

# The Strutter

**VOLUME 28 NUMBER 1** 

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

**JULY 2017** 

# **OUR NEXT CONCERT**

Tri-State Jazz All-Stars



Photo by Jim McGann

Sunday, July 9, 2017 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Community Arts Center 414 Plush Mill Road Wallingford, PA 19086 Directions at

http://www.tristatejazz.org/directionscac.html

Tri-State Jazz Society Music Advisor and Board Member Dr. Bob Rawlins leads an All-Star band of Tri-State favorite professional musicians for this traditional Dixieland concert. On the stage with Bob will be local all-stars Franny Smith and Paul Midiri, Randy Reinhart (from NYC), and Ed Wise (former TSJS Music Advisor who recently relocated to New Orleans). In a true jazz spirit, the All-Star Band will be joined by other invited guests sitting in. Don't miss this special event!

Returning leader Dr. Bob Rawlins has appeared with several bands for TSJS (including his own Atlantic City Jazz Band), is Professor of Music Theory at Rowan University, serves as music advisor on the TSJS Board, and is the author of several books including The Real Dixieland Book (a collection of 250 classic Dixieland tunes he compiled and edited while living in New Orleans), and Tunes of the Twenties (a fun book that tells the stories behind songs of the Jazz Age).

Trumpeter and trombonist Randy Reinhart has collaborated with many artists including Jim Cullum, Bucky Pizzarelli, and Warren Vache. Reinhart received great reviews for his work on his solo recording of "As Long As I Live," recorded with jazz mates Kenny Davern, James Chirillo and Dan Barrett.

Franny Smith is the longest-working banjo player in Atlantic City history, entertaining for over a half-century. He is well-known to Tri-State Jazz Society regulars as a member of Dr. Bob Rawlins' Atlantic City Jazz Band.

Currently a member of the music faculty at Loyola University (New Orleans), bassist Ed Wise returned in mid-2013 to New Orleans to perform more frequently with New Orleans notables at the French Quarter Festival and JazzFest.

Multi-instrumentalist Paul Midiri performs with equal facility on drums, vibes, and trombone, and we can expect a similar stellar tour de force this time around.

#### **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 SECOND JULY 2017 CONCERT

On July 30, 2017, our concert will feature the Galvanized Jazz Band from Connecticut at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church.



The Galvanized Jazz Band, led by cornetist Fred Vigorito since 1971, makes its long-awaited Tri-State debut in Haddonfield. This dynamic group of Connecticut musicians is devoted to the energetic performance of hot Dixieland, New Orleans jazz, blues, rags, stomps, struts, spirituals, swing, and classic popular songs from the past century. The members who make up this energetic band are phenomenal musicians individually, with countless years of performing, recording, and touring experience. For over 30 years the GJB has been thrilling audiences of all ages. See a performance of the Galvanized Jazz Band from their 2014 Hot Steamed Jazz Festival appearance at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DFZwqJ8Qak

For more information and a listing of all of the band's available cds see the their website at: http://www.galvanizedjazz.com.

# NEVILLE DICKIE-MIDIRI'S CONCERT REVIEW

Church.

By Jim McGann June 4, 2017 at Haddonfield United Methodist

I was reading a review I wrote back in 2013; a review about the initial teaming of pianist Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers. Both acts were (and still are) a consistent presence for TSJS, yet I felt some apprehension on how the teaming would work. I envisioned a Goodman trio cloning, which is not a bad thing, but for a whole concert the novelty might wear thin. I needed not to worry; Goodman and the trio were presented in a sporadic fashion, but as a whole, this Dickie-Midiri Brothers combination created their own expression of Jazz. And here we are, four years later, it is still a successful draw.



Photo by Jim McGanr

Why? A successful jazz concert is where the musicians inspire each other. This concert, like those in the recent past, was no exception. I have to say that it was so nice seeing all of the participants cutting loose, experimenting, and feeding off of each other's ideas.

