

The Strutter

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 5

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

November 2021

OUR NEXT CONCERT Cynthia Sayer and her Joy Ride Band Sunday, November 14, 2021, 2:00 to 4:30 pm

The Main Sanctuary, 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.

Band Personnel

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

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



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.

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 Beth Barnes

Richard Barnes & Blackbird Society Orchestra Sunday, October 31, 2021 REVIEW by Jim McGann

Band Personnel: Richard Barnes - guitar, clarinet, vocals, leader Rob Ford, Alex Gittleman - trumpets
Jim Gicking, Andy Hutton - trombones
Dr. Bill Dibias, Jeff Hart, Walt Blauvelt, Travis Johnson - reeds
Eunice China - violin
Spencer Kashmanian, piano
Bill Quinn - banjo and accordion
Charlie Ford - string bass
Glenn Cowen - drums

Halloween, from a jazz perspective, usually brings out the darker side of the art form. In that context, Louis Armstrong's "Skeleton in The Closet" comes to mind, or the spookiness of the Spirit of Rhythm's "Mr. Holmes and Dr Watson," or on a larger scale Fletcher Henderson's "Queer Notions" or Lunceford's "Hell's Bells." Whatever the case, it is an unsettling musical experience. While some of the sinister and scary were brought to the fore at today's



Richard Barnes

Photo by Beth Barnes

concert, the Halloween concert with Richard Barnes and his Blackbird Society Orchestra was mostly a happy affair.

The concert began with the Band's theme song, "Good Old Days," the LeRoy Shield composition recognized as the theme for the Our Gang series, before breaking in with a Ted Weems number, "Mysterious Mose" with Barnes on the vocal. Weems had a great series of sides from the mid to late twenties, often featuring Parker Gibbs on vocals. Not high on jazz but highly enjoyable music. Ellington's "Black And Tan Fantasy" stayed close to the original with Rob Ford taking the Bubber Miley parts (the second of which was spectacular), Jim Gicking the Tricky Sam role on trombone, and Jeff Hart on alto.

A highlight from the concert was a discovered arrangement, circa 1938, of "Beale Street Blues." This one in the manner of a Fletcher Henderson or Jimmy Mundy style of arranging – good swing,

with fine solos from Hart on clarinet, Walt Blauvelt (tenor) and Rob Ford on trumpet. Good swinging fun!

A dual version of "I Cover The Waterfront" blended the arrangements of Eddy Duchin and Louis Armstrong. If there ever was a musical sample of the abyss between sweet and swing, this was it. Walt Blauvelt's tenor lead through the opening chorus, with Gicking joining in on the bridge leading up to Barnes' vocal – all music reminiscent of Duchin, Lombardo, Blue Barron, and other sweet bands.

King Oliver's version of "Frankie And Johnny" was a welcomed surprise. The traditional song is given the Oliver treatment, most noteworthy in the muted trumpet passages – Messrs Ford and Gittleman echoing the great man himself. It is also chock full of soli – Gicking on trombone, Spencer Kashmanian's piano, a nice mix of clarinet and soprano saxes, and top it all, the





Tri-State's own Chic Bach

Photo by Marian Konop



ather and Son - Rob and Charlie Ford

Photo by Marian Kono

leader making a surprise appearance on clarinet!
Another surprise was a dedication to jazz
musicians who were of Italian ancestry – Lang,
Venuti, along with non-jazz musicians Guy
Lombardo and Nick Lucas. What followed was Bill
Quinn, the band's banjoist, performing an
unaccompanied Italian melody on accordion.
After about a chorus of this, the band breaks into
Louis Prima's "Oh, Marie," complete with the
comedy the trumpeter would engage with saxist
Sam Butera. It was one of those out of left field
moments that made the concert.

Other notable performances were a cut-loose, medium tempo version of "Shine," with Chic Bach sitting in on piano, the Halloween appropriate "Taint No Sin, Take Off Your Skin and Dance Around in Your Bones" and the rarely heard (these days anyway) "She's A Great, Great Girl" from Roger Wolfe Kahn's orchestra, with Jim Gicking taking the Teagarden trombone part and newcomer Eunice China taking on Venuti's violin solo. "Great Girl," along with performances of the Jean Goldkette numbers, "Idolizing" and



Student and Teacher - Eunice China and Glenn Cowan Photo by Marian Konon

"Clementine," were dedicated to the memory of Eddie Lang. Mr. Barnes was celebrating the 12th annual Eddie Lang Day, a celebration held every year in October. Thanks to the efforts of Barnes and others, a 60 foot Lang mural now stands near the corner of 7th and Catherine Streets in South Philadelphia as well as renaming Lang's boyhood street, St Alban's, to Eddie Lang Way.

Other highlights include Jelly Roll Morton's "Milenburg Joys" taken at a slightly slower tempo, but with creative arranging by both the brass and the reeds. "Some of These Days," the last number of the first set, had an extended piano chorus from Kashmanian, Hart on soprano and a chillingly chromatic violin solo from China. "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," was taken at an unusual, faster tempo and a welcomed one, with solos from Rob Ford, Hart (on clarinet and alto) and Gicking.

The afternoon's festivities closed with a shortened version of "Sing, Sing, Sing." The concert was so enjoyable up to that point, that one wished for the full version.

