THE TRI-STATE SKYLARK STRUTTER
Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area
VOLUME 20 NUMBER 2
August 2009

OUR NEXT CONCERTS

Neville Dickie
England’s Finest Stride Pianist

Wednesday, August 5, 2009 – 7:30 PM
At First Unitarian Church, Wilmington, DE,
located on 730 Halstead Road, off Concord Pike
(Route 202) via Whitby Drive on South lanes
(Florence is across 202 on North lanes) near
Concord Mall, Wilmington, DE

Neville Dickie is one of England’s foremost
stride and boogie-woogie pianists. A regular
performer on BBC Radio, Dickie has made hundreds
of appearances as a soloist or with his trio. One of
the few British Jazz pianists to score with a hit
continues to be embraced by Jazz enthusiasts
internationally.

Tex Wyndham &
his Red Lion Jazz Band

Sunday, August 16, 2009
2:00PM – 5:30PM

At Grace Episcopal Church, 4900 Concord Pike (Route 202), Wilmington, DE (across
from Concord Mall)

The Red Lion Jazz Band has been the Delaware Valley’s leading revivalist Dixieland
combo for 45 years. During that time it performed

(cont’d on page 2)
without interruption, for eighteen years at four area restaurants, including a seven-year run at Wilmington, Delaware’s prestigious Green Room. Leader Tex Wyndham has a national reputation in the field both as a performer and an authority on early jazz. He can be heard on about forty recordings, including performances with Wild Bill Davison, Maxine Sullivan, Banu Gibson, and other major Dixieland talents. Tex is the author of the book Texas Shout: How Dixieland Jazz Works. In 1998, Tex was nominated for a National Heritage Fellowship in the folk and Traditional Arts.

The Red Lions play a cross-section of America’s popular music from about 1895 to about 1930, including pop tunes, blues, jazz numbers, marches, cakewalks, Indian intermezzos, and rags, usually on complete versions including verse and vocal.

2nd Prize - $175 – Tom Schopps (sold by Adam Rogers) ticket #0775
3rd Prize - $100 – Christa Simonini (sold by Lou Schultz) ticket #3071
4th Prize – 10 CDs – Mr. & Mrs. Stropnicky (members) ticket #2456
5th Prize – 2 tickets to Longwood Gardens from Bill Wallace to Katherine Troxell (members) ticket #2482

AMERICAN RAG WINNERS
Recent winners are Lou and Jay Schultz, Richard Dills, Adam Rogers, Ronnie and Don Farmer, Edie and Jerry Figgins, William Angehr, Rita and Tom Healy, Alice Bushey, Jeanine Coyne, and Flora Becker.

A Short Message from the Editor
If you were at the Al Harrison concert on Sunday, you may remember Bill Wallace making the announcement that I am the new editor of the Strutter. While I have written articles for TSJS since 2002, taking over the Strutter as a whole is a new challenge for me.

One realizes the labors of one person when that person steps away from the assignment. DeWitt Peterson, our past President of TSJS, took care of the all aspects of the Strutter – a task that now requires several individuals to accomplish. He should be commended for his efforts.

If there is anything to say in the early stages as I take on this assignment that is to be patient with me. I will do my absolute best to put out a quality product, but as with all new challenges, there will be times I will make mistakes. Just know that I have the best interest of the members of TSJS at heart. – Jim McGann

To All Members and Friends of TSJS
Thank you for your support of the June raffle fund raiser. We raised $708.00 over the $525 prize money. Drawing winners were as follows:
1st Prize - $300 – Julius Parisi (member) ticket #0699

CONCERT ADMISSION
$20 ADMISSION
$15 MEMBERS
$10 STUDENTS
$10 FIRST TIME MEMBER GUESTS
Pay At the Door - No Advanced Sales

The Time: Sunday, July 19, 2009, 2PM – 5:30PM
The Place: Brooklawn American Legion Post, 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ
The Band: Al Harrison’s Dixieland Band; Harrison, leader, trumpet, cornet, flugelhorn, vocals; Gil Bennett, clarinet and
tenor sax; Fred Scott, trombone; Joseph Claffy, piano, vocals; Ed Wise, string bass, vocals; Lew Leabman, drums.

