



## PRESS RELEASE

Traditional Jazz in the Delaware Valley

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Tri-State Jazz Society Presents Annual Jam Session

**PHILADELPHIA** – Tri-State Jazz Society presents its Annual Dixieland Jam Session on Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086. A core band led by Bob Rawlins, and featuring traditional jazz professionals Ben Mauger, Franny Smith, Brian Nalepka, and Alan Hubbell, will be on hand to back up jammers who are invited to sit in. Half-price admission of \$10, payable at the door, is available for first-time attendees and members; general admission is \$20; full-time students with IDs and children are free. There are no advance sales or reservations. The Arts Center is less than a mile from the Media-Swarthmore exit of I-476 (the "Blue Route") and has free parking. For information see [www.tristatejazz.org](http://www.tristatejazz.org) or call [\(856\) 720-0232](tel:8567200232).

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#### Jam Session Core Band

Bob Rawlins - Clarinet, Saxophones, Leader  
Ben Mauger - Trumpet, Cornet  
Franny Smith - Banjo, Vocals  
Brian Nalepka - Tuba, Bass  
Alan Hubbell - Drums

Tri-State Jazz Society honors one of the enduring traditions of jazz with its annual jam session: any musicians so moved will be invited to sit in with the "house band." Last year's event was a huge foot-stomping success and drew rave reviews. This year, music professor, hot reed player, and Tri-State Jazz Society board member Bob Rawlins will head a core group of top New York and Philadelphia jazz regulars. The music will include standards and traditional Dixieland favorites.

#### Community Arts Center, Wallingford

Community Arts Center, located in Wallingford near I-476 (the "Blue Route") between Media and Swarthmore in Delaware County, is home to Tri-State Jazz Society's Pennsylvania concerts. Traditional jazz bands and solo pianists are presented five or six times a year in the Art Center's fully accessible Duke Gallery, a 3100-square-foot space that boasts excellent acoustics, a grand piano, soaring ceilings, post and beam construction and beautiful light. Free parking is available on the premises and complementary refreshments are served during intermission.

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## Background

Bob Rawlins led last year's Tri-State Jazz Society jam session and played with Ben Mauger's Vintage Dixieland Jazz Band and his Roaring '20s Jazz Orchestra at the TSJS September 2013 concert and with the Atlantic City Jazz Band in November. A professor of music theory at Rowan University, he is the author of several books on jazz including Jazzology and The Real Dixieland Book, a collection of 250 classic Dixieland tunes he compiled and edited while living in New Orleans.

Trumpeter Ben Mauger, who has performed for Tri-State as both a leader and sideman, explains, "A few years ago while playing at the Hot Steamed Festival in Essex CT, I had the pleasure of hearing the great Vince Giordano's Nighthawk band. WOW! I knew right then I'd love to play that music as well... and told myself that when I retired... I would form a similar band right here in Pennsylvania. So that's exactly what I did." Ben's groups have since become mainstays at prestige jazz venues and festivals up and down the East Coast.

Brian Nalepka on bass and tuba has joined Dan Levinson, Mark Shane, Jim Cullum, and many other notable jazz artists at concerts and on recordings.

Franny Smith is the longest working banjo player in Atlantic City history, entertaining for over 48 years. But he has also shared his music throughout the country and beyond. He's well-known to Tri-State regulars.

Drummer and band leader Alan Hubbell has been playing professionally since he was 17 years old. Extremely versatile, he is at home with the blues, in a big band or jazz combo, or providing music for a wedding.

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### **TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 896

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Tri-State Jazz Society, formed in 1988, is dedicated to the preservation and live performance of traditional jazz including Dixieland, swing, ragtime, and boogie-woogie. All concerts are open to the public and feature leading professional small jazz bands and soloists. Monthly concerts are presented in Haddonfield, NJ or Wallingford, PA except for December. The society is a non-profit educational corporation supported by its members.

### **Photos**

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### **Concert Schedule**

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