COMING SOON Danny Tobias and Friends

Sunday, January 16,2022 2:00 to 4:30 pm

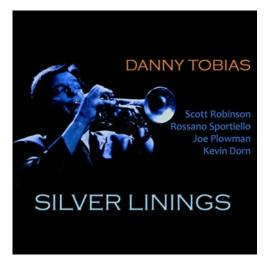
Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA



Photo by Neal Siegal

Cornetist Danny Tobias returns to Tri-State at the helm of his own quintet. A much sought-after musician identified by his lyrical phrasing and fat, relaxed tone, Tobias can frequently be heard performing with many leading traditional jazz and swing groups. Today he brings us Vince Giordano, Conal Fowkes, Dennis Lichtman and Jim Lawlor.

Watch Danny Tobias & the Safe Sextet perform <u>Tea for Two</u>
View <u>Danny's website</u>
Follow Danny on <u>Facebook</u>
Purchase Danny's newest album - <u>Silver Linings</u>



This Month in Recorded Jazz History By Jim McGann

November 3 (1926) Fletcher Henderson and his Orchestra recorded in New York City, on the Columbia record label.

Personnel: Henderson – bandleader; Russell Smith, Joe Smith, Tommy Ladnier - trumpets: Benny Morton - trombone; Buster Bailey - clarinet, soprano and alto sax; Don Redman - clarinet, alto sax, arranger; Coleman Hawkins – clarinet, tenor sax; Fats Waller – piano and organ; Charlie Dixon- banjo; June Cole, tuba and Kaiser Marshall - drums.

"Henderson Stomp," "The Chant"

November 10 (1929) Walter Page's Blue Devils recorded in Kansas City, Mo, on the Vocalion record label. The only recordings by this legendary midwestern band.

Personnel: Page – tuba, string bass, and bandleader; James Simpson, Hot Lips Page – trumpets; Dan Minor – trombone; Buster Smith – clarinet, alto sax; Ted Manning – alto sax; Reuben Roddy – tenor sax; Count Basie – piano; Reuben Lynch or Thomas Owens - guitar; Alvin Burroughs – drums; Jimmy Rushing – vocals*.

"Blue Devil Blues*," "Squabblin""

November 10 (1939) Muggsy Spanier And His Ragtime Band recorded in New York City, on the Bluebird label. Personnel: Spanier – trumpet and bandleader; George Brunies – trombone, vocals*; Rod Cless – clarinet; Bernie Billings – tenor sax; Joe Bushkin – piano; Bob Casey – string bass; Don Carter – drums.

"At The Jazz Band Ball," "I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate*," "Dipper Mouth Blues," "Livery Stable Blues"

November 12 (1925) Louis Armstrong and His Hot Five recorded in Chicago, Illinois, on the Okeh record label. Louis Armstrong's first recording session as a leader.

Personnel: Armstrong - cornet and bandleader; Kid Ory - trombone; Johnny Dodds - clarinet; Lil Hardin Armstrong - piano; Johnny St. Cyr - banjo.

"My Heart," "Yes! I'm In the Barrel," "Gut Bucket Blues"

November 16 (1935) Jess Stacy recorded in Chicago, Illinois, on the Decca record label.

Personnel: Stacy – piano solos; Israel Crosby, string bass and Gene Krupa – drums, added*.

"In the Dark/Flashes," "Barrelhouse*," "The World Is Waiting For the Sunrise*"

November 17 (1928) Lonnie Johnson and Blind Willie Dunn (Eddie Lang) recorded in New York City, on the Okeh record label.

Personnel: Johnson, Lang - guitars.

"Two Tone Stomp," "Have To Change Keys to Play These Blues"

November 28 (1938) Tommy Ladnier and his Orchestra recorded in New York City, on the Bluebird record label.

Personnel: Ladnier – trumpet; Sidney Bechet (listed as Pops King on the label) – clarinet, soprano sax; Mezz Mezzrow – clarinet, tenor sax; Cliff Jackson – piano; Teddy Bunn, guitar; Elmer James, string bass; Manzie Johnson, drums.

"Ja-Da," "Really The Blues," "When You And I Were Young, Maggie," "Weary Blues"

November 30 and December 1st (1938) Bunny Berigan and His Men recorded in New York City, on the RCA-Victor label

Personnel: Berigan - trumpet and bandleader; Irving Goodman – trumpet; Ray Conniff - trombone, Murray Williams, Gus Bivona – clarinet, alto sax; George Auld, tenor sax; Joe Lippman - piano, arranger; Hank Wayland - bass, and Buddy Rich - drums.

"In A Mist," "Flashes," "Davenport Blues," "Candlelights," "In the Dark" "Walkin' the Dog"



With a passion for traditional jazz, Jim McGann has reviewed and photographed Tri-State Jazz concerts

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

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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

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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.

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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.

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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 & Friends Perennial TSJS favorite trumpeter Danny Tobias returns with a quintet, including the famed multi- instrumentalist Vince Giordano, pianist Conal Fowkes and clarinetist/violinist Dennis Lichtman from NYC. Also live on the web.		
2/13/22 Haddonfield (Also online)	Al Harrison's Dixieland Band Always a well-received band, the guys (six of 'em) are back for the first time since June, 2014. Also live on the web.		
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.		
May 2022 (Also online)	TBD - watch this space Check the TSJS website for updates.		

Streaming concerts can be viewed on the <u>Tri-State Jazz Society</u> website, Facebook page, or our YouTube channel

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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