On the eve of the 40th anniversary of man’s first walk on the moon, a musician performing at the Brooklawn American Legion Hall was providing his own brand of space travel via the trumpet high note.

Al Harrison, trumpet, cornet and flugelhorn specialist, has made appearances before for TSJS but this was the first time as leader of his own working unit. With the support of Gil Bennett on reeds, Fred Scott on trombone and the rhythm section of Joseph Claffy on keyboards, Ed Wise on bass, and Lew Leabman on drums, the Harrison Dixieland Band is a polished ensemble with enough firepower, as Duke Ellington would say, to “scorch the moon!”

“When There’s Darkness On the Delta” was the best of the first set’s offerings. Recalling his experiences on the legendary Delta Queen steamship, Harrison mentioned the requests of songs made by customers that were outside the typical Dixieland canon. Leading on cornet, Harrison received sympathetic support from the rest of the band; in particular Fred Scott’s beautiful plunger mute accompaniment, and Ed Wise in one of his arco/vocal specials.

Other highlights of the first set were a modern version of Juan Tizol’s “Caravan” with clarinetist Gil Bennett switching to his alto-toned tenor sax, and shaking like a belly dancer. Harrison simply gymnastic over Wise and Leabman’s accompaniments. Scott resurrects the sound of Ellington ‘bone man, Lawrence Brown. Joseph Claffy provided some spatial exotic keyboard sounds. “Exactly Like You” allowed Claffy to show his stride side, and Scott his Teagarden side. On “Royal Garden Blues”, Harrison displayed his command of the flugelhorn, by creative double-timing and launching some choice bass notes.

The second set opened with “Bourbon Street Parade.” Harrison and Claffy took a creative turn with the Paul Barbarin composition: Harrison recited the original lyrics, while Claffy, after a piano solo, broke into “Won’t You Come Home Bill Bailey,” using the same chord changes. Then, to top things off, both men sang the lyrics of “Parade” and “Bailey” simultaneously!

Fred Scott was featured on “Basie Street Blues,” a moving dedication to the late Glenn Dodson. “That’s A Plenty” allowed Bennett to mix the creative stylings of Goodman and Pee-Wee Russell in his solo. “Undecided”, which closed the set, offered some interesting Pettiford-influenced pizzicato bass from Wise.

The third set pulled out all the stops. Starting off with a rousing “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and the convivial “The One That Got Away,” Harrison’s band was working on all cylinders. Sandwiched in-between the flag wavers was a vehicle for guest vocalist Dr. Bob Binder, “Georgia On My Mind.”

“Creole Love Song” brought the Harrison unit back to Ellington country. Bennett, accompanied by stop-time rhythm, mumbled his way through his solo as a wandering lost soul, Scott’s trombone on plunger mute, played the role of a soon-to-be jilted lover, pleading, begging with the object of his affection. Harrison’s opening smear note, ending on a high b-flat, along with his later bass note commentary – most effective here – disturbs the tranquility of the early morning hours. Claffy’s dreamlike piano and Wise’s subtle pizzicato represent the dawn of a new day.

With a renewed emphasis of environmental concerns, Harrison performed the “green” version of “Back Home Again in Indiana”, retitled “I Sent My Trash To Indiana” recalling the medical waste that was found on the Jersey shores back in the late 1970s, and re-directed sanitation which ended up in the Hoosier state.

The spiritual “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” ended a pleasant afternoon with Al Harrison’s Dixieland Band. – Jim McGann

**NIPPER BUILDING CENTENNIAL**

**The Time:** Sunday, July 12th, 2009

**The Place:** The Victor Pub, former site of RCA/Victor Building #17, 1 Market Place, Camden, NJ

**The Event:** Celebrating 100 Years of the RCA “Nipper” Building, hosted by historian Fred Barnum, author of “His Master’s Voice In America”

A few years ago some of you may remember a series of articles I wrote about the Jazz recordings that took place in Camden, NJ. Sunday, July 12th, 2009 was the centennial of the RCA “Nipper” building, and with the interests of TSJS and my own past research on the subject, I decided to attend.