The afternoon's festivities began with Dickie-Paul Midiri duet on "At the Jazz Band Ball" with the pianist taking two choruses then providing some percussive accents to Midiri's drum solo, then concluding the number in a sort of Vaudeville "walk off" fashion. Adding Joe Midiri's clarinet and soprano sax, the trio swung the Green-Ruby tune, "I'll Always Be In Love With You," inspiring some Bob Zurke fingerings from Dickie.

The Goodman trio was celebrated in three exhilarating performances - "Nobody's Sweetheart," "Shine," and later in the second set, "Limehouse Blues." All three are great

performances, with "Limehouse" slightly edging out the other two, although "Sweetheart" was closer to the Goodman trio in concept, particularly when Joe Midiri and Neville ran unison figures during Paul Midiri's drum solo.



Photo by Jim McGann

Bob Rawlins sat in with the trio after a Joe Midiri tenor sax feature, "I Thought About You" offering tasty soli on "Beale Street Blues" and a rip roaring version of "Wolverine Blues" and returned to close out the show with "The World Is Waiting For the Sunrise."

Several tunes performed stand out at this concert, for either I don't recall hearing them performed in this setting or for their simple unusualness. Jimmy McHugh's "Let's Get Lost" performed as a Dickie-Paul Midiri duet, highlighted by Midiri's "melodic" drum solo. Hoagy Carmichael's "Deed I Do" has Joe Midiri quoting the Andy Griffith theme, and changing the key on an extended high note. Speaking of Midiri and high notes, his half chorus on "I Cover The Waterfront" never left the altissimo register! A Scott Joplin rag entitled "Pineapple Rag" was given new life in a duo arrangement. Finally, a rare Fats Waller composition, "Honey, Hush" was complimented with beautiful bell chords by Dickie and subtle brush press rolls by Midiri.

There were familiar performances -"Handful of Keys," Albert Ammons' "Shout For Joy," "Carmen Boogie," "September Song" - as always, they never grow old. My favorite from this category was a boogie-woogie version of "Swanee River."

So there you have it, the 2017 version of the Neville Dickie / Midiri Brothers Trio, and like past editions, this one contained a lot of excitement, exhilaration and fun.

Jazz And More At
27th Annual Sun Valley Festival
Story and photos by Lynn Redmile
Reprinted with permission from New
Jersey Jazz Society-*Jersey Jazz* 

Winding our way through the Rocky Mountains, as we traveled from Boise to the 27th Annual Sun Valley Jazz and Music Festival in Sun Valley, Idaho, it was easy to see why Ernest Hemingway (and so many others) fell in love with this region. Just north of Ketchum, with Bald Mountain on our left, the stunning golden Aspens at its foot contrasting sharply with the thin layer of early snow highlighting its dozens of ski runs, we arrived at the beautiful Sun Valley resort. What a venue - I couldn't help but be excited about what was to come: forty bands over five days, thousands of joyous people of all ages ...



Twenty-nine years ago, jazz lovers and enthusiasts Tom and Barb Hazzard had a dream to host a festival to showcase some of their favorite musicians, and bring the love of jazz to as many people as possible. Following two years of careful planning, and negotiation with Wally Huffman, the general manager of the Sun Valley Resort and with whom Tom had a great relationship, the Sun Valley Swing 'n' Dixie Jazz Jamboree was born. Its resounding success set the stage for the event to be held annually. After 14 years, when Tom suffered health issues, the Hazzards passed the torch onto their daughter Carol and her husband Jeff Loehr, who had both assisted with the festival's operation since its inception. Since then, they have continued to honor Tom and Barb's legacy and, together with co-directors Don and Joan Veach, are ably assisted

by a handful of staff and over 200 volunteers, many of whom serve year after year.

