

Lusitano's and Jazz - A Strange Mix

by Michele Breeze

What happens when you mix Jazz with the finest Classical horses in the World ? You get Marcia & Janine Pendlebury and Lusitano Horses. Tucked away in a small corner of North Wales is a lady who has virtually spent most of her life singing and performing Jazz and Blues based songs. Marcia Pendlebury started singing Jazz at the age of 17. Her brother encouraged her to sing in this medium after he found Marcia listening to his record collection. Her first love was Blues and she further her interest in both Blues and Jazz whilst studying Art in Manchester. Here she met young enthusiasts like the now legendary John Mayall and fellow student Sheila Collier who was already an established singer with the Southside Stompers. Marcia began her professional career with the Climax Jazz Band which she founded. She then moved onto a stint with the Phoenix Jazzmen and then guested with Zenith Six. It was here she met her husband to be, pianist Keith Pendlebury. He was actually a professional footballer and a well known musician on the Manchester Jazz circuit. They played and stayed together until Keith died in 2002. "Soul Mates " forever as Marcia puts it. Marcia and Keith lived, toured, brought up a family, whilst still singing and playing the music they both loved. They were regulars at the Brecon Jazz Festival, worked on many UK and European Tours. Appeared on TV and Radio and they also established and ran a successful Jazz Pub in Manchester, the famous Black Lion. That is until the Manager disappeared with the takings. An all too familiar story in music based venues, They finally decided to sell up and move to North Wales. Not to start another



Jazz Pub or Club, but to establish a Riding Stables. This stable is now a stud for some of the finest Lusitano Horses in the World and that's really some achievement in anyone's

book. Marcia compares the Lusitano breed to Jazz Musicians ! Her daughter Janine is the main stay of the horse business which is situated at the end of the Llyn Peninsular in Gwynedd. Marcia describes the location as " a leg of land kicking it's way out of North Wales and pointing a toe to Ireland". Janine Pendlebury studied in Portugal under the finest trainers and is now considered to be one of the

foremost trainers herself in the art. You can see by the photograph of her in the training ring riding **Mercurio**, (Fig.1), how she has a complete affinity with the horse. The Pendlebury's have an "In House" under-cover ring where training is carried out on site and where they also perform a Horse Theatre Show called "Sons of the Wind". In June 2008, at the

