

Our Next Concert
Sunday, July 9, 2023
The Tri-State All Stars
Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA



Tri-State Jazz ALL STARS 2022

Photo by Marian Konop

Musicians and attendees rank the Tri-State Jazz All-Stars among the best. Our annual tradition offers the core band of top performers jamming together with guest musicians, on familiar trad jazz tunes. Dave Robinson returns to lead the core band – taking a time-out from his leadership of the Conservatory Classic Jazz Band, and the Potomac River Jazz Club’s Capital Focus Youth Jazz Band.

2023 Core Band

Dave Robinson - leader, cornet, trumpet
Bob Rawlins - reeds
Michael Kaplan - trombone
Jim Lawlor - drums
Tom Monari - guitar
Brian Nalepka - bass, sax
Chic Bach - piano

Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers

June, 2023 Haddonfield NJ

REVIEW by Jim McGann



Photo by Jim McGann

Neville Dickie - piano

Joe Midiri - clarinet, alto and soprano saxes

Paul Midiri - drums

It is hard to believe three years have gone by since Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers got together and performed for TSJS. It was May of 2019 when we last saw them. Hearing the first few chords of the opening “All by Myself,” made the three-year furlough of the group appear longer in duration. That is how much they were missed.

Despite the long absence, the group performed as if May 2019 was a mere day ago. Dickie and the brothers Midiri produced an exciting concert, with more trio offerings this time around than in the past. Dickie mentioned during the performance that the concert program had been revised many times.

There were familiar songs by either Dickie or the Midiris from past concerts, which began in 2013. There were the Dickie solo offerings (James P. Johnson’s “Old Fashioned Love,” Gershwin’s “Liza,” “Golden Earrings”), Dickie-Paul Midiri duos (Albert Ammons’ “Shout for Joy”, “Bells of St. Mary’s [with the introductory bell chords], “Nagasaki” [with its climbing tempos]) and the trio (“Nobody’s Sweetheart,”

“September Song,” and the Armstrong inspired “Sunny Side of the Street”). All of the aforementioned were excellent, polished performances.

However, it was the “new” material which made this concert. The new trio offerings were volcanically swinging efforts, to say we are free to take flight again. “Swing that Music” was off to the races. The same applies to the Original Dixieland Jazz Band’s “Clarinet Marmalade” with Joe Midiri applying the little Goodman arpeggio breaks before taking flight. “Shine,” a number associated with the brothers’ sextet, inspired a thunderous Paul Midiri drum solo. Fats Waller’s “I’ve Got A Feelin’ I’m Falling” featured fine Midiri clarinet and tasty Dickie stride. “Don’t Blame Me” displayed the sweet, ballad side of Midiri’s alto. Most noteworthy was a duo performance of “People Will Say We’re In Love” with Dickie explaining the “walking bass.” Hearing the performance reminded me of another pianist who employs the walking bass at times: Joe Holt.

For a group that gets together once a year, this one continues to evolve, maintain lofty standards, and leave audiences applauding. How many other musicians in similar situations can endure like the Dickie-Midiri Brothers trio? I am sure there will be some, but not many. Regardless, it was nice to see this group performing again. Let us hope it will not be as long to see them again as it was this time around.



Photo by Jim McGann



Photo by Jim McGann

**Review and photographs
by Jim McGann**

With a passion for traditional jazz, Jim McGann has reviewed and photographed Tri-State Jazz concerts since the early 2000s.



DID YOU KNOW...

You can view past concerts on our [YouTube channel.](#)

BONUS REVIEW by Jim McGann Neville Dickie and Danny Coots Moorestown Community House

Two days after the TSJS concert, Neville Dickie teamed up with drummer Danny Coots for a benefit concert at Moorestown's Community House, hosted by former TSJS president DeWitt Peterson. After experiencing Sunday's concert for TSJS, this was the equivalent of a movie sequel. Sequels, in most cases, do not measure up to the original. For this reviewer, this concert picked up where the previous concert left off, maintaining the original's level of greatness.

The first set began with a bright "Them There Eyes," followed by two Fats Waller compositions, "Take It From Me (I'm Takin' To You)" and "Handful Of Keys." The former is a rare Waller tune from the early 1930s (Lee Wiley and the Casa Loma Orchestra had recorded it). It was a nice medium tempo number which should be better known; the latter is one of Waller's early solo piano recordings, and a pianistic warhorse.

However, the highlight in the early part of the concert was a funky Professor Longhair - Dr John inspired "Bad Penny Blues." The lead-in story, as told by Neville, was as appealing as the performance. The tune was born at the end of a Humphrey Lyttelton recording session, with Lyttelton and a few of the musicians jamming after the recording session was over. Yet, the record engineers kept the tapes running, and in short order, the improvised jam became an overnight hit. The Beatles sued Lyttelton over the song because it sounded like their "Lady Madonna." Victory was Lyttelton's as the Beatles lost their case.

The remainder of the first set consisted of James P. Johnson's "You've Got to be Modernistic," the Albert Ammons arrangement of "Swanee River," "The Bells of St Mary's" (with cowbell interjections) and the escalating tempos of "Nagasaki." The second opened with "Louisiana Fairytale," a composition written by Coots' great uncle, J. Fred Coots. Coots wrote in collaboration with Haven Gillespie, Mitchell Parish, Benny Davis and others and produced songs "You Go to My Head," "For All We Know," "I Still Get A Thrill (Thinking of You)" among many others. Guest musician Bob Rawlins performed on tenor sax on the following numbers, "Pennies from Heaven" and "Sunday." Rawlins' Prez-tinged tenor fit in nicely with the duo, after a series of choruses, traded fours with the pianist on "...Heaven," with Coots on "Sunday." Rawlins' appearance, "challenged" the drummer out of his comfort zone, as he described, and he was grateful for the encounter.

