

Sunday, October 16, 2022
Richard Barnes & the Blackbird Society Orchestra
2:00 to 4:30 pm
Haddonfield United Methodist Church



Photo by Richard Barnes

Richard Barnes' Blackbird Society Orchestra is Philadelphia's Premier 1920s Hot Jazz / Dance Orchestra dedicated to the preservation of the music of "The Jazz Age," "The Roaring 20s," "The Gatsby Era," Flappers, Prohibition, Gangsters, Model A's and the invention of an American art form known as "Jazz!" At this sixth visit to TSJS, the BSO will once again display its masterful interpretations of this golden musical age and celebrate the 13th annual Eddie Lang Day. Come early; it's sure to be a sell-out!



Made possible by funds from the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Camden County College, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

Concert Covid Policy

Tri-State Jazz Society recommends that guests wear masks, based on personal preference, to attend this full-capacity indoor concert.

You may also enjoy watching the concert remotely on our [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

CALL OUR HOTLINE for up-to-the-minute updates (856) 720-0232

ADA compliance - access to our concert venues is available at grade level.

Restroom facilities are available at grade level.

Member admission is \$10; general admission is \$20.

Introductory offer - start a new, first-time TSJS annual membership (\$20) at the door and receive free admission to this concert.

Full-time students with ID, or children accompanied by a paying adult, are free.

Richard Barnes & the Blackbird Society Orchestra

Richard Barnes – Guitar, Vocals, Leader
Dennis Hancock - Violin
Rob Ford – Trumpet
Alex Gittleman – Trumpet
Jim Gicking – Trombone
Jeff Hart – Reeds
Travis Johnson - Reeds
Bill DiBiase – Reeds
Frank McKinney – Reeds
Spencer Kashmanian – Piano
Bill Quinn – Banjo
Charlie Ford - Bass
Glenn Cowen - Drums

Visit the [BSO website](#)
Videos: [“Black and Tan Fantasy”](#)
[“Out of Nowhere”](#)

Background By Robert Robbins

Working from bandleader **Richard Barnes'** collection of original vintage stock charts and arrangements, BSO authentically and accurately recreates many classic jazz recordings that once spun from scratchy 78 RPM records on a Victrola when the world was still in black and white! Barnes discovered the jazz/blues guitarist and vocalist Leon Redbone in 1992, playing regionally with him for a decade. He also spent five years performing obscure 1920s jazz with the Kim Milliner Band. In 1997, Barnes formed BSO with the intention of preserving 1920s jazz in note-for-note re-creations using original stock charts and transcriptions from vintage recordings. Thirteen years later, he launched Eddie Lang Day, an annual music/charity event celebrating the musical contributions of the native Philadelphian and pioneer jazz guitarist (nee Salvatore Massaro), who teamed with his boyhood pal, violinist Joe Venuti, to form one of the all-time legendary duos in jazz history. In October of 2016, Barnes spearheaded the dedication of an exterior wall to Lang by Philly's Mural Arts Program, and a year later the annual Lang festivities were highlighted by the Philadelphia premiere of the film documentary *There's a Future In the Past*, which commemorates bandleader and jazz historian Vince Giordano's near half-century musical career. Barnes re-created the original 1923-30 Paul Whiteman band library in performances both at TSJS and outdoors in Rose Tree Park near Media in 2017.

Violinist **Dennis Hancock** is a full-time general music teacher in Philadelphia, and he enjoys making music accessible to all. He teaches students from kindergarten to 8th grade. Over the years, Dennis has studied under notable Philadelphia Orchestra violinists including Barbara Sonies, Booker Rowe, and Joe Lanza. In addition to teaching, Dennis has performed at distinguished venues in and around New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kimmel Center (Verizon Hall and Perelman Theater), Sovereign Performing Arts Center, Rutgers Performing Arts Center, Upper Darby Performing Arts Center, Centennial Hall at Haverford School, and the Broadway Theater in Pitman, New Jersey. Dennis currently performs with the Old York Road Symphony and the Blackbird Society Orchestra.

