

## The Strutter

**VOLUME 32 NUMBER 4** 

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

October 2021

# OUR NEXT CONCERT Richard Barnes & Blackbird Society Orchestra Sunday, October 31, 2021 at 2pm

<u>Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA</u> <u>Live-Streamed on Facebook and YouTube</u>



Richard Barnes' Blackbird Society Orchestra is Philadelphia's Premier 1920s Hot Jazz/Dance Orchestra dedicated to the preservation of the music of "The Jazz Age," "The Roaring 20s," "The Gatsby Era" - Flappers, Prohibition, Gangsters, Model As and the invention of an American art form known as "Jazz!" Now returning for its sixth visit to TSJS (in 2018, the ensemble appeared in its full 22-piece Paul Whiteman tribute iteration with guest bassist Vince Giordano), the 12-piece core BSO will perform an afternoon of large-ensemble jazz classics from the 1920s and early 1930s.

#### **Band Personnel**

Richard Barnes – Leader, Guitar, Vocals
Bill Quinn – Banjo
Spencer Kashmanian - Piano
Glenn Cowen - Drums
Charlie Ford - Bass
Eunice China - Violin

Rob Ford – Trumpet, Cornet

Alex Gittleman – Trumpet

Jim Gicking – Trombone

Jeff Hart – Alto & Soprano Saxes, Clarinet

Walt Blauvelt – Tenor & Soprano Saxes, Clarinet

**Dr. Bill Dibias** – Alto, Baritone, and Soprano Saxes

### **Concert Covid Policy**

The Tri-State Jazz Society requires guests to wear masks to attend indoor concerts. **Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination for admission**. If this presents a problem, please consider enjoying the concert remotely, watching the live webcast on our **YouTube channel** or **Facebook page**.

Member admission is \$10; general admission is \$20. Introductory offer - start a new, first-time TSJS annual membership (\$20) at the door and receive free admission to this concert. Full-time students with ID, or children accompanied by a paying adult, are free.



Photo by Jim McGann

Working from bandleader Richard Barnes' collection of original vintage stock charts and arrangements, BSO authentically and accurately recreates many classic jazz recordings that once spun from scratchy 78 RPM records on a Victrola when the world was still in black and white! Barnes discovered the recently-deceased jazz/blues guitarist and vocalist Leon Redbone in 1992, playing regionally with him for a decade. He also spent five years performing obscure 1920s jazz with the Kim Milliner Band. In 1997, Barnes formed BSO with the intention of preserving 1920s jazz in note-for-note re-creations using original stock charts and transcriptions from vintage recordings. Thirteen years later, he launched Eddie Lang Day, an annual music/charity event celebrating the musical contributions of the native Philadelphian and pioneer jazz guitarist (nee Salvatore Massaro), who teamed with his boyhood pal, violinist Joe Venuti, to form one of the all-time legendary duos in jazz history.

Self-taught on plectrum/tenor banjo, accordion, piano, and drums, **Bill Quinn** is a three-decade Mummer veteran, having played banjo in the Fralinger String Band. He is also a former snare drummer for the Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, with which he performed for President George W. Bush. Bill has been heard at Disney World and during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and he appeared on ABC-TV's The View with Frankie "Fats" Montana.

**Spencer Kashmanian** has played ragtime and stride piano, sometimes alongside Barnes on guitar, at the re-created speakeasy C. R. Hummingbird to Mars in Wilmington, DE for the past several years.

Drummer **Glenn Cowen** has a degree in percussion from the University of Pennsylvania and is the Director of Bands at Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove. He performs with regular BSO fiddler Dr. Michael Salsburg in the country-rock band Hank's Cadillac.

**Eunice China** is a member of the violin faculty at Temple University's Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance, of which she is an alumna. She has also played with numerous Philadelphia-area chamber orchestras and ensembles.

Trumpeter **Rob Ford**, who has a Music Education degree from West Chester University, spent over two decades teaching music in Abington and as a private instructor. He has also performed in all styles of music as a freelance player in the Philadelphia area and NE Pa for many years. Rob's current associations include the BSO, Pennsylvania German Brass Band and the Galena Brass.

**Charlie Ford** on bass is the 16 year old son of trumpter Rob Ford!

Alex Gittelman (second trumpet) is a proud graduate of Haverford High School Class of '05. While at Haverford, Gittelman participated in every musical ensemble, followed by a stint with the Philadelphia Grammy Jazz Band for two years. He then served as the lead trumpeter in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Jazz Band for another two years, plus the All-Eastern Jazz Band in 2005. Gittelman graduated from the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a Jazz Component. He played with various ensembles at Temple, including the Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Band, Jazz Combos, Wind Symphony, Wind

Ensemble, and Marching Band. Gittelman earned his Master of Music Education degree from the University of the Arts in 2016, while serving as an instrumental music teacher in the Pennsbury School District.