The event took place at the Victor Pub, the ground level floor on what was formerly known Building 17 (“the Cabinet Factory”), now known as The Victor, a luxury loft apartment site. Fred Barnum, author of “His Master’s Voice In America” hosted the event, covering in a two-and-a-half hour time frame, the histories of the Victor Talking Machine company, RCA, and their combined accomplishments.

Of special interest was the signing of bands/artists to the Victor label as the 1920’s drew to a close: Fats Waller, Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton – all Victor recording artists who on occasion, trekked to Camden to record some sides. The recording facilities were Building 15 (1907), and 22, the former Trinity Church, purchased after World War I, complete with pipe organ. Legend has it that Waller was one of the first to record on the instrument.

Building 10, opened in 1922, was the record pressing plant. According to Mr. Barnum, the Camden facility was the first in recording synchronized music for silent movies in 1927 (the soundtrack to the Academy Award winner “Wings” was
RECALLING MUSIC OF THE PAST

By Woody Backensto

In the March/April 1956 issue of (The Magazine Dedicated To The Record Collector and Music Enthusiast), my article title was “The Honey Swamp Stompers - Who Were They?” In PLAYBACK, the March/April issue of 1952, they mentioned two tunes, “Wipin’ the Pan” and “Betty” by the Honey Swamp Stompers as a possible Bix or Red Nichols item. So I checked my files.

I found the three proceeding masters were by The Harmonians, a Ben Selvin group, and the next two were by The Ipana Troubadours, a Sam Lanin aggregation. Since Nichols recorded with both groups, it was possible he was on the Stompers tunes. Checking with Columbia Records, I learned the recording date was 1-25-1929. However, the recording session card listed the group as Arthur Fields Foot-Warmers. Later I found the vocal credits on the Harmony labels went to Arthur Fields, but the same masters on the Velvet Tone and Diva labels the vocals are by Arthur Hall.

I finally obtained the two Stompers sides on tape. There was solo work on trumpet, clarinet, violin, harmonica, banjo and a bit of scat-singing. My tin ear was no longer satisfied. I played the tunes for Bill Wirges, one-time recording director for Brunswick Records, mainstay of the Harry Reser groups, and familiar with the top studio men of the late twenties. Bill thought the fiddle a la Joe Venuti might be Murray Kellner, and perhaps the harmonica player was by Eddie Grosso, the saxophonist. He thought the trumpet was a cross between Bill Moore and Red Nichols.

Finally, I had the pleasure of playing the record for Red Nichols, himself. After hearing “Wipin’ the Pan”, Red was completely baffled; he couldn’t say if it was he or not. After listening to “Betty”, he said he did not think he was responsible for the record.

JAZZ DIRECTORY lists Red Nichols on the Honey Swamp Stompers, but offers no further details. Another competent researcher, Howard J. Waters, is sure that the horn is not Red. However, from comparison with the Bert Lown and his Loungers session of 4-5-1929, Waters is sure the trumpet solo is by the same man. Using this for the basis of further theorizing, several guesses have been made as to the horn on the Lown session by several searchers and Lown himself. The possibilities are Frank Cush, Bunny Berigan, and Ed Farley; the latter two having been made by Lown as being on the Lounger date.

Bozy White, the Berigan researcher, contends that Bunny was not in New York City on 4-5-1929. If this is true we can count-out B.B. That narrows the field to Ed Farley and Frank Cush. If I were to guess, I would pick Cush who could play exceedingly well in the Nichols style.

To sum up the notes on the Honey Swamp Stompers, all I can say is --- who were they?
Dec 13 Ben Mauger’s Vintage Jazz Band at St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church, Cherry Hill, NJ 2 PM

Brooklawn American Legion Post 72, is at Browning Road and 11 Railroad Avenue, Brooklawn, NJ (BALH) (08030), just six blocks toward the river at end of Browning from Route 130, at Ponzi’s, Brooklawn water tower, and Days Inn. This is just ½ mile south of Exit 1-C of Route 76; near Walt Whitman Bridge See some venue websites for directions and details. See our website for directions to our venues also.

Grace Episcopal Church is at 4900 Concord Pike (Route 202) across from Concord Mall in Wilmington, Delaware 19803

First Unitarian Church is at 730 Halstead Road, off Concord Pike (Route 202) via Whitby Drive on South lanes (Florence is across 202 on North lanes) near Concord Mall, Wilmington, DE

Saint Matthew Church is at 318 Chester Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057, 3 blocks from Main Street corner with Chester at traffic light, past post office, fire station, RR, and Seven –Eleven.

PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY
www.pajazzsociety.org. 610-740-9698, 610-258-2082
Concerts are at 2 PM (except July) at Easton Moose: Exit 22 at the Dixie Cup and go north to right on Van Buren in Palmer OR at American Legion Hall, 217 North Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091. Take 22 to 33 north to Wind Gap exit, to main road east. $20, $18 members.

Sept 13 Pete Pepke at Wind Gap Legion
Oct 11 Jazz Lobsters at Easton Moose
Nov 8 Doug Smith at Easton Moose See website for directions.

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

And Its Member Bands
www.prjc.org; get on PRJC Email List: prjc@prjc.org. See PRJC website for DC local jazz happenings and directions.

Aug 8 Capital Focus Jazz Band, Rockville Elks, 8PM

Sept 12 Picnic is at renovated Blob’s Park. Thank the recession that the park did not become a housing development!!

Oct 17 New Traditional JB from Maine, Rosensteel Knights of Columbus

Tuesdays: Dixieland Direct with Mike Flaherty, Henning Hoehne, Josh Bayer, Bob Boguslaw, Colonel Brooks Tavern, 901 Monroe, NE, DC, 202-529-4002

Tuesdays: 7:30 PM Al Webber’s Arcadians with Diva Ponti Lynch, Kings Court Tavern, 2-C Loudon St SW. Leesburg, VA, 703-777-7747

First Wed: 9 PM Big Bertha Rhythm Kings, Bertha’s, 734 S. Broadway, Falls Point, Baltimore, MD 410-327-5795

Thursdays: 7:30 PM Not So Modern Quartet, St Elmo’s, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA, 703-739-9268

First Wednesdays: 9 PM to 12 Midnight Yamamonan, Wonderland Ballroom, 11th and Kenyon, DC Sun 11-2 Dixieland Direct, Market Inn, 22 E St SW, CD Sun 530-830 PM Brooks Tegler Hot Jazz, Glen Echo.

PRJC Picnics (2007 and 2008) DVDs for $18 pp each from Ron Israel, 7918 31st St., Baltimore, MD 21237 Payable to “Behind The Scenes.” poychki@verizon.net 410-866-6951

CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY
www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com PO Box 113, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247
ashbc@comcast.net, Dues $10

August 9 “Ragtime” Bobby Quaile, banjo; Bill Newnam, trombone; Valerie Jeanne, vocals, 2-4 PM at Cape May VFW 419 Congress St. 609-884-7961 $10 (advance and members) $15(at the door)

BICKFORD THEATRE, MORRISTOWN, NJ

Columbia Turnpike (Route 510), 8-930 PM $15(advance), $18 (at the door), 973-971-3706.

August 3 Neville Dickie

August 17 Allan Vache’s Benny Goodman Tribute with Reinhart, Shane, Nalepka, Dorn, Matt Hoffmann and Terry Blaine

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE
(At Ocean County Library)
www.ocean.edu, jazzevents@aol.com., 732-255-0500 $13 advance/ $15 at the door. Toms River (NJ) Library is at 101 Washington Street 08753, ½ mile from PARKWAY Exit 81. Concerts temporarily at Co. Library. Take 70, 37 and Lakehurst Road

August 19 Allan Vache’s Benny Goodman Centennial Tribute with Vinie Corrao, Brian Nalepka, Kevin Dorn

Sept 23 Ivory and Gold: Anne and Jeff Barnhart

BIG BAND SOCIETY (Delaware)

Cavalier Country Club, off Route I-95 near Route 7 in Christiana DE area. BBS, Box 693, Hockessin, DE 19707; 302-239-5159. Four dinner dances a year. Join!! March, June, Sept, Dec

MIDIRI BROTHERS
www.midiribros.com

Aug 23 w Ed Polcer, River Queen, Brielle, NJ
Oct 9, 10, 11 Medford Oregon Jazz Fest
Oct 14-18 Sun Valley (CA) Swing-N-Dixie Jazz Jubilee
Oct 23, 24, 25 Pismo Beach (CA) Jubilee-by-the-Sea Jazz Fest