Why jazz "and music" in the title? Because even though the festival is dominantly a home to trad and Dixieland jazz bands and artists, it also has a mélange of different styles such as zydeco, blues, jug, funk, and acapella to name a few. A couple of bands have played each festival since the beginning, but every year, there are new additions to the program, embracing the changing landscape, and many young artists are given the opportunity to perform to this enthusiastic audience. There are over 4,000 attendees from the USA and internationally, both younger and older, and Sun Valley is the perfect location, with multiple performance spaces, each with a different feel, and most with dance floors. (There are dance classes every day, open to all festival attendees). All of the primary venues, except one, are within walking distance from accommodations in Sun Valley - the River Run Lodge, and other one-off performance spaces in Ketchum, are accessed via regular shuttle service.

I knew it would be nigh impossible to get to see every ensemble - with 40 bands, throughout the day, at least seven performances are taking place simultaneously! The artists come from all over the USA, although many of the groups hail from the West Coast.



The Midiri Brothers Sextet (New Jersey's own!) is a festival staple. The onstage banter between twins Joe and Paul let the audience feel part of their family, and their comedic antics often leave you breathless from laughing so hard. But it's their exquisite musicianship and obvious joy the band gets from performing swing jazz with each other

that has garnered them a popular national following. Their new CD, Simply Splendid, showcases the band exquisitely, and features an oftrequested Sidney Bechet favorite "Si Tu Vois Ma Mère" which the crowd loved. "Running Wild" is total contrast, with such high energy. Joe Midiri is a reed virtuoso - his latest acquisition of a 1935 Selmer tenor sax joins his stable of a 1958 Buffet clarinet, a 1954 Selmer alto sax, and his 1928 Buescher soprano sax. Like Lionel Hampton, multi-instrumentalist Paul Midiri started as a drummer (and trombonist) before mastering the vibraphone. Their performance of "Flying Home," with Paul dueling vibes with John Cocuzzi, resulted in a standing ovation. The sextet, including Danny Tobias on trumpet, Bob Leary on guitar, Ed Wise on bass and Jim Lawlor on drums (and occasional vocals), brings a sweet soulfulness to the ballads they perform, and incredible energy to their upbeat numbers - the drum duel between Paul and Jim on "Limehouse Blues" was particularly loved by this crowd!

One of the young bands making their first appearance at this festival was Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles, from Denver, Colorado. In their dark suits, crisp white shirts, and dark ties, the sextet evokes the look of yesteryear, and their love for big band swing is played with a fresh authentic style yet in a traditional approach. Bandleader Joe Smith on trumpet was inspired by NYC bandleaders Bria Skonberg and Glenn Crytzer when he organized swing dance events in college, and started his own band - "Spicy Pickles" seemed like a fun name to have! Not only do they play well-known swing numbers from the late 30s and early 40s, with classic and gut bucket blues in the mix as well, but they also write originals in the style of swing era greats- it's clear they love the aesthetics of the music. It was only after Smith moved from Iowa to Denver, which has a large swing dance scene, that the band really took off. With Joe, the sextet comprises Prescott Blackler on trombone, James Isaac on reeds, Al Scholl on guitar, Gary Sloan on bass, and BK Kahn on drums. Bassist Walter Page's "Paging the Devil" ballad was given such soul by this band, and they honored Jelly Roll Morton (it would have been his 126th birthday!) with a fabulous rendition of "New Orleans Bump." A Count Basie set with pianist Paolo Alderighi was very well received. Their latest album, Blues A Mile

*High*, features a mix of obscure and classic tunes from Ellington, Buck Clayton, Jelly Roll Morton, Raymond Scott, and more.