Apart from a seven-year stint in New York in the late 70s with jazz record companies A&M, Artists House, and CTI Records, where he worked with Jim Hall, Art Pepper, Chet Baker, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis among others, trombonist **Jim Gicking** has lived in the Philadelphia area, also playing guitar in big bands, small groups, and pit orchestras. He fell in love with the music of the 20s and 30s after hearing Marty Grosz on NPR's Fresh Air, and Marty has become a friend and a mentor.

Clarinetist/alto saxist **Jeff Hart** studied Music Education at Duquesne University and Jazz Performance at the University of Toledo. He is currently band director at Haverford High School,

and he loves all antiques, including his 1914 Victrola phonograph and vintage 78 RPM records.

Boston native **Walt Blauvelt**, whose clarinet and tenor sax are heard with the BSO, played with the Boston Youth Jazz Band and was a soloist with the MA All-State Band, all while attending the Berklee College of Music. He went on to graduate from the University of Massachusets and later American University, followed by service in the U.S. Marine Band, "The President's Own."

**Dr. Bill Dibias** started as a saxophonist in Philadelphia string bands in 1959 and served as Music Director and arranger for the Ferko String Band for much of the 1970s and 1980s. He has played baritone sax with the Chester County Concert Band, the Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds, Archie Lane's Big Band, and 22 Park Avenue. Bill holds a Ph.D. in Psychology, of which he is Professor Emeritus at Delaware County Community College.



<u>Listen to BSO perform "Louisiana" at the TSJS concert in the Community Arts Center on March 12, 2017.</u>

Photo by G Spector



<u>Listen to Cynthia Sayer and her Joyride Band: Live in China</u>

<u>Cynthia's website</u> Cynthia on Facebook

Band Personnel
Cynthia Sayer - Banjo, Vocals, Leader
Colin Hancock - Trumpet
Jim Fryer - Trombone
Mike Weatherly - Bass
Larry Eagle - Drums

# COMING SOON Cynthia Sayer and her Joy Ride Band

Sunday, November 14, 2021 2:00 to 4:30 pm

**Haddonfield United Methodist Church** 

Acclaimed by musicians, critics, and fans alike as one of the top 4-string jazz banjoists in the world today, multi-award-winning singer and instrumentalist Cynthia Sayer returns to TSJS for the first time since 2018 (her TSJS debut was in 2014 with her Sparks Fly Band). Recent festival appearances include headlining at the 2017 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the 2017 Rochester International Jazz Festival, and the 2018 Newport Jazz Festival.

A charter member of Woody Allen's New Orleans Jazz Band (on piano), Cynthia Sayer has played with legendary jazz artists including Bucky Pizzarelli, Dick Hyman, Les Paul, Wynton Marsalis, and Marian McPartland, as well as leading jazz contemporaries such as Scott Robinson, Wycliffe Gordon, Randy Sandke, Bria Skonberg, Vince Giordano, and others. Cynthia is an inductee into The American Banjo Hall of Fame and has guested on CBS, FOX & ABC network television shows, including Good Morning America and The Morning Show, as well as on NPR's Piano Jazz, BBC Radio, and elsewhere. Her work has been featured in The New York Times (which described Cynthia as "a rarity; a woman who plays banjo with drive and virtuosity"), Down Beat, Fretboard Journal, The Wall Street Journal, People Magazine, and countless other international media outlets.

Colin Hancock made his TSJS debut as a guest with Dan Levinson's Roof Garden Jass Orchestra four years ago, followed by appearing with his own Original Cornell Syncopators (OCS). Colin enjoys playing and listening to early jazz, as well as the study of its history and influence, and he picked up the trumpet after falling in love with the music of Bix Beiderbecke, Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet. An avid record collector and

amateur historian in territory and Texas Jazz, Colin has produced recordings utilizing century-old acoustical techniques.

Trombonist Jim Fryer, who has previously appeared twice at TSJS with clarinetist Dan Levinson, currently resides in New York City, where he is one of the busiest brass men and a featured performer with the Titan Hot Seven Jazz Band and Vince Giordano's Nighthawks. In his travels he has shared the stage with Doc Cheatham, Kenny Davern, Butch Thompson, Dave Brubeck, Slide Hampton, Milt Jackson and Rosemary Clooney.

