

The Strutter

"Best of South Jersey" 2008 - 2011!

**VOLUME 24 NUMBER 6** 

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

JANUARY 2014

**OUR NEXT CONCERT** Barbone Street Jazz Band



Sunday, January 12, 2014 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Haddonfield Methodist Church 29 Warwick Road Haddonfield, NJ 08033 Directions on <u>Page 7</u> Steve Barbone - Clarinet, leader Cindy Vidal - Trombone Sonny Troy - Guitar Mike Piper - Drums Adam Hershberger - Trumpet Jonathan Davenport - Bass

Clarinetist Steve Barbone will lead one of the Delaware Valley's best-known and hardestswinging musical groups for an afternoon of hot Dixieland Jazz. Steve Barbone has been playing clarinet for 60 years and has shared a stage with, among others, jazz legends Coleman Hawkins, Roy Eldridge, Yank Lawson, Walter Bishop Jr., Gene Schroeder, Roswell Rudd, Sidney Bechet, Thelonious Monk, Bob Haggart, Pee Wee Erwin and Miff Mole. He's been a mainstay in New York, Philadelphia and European Jazz Clubs including Nick's, Eddie Condon's, The Savoy, the Cinderella Club, the Melody Lounge, the Stuyvesant Casino, Ortlieb's Jazz Haus, Le Cave, the JazKeller and the Vieux Colunbier.

Cindy Vidal has been a professional jazz musician for more than 15 years. She has a master's degree in music, with a trombone major, from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, plays regularly in the pit orchestras at the Walnut Street and Prince Music Theaters, and has toured with Barry Manilow. She also has a great singing voice!

Well-known on the Philadelphia jazz scene, Sonny Troy has been playing jazz guitar for 60-odd years. He made his first record at age 11 with Frankie Avalon--who was playing trumpet at the time. As a teenager, Sonny played in Las Vegas with Louis Prima before joining Peggy Lee for an extended tour of the West Coast. He's worked with the Harry James Band, toured with Fabian, and eventually returned east to play lead guitar on the Mike Douglas Show. He's Bobby Rydell's and Frankie Avalon's first-call guitarist for local gigs.

Drummer Mike Piper's father, Ray Charles' tour drummer, bought him his first drum set when he

**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

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Trumpeter Adam Hershberger and bassist Jonathan Davenport are members of Philadelphia's Perseverance Jazz Band. According to veteran Steve Barbone, "Both of these men are in their 20s and are fine examples of the new blood that is interested in the hot jazz of Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet, et al. The Perseverance Jazz Band has been performing for 3 years at swing dances, parties, weddings and various clubs/restaurants. They have developed a growing audience of young people who listen and dance to our kind of music. They are both EXCELLENT jazz musicians and I am pleased to be working with them in both Barbone Street and in Perseverance Jazz Bands."

You can learn more about the Barbone Street Jazz Band, and hear samples of them in action at: http://www.barbonestreet.com/.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR FEBRUARY 2014 CONCERT

Tri-State Jazz will present Bryan Wright, piano soloist, in concert at the Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA on February 23, 2014 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Bryan is a ragtime, early jazz artist who is the Artist in Residence, 2013, for the Scott Joplin International Foundation.



In addition to performances in France and Japan, Bryan has been a featured pianist at some of the most prestigious jazz and ragtime festivals across the U.S. He has released two full-length solo CD's, *Syncopated Musings*, and *Breakin' Notes*. He is founder and executive producer of Rivermont Records, a label specializing in ragtime and early jazz.

# ATLANTIC CITY JAZZ BAND CONCERT REVIEW

The Atlantic City Jazz Band performed a Tri-State jazz concert at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA on Sunday, November 24, 2013.

The band: Bob Rawlins, clarinet, soprano and alto saxes; Bob Ferguson, trumpet; Pete Reichlin, trombone; Nancy Rawlins, piano and vocals; Franny Smith, banjo and vocals; John McClernan, tuba; Chuck Harms, drums.