It was an honor to meet some of the members of the US Navy's 32nd Street Brass Band, based out of San Diego, and to see them perform. Saxophonist MU2(SW) Tony Carter provided most of the narrative, and also educated us about certain aspects of their uniform (one, being the 3 stripes on their arm, indicating 12 years of service). Performing with Carter were: MU2 Collin Reichow (trumpet), MU2 Bryan Parmann (trumpet), MU1 Eric Snitzer (sousaphone), MU<sub>3</sub> Kristen Hampton (drums), MU1 Christopher Morrison (guitar), MU1 Duke Stuble (trombone), and MU1 Andrew Pacchiarotti (trombone). The octet's repertoire incorporates the styles of Dixieland with funk and R&B (with emphasis on funk) - their performance of NYC's Lucky Chops' arrangement of Ariana Grande's "Problem" was outstanding, and their rendition of Jaco Pastorius' "The Chicken" grooved solidly. I was totally moved by their musical tribute to all those who have served (or continue to do so) with "Anchors Aweigh" - they also performed an entire patriotic set. And the entire audience was on their feet with "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Jacob Miller and the Bridge City Crooners, from Portland Oregon, is another band of young artists, making their second appearance at this festival. With them, the roots-oriented hot jazz of the 20s and 30s and Miller's unique finger-picking style is combined with country blues, jug and ragtime styles to create what they call Pacific Ragtime, (actually the title of their latest CD), an irresistible sound to the delight of listeners and dancers alike. Playing a mix of originals and their arrangements of

standards, the nattily dressed clean-cut sextet comprises bandleader Jacob Miller on guitar and vocals, Leon Cotter on reeds, Nate Lown on trombone, James Ramey on plectrum banjo, Cary Mija on upright bass, and Ben Hampton on percussion and drums. I particularly loved their upbeat original "A Love Like This" and their rendition of "Love Me or Leave Me."

The Whiffenpoofs from Yale University provided a departure from instrumental jazz with their fabulous acapella performances - I learned that after three years of classes at Yale, and performing in vocal groups, they take the fourth year off school and tour as the Whiffenpoofs, performing at venues across the nation. At the end of the year, they return to Yale for their senior year, their role as Whiffenpoofs handed over to the next group of talented vocalists. The passion these young men have for their craft is evident, and their beautiful harmonies were both calming and invigorating. Every piece they performed was beautiful, and "On Broadway" was a favorite of everyone it seemed, but their rendition of "Rainbow Connection" simply warmed my heart.

I felt fortunate to see renowned Connecticut-based stride pianist Jeff Barnhart play two of his many sets - first off, a "dueling piano" session with the second grand piano played by Brian Holland. They featured the works of one of my favorites, Fats Waller, and just choosing one piece, I have to say their deliberate and soulful crafting of "Black and Blue" was simply exquisite. Later, I got to see Jeff perform with his beautiful wife flutist Anne Barnhart, the two known as Ivory&Gold™, and joined by Minnesotan bassist Steve Pikal. His bass performance of "Three Little Words", with Jeff providing minimal accompaniment, was quite incredible, as was Jeff's rendition of Percy Wenrich's "Red Rose Rag." And for something completely different, the trio's rendition of "Tennessee Waltz" was sweetly beautiful. It was a fabulous fun program featuring incredible stride, exceptional slap bass, tender lyrical flute work, great vocals and, on occasion, some comedic gesturing by Anne, reminiscent of the party game Charades!

It was an incredible festival. I can't wait to go again. Wouldn't it be great if you could attend too!

# **FUTURE CONCERTS**



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

**August 20, 2017 Richard Dowling-Solo Piano.** New York ragtime, jazz and classical pianist has delighted audiences throughout the world. He has many acclaimed Joplin and Gershwin recordings, Wallingford, PA

**September 24, 2017 Dan Levinson's Roof Garden Jass Band.** Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first jazz recording. Dan on clarinet returns with a quintet of NYC's best interpreters of the earliest jazz styles, Haddonfield, NJ

### November 5, 2017 Red Hot Ramblers.

Trombonist Larry Toft returns to Tri-State Jazz with his sextet to play more hot tunes of 20s and 30s. These young men from Philly play old music like old pros, Wallingford, PA

**November 19, 2017 Cocuzzi Courtet**. The Cocuzzis are on tour from the West Coast with a trad jazz quartet. John Cocuzzi is on piano, Kristy on reeds, Jack Hegyi on bass, Harry Himies on drums. Haddonfield, NJ

**January 7, 2018 Dave Posmontier's Dixie Kings.** Pianist Dave Posmontier has reformed the old Ed Wise New Orleans Jazz Band without Ed, who lives in New Orleans now. The septet plays some of Ed's authentic arrangements. Wallingford, PA

# February 11, 2018 Sue Keller-Solo Piano.

Ragtime and vintage jazz pianist makes a TSJS debut. She received the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Foundation's 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. Haddonfield, NJ

**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 train station.

## OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

# PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org (610)-625-4640

Dewey Banquet Hall, 502 Durham Street, Hellertown, PA.

