

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 3

Stambord. Meet up with fellow DACC members for an informal night with drinks and socializing. The event takes place in both San Francisco and Palo Alto first Wednesday of each month in collaboration with DABGO. The event starts at 6pm, no sign-up necessary.

San Francisco Stambord @ District San Francisco, www.districtsf.com
Event contact: Eva Beim Wind evabeim@hotmail.com

Palo Alto Stambord @ Pampas Palo Alto, www.pampaspaloalto.com
Event contact: Anita Nielsen a.k.nielsen@hotmail.com

April 7

Stambord, San Francisco and Palo Alto.

April 26

Business briefing. The next CleanTech Business Briefing will be on the subject of wind energy. Please look out for the invitation that will be sent out as soon as we have the details confirmed. For any questions or input, please contact Anita Nielsen at a.k.nielsen@hotmail.com

For detailed info and sign-up for all events go to www.daccncal.com



CLASSIFIED ADS

Joshua Kirsch, Gibson Robb & Lindh LLP

Our firm specializes in commercial litigation in various areas.
Please visit www.gibsonrobb.com for details

Tired of paying too much for beauty products?

Why not give Avon a try? Great products at a great price.
Go to www.youravon.com/jwessell to order or email
jannie.wessell@yahoo.com with questions or to request a catalog.

Jacob Christfort, Ranch Systems LLC

Manufacturer of advanced wireless monitoring and control systems for outdoors applications, specializing in agriculture. More information at www.ranchsystems.com.

Ole Nordhavn, Cruise Holidays, Your Personal Cruise Expert

Specializing in worldwide cruises on all major cruise lines.

Let me assist you, your family, group, or company plan the vacation experience of a lifetime.
(510) 499-3152 onordhavn@cruiseholidays.com
www.cruisewithole.com

Got Graffiti on Windows and Glass?

We can repair your windows – distortion free – at less than half the price of replacing the windows.
Call Jann Fitzgerald for FREE ESTIMATE.
415 821-6622 Jann@RapidRenu.com www.RapidRenu.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
City / Zip _____
Phone number _____
Email address _____

Visa MasterCard
Card # _____
Expiration date _____
CCV # _____

Return with check or credit card info to:

DACC Northern California
1896 Appia Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

- Individual \$ 100 / year
- Corporate \$ 500 / year
- Student \$ 35 / year

Unless you check here we will bill your credit card annually on your anniversary-date for the then-current membership fee.

You can also sign up on www.daccncal.com

GET TO KNOW A MEMBER

With jazz pumping through the veins

By Sole Bugge Møller

Mads Tolling was 23 and preparing for an audition with the Bay Area-based Turtle Island String Quartet. He'd been recommended by one of his professors at Berklee College of Music in Boston from where he recently graduated. The only problem was that Mads was playing the violin, and the quartet needed a viola-player.

"I had never played the viola before so it was a bit of a challenge, but of course I didn't tell them that. The truth is, I had to learn to play the instrument more or less from scratch," he says.

The audition a mere 10 days away, Mads Tolling practiced non-stop and only let go of the viola to eat and sleep. He went to the audition, completely nailed it, and was accepted on to the quartet – as the youngest member ever and the first European in the 25-year-old history of Turtle Island.

Nine years ago, Mads Tolling moved to the US and has made a promising career for himself on the American jazz-scene. He has won two Grammys with Turtle Island, toured around the world and every single US state, except Hawaii, and shared the stage with jazz legends like Stanley Clarke, Stefon Harris and Russell Ferrante. And he has just released his second album with his solo project Mads Tolling Quartet. Not bad for a young guy of only 29 years.

Mads was only six years old when he first picked up a violin – his mom had heard that playing an instrument improved concentration – so every morning at 6:30am he and his sister would play for half an hour before school.

"It sounds very ambitious, but I really wasn't anything like a wonderkid," Mads Tolling says.

At age 10, he and his sister went to Strøget in Copenhagen in the summertime to play for tourists, who thought the kids with the violins were oh so cute.

"We would make around 200 dollars in one and a half hour which was a lot of money for a little boy back then," he says.

The first several years Mads played conventional classic music like Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons', but when he encountered jazz music for the first time, he knew that 'this was it'. Mads was 14 years old and visiting Asia with his family when his dad took him to a bootleg stand in Bangkok. There Mads found a Miles Davis cassette.

"I listened to that tape and thought that was the coolest music ever. Before that, I listened to The Beatles, Queen and that kind of pop music, but listening to Miles was a whole different experience – there was an incredible elasticity and depth in the music," he says.

Mads Tolling participated several times in a talent contest for kids arranged by the Danish newspaper Berlingske Tidende and won three years in a row, so music was a natural career choice. After graduation from a music high school in Denmark he was accepted to Berklee College of Music in Boston, and at the age of 20 he left Denmark to pursue his jazz studies. It turned out to be the right decision – at Berklee, Mads had the opportunity to play with big jazz names like Jean-Luc Ponty but he also developed an excellent network that later helped kickstart his career. Ponty recommended him to the acclaimed bassist Stanley Clarke, and in 2003



Having played the violin for 23 out of the 29 years of his life, it seems like it has become an integrated part of his body.

Mads joined Clarke on tour.

"I recall playing at the Hollywood Bowl in front of a crowd of 8,000 and it was a huge experience to see that from the inside. At every gig Stanley Clarke would say 'this is Mads' second professional gig,' 'this is his third' and so on. He made it sound like I had never played a show before, but it was true that I was still a bit of a rookie."

After graduation, he considered whether to return to Denmark, but then the opportunity to join Turtle Island arose – and the rest is history, as they say.

One of Mads' ambitions is to pass the torch of jazz-affection on to a younger audience. So he's been involved in educational classes throughout the US and Canada to show the youth that jazz is not just music for their parents and grandparents.

"It has always been a goal of mine to reach everyone instead of just the niche audience. A lot of people think that jazz is hard to understand, but if you listen to our latest album, 'The Playmaker', you'll see that it's not that hard to understand. It's pretty catchy."

"Jazz sprang from the cultural integration in the US, so it's crucial for me that this music doesn't die. It has something human to say that we can't afford to lose."

Despite his great success, Mads Tolling is still relatively unknown in his native Denmark, and has actually never played there with his solo project or Turtle Island. In fact, if you search for 'Mads Tolling' on the Danish version of Wikipedia you get a blank screen whereas the English version has an elaborate article. Mads believes that this is partly due to his living across the Atlantic.

"I feel that I could have more of a prominence in Denmark, but I also have to acknowledge that when you settle abroad it's difficult to keep the same connection."

"But I never regretted my choice. I've been lucky to play in these two bands and have won two Grammys which I never dreamed of, so I'm glad to be able to play good music and keep on improving."