ED WISE
www.edwisemusician.com
www.myspace.com/edwisemusician

Sept 20 TSJS concert w/ Jerry Rife’s Rhythm Kings

BARBONE STREET JAZZ BAND
www.barbonestreet.com
Song Sound Bites: http://cdbaby.com/cd/bsjb

Aug 9 6:30 PM Temple U Ambler Campus
Aug 19 7PM Willow Valley Manor, Lancaster, PA
Aug 22 7 PM Hershey’s Mill Golf Club
Aug 26 8 PM Ocean City (NJ) Music Pier

FATHER JOHN D’AMICO
Oct 11 7PM Union United Methodist Church, 200 Brookline Blvd, Havertown, PA 19083
Nov 4 1230-130 PM Brown Bag Lunch @ Trinity Episcopal, 19th & Rittenhouse Square, Phila., PA 215-567-1267

JERRY RIFE’S RHYTHM KINGS
rife@rider.edu, 609-882-4148.

Sept 20 2-5:30 PM TSJS Concert

MERCHANT STREET JAZZ BAND
www.merchantstreetjazzband.com
Aug 19 7-8:30 PM Whitman-Stafford House, Laurel Springs, NJ
Aug 25 7-8:30 PM Medford Leas, Medford, NJ
Sept 12 Noon Taste of Medfords, Freedom Park, Medford, NJ
Nov 6 6:30-8:30 PM Candlelight Walk, Main St, Moorestown, NJ

TEX WYNDHAM
610-388-6330, Box 831, Mendenhall, PA 19357

Aug 16 2 PM TSJS Concert, Grace Episcopal Church, Wilmington, DE

VINCE GIORDANO AND HIS Nighthawks
www.myspace.com/vincegisnightahawks

Every Monday, Sofia’s Restaurant, 221 W 46th St, Edison Hotel, NYC 212-719-5799. 8 and 11 PM: $15 cover (May through September 2009)

Aug 30 8PM Steppingstone Waterslide Theater, Great Neck, NY
Sept 18-20 Chautauqua, NY Fest
Sept 25 8:30PM Jazz ’N Caz at the Catherine Cummings Theater, Cazenovia, NY
Oct 24 7PM w/Mick Molony at Symphony Space, NYC
Oct 27 Sidney Bechet Society NYC
Oct 31 Illiana Club of Traditional Jazz at Glendora House, Chicago

DAN LEVINSON
www.danlevinson.com
See his website for local dates.

New CD: At The Codfish Ball by his Swing Wing. Many Mondays with Giordano’s Nighthawks in Sofia’s August 3, 17, 24, 31Restaurant, NYC:
Aug 1-5, Aug 12-16 Saratoga Springs, NY “At the RACES”
Aug 7-9 Orange County Classic Jazz Festival, Costa Mesa CA
Aug 5, 12-16, 19-20 w/Reggie’s Red Hot Feetwarmers, Saratoga Racetrack, Saratoga Springs, NY
Aug 21-22 8PM with Leon Redbone, Mt. Greta Playhouse

HERB GARDNER
www.herbgardner.com

Mondays Leader of Stan Rubin’s All Stars, 830-1130 PM, Charley O’s Times Square Grille, Broadway and 49th St, NYC
Tuesdays 8:30 -11 PM, Other Charley O’s, 8th and 45th St, Manhattan
Wednesdays Stan Rubin Orch., Swing 46, 349 W 46th, NYC
Sundays Noon to 4 PM, Olde Stone Mill Restaurant, 2 Scarsdale Road, Tuckahoe, NY 10707 Sol Yaged Quartet 914-771-7661
Aug 14 7:30PM Annual Old Home Days concert, Hancock, NH

JIM FRYER
www.jfryer.com

Every Monday with Vince Giordano at Club Cache, Sofia’s in Edison Hotel, NYC
Aug 7-9 (in CA), Oct 2-4 (in MT), Oct 9-11 (in CO), and Oct 14-18 (in ID) w/the Titan Hot Seven

