

The Strutter

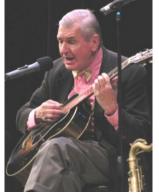
"Best of South Jersey" 2008 - 2011!

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 6

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

JANUARY 2013

OUR NEXT CONCERT Marty Grosz and the Hot Winds



Sunday, January 13, 2013 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Haddonfield Methodist Church 29 Warwick Road Haddonfield, NJ 08033 Directions on <u>Page 7</u>

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. Born in Germany, Marty was brought to America at the age of three and grew up on Long Island. 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. The last time Marty Grosz and the Hot Winds played for TSJS was March 2009. Many left that 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!

Dan Tobias has become a much sought-after cornetist in the Delaware Valley, and also nationally. He can be heard performing with the Midiri Brothers, Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings, Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, and Ed Wise and his New Orleans Jazz Band. His phrasing is lyrical, his tone fat and relaxed.

Marty says, "Scott Robinson, owns and performs upon every single reed instrument known to mankind, from the tiny sopranino clarinet to the massive contra-bass saxophone. He has outwrestled the mighty double-reed sarrusophone which produces tones so deep that it is forbidden by law to play it within a quarter mile of a suspension bridge."

Ed's been on the music faculty at Loyola University, New Orleans, and currently serves as musical director for the University of Pennsylvania's jazz ensemble. Moving to Philadelphia from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, he is a member of the Tri-State Jazz Society board of directors and has appeared at numerous jazz festivals around the globe. He returns to New Orleans every spring to perform at the French Quarter Festival and JazzFest.

All Concert Admissions

\$10 First-time attendees and members\$20 General AdmissionHigh school/college students with ID andchildren with paying adult admitted free

Pay at the door — No advance sales

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LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR FEBRUARY 2013 CONCERT

On Sunday, February 10, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., The Midiri Brothers Sextet will perform at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086.



Joe Midiri on the clarinet and twin brother Paul on the vibraphone head one of the country's top swingera bands. The band has delighted swing dancers and been acclaimed by critics at jazz festivals throughout the country for many years. The L.A. Jazz Magazine said "Catch them whenever you can! Their sextet is one of the most exciting small group swing units around today." Bob Fallstrom wrote in the Decatur Herald- Review, "I've seen and heard hundreds of clarinet players. Joe Midiri is the best... [I'm] enthralled by his tone, his technique, his creativity, his imagination and sound." Playing with Joe and Paul will be Dan Tobias on trumpet, Pat Mercuri on guitar, Ed Wise on bass, and Jim Lawlor on drums.

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.

RIO CLEMENTE TRIO DECEMBER 16 CONCERT REVIEW

Rio Clemente and his trio performed at the Wallingford, PA Community Arts Center on Sunday, December 16, 2012. Rio played the piano and sang vocals, Alex Gressel was on string bass, and Paul Wells was on drums.

"His pianistic style is beyond description. The subtle, graceful touch masked a powerful swing, the broken rhythms blended into each proceeding chorus, the Tatum runs, and the Shearing-like chords absorbed the listeners through a unique musical adventure."



Photo by Jim McGann

That was how I described Rio Clemente's performance when he appeared for TSJS last year. That concert, Clemente performed unaccompanied, left Rio to his own devices (and I may add, quite a lot of devices!). With the addition of bass and drums in this concert, I wondered how it would impact on the overall performance. I got my answer; Alex Gressel's bass and Paul Wells' drums were rhythmic extensions of the pianist's approach to performing.

Sunday was a warm, gray, misty December day. The day masked the brightness and sparkling sounds that emanated from Wallingford's Community Arts Center. From the opening unaccompanied chorus of "Falling In Love With Love" to the concluding Patriotic medley, Clemente's trio captivated the attending audience throughout the three-hour concert. Like the solo concert, there was something for everyone. There were stride, popular works, modern jazz, mood pieces, Christmas songs (in 5/4 time), even the aforementioned patriot songs, enticed the audience to sing along.

The pianist was in prime form. His light, gymnastic playing on "Falling In Love With Love" reminded one of someone in love. The fiery stride choruses on "Rosetta" and "Back Home Again In Indiana" would make Earl Hines smile. "Like Someone In Love" was redressed as a Bach prelude, concluding with a quote from "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." Oscar Peterson's "Hymn To Freedom" exuded a solemn, religious feeling, like an ending of a mass. The slow, melodic "Lady Blue" explored many moods - sorrow, regret, reflection, transition, an end of a moment in life.



Photo by Paul Macatee

Gressel and Wells made this a truly collective performance. All contributed. Gressel shined on the Gershwins' "They Can't Take That Away From Me," and applied stride piano to the bass on Fats Waller's "Jitterbug Waltz." Wells is a rare bird, a sort of modern Dave Tough, one who approaches drums in a musical way. The drummer applied a melodic approach on "Jitterbug Waltz" and you could almost hear the melody during his solo. His brush-laden bossa beat animated the trio on Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Someone to Light Up My Life." And his Joe Morello impersonation on the unusual 5/4 Christmas medley was dead on.

