

# The Strutter

"Best of South Jersey" 2008 & 2009!

**VOLUME 20 NUMBER 3** 

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

SEPTEMBER 2009

# Our Next Concert Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings



Jerry Rife, leader and clarinet
Dan Tobias, trumpet
Pete Reichlin, trombone
Pat Mercuri, guitar
Ed Wise, bass
Lenny Pucciatti, drums

# September 20th, 2009, 2PM at American Legion Hall

Browning Road and 11 Railroad Avenue Brooklawn, NJ 08030

The Rhythm Kings have entertained crowds for twenty five years with repeat performances for Tri-State Jazz Society, Pennsylvania Jazz Society, Princeton University, College of New Jersey, many parades, community concerts, and high school traditional jazz educational events. They had a regular engagement at Lawrenceville's Marroe Inn for 495 weeks.

Mr. Rife earned two degrees in music at Kansas State University before earning a PhD in Musicology at Michigan State University. An authority on John Philip Sousa, who led a popular band that toured the USA from 1892 to 1932, Mr. Rife was the associate producer of the film, "If You Knew Sousa," which aired on the PBS television program, The American Experience as well as the 1992 NJN State of the Arts program, "With Song and Good Cheer." Currently, he is Chairman of the Fine Arts department at Rider University, and is the conductor of the Sousa-inspired Blawenburg Band.

As mentioned earlier, the Rhythm Kings have performed for TSJS audiences in the past, always providing an air of excitement with hot soloists like Messrs. Tobias, Reichlin, and Mercuri. A particularly noteworthy concert took place in 2006, entitled "Spirituality In Rhythm," which blended traditional sacred hymns in a Jazz context. In addition to leading the Rhythm Kings, Mr. Rife also helmed the 2003 TSJS Jam Session.

Brooklawn American Legion Hall, is located at Browning Road and 11 Railroad Avenue, Brooklawn, NJ, just six blocks toward the river at end of Browning from Route 130, at Ponzio's, Brooklawn water tower, and Days Inn. This is just 3/4 mile south of Exit 1-C of Route 76; near Walt Whitman Bridge. See our website for directions to this venue.

CONCERT ADMISSION
\$20 ADMISSION
\$15 MEMBERS
\$10 STUDENTS
\$10 FIRST TIME MEMBER GUESTS
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## VERPLANCK TRIBUTE AND FUNDRAISER

Arranger, composer, trombonist J. Billy VerPlanck passed away on June 2nd of this year. VerPlanck arranged for numerous big bands and Jazz artists, among them Coleman Hawkins, Count Basie's Sax Section, Phil Woods, Hank Jones, Joe Wilder, and Frank Wess. As a trombonist, he performed with Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Ralph Marterie, Charlie Spivak and Jess Stacy.

There will be a tribute to VerPlanck on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at William Paterson University, 300 Pompton Road in Wayne, NJ. Tickets are \$25 and the proceeds benefit the J. Billy VerPlanck Jazz Scholarship Fund. For more information about VerPlanck, his accomplishments, and the benefit tribute, go to the Marlene VerPlanck website: www.marleneverplanck.com

#### **AMERICAN RAG WINNERS**

Every month, TSJS selects from its membership a winner of a free four month subscription to the American Rag. The winners for June, July and August, 2009 are: Betsy Chandler, George and Barbara Roewe, and Joel Sheffield

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## NEVILLE DICKIE AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

The Time: Wednesday, August 5, 2009

The Place: First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead

Road, Wilmington, DE

#### Neville Dickie, Solo piano

The stifling weather on an early August evening did not sequester the comfortable air conditioning of First Unitarian Church. However, the performance of Neville Dickie provided more of a challenge for cool air! Acknowledging the recent Bob Seeley concert, Mr. Dickie announce that he would play a little Fats Waller, boogie-woogie, ragtime and "whatever Bob Seeley didn't do, I'll do". He began the concert with the old standard Jeepers Creepers, followed by Fats Waller's 1942, I've Got A Feeling I'm Falling. James P Johnson wrote the next tune Harlem Strut. I'm glad I use the Internet sometimes because the next song was Streamline Train by Cripple Clarence Lofton written in 1936.

