

## OUR NEXT CONCERT

### Al Harrison Dixieland Band



Sunday, January 18, 2015  
2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Community Arts Center  
414 Plush Mill Road  
Wallingford, PA 19086

Directions at  
<http://www.tristatejazz.org/directions-cac.html>

#### Al Harrison Dixieland Band

Al Harrison - Trumpet, Cornet, Fluegelhorn,  
Vocals, Leader

Joe Midiri - Clarinet, Alto & Soprano Saxes

Fred Scott - Trombone

Franny Smith - Banjo, Vocals

Jimmy Parker - Tuba

Chic Sperell - Drums

“The Al Harrison Dixieland Band is a polished ensemble with enough firepower, as Duke Ellington would say, to ‘scorch the moon!’” - Jim McGann, *The Strutter*, Tri-State Jazz Society. The band performs the traditional New Orleans music that Harrison played as a member of the Dixieland band on the historic steamboat “Delta Queen.” He has played in several New Jersey casinos, backing up such greats as Tony Bennett and Sammy Davis, Jr.,

has led the Dixieland band at Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center, and has played at jazz festivals all over the country.

The band was formed in 2007. They have performed concerts in the Regol Concerts Peerless Performances series, for which live CD recordings are available. The band has performed for the Tri-State Jazz Society, most recently in November, 2012. They have also played for the Cape May Traditional Jazz Society, the Pennsylvania Jazz Society and at fundraisers for the benefit of Jazz Bridge and other charities.

“A great, lively band that preserves the tradition of classic jazz without embalming it. The creativity is at full throttle, and so is the sense of fun. You can’t listen to Al and his friends and not feel better about life in general.” - Joe Barron, music reporter, *Montgomery Newspapers*.

#### 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*

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR FEBRUARY 2015 CONCERT

Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings will play a Tri-State Jazz concert at the Haddonfield Methodist Church on February 15, 2015.

### **Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings**

Jerry Rife - Leader, Clarinet, Alto & Soprano Saxes  
Dan Tobias - Trumpet  
Pete Reichlin - Trombone  
Pat Mercuri - Banjo & Guitar  
Gary Cattley - Tuba & String Bass  
Sean Dixon - Drums

Jerry earned 2 degrees in music at Kansas State University before earning a PhD in Musicology at Michigan State University. Dr Rife teaches music history and directs bands at Rider University and teaches at Westminster Choir College. As leader of Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings and as a clarinetist sideman, he has performed traditional jazz frequently for Tri-State Jazz Society and throughout the region. In 2012, he served as leader of the 2012 annual Tri-State Jazz Society jam session.

Danny has become a sought-after cornet and trumpet player in jazz circles. Besides his own band, he is a star with the Midiri Brothers and Ed Wise groups.

Pete is a versatile horn player, handling the trombone in this band and the tuba. He was an original member in the Independence Hall Jazz Band.

Pat is one of the area's most active freelance jazz musicians. As a member of the Midiri Brothers' and Ed Wise's bands he often plays for TSJS.

Gary is equally at home on bass and tuba. He has appeared at jazz festivals across the country and as a guest soloist. He last played for TSJS as bassist with Drew Nugent's Midnight Society.

Sean has been a free-lance musician in New York City for eighteen years working as a percussionist, bassist, composer, arranger and producer with various singer/songwriters, jazz, blues, rock, R and B, and African artists.

## ETHAN USLAN SOLO PIANO NOVEMBER CONCERT REVIEW

On Sunday, November 16, 2014, at the Haddonfield Methodist Church, NJ, Tri-State Jazz presented a concert featuring ragtime and stride solo pianist Ethan Uslan.