Bassist Mike Weatherly, who performed with Cynthia at her previous TSJS gig four years ago (he was also heard in Haddonfield with Dan Levinson in 2016), has played every style from Big Band to Cajun, Western Swing and Jazz. No stranger to gospel, he is the bassist for the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble and is regularly featured in the "Sounds of Praise" Gospel brunch series at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He has played for former President Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, and the 20th anniversary celebration of Pope St. John Paul II. A regular with the Stan Rubin

Big Band, he has also performed with The Ed Polcer Allstars, folk singer Pete Seeger, Banu Gibson and many others.

Drummer and percussionist Larry Eagle keeps his musical portfolio diversified. A founding member of Bruce Springsteen's Sessions Band (which won a Grammy for traditional folk music), he has also played on R&B/Soul artist John Legend's Grammy-winning second album, as well as with the late Blues Grammy nominee Odetta. Larry has also been heard with klezmer clarinetist and Grammy nominee Andy Statman, in addition to albums with bluegrass superstar Ricky Skaggs and powerful Jazz/Soul singer Lizz Wright. Larry has performed on The Tonight Show, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Good Morning America, PBS, the BBC and an ice-breaking Baltic Sea ferry out of Naantali, Finland.



Made possible by funds from the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Camden County College, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



### The Role of the Banjo in Jazz Jazz at Lincoln Center's JAZZ ACADEMY

Banjo player Don Vappie joins clarinetist Victor Goines to discuss the banjo's role in Jazz throughout the music's history!

Find out more at the Jazz Academy

Don Vappie - Banjo Eric Suquet - Director

Bill Thomas - Director of Photography

**Richard Emery** - Production Assistant

Seton Hawkins - Producer Recorded May 22, 2013

The Great American Banjo Company 10 Videos on the Deering Banjo website

10 Great Jazz Tenor Banjo Players to Listen To

by David Bandrowski on July 29, 2016

### Adam Swanson, Solo Piano Sunday, September 19,2021 REVIEW by Jim McGann



Photo by Jim McGann

A long-endured pandemic postponed an Adam Swanson concert by some eighteen months. He was originally scheduled to perform back in March of 2020, just as most everything at that time was shutting down. And if memory serves, Adam's last performance for TSJS was September 20, 2015 – a good six years prior to Sunday's concert, almost to the day. Everyone, including the pianist, was happy that attending a live performance was an option at HUMC. Swanson responded by performing his best.

Swanson, in a white dress shirt, vest and ornate bow tie, got down to work by opening with Kerry Mills' "At A Georgia Camp Meeting," taken at a jaunty medium tempo. The familiar "Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home," was given a stride treatment, ornamented with high treble tickling ivories and a strong left hand. George Botsford's "Black and White Rag" was notable for an insertion of "Pop Goes The

Weasel" midway through the performance.
W. C. Handy was celebrated with two tunes,
neither of which were "St. Louis Blues." The first,
"Ol' Miss Rag," juxtaposed light treble fingerings
with a thunderous left-hand bass. Swanson shared
some light on the rarely performed rag – it was the
composition Scott Joplin recorded only on a piano
roll that was not his composition, though Swanson
seemed to think Joplin might have had a hand in
composing it. The more familiar "Beale Street
Blues" was notable for the Spanish tinge in the
later chorus and waltz like feel, concluding with
hand slapping treble keys against a boogie woogie
finale!

Later in the first set was the rarely heard "Triangle Jazz Blues." It was described by Swanson as written during the time when Ragtime was popular, but the evolving jazz was beginning to make its

presence felt in the music. The unusual descending treble intro throughout the performance indicated the new music was blossoming.

James P. Johnson was remembered with his two hits from the show "Runnin' Wild" – "Old Fashioned Love" and "Charleston." The former had a series of building choruses while the latter had unorthodox transitions somewhat reminiscent of Earl Hines, and a rare key change. As good as those performances were, it was Johnson's "Eccentricity" that stole the show. The composition, which was never published, was recorded as a piano roll. It illustrated the beauty side of Johnson, adorned with rich chord tremolos, and at a waltz-like tempo.

The second set opened with two compositions by Jelly Roll Morton — "King Porter Stomp" and "The Pearls." Hearing both as piano solos, one can hear what developed into the later ensemble pieces. In the case of "Stomp," what Don Redman and Fletcher Henderson scored out for Henderson's orchestra. In turn what Henderson later arranged for Benny Goodman, eventually becoming a big band hit for the King of Swing.

