Our Next Concert

THE MIDIRI BROTHERS SEPTET

Sunday March 21, 2:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
318 Chester Ave
Mooresstown NJ 08030
Directions on Page 7

Joe Midiri - Reeds & Paul Midiri - Vibes, Trombone and Drums  The brothers can be heard in their home state of NJ playing both concerts and dances. Two of their most popular concert venues are the Bickford Theatre and Ocean County College. Recently, The Midiris appeared with Jeff and Anne Barnhart for a TSJS concert back in November.

Dan Tobias - Trumpet In addition to his appearances with the Midiris, Dan can also be heard performing with the Blue Skies jazz quartet, Derf Nolde’s Keystone Jazz Band, Jerry Rife’s Rhythm Kings, Stan Rubin’s Band and Vince Giordano's Nighthawks.

Pat Mercuri - Guitar Pat engages in a wide range of performance activities, playing jazz, pop and classical music. In addition, he frequently plays guitar, mandolin and banjo for the Philadelphia Orchestra, for the region’s opera companies, and for theater and show orchestras in Philadelphia, Atlantic City and New York.

Steve Kramer - Piano Steve has performed on Broadway. For twelve years he has played, conducted and composed original works for the National Dance Institute under the direction of Jacques D’Amboise. He conducted the Ice Capades with Scott Hamilton and Dorothy Hamill, and played for a variety of performers including Mel Torme, Henny Youngman and Steven Wright.

Ed Wise - Bass Ed has toured with the Concord Records Jazz All-Stars, Al Hirt and the Smothers Brothers. He currently lives in and works around Philadelphia, both with the Midiri Brothers and with his own group, Ed Wise and his New Orleans Jazz Band. He is also musical director of “PennJazz” (the University of Pennsylvania's jazz band) and serves on the board of directors of the Tri-State Jazz Society.

Jim Lawlor - Drums Jim began playing at age 20 after moving from Philadelphia to Atlantic City and has been a familiar sight on most casino stages since 1979. He has been mainly with the Midiri Brothers small groups and big band since 1989.

CONCERT ADMISSION

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

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LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

Coming up on Sunday, April 25th, Drew Nugent and the Midnight Society will perform at 2:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE.

AMERICAN RAG WINNERS

Every month, TSJS selects from its membership a winner of a free four month subscription to the American Rag. The winner for March, 2010 is: Doris Curley of Medford, NJ. New members of Tri-State Jazz Society automatically receive a two-month trial subscription to American Rag, the country’s largest traditional jazz and ragtime newspaper.

REVIEW - CAPITAL FOCUS JAZZ BAND

The Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sunday, February 21, 2010
The Place: Brooklawn American Legion Hall, 11 Railroad Ave. Brooklawn, NJ
The Band: Capital Focus Jazz Band, Dave Robinson, cornet and leader; Geoff Galante, Kate Amrine and Andrew Valez, trumpet; Dave Brennerman, Paul Lambert, trombone; Ricky Alexander, clarinet, soprano and tenor sax; Ben Renne, clarinet; Drew Flores, Tom Mason, piano; Wil Brumbach, Brian Farrow, guitar; Kevin Lambert, tuba; Anders Eliasson, drums

Sunday February 21 was one of the few days in late February 2010 that the Philadelphia Tri-State Region wasn’t in the grasp of a major winter storm. That was a good thing because it allowed the Tri-State Jazz Society to present their scheduled concert by the Capital Focus Jazz Band from the Washington DC Region. The weather inside the Brooklawn American Legion Hall was, as usual, delightful, and a great time was enjoyed by everyone who attended the concert.

The band kicked off the festivities with one of those old New Orleans gospel hymns, “Over In The Gloryland”, and followed that with Duke Ellington’s “Black and Tan Fantasy.” This did not presage as eclectic a concert as we might have thought, because the great Ellington’s tune was done in a nice two-beat Dixieland Jazz style. Ricky Alexander on soprano sax and David Brenneman on trombone played outstanding solos on Fantasy.

The Capital Focus Jazz Band is comprised of high school and college musicians from the Washington DC region. It was inaugurated 22 years ago by cornetist Dave Robinson, and is still active today. Originally christened the Federal Focus Jazz Band, the CFJB is the Youth Learning Program of the Potomac River Jazz Club. So we at Tri-State Jazz Society owe a debt of gratitude to our sister jazz society for providing a venue for young musicians qualified, and interested in playing, our kind of music.

Mr. Robinson brought 13 musicians up to Jersey with him from Washington, but maintained a seven-piece Dixieland Jazz instrumentation comprised of trumpet (or cornet), clarinet (or tenor sax, or soprano-sax), trombone, piano, banjo (or guitar), tuba and drums. So at all times seven of the musicians were playing and the remaining six were in the "bull pen" awaiting their opportunity to perform. Dave saw to it that they all got an ample chance to shine during the afternoon, and the musicians responded by playing jazz music of high quality.

The third song of the afternoon was “Jazz Me Blues”. We got our first chance of the afternoon to hear Geoff Gallante, the phenomenal 9 year old cornet player who we first heard play for TSJS at the 2007 June Jam Session when he was young - 6 years old. He knows how to blow jazz cornet. Wil Brumbach played a nice solo on his guitar on Tom Delaney composition.

Next came “Thanks A Million” and “Someday Sweetheart”. On “Someday” Ricky Alexander (clarinet), Kate Amrine (trumpet) and...
Paul Lambert (trombone) took beautiful solos. Kate was the only female musician in the band for this concert, but don't worry about her. This girl is not going to take a back seat to any guy when playing her trumpet.