The Christmas medley capped a great concert. It began with Clemente taking "Jingle Bells" on an unusual ride, beginning with an up-tempo stride, then settled into the unexplored territory of 5/4 time. This segued into Take Five, and concluded

BUNK JOHNSON EXCEPTIONAL TRUMPET PLAYER

Bunk Johnson was one of the better trumpeters around New Orleans in the earliest years of the 20th century. In 1931 he lost his trumpet and front teeth when a violent fight broke out at a dance in Rayne, Louisiana, putting an end to his playing. He thereafter worked in manual labor, occasionally giving music lessons on the side when he could.

In 1938 and 1939, Bill Russell, one of the researchers/writers of the first book of jazz history, Jazzmen, interviewed several prominent musicians of the time, including Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet, and Clarence Williams, who spoke very highly of Bunk in the old days in New Orleans. Russell tracked down Bunk's address, and traded several letters with him, where Bunk recalled (and possibly embellished) his early career. Bunk stated that he could play again if he only had new teeth and a new trumpet.

A collection was taken up by writers and musicians (notably Al Rose and Larry Borenstein), and Bunk was fitted with a set of dentures (by Sidney Bechet's dentist brother, Leonard) and given a new trumpet, and in 1942 made his first recordings. These first recordings propelled Bunk (along with clarinetist George Lewis) into public attention, attracting a cult following and setting the stage for a local scene in New Orleans that ultimately led to the founding of Preservation Hall.

Bunk had a penchant for elaboration and fabrication when it came to telling stories about himself and his career. Musicians give each other nicknames for a reason. Apparently, the New York Times bought into Bunk's tall tales, for the official obituary below is jazz mythology at its finest. For your edification I have highlighted, using italics, the "bunk" in the following New York Times obituary.

For all his bluster, Bunk Johnson was nevertheless a fine musician who did his part, in his own time, to keep New Orleans and traditional jazz alive.

Continued on Page 4

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Continued - Bunk Johnson Article

New York Times Obituary, July 1949

"BUNK JOHNSON, 69, TRUMPET PLAYER

Jazz Stylist Who Began in New Orleans Dies ---Featured at 2 Town Hall Concerts

William Gary (Bunk) Johnson, noted Negro trumpet player, died on Thursday in his home in New Iberia, La., according to word received here last night by friends. He would have been 70 years old on Sept. 24. (*He was actually 60 at the time of his passing*)

Bunk Johnson was a legendary figure in jazz. *He* started playing the French horn as a schoolboy in New Orleans, where his mother, Theresa, ran a Creole lunch room. He played first with Adam Oliviter's (actually Olivier) band. The other players followed the score, but Bunk was unable to read, and he soon switched to Buddy Bolden's band, where it was all improvisation and ear. In those days the competition between bands was so keen that during Mardi Gras and parades, they would drown each other out. Bunk was considered the originator of the New Orleans style of jazz trumpet playing.

He played continuously except for two interludes -*the Spanish-American and the first World Wars -in both of which he served as an Army bandmaster overseas.* Then, in 1931, he lost his teeth. He took to working in the rice fields and doing other odd jobs. Shortly before the outbreak of the recent war he was "rediscovered" by William Russell, who arranged to provide him with a set of store teeth. Bunk began again as a trumpet player and achieved greater fame than the first time.

He starred in a jazz concert in San Francisco, and then came to New York, where he made a series of records with his band for Victor, Decca and other leading record firms. In 1945, *at the age of 65*, he was band leader at the Stuyvesant Casino, Second Avenue and Ninth Street. He was lionized by the younger generation of jazz enthusiasts, and articles about him appeared in The New Yorker, Collier's and other publications.

In 1946 Bunk Johnson and his New Orleans Band were the featured principals of a jazz concert at the Town Hall here. He played his favorites, "A New Orleans Street Parade" and "Maryland, My Maryland." In 1947 he was again featured at Town Hall, under the auspices of the New York Jazz Club.

He was the teacher of Louis Armstrong,. trumpet virtuoso.

Surviving is his widow, Maude. They had twelve children, eleven of whom were living in 1945, and ten grandchildren."

Article & NYTimes Obituary by Ed Wise

UNSCRAMBLE THESE!

Unscramble the names of these musicians, each of whom has played in a Tri-State Jazz Society concert.

- 1. SPEARTONEDEN
- 2. SNOWANDERILL
- 3. RATSBEENBEVO
- 4. CANLOBKD
- 5. NONEVALIDSN
- 6. RIMDIEIOJ
- 7. FIEYERRRJ

The answers appear elsewhere in this issue.

Rio Clemente Review - Continued

with "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman," which seemed to embrace 5/4 better than "Jingle Bells."

The concert concluded with a dramatic, moving patriotic medley. A mixture of anthems ("When the Caissons Go Rolling Along," "Anchors Away.") and traditional melodies ("Battle Hymn of the Republic," "America the Beautiful," and "God Bless America"). Each song moved the audience, whether it reminded one of time spent in the Armed forces, to recall a happier time, or simply inspired one to sing out loud.

