

# The Strutter

"Best of South Jersey" 2008 - 2011!

**VOLUME 23 NUMBER 5** 

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

**DECEMBER 2012** 

#### **OUR NEXT CONCERT**

Rio Clemente Trio



Sunday, December 16, 2012 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Community Arts Center 414 Plush Mill Road Wallingford, PA 19086 Directions on Page 7

Known as the "Bishop of Jazz," pianist Rio Clemente has a knack for captivating audiences, and has received standing ovations from Birdland to Europe to Carnegie Hall.

Beginning his career with studies at the Julliard School of Music, Rio went on to play at the JVC Jazz Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. He has entertained audiences at the United Nations, performed coast-to-coast for senators, governors, mayors, and other dignitaries, and appeared at major jazz clubs all over the US and abroad. Last December he was invited to play at the White House.

Clemente has recorded extensively, composed and arranged a wide variety of pieces, and served as music director for the Generations of Jazz Program of the New Jersey Jazz Society. About his feature CD on Richard Rodgers, Linda Rodgers raved "Rio plays my father's music better than anyone I ever heard." He has been named among New Jersey Monthly Magazine's "Top 40 New Jerseyans," and the New Jersey Jazz Society's "Musician of the Year."

Rio will be joined by Alex Gressel on Bass and Paul Wells on Drums for this trio concert.

Rio's website is at

www.rioclemente.com/pages/home.html You can also see his video at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=thLCAi4jNWA

#### **All Concert Admissions**

\$10 First-time attendees and members \$20 General Admission High school/college students with ID and children with paying adult admitted free Pay at the door — No advance sales

#### In This Issue

Looking Ahead	Page	2
Al Harrison Concert Review	Page	2
Favorite Jazz Video	Page	4
Print Version to Cost Extra.	<b>Page</b>	5
Future Concert Schedules	<b>Page</b>	5
Volunteers Wanted	Page	7

# LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR JANUARY 2013 CONCERT

On Sunday, January 13, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., Marty Grosz and the Hot Winds will perform at the Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ. Vintage guitarist and raconteur Marty Grosz is a legend of the jazz world. He is today's foremost jazz rhythm guitarist and chord soloist.



His virtuosity on the guitar, his sometimes soulful, sometimes-humorous vocals and his dry-wit storytelling make for a memorable and entertaining program. He says he plays acoustic guitar "because amplification makes it too easy." The Hot Winds, led by Marty on guitar, include three of the east coast's top jazz performers, cornetist Dan Tobias, reedman Scott Robinson and string bassist Ed Wise. Many left his 2009 TSJS concert with smiles on their faces and requests that we bring them back soon. It's taken almost four years, so don't miss them!

# AL HARRISON DIXIELAND BAND NOVEMBER 18 CONCERT REVIEW

The Place: Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Road, Haddonfield, NJ.

One way you can appreciate jazz is to not listen to it for a while. After stepping down as editor of the Strutter in June, and writing a review during the summer (seems ages ago), I stopped listening to jazz. Not permanently, mind you - I just needed a



Photo by Jim McGan

break. The past few months were, for the most part, a jazz-less time. Listening to the first few chorus of a bouncy version of "Amazing Grace" by the Al Harrison Dixieland Band was like coming home again.

The Harrison ensemble was in good form on this pre-Thanksgiving Sunday, mixing the traditional, the sacred and on occasion, the modern. Harrison was backed by a fine ensemble cast of Bob Rawlins on reeds, Fred Scott on trombone, Dave Posmontier on piano, Ed Wise on bass and Lew Leabman on drums. All of the participants had an opportunity to shine.

After the opening number, Harrison's band approached the standard "At The Jazz Band Ball" with a light swing. This was a façade, for after every soloist, the band built momentum until they concluded with a rousing Leabman drum solo. Dave Posmontier was featured on "Willow Weep For Me," displaying a mixture of modern and sparking stride piano. Bob Rawlins showcased his Procope-Carter sweet-toned alto sax on "Undecided.