Before proceeding with the next number, Mr. Dickie attempted to define stride music whilst seated at the keyboard. It was how the player's hand would stride across the keys from a bass note then to a chord, having more of a swing feel than its predecessor, ragtime. James P Johnson, Willie "The Lion" Smith and Johnson's protégé, Fats Waller were among the major contributors of stride. Johnson's "You've Got To Be Modernistic", was the most physically demanding stride piece and makes extended use of the black keys, according to Mr. Dickie. How Long Blues, written by Leroy Carr, was the first blues piece ever recorded. Next on the hit parade was Scott Joplin's Maple Leaf Rag.

Membership Manager Jay Schultz requested Walter Donaldson's "You're Driving Me Crazy". The next song was Hobson Street Blues by Bob Zurke. Mr. Dickie relaved a story about how he wanted to meet Ralph Sutton a great stride pianist who played Hobson St Blues the way Bob Zurke told people to play it, "As Fast As Possible." Mr. Sutton visited Mr. Dickie at his home and played Hobson St Blues on his piano but when he looked at the sheet music, Mr. Sutton had hand written it for Mr. Dickie for him to keep. Dickie always liked to make note of the "As Fast As Possible" tempo inscription at TSJS concerts. One of the earliest boogie-woogie compositions, Pine Top's Boogie, recorded in 1928 by Clarence "Pine Top" Smith and Willie "The Lion" Smith's masterpiece, Finger Buster concluded the first portion of the program.

A request from Band liaison Bill Wallace opened up the second half. "Anitra's Dance", from Grieg's Peer Gynt is not a usual selection for jazz piano; to be sure Mr. Dickie apologized to any teacher in the crowd. Dickie retained the melody of the classical piece while embellishing it with enough stride to keep the Jazzbos happy. The next song on the set list was Squeeze Me; Fats Waller's first composed song in 1919 at the age of 15. "Black & White Rag" by George Botsford was originally composed in 1908. However, after years of dormancy, in 1952, the song became a hit for pianist Winifred Atwell, giving Botsford's rag an international exposure it had not experienced during its lifetime. The proceeding selection, "Solace," is a movement from Scott Joplin's opera Treemonisha dedicated to African American people, who in Joplin's time, were not accepted in society. This Joplin composition and most notably "The Entertainer" found a new audience thanks to the arrangements by Marvin Hamlisch in the 1973 movie The Sting. Stephen Foster's "Swanee River", oops that's not the real title of that song. It's really Old Folks At Home. Mr. Dickie dedicated the tune, "Red Hot Mamas" to all of the Hot Mamas in the audience. Switching back to boogie-woogie, a song by Albert Ammons was Shout For Joy.

As the concert came to a close he played a selection entitled "That's All" and then asked for requests. Several were proposed but Mr. Dickie selected George Hunt's request of "12<sup>th</sup> St Rag" written by Euday L Bowman in 1914. George asked if he could play it in both styles. Neville mentioned that he would play it like Pee Wee Hunt played it originally, a campy, over-the-top Dixieland version, and then play it boogie-woogie style. The Hunt version, recorded for Capitol records, was the Billboard number 1 song of 1948. The two-styled rendition concluded another pleasant evening with pianist Neville Dickie.

- Fred Weber

## RED LIONS AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Time: Sunday, August 16th, 2009, 2PM –

5:30PM

The Place: Grace Episcopal Church, 4900

Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE

**The Band:** Tex Wyndham's Red Lion Jazz Band: Wyndham, cornet and vocals; Steve Barbone, clarinet and vocals; John Tatum, trombone and vocals; Jon Williams, piano; Dave Kee, bass sax; Roy Goldy, banjo and vocals.