Photo by Paula J. Ingram

Ethan's presentation took the shape of a musical travelogue, beginning in Vienna with a stride version of Beethoven's "Für Elise" which revealed the pianist's European classical background that remained just below the surface of his entire performance. From Vienna, Uslan proceeded to Italy and Switzerland with a Hawaiian-titled rag (which he claims to have performed in Italy) and "I Miss My Swiss." A brief detour to New Orleans ("Tiger Rag" as played by Jelly Roll Morton) incongruously led to Great Britain, represented by Fats Waller-esque treatments of "Limehouse Blues" and Kenneth Alford's "Colonel Bogey March" (immortalized in the film *Bridge on the River Kwai*), which Uslan claims to have been named for a British Army officer who spent much time on the golf course and lent his name to the "bogey" golf score. Scott Joplin's "Elite Syncopations" ushered in two Gershwin selections from the Roaring Twenties, "Some Faraway Someone" and "Naughty Baby."

Uslan opened the second set with another stride-infused Joplin classic, "Maple Leaf Rag". He then resumed his travelogue with two Middle Eastern-flavored chestnuts, the Turkish-inspired "Dardanella" and the klezmer-meets-ragtime

"Palesteena," in which Uslan drew upon his Eastern European Jewish heritage. A tribute to Stephen Foster, consisting of "Old Black Joe" and "Oh, Susanna," featured Uslan's employment of the classical Theme and Variations technique, with quotations from the "Cakewalk" and "The Union" by the nineteenth-century, New Orleans-born composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. The world tour resumed in Cuba with Moises Simons' "El Manisero," which, under its English translation "The Peanut Vendor," became a huge hit for the Stan Kenton band in 1948 and remained a staple in the Kenton repertoire through the late Seventies. Departing from tropical Cuba, Uslan led the audience some five thousand miles across the Atlantic to subpolar Sweden and the native "Song of the Fir Tree," which became a modern jazz standard under the title "Dear Old Stockholm" via Miles Davis and Stan Getz, and to which Uslan applied a Dave Brubeck-styled approach. A final visit to New Orleans was reflected in "Just a Closer Walk with Thee," followed by three vintage "warhorses": "By the Beautiful Sea," "If You Were the Only Girl in the World," and "Tea for Two," which was preceded by a short interpolation of Joplin's "The Entertainer." The Eubie Blake/Noble Sissle collaboration "I'm Just Wild About Harry," from the 1921 musical Shuffle Along and the official campaign song for Harry S Truman's 1948 Presidential campaign, brought the afternoon to its triumphant conclusion.

Throughout the entire program, Uslan demonstrated a combination of a powerful left hand (a prerequisite for stride and boogie-woogie, which were both on display), superb dynamics, and a solid classical foundation. He was very well-received and is a prime candidate for a return to the Tri-State.

Robert J. Robbins



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**JEFF BARNHART CONCERT REVIEW**

**Moorestown Community House**

**Sunday, November 9, 2014**

I was greeted by an orange-red sky draped with streaking cumulus clouds as I stepped out from the Moorestown Community House. The beautiful design was a perfect ending after witnessing a terrific concert by pianist-vocalist Jeff Barnhart (with assistance from Anne Barnhart on flute.)

Competing with a lavish buffet in the rear ballroom, and a baby shower (complete with its own pianist!) in another room, the Connecticut native with the broad blazing smile was in top form. The pianist exuded a playful air while at the same time demonstrated his command of his instrument.

The concert began with the "oldest" tune of the program - Frederic Chopin's Nocturne in E Flat, written in 1833. Playing the composition straight at a rather slow tempo, the pianist immediately cut into an insanely fast stride with a left hand so strong I wondered how the ivories survived the pounding! And this was only the beginning.

Fast forward a century and five years, Fats Waller's treasured but obscure composition "Hold My Hand" was treated in the Waller fashion with a free and easy stride and a Barnhart vocal peppered with Waller-like inflections.