Luckey Roberts' "Railroad Blues" literally illustrated an approaching train, with a left hand which mixes stride with hints of boogie-woogie defining train wheels chugging along, and the high treble keys, the train whistle. Building choruses indictated the closeness of the train to its destination. Roberts, according to Swanson, taught the young Gershwin. Hearing Gershwin's "Kickin' the Clouds Away" after Roberts' composition reveals how much an influence he had on the future composer.

Other noteworthy performances: Fred Rose's "Deep Henderson" which seemed to draw in the listener with each escalating chorus. The medley dedicated to the "girl Gershwin", Dana Suesse, "My Silent Love (Jazz Nocturne)" and "You Ought To Be In Pictures." Swanson's own composition, "The Strater Shuffle" and the lightning fast "barnburner" "Spasmodic," written by Tom Brier,

which contained a vamp similar to "Kitten On The Keys."

The concert ended with a medley of "Bye, Bye Blackbird," "Wrap Up Your Troubles In Dreams," and "Bye, Bye Blues." So much to write about, but according to Microsoft Word, I've written over 650 words. The Strutter only has so many pages, so I'll end here.



#### **AREA JAZZ**

### Pennsylvania Jazz Society

Sunday, November 21, 2021, **2pm Jam Session** 

#### **Dewey Hall**

502 Durham Street, Hellertown, PA 18055

First timers \$15
PJS members admission fee \$15
Non-PJS members \$20
Children always free
Cash or check – no credit cards

Questions? Phone (610) 625-4640 pajazzsociety.org

### This Month in Recorded Jazz History By Jim McGann

October 5 (1927) Bix (Beiderbecke) and His Gang recorded in New York City, on the Okeh label.

Personnel: Beiderbecke-cornet and bandleader; Adrian Rollini – bass sax; Bill Rank – trombone; Don Murray - clarinet, Frank Signorelli – piano, and Chauncey Morehouse - drums.

"At The Jazz Band Ball," "Royal Garden Blues," "Jazz Me Blues"

**October 9 (1936)** Jones-Smith Incorporated recorded in Chicago, Illinois, on the Vocalion label. (First recording session of Lester Young)

Personnel: Carl Smith – trumpet; Lester Young – tenor sax; Count Basie – piano; Walter Page – string bass; Jo Jones – drums; and Jimmy Rushing – vocals\*.

"Shoe Shine Boy," "Evenin',"\* "Boogie Woogie,"\* "Lady Be Good"

October 15 (1936) Quintette of the Hot Club of France recorded in Paris, France.

Personnel: Stephane Grappelli – violin; Django Reinhardt, Pierre Ferret, Joseph Reinhardt - guitar; Louis Vola – string bass, Freddy Taylor – vocals\*.

"Nagasaki," "Swing Guitars," "Georgia On My Mind,"\* "Shine,"\* "In The Still Of The Night," "Sweet Chorus."

October 15 (1940) Benny Carter and his All-Star Orchestra recorded in New York City, on the Okeh label.

Personnel: Carter - clarinet and bandleader; Bill Coleman – trumpet; Benny Morton – trombone; George Auld – tenor sax; Sonny White – piano; Ulysses Livingston – guitar; Wilson Myers – string bass; Yank Porter – drums; Big Joe Turner (JT), Billie Holiday (BH) - vocals

"Joe Turner Blues" (voc-JT), "Beale Street Blues" (voc-JT), "St Louis Blues" (voc-BH), "Loveless Love" (voc-BH)

October 19 (1938) Bob Crosby and his Orchestra recorded in Chicago, Illinois, on the Decca label.

Personnel: Crosby – bandleader; Zeke Zarchy, Sterling Bose, Billy Butterfield – trumpets; Ward Silloway, Warren Smith – trombones; Irving Fazola - clarinet, Matty Matlock – clarinet, alto sax, arranger; Joe Kearns – alto sax; Eddie Miller – clarinet and tenor sax; Gil Rodin – tenor sax; Bob Zurke - piano, Nappy Lamare – guitar and vocals (NL), Bob Haggart – string bass; Ray Bauduc – drums

"Swingin' At The Sugar Bowl" (voc-NL), "I'm Prayin' Humble," "I'm Free (What's New)," "Honky Tonk Train Blues," "Diga Diga Doo (parts 1 and 2)"

October 23 (1934) Adrian Rollini and His Orchestra recorded in New York City, on the Decca label.

