for Time Out  
Cattle brand from Brubeck's family ranch

His iconic horn-rimmed glasses from the '50s and '60s

Jane Fonda  
Her Oscars for her performances in Klute (1971) and Coming Home (1978)  
A print of the 1982 painting of Fonda by Andy Warhol  
The pantsuit she wore to accept her 1972 Oscar

Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel  
Five "unorthodox taxidermy" heads  
A Dr. Seuss reading room

Robert Graham  
Three small bronze sculptures  
A small model of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial

Quincy Jones  
Platinum record for "Thriller"  
The sheet music for "We Are the World"

A listening station to listen to Jones' classic hits

Dorothea Lange

Two cameras  
Photographs, including Lange's Migrant Mother series

Jack LaLanne  
The handcuffs he wore on his famous Alcatraz swim  
Hand stand workout equipment

Julia Morgan  
Her drafting table  
Working model of Hearst Castle

Jack Nicholson  
The Joker costumes from the movie "Batman"

His second grade report card

Linus Pauling  
A 1961 Henney Kilowatt electric car  
Anti-war button collection

Leland Stanford  
The Golden Spike, marking the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad  
Horse-drawn carriage used while governor

Alice Waters  
Glassware with Chez Panisse logo  
Cookbooks

Honors for Brubeck  
Earlier this year, he was given the first Benjamin Franklin Award, for civilian service to international cooperation

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In 1996, received a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement  
In 1999, named a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master, the nation's highest official honor for a jazz musician  
In 2007, designated a "Living Legend of Jazz" at a Kennedy Center ceremony

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