The Carmichael medley was chock full of interesting piano work. "Riverboat Shuffle" with its rich chime-like treble work was proceeded by "Stardust" played as graceful as stride piano can be played. "Georgia On My Mind" was taken at the same walking stride as "Stardust," and featured an unusual bouncy left hand. The up-tempo "One Morning In May" whose title escaped this reviewer until Barnhart announced it at the conclusion of the performance, displayed flashy finger work. Barnhart lent his vocal talents to the last two Carmichael melodies - the slow, somber "New Orleans" followed by an uplifting, up-tempo "Jubilee."

One of the enjoyable aspects of the concert was Barnhart's ability to take a composition out of its origins and place it in a new environment. This was the case with Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer." Removing it from Ragtime, Barnhart turned the Joplin piece into an Avery Sharpe/After Hours

setting. Even Barnhart commented that this new version was something you would hear in a "sporting house" around "3 a.m."

After a campy version of "Your Feet's Too Big" highlighted by an impromptu ambulance siren wailing off in the distance, Barnhart temporarily departed the stride arena to perform his own composition based on the children's book "Freddie the Leaf" by Leo Buscaglia (spelling?). The "Freddie the Leaf" suite reminds one of Vince Guaraldi's work for the Peanuts specials, with Barnhart's work much lighter and gentler.

Another medley, celebrating the year 1914, included an unusual title - "I'm Floating Down that Ol' Green River on the Good Ship Rock and Rye."

Anne Barnhart made two appearances during the concert. During the first set her flute was featured on "Blue Autumn," a Mick Lewis composition influenced by Acker Bilk's "Stranger on the Shore" and Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies." On the second set, Anne sang on the Sophie Tucker number "Some Of These Days" as well as providing flute solos to "A Day in the Life of a Fool" and "Red Hot Mama." Overall, Barnhart's flute fared better on the slower "Blue Autumn" and "The Day in the Life of a Fool", although it was a bit of a kick watching both Barnharts trading fours on the faster numbers and quoting different melodies in the process.

The second set consisted of mostly requests from the listening audience. The best realized were a frantic-car-has-no-breaks-going-downhill tempo on "Honeysuckle Rose," the rare lyrics of "Take Me To the Land of Jazz" and "Down In Honky Tonk Town," and speaking of lyrics, special note should be taken of the original and re-written lyrics of "Rose of Washington Square" - the original described the "lavender haired" title character as an innocent lass; the re-written "Rose" a scandalous model posing for an artist before descending into a career which found the Washington Square resident "without any clothes."

The concert concluded with a piano only rendition of "High Society." I can only respond understatedly. Barnhart simply took all the parts of the classic Dixieland chart and made it a stride piano piece. Even the celebrated clarinet solo did not escape Barnhart's keyboard. A great ending to a great concert.  
Jim McGann

## FUTURE CONCERTS



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

**March 15, 2015** Stephanie Trick-Solo Pianist, Wallingford, PA.

**April 12, 2015** The Peter and Will Anderson Quartet, Wallingford, PA.

**May 3, 2015** The Barbone Street Jazz Band, Haddonfield, NJ.

**May 31, 2015** Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers Trio, Haddonfield, NJ.

**June 28, 2015** Annual Jam Session and Meeting, Wallingford, PA.

**Wallingford:** Concerts are held at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd; just west of exit 3 of I-495 ("The Blue Route").

**Haddonfield:** Concerts are held at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd., just south of Kings Highway; about a ten minute walk from the PATCO station.

**Detailed directions at [www.tristatejazz.org](http://www.tristatejazz.org).**

## 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:

- If you like to TALK to people and network, help us publicize TSJS. Contact newspapers and media in your area.
- Distribute FLIERS and post them on bulletin boards in your neighborhood.
- Help at CONCERTS. Come early or help at intermission: Both our Wallingford, PA and Haddonfield, NJ venues have openings for help at the admissions table, literature table, refreshments and ushers.

## OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

### PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

[www.pajazzsociety.org](http://www.pajazzsociety.org)

(610)-625-4640

Dewey Fire Company Hall, 502 Durham Street,  
Hellertown, PA., 2:00-5:00 p.m.