Al Harrison - Leader, Trumpet and Cornet Photo by Jim McGann



Ed Wise - String Bass
Photo by Paul Macatee



Bob Rawlins - Clarinet and Alto Saxophone Photo by Paul Macatee

The standout performance for me was Hoagy Carmichael's "New Orleans." The whole band illustrated a Mardi-Gras aftermath - all the carousing was past and now the dawn of the new day on the rise, the survivors gathered to lament their fates. Rawlins clarinet was a tipsy philanderer, trying to sneak in the house before his wife notices. Scott's trombone is the beggar who desires just one shot of "likker," and Harrison's grumpy plunger is the local law enforcement, informing the holdouts that it is time to go home. Ed Wise's arco bass was a slow, stalking Black Maria police van, ready to escort the defiant revelers to a state-owned residency. Harrison described the Crescent City as a "sad town" with its residents, "putting on a happy

face" to disguise its grief. The band's interpretation of "New Orleans" exemplified this view.



Fred Scott - Trombone, Lew Leabman - Drums
Photo by Jim McGann



Dave Posmontier - Piano

Photo by Paul Macatee

"Oh, Lady Be Good," the number succeeding "New Orleans," was a perfect contrast. Out of the doldrums, no more sadness with a bright, cheerful tempo. The band responded in kind. Harrison blew subtle, rapid, swinging phrases, and quoted "I'm Beginning to See the Light" when trading fours with Leabman. Posmontier displayed a Hines-like attacking stride.

Other highlights include a bouncy "Exactly Like You" with more sweet alto from Rawlins, "Fat" sounds from Harrison, and Scott's singing tone. Ed Wise used the opportunity to play Oscar Pettiford lines. Rawlin's clarinet was showcased on Sidney Bechet's "Petite Fleur" backed by the rhythm section. "Stardust" was a light relaxed duet of the Carmichael standard; the sound between Harrison's horn and Posmontier's piano glided over calm summer seas. Finally, Juan Tizol's "Caravan" was ignited by Leabman's exotic beat, inspiring experimental sounds from Harrison's flugelhorn.

The afternoon ended as it began, with a church hymn; "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" with a brief segue to "The Saints Go Marching In." It was enough to leave this reviewer satisfied.

- Jim McGann

# MY FAVORITE JAZZ VIDEO CASSETTE

When the weather makes it impossible for my usual five-times-a-week 40-minute walk outside, I resort to my home treadmill for exercise. To help pass and enjoy the time, almost always I'll insert a video cassette into the television set in front of me. Far more than any other, I've watched the double-feature cassette "Jazz Dance" and "After Hours." I strongly recommend this 1998 Rhapsody Films release to all jazz fans.

"Jazz Dance" is a 22-minute 1954 production filmed in Manhattan's Central Plaza Dance Hall, 111
Second Avenue. Each person wanting to attend had to agree to the possibility of being filmed. A rabbinical school student in New York City's Jewish Theological Seminary in 1954 and a periodic attendee at the Central Plaza sessions, for some reason I can't recall with certainty, I wasn't there that time. What a mistake!

The film begins with a very short screen summary of jazz's origin and spread, then shows clarinetist "Pee Wee" Russell arriving by taxi. Next comes trumpet-leader Jimmy McPartland's introduction of each member of the band, and what an outstanding pick-up band it is: McPartland, Russell, Jimmy Archey (trombone), Willie "The Lion" Smith (piano), "Pops" Foster (bass), and George Wettling (drums).

The first selection is indeed, in McPartland's words, "a very lovely blues." That's followed, in order, by three traditional war horses: "Ballin' the Jack," "Royal Garden Blues," and "When the Saints Go Marching In." With a band of such renowned musicians, the solo quality and rideouts are absolutely first class. I hesitate to mention any one man as particularly outstanding.