On a blustery day with an epic Arctic blast on the horizon, it is understatement to say that witnessing the Atlantic City Jazz Band in concert was as refreshing as a summer breeze. It was TSJS's last concert before the holidays, and it was a nice way to conclude 2013. It was as if the New Year's Eve celebration had already begun and the champagne was uncorked.

This was my first opportunity to review the band since founder-leader Herb Roselle passed the baton to Bob Rawlins. The band, since those past TSJS concerts, has improved considerably in overall quality and repetitoire.



Things kicked off with Hoagy Carmichael's "Jubilee," with Bob Rawlins sweet tone alto sax leading the way, with Bob Ferguson's trumpet climbing the scale, before blasting at optimum levels. Franny Smith managed to draw some Hawaiian steel guitar sounds during his solo. Smith was the featured vocalist on the two following items related to the blues, the torch song "Am I Blue?" and the earthy-W. C. Handy "Beale Street Blues." His too-much-whiskey voice expressed the sorrowful lyrics in a convincing way. The instrumentalists responded in kind, the former had Pete Reichlin's trombone making poignant plunger statements, while the latter featured a rare solo by tubist John McClernan. There were more creative moments in the first set. "Blues My Naughty Sweetie Gave To Me" began with a Smith vocal backed by only Chuck Harms' hi-hats. "My Little Bimbo Down On the Bamboo Isle" found Ferguson in a humorous mood, pleasantly mimicking Henry "Hot Lips" Busse on mute, while Reichlin swaggers along the Bamboo Isle, enticing the local inhabitants. "Black and Blue" is a classic example of how instrumentalists interpret the song lyrics - Ferguson's trumpet was a voice of protest, Rawlins' clarinet accepted its fate, while Reichlin exhorted a "woe is me" response.





While not soloing, Chuck Harms was the centerpiece of "At A Georgia Camp Meeting," accompanying the soloist with woodblocks, rimshots, press rolls, practically all of the drum kit. Nancy Rawlins performed her first vocals at a jazz concert, on the delightful "I Double Dare You."

The second set brought more surprises. Bob Ferguson's feature, "I Can't Get Started," is usually a vehicle where trumpet soloists reach for the stratosphere. Ferguson had his moments in the upper octaves, but after all of the fireworks, concluded the piece subtly and quietly. Nancy Rawlins was featured once again, this time on a vocal and a piano feature: the vocal on the melancholy "I'll See You In My Dreams" and the piano feature, a rag written by Irving Berlin in 1908 entitled "Grizzley Bear." "Too Busy" was originally recorded by Lillie Delk Christian back in 1928, backed by Louis Armstrong's Hot Four. Franny Smith's vocal added more life to the lyrics than Miss Christian ever did (check out the original recording to compare).



The concert closed with a guaranteed swinger, "Everybody Loves My Baby." This one will probably be remembered for the long teasing intro with Rawlins clarinet and Ferguson on trumpet vamping asides before the Smith vocal.

And with that, the concert was over. The summer breeze dissipated into the Arctic chill, and the darkening skies of eastern standard time awaited us. It was back to reality for all of us, all too soon. The Atlantic City Jazz Band concert was a brief escape from winter and reality.

> Review by Jim McGann Photos by Paul J. Macatee, Jr.

## JAZZ IS WHERE YOU FIND IT By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

Yes, Jazz is wherever you're fortunate to find it. Peggy and I unexpectedly found some aboard a cruise ship, as well as at an anticipated session in Sydney, Australia. Let me explain.

Peggy had luckily snagged the job of rabbi for a 27day cruise from Seattle to Sydney on the Oosterdam, a Holland America Line ship. On every cruise we hope the evening's entertainment will be to our liking, but we don't count upon hearing swing or Dixieland jazz being featured. How wrong we were this time!

Lo and behold the daily program schedule for October 20 listed David Hull and The HALCats band putting on a Honky Tonk Piano Party at 9 p.m.! We made sure to get there early for a choice seat. Short-statured Hull, who plays piano and leads The HALCats, began the program by informing the crowd that he's 27, started piano lessons at age 3, and that his father, a music teacher, would take little David to dixieland jazz festivals when his tuba-playing dad was part of a performing band. Now the adult David not only "captains" cruise ship bands but sometimes plays piano or banjo at jazz festivals throughout the country. This night, at times backed by The HALCats, he banged out "Ice Cream," Fats Waller's "Your Feet's Too Big," Jelly Roll Morton's "Grandpa's Spells," a boogie-woogie version of a Mozart piece, and other delights. What a treat! But that wasn't all.