**February 22** Bill Warfield & The Storyville Jazz  
Band

### NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY

[www.njjs.org](http://www.njjs.org)

(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](http://www.njjs.org/p/services/bickford.html)

All concerts 8:00 p.m. (973)-971-3706.

**March 10** Bix Beiderbecke Birthday Bash

#### OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

[www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html](http://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 14** Midiri Brothers, Benny Goodman  
Tribute

**February 11** Blind Boy Paxton

### CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St.,

Cape May, NJ

[www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com](http://www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com)

**January 11** Midiri Brothers

**February 8** Barbone Street Jazz Band

**March 8** Perseverance Jazz Band

**April 12** Al Harrison Dixieland Band

### POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

Check out the numerous traditional jazz events  
sponsored by PRJC at "[www.prjc.org](http://www.prjc.org)."

## HOW DO WE PICK BANDS AND PIANISTS?

Groups and soloists who have played for us in the  
past are invited back if they drew a good audience  
and lots of applause. So you get to vote with your  
feet and hands.

Members of our music committee – chairman Bill  
Hoffman, Chic Bach, Mike Mudry, Steve Peitzman,  
Bob Rawlins, Jay Schultz, and Bill Wallace – are  
always looking for other traditional jazz bands and  
performers who meet our high performance  
criteria. We seek top musicians even though we  
often need to pay them more. This is possible  
without raising ticket prices because we have many  
generous patrons and sponsors.

We also seek suggestions from our members, based  
on performances they have heard in our region and  
throughout the county on their travels. If you have  
ideas for future concerts, talk to someone on the  
music committee or send an email to the chairman,  
Bill Hoffman, at [bands@tristatejazz.org](mailto:bands@tristatejazz.org).

President, Sandy Catz

## QUIZ TIME

By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

When we were children, we probably all heard or  
read the fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood, the  
Big Bad Wolf, and the girl's grandmother. Many of  
us viewed the quick-witted comedian-actor Aaron  
"Red" Buttons (1919-2006) in the movies and on  
television. A few, including me, watched Charles  
"Red" Ruffing (1905-1986) of the New York  
Yankees pitch against the Philadelphia Athletics in  
the City of Brotherly Love's Shibe Park, later called  
Connie Mack Stadium.

Yes, "Red" is a fairly common nickname. A number  
of jazz musicians also have or bore that moniker.  
Can you complete the last names of the following  
five?

1. Ernest "Red" N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ s (cornet, bandleader)
2. Henry "Red" A \_ \_ \_ n (trumpet, bandleader)
3. Kenneth "Red" N \_ \_ \_ o (xylophone,  
vibraphone)
4. George "Red" C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ r (bass, tuba)
5. Robert "Red" R \_ \_ \_ \_ y (trumpet)

(Answers elsewhere in this issue.)

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**More Volunteers are listed on our website  
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## TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

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**E-mail:** [info@tristatejazz.org](mailto:info@tristatejazz.org)

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



# Membership Application/Renewal Form

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

**New**       **Renewal**      *Annual membership is valid through June 30, 2015.*

**Individual:**     Basic Member \$20       Sponsor \$50       Patron \$100 or more  
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Tri State Jazz Society is on Facebook! Our Facebook page is available for comments, questions, and suggestions.

## 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](http://www.tristatejazz.org/Strutter.pdf)

## QUIZ TIME ANSWERS

1. Ernest "Red" Nichols (1905-1995)
2. Henry "Red" Allen (1908-1967)
3. Kenneth "Red" Norvo (1908-1999)
4. George "Red" Callender (1916-1992)
5. Robert "Red" Rodney (1927-1994)

(Note: "In the black culture, light-skin pigmentation was sometimes called red, hence Henry 'Red' Allen, George 'Red' Callender, and 'Red' Young, as Lester Young was known in his youth."---Bill Crow, "Jazz Anecdotes," New York:: Oxford University Press, 1990, p. 198.)

**TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY, INC.  
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