With a crowd consisting overwhelmingly of high school and college kids, it's not surprising that the exciting music is matched by exuberant swing dancing. In 1954 I was only a jazz listener, but now that I'm also a swing dancer, I really appreciate fine swing dancing—and "Jazz Dance" has it. I'd cite as especially fine dancers: female twins; an attractive woman in a white dress; a couple dancing to "Royal Garden Blues" (initially unsure of the ability of the man who invited her to join him, she soon breaks into a lovely smile conveying "He can really

dance!"); and two professionals, Leon James and Albert Minns, the only blacks there.

The high-spirited dancing and terrific music, the happy facial expressions, shouts of approval, sincere applause, and banging of beer-filled glasses on tables—all add up to a fun-filled and extraordinary documentary. "Jazz Dance" constitutes the most convincing film evidence I've seen that dixieland jazz is made for dancing.

I prefer "Jazz Dance" to "After Hours," the second half of this video cassette. But certainly there's enough pulsating music on "After Hours" to keep me looking for the entire 22 minutes of this 1961 film. Tenor saxophonist Coleman Hawkins takes top honors for his sensitive, hauntingly tender rendition of "Lover Man." Two other highpoints involve buoyant Roy Eldridge-his well-constructed, powerfully biting choruses on "Sunday," punctuated by Cozy Cole's rhythmic drumming, and his "Just You, Just Me" scat singing exchanges with vocalist Carol Stevens. "Taking a Chance on Love" rounds out a program in which Minns and James again show their dancing skill, and Johnny Guarnieri (piano), Milt Hinton (bass), and Barry Galbraith (guitar) provide effective accompaniment to the proceedings.

I own many jazz videos, but I rate the black-and-white films "Jazz Dance" and "After Hours" my best. You can watch this video on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-DPiVVQJlY. If you see it, I'd be interested in knowing whether you agree with my enthusiastic review. I can be reached at lkaplan56@gmail.com.

Rabbi Lou Kaplan

#### SEE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/tristatejazz

Tri-State Jazz Society is now on Facebook! Our Facebook page is available for comments, questions, and suggestions.

### **FUTURE CONCERTS**



**Dec 16** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Rio Clemente Trio, Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

**Jan 13** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Marty Grosz and The Hot Winds, Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ

**Feb 10** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Midiri Brothers Sextet, Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

Mar 17 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Alex Hassan, Solo Piano Concert, Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ

**Apr 21** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Geoff Gallante Quartet, Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

May 19 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. La Pompe Attack, Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ

**June 9** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers, Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

#### THE STRUTTER IS ON THE WEB

The current and back issues of the Strutter are on the Tri-State Jazz Society Web. The Strutter archives cover over three years of back issues and all the bands and soloists who performed during that period are listed there.

Read the current issue at

www.tristatejazz.org/strutter.pdf.

### STRUTTER PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO CHANGE IN 2013

This is an advance notice to our Strutter Print subscribers. Beginning with the new Tri-State Jazz Society fiscal year on July 1, 2013, there will be a charge of \$10, in addition to the annual membership fee, for receiving the Strutter via the U.S. Mail. We are notifying you of this change now to encourage our current print subscriber members to try reading the Strutter when it is received by email. When you receive the Strutter by email, it can be easily printed on your home computer printer if you still want to read from a paper copy.

We encourage all members to use the email versions of our communications material - TSJS concert notices, non TSJS area traditional jazz events, or the Strutter newsletter. Send an email to membership@tristatejazz.org to tell us if you want to be on our email lists for these communications. Except for the Strutter and membership notices, all TSJS communications are sent by email only.

If you feel that you get too many TSJS emails, please let us know at membership@tristatejazz.org.