Personnel: Rollini – bass sax and bandleader; Mannie Klein, Dave Klein – trumpets; Jack Teagarden – trombone; Benny Goodman – clarinet; Arthur Rollini - tenor sax; Howard Smith – piano; George Van Eps – guitar; Artie Bernstein – string bass; Stan King – drums; Ella Logan – vocals\*

"It Had To Be You"\*, "Sugar", "Davenport Blues", "Somebody Loves Me", "Riverboat Shuffle"



With a passion for traditional jazz, Jim McGann has reviewed and photographed Tri-State Jazz concerts since the early 2000s.

### A very special Thank You to our Premium Level Members for your continued support

### **TSJS SUSTAINERS**

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And THANK YOU to **ALL** our members for renewing memberships enabling Tri-State Jazz Society to fulfill our mission of the preservation and live performance of traditional jazz.

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### **TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Mailing Address:** 

PO Box 896

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Click to Send us an Email

Hotline Phone for updated concert information:

(856) 720-0232

### **Online Membership Enrollment and Renewal Now Available!**

Online enrollment and renewal are available with PayPal. You can use your PayPal account or make credit card payments using PayPal's secure website, accessed directly from our Tri-State Jazz Society website.

New Members, Renewal

Complete the contact information entry, then click Submit Form to access the PayPal site and complete the payment transaction.

You do not need to be a PayPal member to use this service.

### THE STRUTTER IS ON THE WEB

Current and back issues of The Strutter are on the Tri-State Jazz Society website. The Strutter archives cover over ten years of back issues listing all the bands and soloists who performed during that period.

Read back issues of The Strutter

Take a look at our **NEW Tri-State Jazz Society website!** 

### CONCERT SCHEDULE Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Visit our <u>Tri-State Jazz Society website</u> for up-tothe-minute news about schedule and concert changes, or call our Hotline at (856) 720-0232.

10/31/21 Wallingford (Also online)	Richard Barnes and the Blackbird Society Orchestra Richard brings his popular 20s-era band back to commemorate Eddie Lang Day and perform a lot of obscure favorites you didn't know you had! Come earlyhis concerts draw large crowds.		
11/14/21 Haddonfield (Also online)	Cynthia Sayer and her Joy Ride Band This quintet from NYC led by banjoist Cynthia Sayer last played for us in August, 2018 and nearly filled the hall. We eagerly anticipate another great performance.		
1/16/22 Wallingford (Also online)	Danny Tobias and Friends TSJS favorite Danny Tobias returns with a quintet, including the famed multi-instrumentalist Vince Giordano, guitarist/banjoist Arnt Arntzen and clarinetist/violinist Dennis Lichtman from NYC.		
February 2022 (Also online)	TBD - watch this space!		
3/20/22 Wallingford (Also online)	Ethan UslanSolo Piano Charlotte-based ragtime and stride pianist Ethan Uslan last played for us in 2014. He'll be back with his unique styling and sense of humor.		
4/10/22 Haddonfield (Also online)	Mike Davis's New Wonders This youthful band from New York wowed our audience at their initial concert in 2019. They're coming back with hot jazz and dance music from the 1920s, including many tunes that are rarely played.		
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**Streaming concerts** can be viewed on the <u>Tri-State Jazz Society</u> <u>website</u>, <u>Facebook page</u>, or our <u>YouTube channel</u>

**Wallingford** concerts are held at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086; one mile from Exit 3 of I-476 ("The Blue Route"). Located between Media and Swarthmore. **Directions** 

**Haddonfield** concerts are held at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield, NJ 08033; just south of Kings Highway near the center of town; two blocks from the PATCO station. **Directions** 



Tri-State Jazz Society, formed in 1988, is dedicated to the preservation and live performance of traditional jazz. Concerts featuring leading professional soloists and bands are presented throughout the year. Events are open to the public and all who enjoy traditional jazz are invited to join. The society is a non-profit educational corporation supported by its members.

### Membership

Basic dues are \$20 per person. New and renewal memberships can be started in any month and run for one year. In addition to half-price concert admissions, members receive The Strutter newsletter by email.

Premium memberships help sustain and expand the work of Tri-State Jazz Society. Individual Sponsors contribute at the \$50 level (\$70 for couples); Patrons, \$100 (\$120 for couples); Sustainers \$200 or more (\$220 or more for couples). Premium-level members are eligible to attend an annual reception for Sponsors, Patrons and Sustainers.

Visit our website for more details:

New Member application

Renew your membership at the

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Dues and donations may be tax deductible under IRS Section 501(c)(3).



### **Membership Form**

Basic Dues:	■ Individual \$20	Couple \$40			
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