Trumpeter **Rob Ford**, who has a Music Education degree from West Chester University, spent over two decades teaching music in Abington and as a private instructor. He has also performed in all styles of music as a freelance player in the Philadelphia area and northeast PA for many years. Rob's current associations include the BSO, Pennsylvania German Brass Band and the Galena Brass.

Alex Gittelman (second trumpet) is a proud graduate of Haverford High School Class of '05. While at Haverford, Gittelman participated in every musical ensemble, followed by a stint with the Philadelphia Grammy Jazz Band for two years. He then served as the lead trumpeter in the PMEA All-State Jazz Band for another two years, plus the All-Eastern Jazz Band in 2005. Gittelman graduated from the

Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a Jazz Component. He played with various ensembles at Temple, including the Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Band, Jazz Combos, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, and Marching Band. Gittelman earned his Master of Music Education degree from the University of the Arts in 2016, while serving as an instrumental music teacher in the Pennsbury School District.

Apart from a seven-year stint in New York in the late 70s with jazz record companies A&M, Artists House, and CTI Records, where he worked with Jim Hall, Art Pepper, Chet Baker, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis among others, trombonist **Jim Gicking** has lived in the Philadelphia area, also playing guitar in big bands, small groups, and pit orchestras. He fell in love with the music of the 20s and 30s after hearing Marty Grosz on NPR's Fresh Air, and Marty has become a friend and a mentor.

Clarinetist/alto saxist **Jeff Hart** studied Music Education at Duquesne University and Jazz Performance at the University of Toledo. He is currently band director at Haverford High School, and he loves all antiques, including his 1914 Victrola phonograph and vintage 78 RPM records.

Director and arranger for the Ferko String Band for much of the 1970s and 1980s, **Bill DiBiase** has played baritone sax with the Chester County Concert Band, the Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds, Archie Lane's Big Band, and 22 Park Avenue. Bill holds a Ph.D. in Psychology, of which he is Professor Emeritus at Delaware County Community College.

Spencer Kashmanian has played ragtime and stride piano, sometimes alongside Barnes on guitar, at the re-created speakeasy C. R. Hummingbird to Mars in Wilmington, DE for the past several years.

Self-taught on plectrum/tenor banjo, accordion, piano, and drums, **Bill Quinn** is a three-decade Mummer veteran, having played banjo in the Fralinger String Band. He is also a former snare drummer for the Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, with which he performed for President George W. Bush. Bill has been heard at Disney World and during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and he appeared on ABC-TV's The View with Frankie "Fats" Montana.

Bassist **Charlie Ford** is the son of trumpeter Rob Ford.

Drummer **Glenn Cowen** has a degree in percussion from the University of PA and is the Director of Bands at Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove. He performs with regular BSO fiddler Dr. Michael Salsburg in the country-rock band Hank's Cadillac.

Rossano Sportiello, Solo Piano

Sunday, September 18, 2022

REVIEW by Robert J. Robbins



Photo by Marian Konop

Following a six-year absence, the Italian-born piano virtuoso Rossano Sportiello returned triumphantly to a Tri-State audience, both live and live-streaming. His repertoire for this concert opened with 1926's "Sunday" (an early composition by the then twenty-year-old Chicago-raised Jule Styne, who would go on to provide scores to the stage and film musicals *Gypsy* and *Funny Girl*), followed by a medley of Frank Perkins' "Stars Fell On Alabama" and the Hoagy Carmichael classic "Stardust." Another medley featured "Edelweiss" and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," both from Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's *The Sound of Music* ("Edelweiss" was their final collaboration, written less than a year before Hammerstein's death in 1960). The pianist also covered George and Ira Gershwin's "S Wonderful" and "I Got Rhythm," in addition to "There Will Never Be Another You" and the seldom-heard "Would You Like to Take a Walk?" by Harry Warren (nee Salvatore Guaragna).