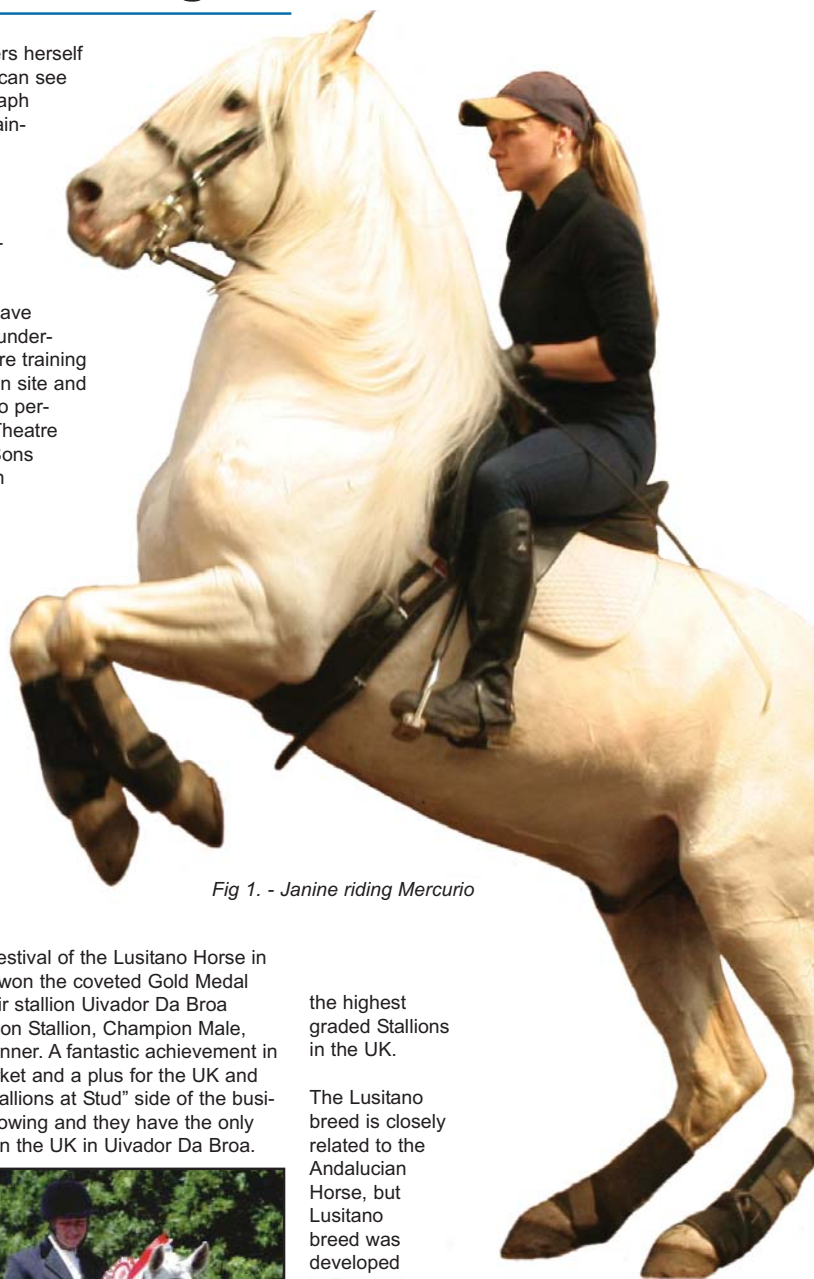


Fig 1. - Janine riding Mercurio

International Festival of the Lusitano Horse in Portugal, they won the coveted Gold Medal award with their stallion Uivador Da Broa (Fig.2) Champion Stallion, Champion Male, Gold Medal Winner. A fantastic achievement in the Global market and a plus for the UK and Wales. The "Stallions at Stud" side of the business is also growing and they have the only Viegia Stallion in the UK in Uivador Da Broa.

the highest graded Stallions in the UK.

The Lusitano breed is closely related to the Andalusian Horse, but Lusitano breed was developed in Portugal. Initially they



Another of their Stallions at Stud is **Cajarim**, described as a "perfect gentleman" and one of

were used as Cavalry Horses, work horses and for Bullfighting. The name is taken from people living on the Western Iberian Peninsula and is reputed to be one of the oldest saddle horses in Western Europe having been in service for 5000 years or more. Indeed, they are a noble looking horse usually ranging in height from 15.1hh to 16 hh, but some are larger. Their most endearing feature is said to be their gentle and affectionate nature. I have a deep love of animals and especially horses whom I grew up with on my Dad's Farm in Suffolk. I had my own horses for a number of years until in a freak riding accident, I broke my back. It was one of the saddest days of my life and virtually ended any future riding ambitions. I still have a great affinity with horses and that's why when you see these magnificent Lusitano's in action, it brings such joy to my heart that these proud yet gentle souls, can provide such enjoyment to their riders, owners and the general public alike who



Fig.2 - Uivador Da Broa

attend shows and events around the World. Marcia and Janine's way of training horses is also a merit to their philosophy. With patience and kindness, they allow the horses to live in fields together in their natural environment, which has led to many clients from all over the UK not only buying their horses from the stud, but also keeping their horses stabled there. The staff that work there are also very experienced and dedicated. There are a host of Riding School Activities available including Classical Dressage on a Lusitano Stallion. A must for people who are seriously into Dressage and especially to do it on one of their magnificent Stallions. They offer general riding lessons on well schooled horses and a variety of Hacks, either along quiet country lanes or more adventurous Mountain Treks. Plus a Beach and Pub ride which lasts about 4 hours and even Stable Days which includes a Hack Lesson. For the Londoner it is close to the up market and extremely popular village of Abersoch, where the yearly Jazz Festival and of course the Internationally popular Wakestock Pop and Rock Festivals are held in June and July respectively. If you need accommodation then that is close by and can be arranged via the Stables in a range of Hotels, B&B's, and Self - Catering Cottages to suit most budgets.

So the future for Marcia and her daughter Janine looks positive. They are also engaged



for film work, **Garden Festivals** and Marcia will continue her Jazz career singing the music she has loved all her life and Janine will go from strength to strength pursuing her love for the horses she too has a life long affection with. So Jazz and Lusitano's will ride hand in hand in the Pendlebury's world and beyond in 2009 and beyond. For more information on this wonderful place and their Lusitano's visit

www.lusitanocymru.co.uk and check out these fantastic horses for yourself. You never know, if you can afford it, you might even fall in love with one and make it your very own !