The main portion of the second set was Neville Dickie, paying tribute to several pianists, not by way of a medley, but short, one-to-two-minute performances with Neville giving a brief history of each pianist, and how they influenced his playing. James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, and Meade Lux Lewis were among the recognized pianists. The takeaway was the other pianists mentioned, names unheard of in some circles – Charlie Kunz, Johnny Maddox and Bill Snyder. With Maddox, the pianist noted his father's acknowledgement of his piano playing. Kunz was given two songs – "As Time Goes By" and "Pink Elephants." The latter tune inspired a discussion about elephant sightings.

The concert ended with familiar performances ("Red Sails In the Sunset," "Carmen Boogie," and "Golden Earrings.") with the lone exception of "Hindustan," which offered a drum solo by Coots. This being my first concert seeing Coots, his performance was a treat – he and Neville Dickie worked well together in playing and exchanging humorous banter. As far as sequels go, this one was on the same creative level as Sunday's concert. The pandemic-induced hiatus made this concert all the more enjoyable.

Thank You to Our Premium Level Members

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Tri-State Jazz Society depends on the generous contributions of members because basic membership dues and concert admission charges do not cover all costs. The board asks members to consider renewing their memberships at the Sponsor, Patron, or Sustainer level if they are able to do so.

Coming in August
Rivertown Vintage Jazz Band
Sunday, August 20, 2023 2:00 to 4:30 pm
Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

The Rivertown Vintage Jazz Band makes their premier appearance for Tri-State Jazz. The band, founded in Stockton NJ in 2018, plays a great blend of trad jazz from the 20's and 30's. The band features vintage jazz on vintage instruments! Come hear the music of Duke, Pops, Bix and Paul Whiteman!

Visit the [Rivertown Vintage Jazz Band Facebook page](#)

- Scott Ricketts** - leader, cornet, vocals
- Nancy Kays** - trombone, tenor horn, vocals
- Tom Spain** - tuba
- Rod Anderson** - clarinet, tenor sax
- Henry Dale** - banjo, vocals
- Cliff Hochberg** - drums



Photo courtesy Rivertown Jazz Band

BAND NAMES
By Louis Kaplan

I've subscribed to The Syncopated Times from its initial issue. Now in year eight, the monthly newspaper's front page informs readers that each 40-page issue focuses on "Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing."

Many bands, including some that have performed at Tri-State Jazz Society programs, are mentioned in each issue. From The Syncopated Times of July 2023, can you match the band leader's name with the full title of the group?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cynthia Sayer and her2. Dan Levinson's3. Hal Smith and4. King Oliver's5. Miss Maybell and her6. Professor Cunningham &7. Vince Giordano and | <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Creole Jazz Bandb. Jazz Age Artistesc. Joyride Bandd. Palomar Jazz Bande. the New Orleans Night Owlsf. The Nighthawksg. His Old School |
|--|---|

(Answers on next page)

Click to View the **The Syncopated Times**
Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing

Potomac River Jazz Club *Jazz Talk*

A CONVERSATION WITH PRESERVATION HALL'S MUSIC DIRECTOR WENDELL BRUNIOUS
Monday, July 17, at 7:00 p.m.



Trumpeter, vocalist, and Preservation Hall's New Music Director (as of June 2023), Wendell Brunious boasts a towering musical family tree primarily flowered with trumpets. He is the son of trumpet master John "Picket" (or "Picky") Brunious Sr. and Nazimova "Chinee" Santiago, the niece of guitarist/banjoist Willie Santiago.

Wendell is a master storyteller and has grown up steeped in the music and culture of New Orleans. Extremely knowledgeable in the music's tradition and history, Brunious enjoys sprinkling his conversation with advisory quotes from his father and other artists who have crossed his musical path through his decades-long career.

Our *Jazz Talk* series is held via Zoom and is always FREE, although we do offer "donation" ticket options to help offset the cost of the program. Don't be afraid to try Zoom! You can keep your camera and microphone off and sit back and relax while you view and listen. If you have questions about the process, e-mail PRJCTailgate@verizon.net.

*To join: register by 5:00 p.m. the day of the event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/667283572127>

PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY PRESENTS

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

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STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS FREE ... CASH OR CHECK ONLY, NO CREDIT CARDS

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PLEASE DO NOT BRING FOOD OR BEVERAGE WITH YOU.

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RADIO:

Mon.-Fri. 10a.m.-12p.m. and Sat. 9-11a.m.
WWOZ's Trad Jazz program on
www.wwoz.org

Sat. 7-10 p.m. Hot Jazz Saturday Night with
Rob Bamberger on WAMU 88.5 FM radio
www.wamu.org

Sun. 8-10 p.m. Dave Robinson's Jazz Gumbo
on WKHS-FM 90.5 (Worton, MD) or online at
www.wkhsradio.org

PRINT:

Please visit <https://syncopatedtimes.com> for
the Syncopated Times Periodical. The online
calendar tracks jazz festivals all over!

Answers to BAND NAMES

1...c 2...d 3...e 4...a 5...b
6..g 7..f

*Features Now ONLINE on the
Tri-State Jazz Website*

Our Premium Level Members

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Tri-State Jazz Society Contact Information

Online Membership Enrollment and Renewal

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.

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.

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.



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:

New Member application

Renew your membership at the Sustainer, Patron, or Sponsor level.

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



Membership Form

Basic Dues: Individual \$20 Couple \$40
Sponsor Dues: Individual \$50 Couple \$70
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Sustainer Dues: Individual \$200 or more Couple \$220 or more
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.

First and Last Name(s) _____

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Mail with check payable to Tri-State Jazz Society, Inc., P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

**TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 896
MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054**

