

The Strutter

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 8

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

April 2023

Our Next Concert Sunday, April 16, 2023 Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA



"The World is Waiting for the Sunrise," 2014, On YouTube

Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi return to Tri-State. Stephanie is a long-time favorite; the duo first performed for Tri-State in November 2019. They bring their fresh arrangements of songs from the Swing Era and the Great American Song Book in a four-hands piano duo. Stephanie and Paolo are featured headliners at U.S. and international festivals and venues too numerous to list – so don't miss this great concert! This concert will NOT be live-streamed; you'll have to attend in person to enjoy it.

Pioneers in the use of four-hands piano in jazz, Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi have earned widespread success with their arrangements of classics from the stride piano, ragtime, and boogie woogie traditions, as well as from the Swing Era and the Golden Age of Tin Pan Alley. In recent projects, they have focused on the repertoire created during a time when musicals were at the heart of popular culture: the Classical Hollywood Cinema period and the Golden Age of Broadway, since the songs written between the 1920s and 1960s represent a high point and creative ferment in American popular music. Blending impeccable technique with mature musicality, the piano duo has performed across the United States, Europe, and Asia, winning the acclaim of critics and fans alike.

Annie and the Fur Trappers March, 2023

Haddonfield United Methodist Church, Haddonfield NJ

REVIEW by Richard Barnes



One of my fears, as an "aging" musician, is that like many other genres of music, traditional jazz will eventually fade away and be a forgotten thing of the past. Thankfully we have the folks at TSJS to make sure that doesn't happen anytime soon. That's why it is always refreshing to see younger people showing an interest in older jazz and forming bands. A noticeable wave started back around 2010 when the HBO series "Boardwalk Empire" became very popular. Across the country, small bands popped up ready to relive, if not "reinvent," the Roaring 20s through, well, their (Millennial) interpretation of classic Jazz, Blues, and Swing tunes - bands like Tuba Skinny from New Orleans and, more locally, Chelsea Reed and the Fair Weather Five are two of the better examples, keeping close traditional roots.

One of those bands swung by Haddonfield on a "mini tour" of the upper East Coast in support of their new CD, for an afternoon of what amounted

to a pretty standard, but enjoyable "greatest hits" playlist from the 1920s, and while they didn't turn in the same level of music that other, more seasoned bands have, they did provide an energetic, familiar set of songs, but with a newer twist.

Annie and the Fur Trappers made the long drive down from Boston to perform for what seemed like one of the larger audiences of recent count. Maybe it was the warmer pre- Spring weather that day, but those who chose to stay home and watch the live stream missed out on the live experience and power of a live band event. Hopefully, with the warmer weather on the horizon we'll see the attendance these shows would always bring in the past.

The Fur Trapper's website lists them as a "traditional jazz band, preserving the music of the 20s and 30s" but, in fact, they are really more of a light swing band, breathing life into songs from that era and while they turned in a nice performance, they are

more suited for a casual street fair setting as opposed to a polished stage act.

The first set was all of the songs in order off of their new CD which included popular songs like "Ain't She Sweet," "Exactly Like You," "Dinah," "I've Found a New Baby," and others. Most songs had a nicely scripted intro as well as a clever ending, but at times things got a little lost and seemed not as well rehearsed. While researching the band prior to the show I noticed that all of their videos online featured different players. Annie was originally from St Louis, moving then to Boston, so maybe she is



still working on assembling a core band which might account for this and if this group of players stays together, I'm sure they'll tighten up quickly.

Annie's trumpet playing was strong and she led the way through 2 sets, supported by Craig Ball on clarinet who, in my opinion, is really the best reed player to take stage for TSJS in a long time. He had a warm tone and beautifully crafted melodic phrases all afternoon. Filling out the front line was Josiah Reibstein on trombone.



The rhythm section consisted of upright bass, washboard, and piano which provided steady rhythm throughout. The bass would have benefited and complimented the music better by not walking 4/4 in nearly every song. I know that at a swing dance, that is what the dancers prefer, but the tempo of every song was the same with little to no variety.





In my early notes I marked that Annie had a powerful, confident voice - at times similar to Bessie Smith's style of early blues, with an occasional Armstrong snarl. She often took liberties with the phrasing of the melody, which is common and perhaps encouraged in jazz. However, this style didn't change and every song was sung in the same manner, often straying so far from the actual melody that one was hard pressed to recognize what song she was singing. "My Blue Heaven," "Home," "Ain't She Sweet" all suffered a bit by straying too far, and what started off as a cool little novelty way of singing soon turned into more of a monotone wailing, void of any original melody which, when touting

yourself as "preserving" traditional jazz, is not really accomplishing that.