I left the trio concert with the same energy as Clemente's solo concert in 2011. I wonder how a Rio Clemente Orchestra would affect me.

-Jim McGann

FUTURE CONCERTS



www.tristatejazz.org

Jan 13 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Marty Grosz & 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 24 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

June 23 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Annual Jam Session and Annual TSJS meeting, Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ - Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Tri-State Jazz Society

UNSCRAMBLE ANSWERS

- 1. Pete Anderson
- 2. Will Anderson
- 3. Steve Barbone
- 4. Dan Block
- 5. Dan Levinson
- 6. Joe Midiri
- 7. Jerry Rife

Yes, they're all clarinetists.

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.

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 an annual 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 December, 2012 is Barbara Macatee, Acton, PA.

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.

	The American Rag		
New	s 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: The American Rag		
	20137 Skyline Ranch Dr., Apple Valley, CA 92308-5035		
	Phone/Fax: 760-247-5145		
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Signature	X		
	(Periodical Postal Regulations require Mailers to maintain a signed card from every subscriber.)		
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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 40th 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. **January 15** Joe Midiri Quintet

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 **January 16** Benny Goodman Celebration

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 Perseverance 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.

February 12 Mardi Gras with Al Harrison Dixieland Band

ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sanford Catz, **President**, 2013, <u>president@tristatejazz.org</u>, <u>webmaster@tristatejazz.org</u>

Bill Wallace, First Vice President, Band Liaison, 2014, <u>bands@tristatejazz.org</u>

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Chic Bach, **Sound Coordinator**, 2013, <u>advant@voicenet.com</u>

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

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 & Élsie Bonnet
- Sanford Catz
- Jim McGann
- Mike Mudry
- DeWitt Peterson
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- Jay & Orinda Lou Schultz
- Anne Uniman
- Martha Keyser & Raymond P. Whearty Jr.

TSJS SPONSORS 2012-2013 Headliners - \$50 or more, \$70 couples

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- 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.

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 HADDONFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM PHILADELPHIA: Cross the Ben Franklin bridge into NJ. Keep left at the end of the bridge, following signs for US-30 East. Continue on Admiral Wilson Blvd. for 2.2 miles, keeping to the left and following the signs to Cherry Hill, NJ-70. The overpass leads to NJ-38 and NJ-70. Move to the right lane for NJ-70 east. Go 2.3 miles to Grove Street and turn right at the traffic light. Go 1.5 miles to Kings Highway (NJ-41). Turn right and drive a half mile through Haddonfield, passing over the PATCO tracks just before you get to Warwick Rd. Turn left at Warwick Rd. The church is on your left. Pass the church and turn left into the parking lot. Use the rear entrance for Fellowship Hall.

FROM THE SOUTH OR WEST VIA I-295:

From PA or DE take I-95 to the Commodore Barry Bridge (US-322 east) and cross into NJ. Take the second exit, I-295 and US-130 north. In 2.1 miles US-130 merges with I-295. Follow I-295 north for 16 miles to Exit 32, Haddonfield Berlin Rd. (NJ-561). Turn left toward Haddonfield and go past Kresson Rd., as it bends to the left and continue on Ellis Ave. At the "Welcome to Haddonfield" circle, keep to the right for S. Haddon Ave. Continue to the traffic light at Kings Highway (NJ-41) and turn left. Go 0.4 mile, passing over the PATCO tracks just before you get to Warwick Rd. Turn left at Warwick Rd. The church is on your left. Pass the church and turn left into the parking lot. Use the rear entrance for the Fellowship Hall.

FROM THE NORTH VIA I-95: Take I-95 south to the Betsy Ross Bridge exit (NJ-90). Cross into NJ and continue 2.1 miles on NJ-90. Exit at Haddonfield Rd. south. Go 4.2 miles. When you cross NJ-70, Haddonfield Rd. becomes Grove St. Go another 1.4 miles to Kings Highway (NJ-41). Turn right and drive a half mile through Haddonfield, passing over the PATCO tracks just before you get to Warwick Rd. Turn left at Warwick Rd. The church is on your left. Pass the church and turn left into the parking lot. Use the rear entrance for Fellowship Hall. FROM THE NORTH VIA I-295: Go south on I-295 to Exit 30, Warwick Rd. From the exit ramp, turn left (north) onto Warwick toward Haddonfield. Go 1.4 miles. Turn right into the church parking lot. Use the rear entrance for the Fellowship Hall.

	Те Z	embership Application/Renewal Form TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054		
New	Renewal	Annual membership is valid through June 30, 2013.		
Regular: Sponsor*: Patron*:	Individual \$50	Couple \$40 Couple \$70 For more \$ Couple \$120 or more \$		
Email and Nev	TSJS concert	Check all boxes that apply) and membership notices Email Newsletter by U.S. mail (paid members only) nal jazz event notices (not sponsored by TSJS)		
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•	•	s are normally published in The Strutter newsletter and on our your name included in the list, please check this box: 🗖		

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

