



South Bend Indiana Jazz Festival features different forms of the genre

• By Jack Walton Tribune Correspondent Oct 2, 2018

Diane Delin

The festival has an international flavor, and so does the recent course of study of violinist Delin.

“I’ve been exploring the idea of this global infusion into jazz, the melting pot of improvisatory music,” she says by phone from her home in Chicago. “We’ve never been more interwoven in terms of media and transportation. At the same time, there’s such a sense of divisiveness now. We know that music is a universal language, so it’s cool to see the interweavings that are happening on the musical front.”

Delin has played in the touring orchestra of Frank Sinatra, led the adventurous chamber ensemble Octagon and released several solo albums to critical acclaim. Throughout her career, she has steadfastly resisted the idea of falling into a particular school of playing.

“Just as we all have unique fingerprints, we should all make unique statements,” she says. “And even to say that someone sounds like Stéphane Grappelli is to say that Stéphane only did it the one way.”

Delin’s quartet will play a blend of original compositions and standards, and the leader makes sure the approach is forward-looking rather than nostalgic.

“So much has come through to us since the 1940s, and people are grabbing hold of it in the same way that Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock did,” she says. “In a program I do at schools, we talk about how jazz musicians have always taken the popular rhythms of the times and improvised over them.”