A major portion of the program was devoted to Thomas "Fats" Waller, a founding father of

stride piano and a formidable composer. Sportiello plowed through atomic-powered interpretations of "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Blue Turning Grey Over You," "The Viper's Drag" (with its interpolation of "In the Hall of the Mountain King" from Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1* and "The Jitterbug Waltz"). The pianist also drew upon nineteenth-century European repertoire with Fryderyk Chopin's *Waltz in C-sharp Minor*, which he deftly transformed into a stride piano *tour-de-force*. "She Is Here," an original composition dedicated to Sportiello's wife, was a fusion of balladic Waller with Bill Evans. The pianist brilliantly closed out the afternoon with W. C. Handy's "St. Louis Blues," with a boogie-woogie appendage quoting from the World War II favorite "Shoo-Shoo Baby" and Count Basie's "One O'Clock Jump."



Watch the Rossano Sportiello concert on [YouTube here](#).

Coming November 13, 2022

Manouche 5

2:00 to 4:30 pm

Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA



Band Personnel

Mollie Ducoste - Violin

Dylan Langschwager - Guitar

Tom Monari - Guitar/Vocals

Sara Williams - Vocals

Jacob Wright - Bass

On the Web:

[Facebook](#)

YouTube Video: "[Deed I Do](#)"

Most recently guitarist Tom Monari has focused on Hot Club and gypsy jazz music, initiating an effort called the Philadelphia Gypsy Jazz Scene which focuses on connecting local musicians in this genre through a regular newsletter and hosted open jam sessions in Philadelphia. For the last several years, he has led a quintet known as Manouche 5, influenced by Gypsy Jazz and Hot Club music of the 1930s and 40s.

A North Carolina native, **Mollie Ducoste** recently relocated to Philadelphia to pursue a doctoral degree in criminal justice at Temple University. She hopes to one day become a criminal justice professor and influence criminal justice policy through empirical research - all while, of course, performing and playing her violin. Some of her greatest musical influences are Regina Carter, Stephane Grappelli, Stevie Wonder, and George Benson. Prior to coming to Philly, she spent several summers playing in New Orleans with many well-respected jazz artists, including Ellis Marsalis, Wendell Brunious, Carl LeBlanc, Charmaine Neville, and Tonya Boyd-Cannon.

Professional engineer **Tom Monari** is a singer-songwriter living in Swarthmore, PA. He has performed in local bands for over three decades. In the early 2000s, Tom began exploring an interest in writing and performing his own original material in the local bands the Storefront Hitchcocks and the Butter Guns. In 2011, he started PhillyLocalIMPACTLive! – a regional organization with the purpose of providing a forum for local musicians to meet and collaborate through open mics. Since 2012 PhillyLocalIMPACTLive has initiated more than 10 open mics with the longest-running events at McGillin’s in Philadelphia (since 2012) and Raven Lounge (since 2014). Focusing on development of artist talent and performance, PhillyLocalIMPACTLive! has provided a space and environment where many local musicians have honed their craft and moved on to fulltime careers as musicians.

Vocalist and Temple alumna **Sara Williams** idolizes R&B queen Etta James, in addition to pop goddesses Linda Ronstadt and Karen Carpenter.

Guitarist and Kutztown University alumnus **Dylan Langscheweger** is a native of Boothwyn, PA. He is a solid rock musician whose models include Sir Paul McCartney and John Mayer.

Bassist **Jacob Wright**, a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia, is a follower of the towering bass giants Charles Mingus and Norristown native Jaco Pastorius.

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Saturday 7 - 10 pm

Dave Robinson's Jazz Gumbo on WKHS-FM 90.5 (Worton, MD) or online at www.wkhsradio.org

Sunday 8 - 10pm

Potomac River Jazz Club - Jazz Educational Discussion: Hazel Scott-Jazz Virtuoso

Presented by Jessica Boykin-Settles, October 17, 2022, 7 - 8:15pm, ONLINE via Zoom

About this event: **Hazel Scott** was a virtuoso jazz pianist, vocalist, and the first black American to host her own network TV show. Her music industry success brought her many high-profile fans included Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington. But, when she stood up against racial segregation and stereotyping, the industry blacklisted her – and her name was all but erased from the history books.

This Zoom series is **FREE** and open to the public (although we always appreciate donations to offset the cost of the programs). Register by 5:00 p.m. the day of the presentation to get the Zoom link.