Amber Jade of Australia, described as a "dynamic multi-instrumentalist," was slated for the 8 and 10 p.m. shows on October 23. The name being unfamiliar to us, we didn't know what kind of music to expect. Here, too, we were surprised. Although I'd rate her clarinet and saxophone playing as only average, the tune selection was decidedly a fourstar hit. The overwhelmingly over-65 audience's rousing applause was easily explained: most of us grew up with the swing era music she played. How pleasantly nostalgic to hear "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Woodchoppers' Ball," a Glenn Miller medley, and other favorites of long ago. Moreover, Ms. Jade, whom I'd guess is about 30 and perhaps slightly overweight, startled the crowd by ending one number with a Velma Middleton-like split! (Middleton, almost 300 pounds, somehow executed a floor split nightly during most of her 19 years with Louis Armstrong's All Stars.) At my suggestion we returned two hours later for Amber Jade's 10 p.m. show--the only time we saw the same show twice.

This is not a plug for Holland America Line's entertainment. It's merely a reminder that as for when you and I will hear good swing or dixieland jazz, "One never knows, does one?"

In Australia's "Emerald City," one of the world's largest and most attractive, we looked forward to hearing again the Robbers Dogs Jazz Band in Sydney's oldest pub (1828), the bar of the Fortune of War Hotel (37 George Street North).

In 2008, knowing that the two of us would be heading for Sydney after Peggy's five summer weeks of teaching managerial accounting in an M.A. program in Bangkok, Thailand, I asked clarinetist-band leader Steve Barbone if he had any jazz friends in Sydney. He referred me to Bill Haesler, who plays with the Robbers Dogs, and gave me Bill's telephone number. Once in that city I contacted Bill and he told me where and when the band would be playing.

(I learned this year that Bill could well be called Mr. Jazz of Australia. A retired architect, his decades of classic jazz involvement have included work as a writer, discographer, broadcaster, lecturer, band leader, washboard player, record producer, president of jazz societies, and 2005 recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for his contributions to jazz.)

So, in 2013, the very Sunday that the Oosterdam docked in Sydney, Peggy and I hurried to The Russell, a hotel two doors from where the Robbers Dogs would be playing, left our luggage, and headed for the music. Bill greeted us warmly. We chatted and snapped a few pictures. The band leader was still clarinetist Jack Wiard. (I bought two CDs of Jack Wiard's Riverside Roustabouts, one for myself and the other a gift for Steve Barbone.) In addition to Wiard, others in the band were Cliff Parsons (banjo), John Conley (bass), and Bill Haesler (washboard and cymbal).

The band plays in the bar area, and for much of the session the large crowd gave out with noise aplenty. That didn't affect the quality of the band's music nor of smiling, Japanese-born Yuki Kumagai's oft-times friendly interaction with the customers and fine singing.

Here's a partial list of the numbers we heard: "I've Got It Bad and That Ain't Good," "All of Me," "Maria," "Kansas City Blues," "After You've Gone," "Blue Moon," "I Cried for You," "Look, Look, Lookie, Here Comes Cookie" (new to me, a tune Wiand said is from the 1920s), "The Glory of Love," "Mandy, Make Up Your Mind," and "Hello, Dolly."

The Robbers Dogs Jazz Band has been playing Sundays at its present location for the last 16 1/2 years, obvious testimony to its popularity. Bill Haesler is the sole surviving member of the band's original 1968 line-up. Should you find yourself in Sydney on a Sunday, take in some delightful jazz at the Fortune of War Hotel's bar. Peggy and I found the music, musicians, atmosphere, food and drink (fish and chips with an Australian beer) very much to our liking. So will you!