July 2 Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band October 15 Big Band Swing

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

www.njjs.org

(800)-303-NJJS

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 p.m. (973)-971-3706.

### OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Toms River, NJ 08753

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.

June 21 The Jazz Lobsters Big Band

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

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

July 9 Al Harrison's Dixieland Band August 13 Atlantic City Jazz Band September 17 Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band

#### POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

Check out the numerous traditional jazz events sponsored by PRJC at www.prjc.org

#### TSJS SUSTAINERS

Very Special - \$200 or more, \$220 couples
Mary Ann & Dr. Charles H. Emely
Chuck Haggerty & Sarah Burke
William N. Hoffman
Richard & Peggy Hughlett
Chris Jones and Amy Galer
Wayne B. & Nancy Lewis

- Bob Mackie
- Dewaine & Clare Osman
- **DeWitt Peterson**
- Bob & Nancy Rawlins Dr. Myron E. & Phoebe R. Resnick

- Sylvia Rosenberg
  Alice V. Schmidt
  Jay & Orinda Lou Schultz

#### TSJS PATRONS

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

- Jack & Joan Adams
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- Walt Brenner
- Sanford Catz
- Stephen Faha

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- Robert Carr & Barbara Steele
- Anne Uniman
- Jerry & Josephine Yocum

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

- Chic Bach
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- Fred Weber
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- Marion Laws & Sandra Zullo

# ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sanford Catz, **President**, 2019,

president@tristatejazz.org, webmaster@tristatejazz.org

Chris Jones, Vice President, Photo Editor, 2018, vp@tristatejazz.org

Mike Mudry, Treasurer, 2019,

treasurer@tristatejazz.org

Bill Hoffman, Music Committee Chairman, Bands Contact, 2020, booking@tristatejazz.org

Dewaine Osman, Strutter Editor, 2018

Chic Bach, Sound Coordinator, 2019, sound@tristatejazz.org

Sally Cannon, Refreshments Manager, 2020

Bob Rawlins, Music Committee, 2020

Steven Peitzman, Programs Editor, 2018

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Jay Schultz, **Membership Chairman** 

membership@tristatejazz.org

More Volunteers are listed on our website at:

www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html

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 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Tri-State Jazz Society was held at the intermission of the June 4 concert. The agenda primarily included the election of Directors.

The following were elected for Director to serve threeyear terms:

Bill Hoffman – currently Director, Band Liaison, Chair of Music Committee

Bob Rawlins, currently Director, Music Committee

Sally Cannon, currently Director, Manager of Refreshments and Online Publicity

Steve Peitzman, currently Programs Editor, was elected to serve a 1 year unexpired term replacing Rabbi Louis Kaplan, who is stepping down after 5 years of service on the board.



# **Membership Form**

Basic Dues:	☐ Individual \$20	Couple \$40			
<b>Sponsor Dues:</b>	☐ Individual \$50	Couple \$70			
Patron Dues:	☐ Individual \$100	Couple \$120			
Sustainer Dues:	☐ Individual \$200 or more	Couple \$220 or more			
Amount Enclosed \$	Date	Check No			
Members are admitted to all regular concerts at half price. Memberships renewed prior to expiration start at the end of current membership; expired memberships start on receipt of payment. All memberships run for 12 months, expiring on the last day of the 12th month.					
Email and Newsletter Options: TSJS concert announcements and membership notices					
(Check all boxes that apply.) Strutter Newsletter by Email					
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