#### AMERICAN RAG

At each concert, TSJS picks a winner of a free fourmonth subscription to the American Rag as a door prize. The winner for November, 2012 is Julius Parisi of Mount Ephraim, NJ

New members of the Tri-State Jazz Society automatically receive a two-month subscription to American Rag, the country's largest traditional jazz and ragtime newspaper.

and rageinite newspaper.					
The American Rag  SUBSCRIBE TODAY  News You Can Use About Traditional Jazz and Ragtime One Year: U.S.\$26 -:- Canadian \$39U.S. Funds* Two Years: U.S.\$48 -:- Canadian \$74U.S. Funds*  (*) Includes Airmail Delivery					
	Make check payable to: <b>The American Rag</b> 20137 Skyline Ranch Dr., Apple Valley, CA 92308-5035				
	Phone/Fax: 760-247-5145				
Name					
Signature	X				
5/5/5 (e	(Periodical Postal Regulations require Mailers to maintain a signed card from every subscriber.)				
Address _					
City	State				
Phone	Zip + 4				
	Tri-State Jazz Society				

#### OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

#### PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org (610)-625-4640 No concerts in December and January 2013 **February 17** Mardi Gras Celebration

#### **NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY**

www.njjs.org (800)-303-NJJS

**January 27** 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary All Star Jam, 3:00 p.m., Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, Drew University, Madison, NJ.

NJJS also co-sponsors events at the Bickford Theatre and Ocean County College.

#### THE BICKFORD THEATRE

6 Normandy Heights Road Morristown, NJ

www.njjs.org/p/services/bickford.html

All concerts 8:00-9:30 p.m. (973)-971-3706. **December 3** Jeff Barnhart, Solo Piano

#### OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html (732)-255-0500

All concerts start at 8:00 p.m. Ocean County College campus, Community and Arts Center, College Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753 **December 10** Jesse Gelber, Solo Jazz Piano

# CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St., Cape May, NJ

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

**January 29** Midiri Brothers Jazz Band **February 10** Perserverance Jazz Band

#### JAZZ AT JACK'S

Jack's Deli Restaurant, 8500 Bustleton Ave., NE Philly, (215)-528-0582

Third Thursday of each month/concerts 6:30-8:30p.m., dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. and is included in ticket price.

December 20 The Al Harrison Dixieland Band

## ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sanford Catz, **President**, 2013, president@tristatejazz.org, webmaster@tristatejazz.org

Bill Wallace, First Vice President, Band Liaison, 2014, <a href="mailto:bands@tristatejazz.org">bands@tristatejazz.org</a>

Mike Mudry, **Treasurer**, 2013, treasurer@tristatejazz.org

Ed Wise, **Secretary**, **Education**, **Facebook Administrator**, 2014, education@tristatejazz.org

Dewaine Osman, **Strutter Editor**, 2015, editor@tristatejazz.org

Chic Bach, **Sound Coordinator**, 2013, advant@voicenet.com

Ray Whearty, **Publicity Editor/Writer**, 2015, rabundo88@gmail.com

Sally Cannon, **Publicity Manager**, 2014, publicity@tristatejazz.org

Louis Kaplan & Peggy deProphetis, 2015

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Lou Schultz, **Contributions Mgr.** and Jay Schultz, **Membership Mgr.** 

membership@tristatejazz.org

Jim McGann, Writer, Photographer
Paul J. Macatee Jr., Photographer
Steven Peitzman, Publicity Assistant
Nancy Rawlins, Publicity Assistant
Adam Rogers, Administration
Jack Adams, Video Coordinator

#### TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: PO Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ.

08054

E-mail: info@tristatejazz.org

Hotline Phone for updated concert information: (856) 720-0232

#### **TSJS PATRONS 2012-2013**

The Big Time - \$100 or more, \$120 couples

- John (Jack) & Joan C. Adams
- William & Elsie Bonnet
- Sanford Catz
- Jim McGann
- Mike Mudry
- DeWitt Peterson
- Joe & Anita Pew
- Bob & Nancy Rawlins
- Jay & Orinda Lou Schultz
- Anne Uniman
- Martha Keyser & Raymond P. Whearty Jr.

#### TSJS SPONSORS 2012-2013

Headliners - \$50 or more, \$70 couples

- Flora Becker
- Jack Boesch
- Marge Wroblewski & Porter Carlson
- William N. Hoffman
- Peggy deProphetis & Louis Kaplan
- Janney & Bill Murtha
- Dewaine & Clare Osman
- Peter Parisi
- Nancy Pontone & Steven Peitzman
- George Poletti
- Kay & Bob Troxell
- Bill & Sally Wallace
- Nancy Weaver

#### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

The work of Tri-State Jazz is done by its board and interested volunteers. We need new volunteers for the following jobs and training will be provided:

PUBLICITY MANAGER: To organize and manage all media and prospective concert attendee contacts in PA and NJ, and to manage the creation of press releases and publicity fliers.