# CAN YOU HELP US?

We are an all-volunteer non-profit organization, supported entirely by our members. Keeping live performances of traditional jazz in the Delaware Valley is a challenging, but satisfying activity for your Board of Directors and a small group of volunteers. Frankly, we need more help because we have recently lost some of our key helpers and some have needed to cut back their workload. We are looking for more volunteers to share the load, each contributing less than two hours a month. If any of the following areas of interest appeal to your volunteer sense, please contact me at email, "president@tristatejazz.org" or Dewaine Osman at email, "dlosman@comcast.net."

- Write for this Strutter newsletter or for press releases. Just write on your PC and email it to our Editor.
- If your computer skills are good, post online listings for media event calendars, update our website, maintain membership records, or prepare email distributions. We provide the training.
- Help at concerts. Come early to help at the admissions table, the literature table, the placement of outdoor signs, or collection of door prize tickets. At intermission, help with refreshments.
- If you enjoy talking to people about our concerts, help us publicize the Tri-State Jazz Society. Contact newspapers and media in your area. We need a publicity manager for the southern New Jersey area.
- Distribute fliers and post them on bulletin boards in your neighborhood.

Sandy Catz, President

# OTHER FUTURE CONCERTS



### www.tristatejazz.org

No Concerts Planned for December due to the Holidays

#### All Concerts from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 16, 2014 Classic Conservatory Jazz Band led by Dave Robinson; New Orleans, Chicago style and swing. Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ.

**April 6, 2014** Ed Wise and His New Orleans Jazz Band. A rare opportunity to see Ed because he's now living in New Orleans. Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA.

**May 4, 2014** To Be Announced, Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ.

**June 1, 2014** Neville Dickie with the Midiri's, Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ.

**June 29, 2014** Jam Session & Annual TSJS Meeting, Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

#### 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, 2013 is Vernon Hunsberger of Harleysville, PA.

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



# OTHER JAZZ SOCIETY CONCERTS

### PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org (610)-625-4640 Dewey Fire Company Hall, 502 Durham Street, Hellertown, PA **March 2** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Atlantic City Jazz Band

NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY

<u>www.njjs.org</u> (800)-303-NJJS NJJS 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 p.m. (973)-971-3706. January 8 Bucky Pizzarelli January 20 Robbie Scott's New Deal Orchestra 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 15 Midiri Brothers February 15 Dorian Parreott February 19 Geoff Galante

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

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

January 12 Midiri Brothers February 9 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. Performances by the Al Harrison Dixieland Band.

### ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### 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 2013-2014

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

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## 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.

## SEE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/tristatejazz

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

#### **DIRECTIONS TO HADDONFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** FELLOWSHIP HALL ENTERS FROM REAR

## PATCO LINE FROM PHILADELPHIA: Take

PATCO line from Center City to Haddonfield Station. Haddonfield station is ½ block from Kings Highway - to your right as you exit the station. Walk to Kings Highway, turn right and walk 2 blocks to Warwick Rd. Turn left and walk ½ block to Haddonfield Church. Take first driveway.

**FROM PHILADELPHIA:** Cross the Ben Franklin bridge into NJ. Keep left at the end of the bridge for US-30 East and continue for 2.2 miles, keeping left and following 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. Go 1.5 miles to Kings Highway (NJ-41). Turn right and drive a half mile through Haddonfield to Warwick Rd. Turn left at Warwick Rd. Pass the church and turn left into the parking lot.

### 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 the road bends to the left. 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 to Warwick Rd. Turn left at Warwick Rd. The church is on your left. Pass the church and turn left into the parking lot.

**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 to Warwick Rd. Turn left at Warwick Rd. The church is on your left. Pass the church and turn left into the parking lot.

**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.



# **Membership Renewal Form**

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- \* To obtain a New-Member Application, which provides reduced first-year rates in some cases, call the hotline at 856-720-0232 or visit the TSJS website: <a href="https://www.tristatejazz.org/application-to-mail.html">www.tristatejazz.org/application-to-mail.html</a>.
- \*\* Names of sponsors and patrons are normally published in *The Strutter* and on our Web site. If you do **NOT** want your name included in the list, please check this box:

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