As I drove in the entrance of Grace Episcopal Church, I was greeted with the illuminated sign "Welcome – Tri State Jazz Society." That coupled with a beautiful August day set up the intro to an afternoon of great Jazz provided by Tex Wyndham's Red Lion Jazz Band.

The band was in fine form on this date, which happened to be the forty-sixth anniversary (46<sup>th</sup>) of the band's existence. One would never guess its age from the liveliness of its performance.

After the conclusion of the Red Lion theme, "Down In Jungletown," which featured Steve Barbone's clarinet backed by brass riffs, and a rough-hewn John Tatum trombone solo, the band followed with a performance of a Billy Hill ("Old Spinning Wheel", "Red Sails In the Sunset") composition entitled "Lights Out", which allowed Tatum to show off his smooth trombone tones, and Barbone accompanied by stop-time effects. The horns enjoyed an interesting, aberrant, fugue-like chorus – Barbone began playing chorus, then Tatum chimed in, improvising along with the clarinetist, then finally Wyndham's lead cornet, creating a third line.

If you are one who appreciates the three minute form, you will love Wyndham's music. Swift soli, combined with short performance times, allowed for a greater program. For the hard core jazzbo, who likes chorus after chorus from a single soloist, the music of the Red Lions would be a bête noire to such an individual. However, for those who favor the celerity of soli, riffs, and Jazz miniature, this is the band for you. The one exception to this rule is the vocals.

Speaking of vocals, it was Steve Barbone who provided the first vocal of the day. "Go Back Where You Stayed Last Night" by Sidney Easton and Ethel Waters, is a unique song about a common occurrence during the Jazz Age - philandering. Here, though, the guilty party is not given atonement for his sins, but instead gets the front door! Barbone acts the lead role, albeit from the opposite sex, with all the sarcastic nastiness Waters could exude. The band provides interesting accompaniment - Wyndham makes good use of mutes, using a felt one before the vocal, and combining the felt and a metal derby after it. Tatum blows the blues during his solo, but shows a sweet side in his concluding cadenza. Barbone's clarinet is filled with New Orleans spice!

Other highlights of the first set...Tatum's Bill Rank inspired trombone on "Sorry," and the

rarely heard vocal, Dave Kee's bass sax chorus on "Keeping Out Of Mischief Now" and Barbone's comical "replies" on clarinet during Tex's vocal, and Williams attacking the keys on "Limehouse Blues"

Despite exciting performances on "Jazz Me Blues", "Oriental Strut" and "Washington and Lee Swing", Ma Rainey's "Down In the Basement" lays claim to the band's second set. The performance leaves the listener with an air of uncertainty from Kee's bass sax treading into untraveled territory, to Tatum's sinister trombone. Roy Goldy, subbing for banjoist Pat Meitzler, reminds one of Bud Scott, accompanist to Johnny Dodds, Jimmie Noone, etc. If you thought his trombone was nasty, Tatum's vocal would make Snidely Whipnash blush! Whatever went on in that basement, it wasn't good.

The standard, "When Your Lover Has Gone" in the 4th set stood out with me. I enjoyed the brief, campy barbershop harmonies at the close of the verse, but also how the song affected the band instrumentally. Barbone, Kee and Tatum seemed to accept the sting of lost love, and Tex's horn blurts out anguish in the closing chorus. The only exception was Williams, whose upbeat playing indicated a sense of new found freedom. Billy Rose's "(I Wish I Was In) Peoria" showed off the "Mormon Tabernacle Choir" aspects of the Red Lions, with Wyndham, Barbone, and Tatum taking one verse, and the whole band joining in on the refrain.

One aspect of the Red Lions is that you hear music that you won't likely hear anywhere else except maybe on record. "City Of A Million Dreams" falls into this category. Composed by clarinetist Raymond Burke, the tune has a pretty bridge. Tatum makes an unaccompanied solo, and Kee was simply awesome in his split chorus with the trombonist. Kid Ory's "Brown Bottom Bess," recorded by the Chicago Feetwarmers, also falls into this category, and like the aforementioned "Down In the Basement", a vehicle for creative raunchiness – Barbone wailing, Kee illustrative walking on bass sax.