The hidden gem of the band was pianist Mike Effenberger who did not shine enough. While not a stride or traditional style of player in the Fats or Hines way he had a great ear for the melody and beautifully played solos. He did not solo in every song which is actually good - because the standard combination of how "dixie" bands play (ensemble - EVERYbody takes a solo left to right - ensemble) gets old, but when he did, it certainly made it more noticeable and appreciated more. His playing and Annie's powerful blues style of vocals were highlighted during a blues duo called "The 1919 Influenza Blues."



The band wrapped up with a very powerful New Orleans rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In" which saw them parading through the church and back to the stage, ala Louis Prima, that had all clapping along for a rousing finale.

Review and all photos by Richard BarnesPhotographer / Musician

Since 1978 Richard Barnes has been working as a photographer, starting in the newspaper business and evolving to mostly weddings and events.

www.RBarnesPhotography.com

Music struck him at an early age of 8 on clarinet, then cello, guitar and beyond. He started Blackbird Society Orchestra in 1997 to keep the music of the Jazz Age alive, as well as creating Eddie Lang Day Philadelphia in 2010. He played with Leon Redbone off and on for 10 years as well. Blackbird Society Orchestra website



Coming in May Miss Maybell and the Jazz Age Artistes

Sunday, May 7, 2023 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Haddonfield United Methodist Church



Lauren Sansaricq – banjo, washboard, vocals Charlie Judkins – piano Dan Levinson – reeds Brian Nalepka – bass Andy Stein – violin

"Miss Maybell (Lauren Sansaricq) has a vocal style that is similar to that of the classic blues singers of the era, ranging from Ethel Waters to Bessie Smith without copying any one vocalist. She puts plenty of bluesy feeling into the songs (which include both vintage blues and vaudeville-type songs), she swings, and she also plays washboard. Pianist Charlie Judkins is a ragtime and stride pianist and is very much a complete band by himself in addition to begin a tasteful accompanist." (LA Jazz Scene)

Miss Maybell and Charlie are joined by accompanists Dan Levinson, Brian Nalepka, and Andy Stein, recreating the ensemble that was such a success at Birdland in NYC last November. Join us for their Tri-State Jazz debut!



"Where'd You Get Those Eyes" on YouTube



"Oh Johnny!" on YouTube



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



Potomac River Jazz Club Talk: **The Hidden History of Louisiana's Jazz Age**Presented by Author Sam Irwin Monday, May 8, 2023, 7-8:15pm ONLINE via Zoom



Join us for our next installment of the PRJC Jazz Talk Series featuring Sam Irwin discussing his new book, "The Hidden History of Louisiana Jazz", his third book from History Press, which explores an unexamined jazz history. He didn't know it at the time, but research for the HH/Jazz Age began for Irwin the day after New Orleans musician Allen Toussaint died in 2015. That's when Irwin first heard trumpeter Nicholas Payton's brilliant performance on Toussaint's The Bright Mississippi. "I wasn't planning on

writing another book but this one materialized out of the music I was practicing. Nicholas Payton made the music sound so easy, it inspired me to pick up my horn and play after I hadn't touched it for nearly 30 years," Irwin said. "I also wanted to learn about the musicians and where they came from. They weren't all from New Orleans. I wrote blog posts to promote my band, the Florida Street Blowhards. Before I knew it, I wrote half a book."

Admission: The event is FREE! **Donations accepted**.

This presentation will be held via Zoom and a link will be sent by e-mail the day of the presentation.

Registration required by 5pm on the day of the event: **ZOOM REGISTRATION**

You can support the PRJC or our Educational Talks and Concerts using the Paypal link www.paypal.me/PotomacRiverJazzClub

Features Now ONLINE on the <u>Tri-State Jazz Website</u>

Our Premium Level Members

Tri-State Jazz Society Board of Directors

Tri-State Jazz Society Contact Information

Online Membership Enrollment and Renewal

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.

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.



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

Sustainer, Patron, or Sponsor level.

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

Concert Covid Policy

Tri-State Jazz Society recommends that guests wear masks, based on personal preference, to attend this full-capacity indoor concert.

You may also enjoy watching the concert remotely on our <u>website</u> or <u>YouTube channel</u>. CALL OUR HOTLINE for up-to-the-minute updates (856) 720-0232

ADA compliance - access to our concert venues is available at grade level.

Restroom facilities are available at grade level.

JAZZ SOCIETY	Membership Form		
Basic Dues:	☐ Individual \$20	Couple \$40	
Sponsor Dues:	☐ Individual \$50	Couple \$70	
Patron Dues:	☐ Individual \$100	Couple \$120	
Sustainer Dues:	Individual \$200 or m	nore Couple \$220 or mo	re
Amount Enclosed	\$	Date	Check No
expiration star	admitted to all regular co t at the end of current mo ips run for 12 months.	oncerts at half price. Member embership; expired member	rships renewed prior to rships start on receipt of payment
First and Last Name	e(s)		
Street			
City		State_	Zip

Mail with check payable to Tri-State Jazz Society, Inc., P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Phone (______ E-mail _____

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