CENTRAL PA FRIENDS OF JAZZ
www.pajazz.org, friends@cpfj.org

Monthly Sunday evening concerts at The Hilton Harrisburg, 1 N. 2nd St., PA 17101
Aug 16 CPFJ Summer Picnic, Cibort’s Picnic Grounds, Bressler, PA

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOLY COMMUNION

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND, NYC
159 Houston St (First and Allen), 215-475-0611, 10002
http://www.myspace.com/thenationalunderground
Sundays 7-11PM, John Gill’s National Saloon Band with Bruce McNichols and others. Good food and bar. Good parking

EAR INN
www.earinn.com, 326 Spring St. near West Side Hwy, Washington St., and Greenwich St., NYC
Sundays 8-11 PM: EarRegulars with Jon-Erik Kellso, Matt Munisteri, and more. Good food and bar and parking.

MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY
125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726, 732-431-7220, www.monmouthcountylib.org, FREE

JAZZ AND BLUES SHOWCASE
(SAT) 7:30 TO 10 PM (Usually first Sat.) $20 ($15 seniors and students) Memorial Hall, Across from Cathedral of the Woods, 100 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, NJ, 609-654-4220. or rquagliata@yahoo.com.

RIVERBOAT SWING
August 23, Sunday Barnegat Bay 12 Noon to 4 PM. River Queen at Bogan’s Brielle Basin $89 Ed Polcer, Joe and Paul Midiri, Mark Shane, Frank Tate, Joe Ascione. Contact Phone number: 732-830-3496 until August 22.

MEMBER’S EWORLD CONVERSATION PAGES
www.myspace.com/tristatejazzsociety
www.facebook.com/tristatejazzsociety

www.myspace.com/edwisemusician
www.myspace.com:sc/vincegiordanothenhighthawks
http://myspace.com/danlevinson
www.myspace.com/barbonestreetjazzband
Do you have one?

HEAVENLY STRUTTERS
THE SOCIETY NEEDS AND WELCOMES YOUR GIFTS!
July 2008- June 2009: American Legion Post #72, Anonymous, Gladys and Woody Backensto, Steve Barbone, Dorothy and Walt Bottjer, Walt Brenner, Chris Jones and Caren Brodsky, Grace Episcopal Church in Wilmington, Joel Haness, Carol Hunter, Lois and George Hines, Louis Kaplan, Mike Mudry, Eileen and Tom Murphy, Frank Nissel, DeWitt Peterson, Saint Matthew Lutheran Church (Moorestown), Rita and Harry Schmoll, Lou and Jay Schultz, Katherine Smith, Sally and Bill Wallace, Fred Weber, Shirley Williamson, and First Unitarian Church in Wilmington.

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Jim McGann, 12, Strutter Editor, editor@tristatejazz.org

VOLUNTEERS
John Membrino, Database Mgr, jnmembrino@comcast.net, Lou (Raffle Mgr.) and Jay (Membership Mgr.) Schultz membership@tristatejazz.org
Chic Bach, Sound, advan@voicenet.com
Donald Neal Delaware Rep. donald_neal19803@yahoo.com,

TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION
Mailing Address: PO Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Email: info@tristatejazz.org
Phone: NJ: (856) 232-1463 PA: (610) 268-5930 DE: (302) 762-3335

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Send an email to webmaster@tristatejazz.org telling us to add you to our list for email newsletter delivery, TSJS concert notices, area traditional jazz events (not TSJS), or all three lists.
Send questions about membership and general information to info@tristatejazz.org

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.tristatejazz.org
Strutter Input:
How are we doing? Is there something you like/don’t like in the Strutter? Something you would like to see in the Strutter? Send us your comments, criticisms, thoughts to:editor@tristatejazz.org
Membership Application/Renewal Form
TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

☐ New    ☐ Renewal  Annual Membership is valid through June 30, 2010.
☐ Single ($15)  ☐ Couple ($20)

E-mail and Newsletter Options: (Check All Boxes That Apply)
☐ TSJS concert and membership notices
☐ Newsletter by E-mail
☐ Newsletter by U.S. mail (paid members only)
☐ Other traditional jazz event notices (not sponsored by TSJS)

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TRADITIONAL JAZZ IN THE PHILADELPHIA, SOUTH JERSEY, DELAWARE AREA
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TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY
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