The conclusion of the concert revealed something interesting. As you know, the Red Lions do not include a drummer in their rhythm section. Some people like this, some do not. But when introducing "Shine," Tex went on to talk about composer Ford Dabney, who was a musician in James Reese Europe's orchestra, then went on to comment about Europe's tragic demise — a brutal stabbing at the hand of his own drummer!

"Drummers are strange people..." Wyndham concluded, "...as you notice our band does not have a drummer." I think I understand Tex's aversion to drummers now. See you all on the 20<sup>th</sup> when the Tri-State Jazz Society will host Jerry Rife and his Rhythm Kings at the Brooklawn American Legion Hall at 2PM – Jim McGann

#### **OBITUARIES**

**Lawrence Lucie**, 102, banjo/guitarist with Jelly Roll Morton, Benny Carter, Fletcher Henderson, and Louis Armstrong. Died 8/14/09

**Les Paul**, 94, guitarist and recording pioneer. Died 8/13/09

**Bob Thulman**, 79, saxist, clarinetist, leader of the Last Chance Jazz Band, Great Songwriter's Band and the Baltimore Jazz Factory. Led the 2005 TSJS Jam Session. Died 7/22/09

**Don Farwell,** 85, former president of Potomac River Jazz Club (PRJC), former editor of the PRJC Tailgate Ramblings, avid jazz enthusiast. Died 5/25/09

**Carol Palmer,** 76, former treasurer of PRJC. Died 5/4/09

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



www.tristatejazz.org

#### **FALL**

**Oct 18** Atlantic City Jazz Band with Herb Roselle at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Moorestown, NJ 2 PM

Nov 1 Barnhart / Midiri Quartet (Jeff, Joe, Anne, Paul) First Unitarian Church, Wilmington, DE 2 PM

**Dec 13** Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, Cherry Hill, NJ 2 PM

Jan 17 Ed Wise Quartet, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, Brooklawn, NJ 2PM Feb 21 TBA, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, Brooklawn, NJ 2PM

#### OTHER VENUES

#### PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org,
610-740-9698, 610-258-2082
Concerts are at 2 PM (except July) at Easton
Moose: Route 22 to Route 248 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, \$5 students
Sept 13 Pete Pepke Generation at Wind Gap
Legion

Oct 11 Jazz Lobsters at Easton Moose Nov 8 Doug Smith at Easton Moose See website for directions.

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

www.njjs.org, 1-800-303-NJJS **Jazz Film Series** 

Library of the Chathams, 214 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928 / 973-635-0603 Sept 23 7PM "Jazz On A Summer Day" (1958) For other events co-sponsored by NJJS, check the Bickford Theater and Ocean County College listings.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOLY COMMUNION Third Sundays** 2110 Chestnut St., Phila., PA
Monthly Jazz Vespers at 5 PM. 215-567-3668. Ed
Dennis is JV leader.

## CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

PO Box 113, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247 ashbc@comcast.net, Dues \$10 Sept 24 6PM Atlantic City Jazz Band, VFW Post, 419 Congress St., Cape May, NJ 609-884-7961 Oct 22 6PM Ragtime with Bobby Quaile Dec 10 6PM Atlantic City Jazz Band

#### BICKFORD THEATRE, MORRISTOWN, NJ

Columbia Turnpike (Route 510), 8-9:30 PM \$15(advance), \$18 (at the door), 973-971-3706.