PHOTO EDITOR: Organize the computer-based TSJS photo library of concert photos.

STRUTTER ASSISTANT EDITOR: Work with Strutter Editor, compiling concert schedules, collecting articles, and backing up the Editor. Anyone who uses e-mail and interacts with Web sites can do this job.

ASSISTANT WEBMASTER - Update our website. No programming or Web design experience needed. If you browse the Web and send e-mail with attachments. Takes just two to three hours a month.

## DIRECTIONS TO WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

FROM I-476 SOUTHBOUND: Exit Route I-476 (the Blue Route) at EXIT 3 (Media-Swarthmore). Turn right on Baltimore Pike toward Media. Get in left lane immediately and turn left on Turner Road. Go 0.3 mile to the second street on the left. Turn left on Plush Mill Road. Go 0.3 mile to the Community Arts Center. It is on the right just beyond Pendle Hill conference center. (Don't cross over I-476.) Parking lot is on the right.

FROM I-476 NORTHBOUND: Exit Route I-476 at EXIT 3 (Media-Swarthmore). Turn left on Baltimore Pike toward Media. Go 0.3 mile. Turn left on Turner Road. Go 0.3 mile to the second street on the left. Turn left on Plush Mill Road. Go 0.3 mile to the Community Arts Center. It is on the right just beyond Pendle Hill conference center. (Don't cross over I-476.) Parking lot is on right.

#### FROM PHILADELPHIA OR NEW JERSEY:

From NJ, cross the Walt Whitman Bridge into Philadelphia. From Philadelphia, take I-95 South to EXIT 7, I-476 North. Go north 3.4 miles to EXIT 3, (Media-Swarthmore) then follow directions above FROM I-476 NORTHBOUND.

**FROM CITY LINE:** Take Route 1 South to exit for I-476 South (The Blue Route). Take ramp on right, then turn left onto I-476. Go south 1 mile to EXIT 3, (Media-Swarthmore). Follow the directions above FROM I-476 SOUTHBOUND.

FROM CHESTER COUNTY AND WESTERN SUBURBS: Follow Route 1 North, passing Riddle Memorial Hospital just outside Media. Bear right on Route 1 North (the Media Bypass). Follow Bypass to first exit at Route 252 South (Providence Road). Follow Providence Road south to Baltimore Pike, a distance of approximately 2.2 miles. Turn left onto Baltimore Pike to Turner Road on your right, a distance of 0.3 mile. Turn right onto Turner Road for 0.3 mile. Turn left onto Plush Mill Road. Go 0.3 mile to the Community Arts Center. It is on the right just beyond Pendle Hill conference center. (Don't cross over I-476.) Parking lot is on right.

#### FROM WILMINGTON AND DELAWARE:

Take I-95 North to EXIT 7, I-476 North. Take ramp on right. Go north 3.4 miles to EXIT 3, (Media-Swarthmore). Follow the directions above FROM I-476 NORTHBOUND.



## **Membership Application/Renewal Form**

TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY
P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

☐ New	Renewal	Annual membership i	s valid through June	30, 2013.
Regular:	☐ Individual \$20	☐ Couple	\$40	
Sponsor*:	☐ Individual \$50	☐ Couple	\$70	
Patron*:	Individual \$100	or more \$	Couple \$120 or	more \$
Email and Nev	TSJS concert Newsletter by	heck all boxes that ap and membership no Email Rewsle	tices tter by U.S. mail (pa	* *
First and Last	Name(s)			
Street				
City			State	Zip
Phone (	)	E-mail		
Date	Check No	Mail with check p	ayable to Tri-State	Jazz Society, Inc.
•	•	are normally publishe		

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