You can support the PRJC Jazz Educational Talks using the Paypal link www.paypal.me/PotomacRiverJazzClub

The Glenn Miller House and Museum

by Bill Hoffman

September 29, 2022

Jazz Travels in The Syncopated Times

When I attended the Glenn Miller Festival in June in Clarinda, Iowa, I visited his namesake museum, located directly behind the house in which he was born. First, a little about the house, located at the southwest corner of 16th and Clark Streets. 16th, the main north-south street in town, has been renamed Glenn Miller Avenue, at least in the immediate vicinity of the house. There's also a Glenn Miller Drive in town, but it's a short side street.



Photo by Jbill Hoffman

Glenn lived only three or four years in this house, until his family moved to Nebraska. Subsequent owners added to the house, which originally had three rooms on the ground floor and two upstairs. There was an outhouse that's still on the property, but I'm not certain it's the original. It stands to reason that indoor plumbing was installed at some point.

In 1989 Glenn's adopted daughter Jonnie, whom he never saw, bought the house and donated it to the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society. The house was then painstakingly restored to its original size. While all the furnishings are period-accurate, only one or two are known to have belonged to the family. Docents are on hand to show you through the house.

The museum opened in 2010, bringing the entire south side of Clark between 16th and 17th under the Society's ownership. It contains an exhibit area, media room that includes a kitchenette, and a store. The GMBS's office is in the building.

A casual visit takes about 45 minutes. Those wishing to delve more deeply into Glenn's history should allow about twice that much. No videos about his life were playing while I was there, and I'm not sure if there are any.

The bulk of the displays are photos, news clippings and posters of and about Glenn, all adequately identified as to where, when and whom. There are some artifacts, such as the last drum set owned by Moe Purtill, the band's drummer, and quite a few Victor and Bluebird 78s of the band's biggest hits. These, of course, are not particularly rare, as several sold in the millions. The gold record Glenn received for "Chattanooga Choo Choo" is there. Perhaps the most unusual pieces are the stainless steel bandstands manufactured by the Budd Railway Car Company and designed by that firm's chief engineer. These were donated by Tex Beneke, who used them when he became the first director of the Miller band after World War II.

If you are just a casual fan of Glenn Miller, you probably would not make a special trip to visit the museum unless you happened to be in the area. But a more serious aficionado would do well to make a pilgrimage. And those who are even deeper "into the weeds" would want to visit the archives at the University of Colorado in Boulder, curated by Dennis Spragg. Dennis is the author of Glenn Miller Declassified, the definitive source about Glenn's disappearance.

Check www.glennmiller.org for details about the museum's hours of operation.

The Syncopated Times
Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing

The Syncopated Times is the only monthly newspaper focused on hot jazz, ragtime, and swing. Each issue includes original feature stories, interviews with the current artists you should know about, and some interesting history lessons. Our reviews of newly released books and music will keep you in tune, and our festival and event listings will help you plan ahead. View The Syncopated Times [ONLINE HERE](#)



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CONCERT SCHEDULE

Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Visit our [Tri-State Jazz Society website](#) for up-to-the-minute news about schedule and concert changes, or call our Hotline at (856) 720-0232.

Tri-State Jazz Society, formed in 1988, is dedicated to the preservation and live performance of traditional jazz. Concerts featuring leading professional soloists and bands are presented throughout the year. Events are open to the public and all who enjoy traditional jazz are invited to join. The society is a non-profit educational corporation supported by its members.

Membership

Basic dues are \$20 per person. New and renewal memberships can be started in any month and run for one year. In addition to half-price concert admissions, members receive The Strutter newsletter by email.

Premium memberships help sustain and expand the work of Tri-State Jazz Society. Individual Sponsors contribute at the \$50 level (\$70 for couples); Patrons, \$100 (\$120 for couples); Sustainers \$200 or more (\$220 or more for couples). Premium-level members are eligible to attend an annual reception for Sponsors, Patrons and Sustainers.

Visit our website for more details:

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Dues and donations may be tax deductible under IRS Section 501(c)(3).



Membership Form

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Amount Enclosed \$ _____ **Date** _____ **Check No.** _____

Members are admitted to all regular concerts at half price. Memberships renewed prior to expiration start at the end of current membership; expired memberships start on receipt of payment. All memberships run for 12 months.

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