Sept 15 Tom Roberts

Oct 5 String of Pearls

Oct 19 Dan Barrett Quintet

**Nov 2** Barnhart / Midiri Quartet (Jeff, Joe, Anne, Paul)

### OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE (At Ocean County Library)

www.ocean.edu, jazzevents@aol.com., 732-255-0500 \$13 advance/ \$15 at the door. All concerts start at 8PM. Concerts temporarily at Toms River (NJ) Library, 101 Washington Street 08753, ½ mile from PARKWAY Exit 81. From Exit 81, bear right onto Lakehurst Rd, then bear right onto CR-527. Turn left onto Main St. and right onto Washington. Sept 23 Ivory and Gold: Anne and Jeff Barnhart Oct 14 Dan Barrett and Friends
Nov 18 Kevin Dorn's Traditional Jazz Collective Dec 16 Warren Vache Trio

#### NATIONAL UNDERGROUND

159 Houston St (First and Allen), New York, NY 10002 215-475-0611,

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

#### **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

#### **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
Sept 12 Larry McKenna Trio

#### **BAND SCHEDULES**

### MIDIRI BROTHERS www.midiribros.com

Check TSJS and Bickford Theater listings

#### **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 **Sept 12-13** 11:45AM Laurels at Landhope Farm, West Grove, PA **Sept 20** 6:30PM Medford Leas, Medford, NJ

FREE

**Sept 25** 7:30PM Church of the Loving Shepherd, West Chester, PA

#### **FATHER JOHN D'AMICO**

Oct 11 7PM Union United Methodist Church, 200 Brookline Blvd, Havertown, PA 19083 Nov 4 12:30-1:30 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 **Oct 18** 3-4:30 PM Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Road,

Princeton, NJ Call 609-924-1604 for tickets

## MERCHANT STREET JAZZ BAND www.msjbdixie.com

**Sept 12** 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 **Oct 16** 12:15-1:15PM, solo concert, Mohler Senior Center, Hershey, PA

#### VINCE GIORDANO AND HIS NIGHTHAWKS

www.myspace.com/vincegiordanothenighthawks 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) 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

#### **DAN LEVINSON**

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

New CD: At The Codfish Ball by his Swing Wing. Sept 14, 21, 28 with Giordano's Nighthawks in Sofia's Restaurant, NYC Sept 27 with the Banjo Rascals, Northport Cow Harbor Day Parade, Long Island, NY

### HERB GARDNER www.herb-gardner.com

**Mondays** Leader of Stan Rubin's All Stars, 8:30-11:30 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

**Wednesday**s 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

#### JIM FRYER

www.jfryer.com

Every Monday with Vince Giordano at Club Cache, Sofia's in Edison Hotel, NYC Sept 11, Oct 23, Nov 13, Dec 4 at the Cajun

Queen, 680 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge, NJ 732-634-6060

#### MEMBER'S EWORLD CONVERSATION PAGES

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

#### **HEAVENLY STRUTTERS**

### THE SOCIETY NEEDS AND WELCOMES YOUR GIFTS!

July 2009- June 2010: Gladys and Woody Backensto, Steve Barbone, Flora Becker, Doris and Charles Bitterli, Walt Brenner, Lois and George Hines, Louis Kaplan, Mike Mudry, Frank Nissel, Peter Parisi, DeWitt Peterson, Anita and Joe Pew, Rita and Harry Schmoll, Lou and Jay Schultz, Katherine Smith, Sally and Bill Wallace.

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08054

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**DE:** (302) 762-3335

# PLEASE SEND TSJS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

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

# ATTENTION STRUTTER CONTRIBUTORS!

Deadline to contribute reviews, literature, and schedule changes for the October Strutter is:

Tuesday, October 6th, 2009

#### **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, suggestions to:editor@tristatejazz.org

#### L®®KING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

The Atlantic City Jazz Band, under the direction of trombonist Herb Roselle will perform for TSJS on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in Moorestown, NJ.

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.



# Membership Application/Renewal Form TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

□New □Single (\$15)	Renewal Couple (\$20)	Annual Membership is valid through June 30, 2010.
E-mail and News	sletter Options: (C	heck All Boxes That Apply)
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