“I Cover The Waterfront” was played as a nice slow ballad in big band style. Ricky on tenor sax and Geoff on his cornet played beautiful solos. On “New Orleans Stomp,” Dave Robinson picked up his cornet and played with the band for the first time this afternoon. Kate remained trumpet so we had two horns and eight players. That reminded some of us old time jazz fans of Joe “King” Oliver and Louis Armstrong back in 1923.

Next up were “You Hit The Spot”, “Memories Of You” and “Nancy Jane.” Ricky played a nice clarinet solo on “Memories” and on “Nancy Jane,” Anders Eliasson, who had been providing a good solid beat on the drums all afternoon, played a washboard with what looked like his mother’s sewing thimbles on his fingers. This writer was probably the only one present who could remember his mother using one of those things before Dad bought her a washing machine back in the early 1930s. There is precedence in 1920s recorded jazz of banjo and Geoff on his cornet played beautiful solos. The set was closed with “Closer Walk With Thee” which was followed by “Buddy Bolden’s Blues”, “Old Fashioned Love”, “Hindustan” and “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” on which Geoff Gallante played a beautiful cornet solo. The set was closed out with the “Saint Louis Blues” played as a real flag waver featuring, among others, Andrew Velez on trumpet.

This writer has neglected to mention the two piano players with the band. Drew Flores and Tom Mason performed valiantly in the rhythm section as well as doing good work on their occasional piano solos. The remainder of the rhythm section, Brian Farrow (banjo and guitar) and Kevin Lambert (tuba) did an enviable job helping the rhythm section perform very well.

The third and final set of the day started with “When You And I Were Young Maggie”, followed by “How Can You Face Me?”, “The Old Rugged Cross”, “Black and Blue” and the finale, “The Second Line”, played as a spirited New Orleans march with every musician playing, including four horns.

Dixieland Jazz, Traditional Jazz, New Orleans Jazz, or whatever you want to call it, was born nearly 110 years ago in New Orleans. It is the only truly American art form. Not every musician is able to “become fluent” in Dixieland Jazz. You first have to be a virtuoso musician on your instrument and then - the hard part - you have to have the feeling for jazz. It isn't easy, and there aren't too many musicians qualified to play it. That is why all of us jazz fans, I mean the moldy fig Dixieland breed, owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dave Robinson, the Potomac River Jazz Club and the CAPITAL FOCUS JAZZ BAND.

And let’s not close without saying that a thrilling and exciting afternoon was enjoyed by all present at the Tri-State Jazz Society concert. – George Hunt

A MESSAGE FROM FORMER TSJS PRESIDENT DEWITT “PETE” PETERSON

I wish to thank the Tri-State Jazz Society and its Board of Directors for the honor bestowed upon me on January 17. It is most appreciated. I would also like to mention that it has not been a one-person effort. 24 people donated funds in 1988 to start the society. 16 people were on the first board. With the fear of missing someone I will risk listing some important volunteers: JoAnne Peterson,* Laura and Dan* Baskin, Ronnie* and George* Simon, Marlene and Fred Weinstein*, Walt Brenner, Bill Breeden*, Pearl and Joe Friedman, Betty* and Bob* De Roo, Dot Ewe,* Bud Hall,* Peg and Pete* Capiak, Rita and Harry Schmoll, Tom Murphy, Mike Mudry, Sally and Bill Wallace, Doug Finke, Dave* and Theresa DiGiamberardino, and Dottie and Al *Palma. Also the current and recent board members and volunteers: Sandy, Jim, George, Woody, Fred, Chic, Don, Ed, Roy, Lou, and Jay. Thanks to all who attend, play, and participate to
CD REVIEW

BUCK CREEK MEMORIES: The Complete Recordings

The Buck Creek Jazz Band of the Washington, DC area disbanded in 2008 after 31 years of providing exciting music to traditional jazz fans. The band was formed in 1977 and practiced in Anna and Fred Wahler’s basement on BUCK CREEK ROAD in Oxon Hill, MD.

Many would say it was the area’s premier band for 3 decades. It appeared on jazz cruises, jazz fests from coast to coast, concerts, and regular weekly gigs that lasted years.

Luckily the band recorded many of its concerts and made nearly a score of CDs. They have been collected here in 24 CDs and one DVD. Personnel were usually Jim Ritter, cornet, Frank Mesich, trombone, John Skillman, clarinet, John Wood, tuba, Jerry Addicott, banjo, and Gil Brown, drums.

This set which is professionally packaged with a listing and a tune index, can be obtained from the retired trombone player, Frank Mesich, for $150, at 707 Dominion Hill Drive, Cary, NC 27519 and fmesich@nc.rr.com.

This band was a favorite of many past TSJS members, such as Bill Breeden and Ronnie and George Simon, who traveled many times to the DC area to hear them. -DeWitt Peterson

RECALLING MUSIC OF THE PAST

RECORD RESEARCH, Issue 100, August 1969 featured my article about Billy Wynne and the Greenwich Village Inn Orch., and their recordings in 1924-26. Some of those 1/4-inch thick records announce Wynne’s top-quality dance music of the time. Because of the extra running time, the tunes usually produce hot instrumental solos.

We knew there was a Greenwich Village Inn at 4-6 Sheridan Square, right off 7th Ave. and Christopher St. in New York City. Later the Inn was converted to a theater-in-the-round. That building no longer exists; in its place today is an apartment dwelling. Years of searching afforded me an invitation to the home of guitar instructor. Louis Condell, in the Bronx. During the visit on Feb. 3. 1968, the story began to unfold.

About Feb. 1923, banjoist Condell joined the Wynne Orch. at the Inn. William Levine, known professionally as Billy Wynne, was the leader and drummer. He later became active in the booking business handling shows. He died during the 1950’s. Irving Leonard, one of the top violinists of the day, supplied the main melody line for the small group; now also deceased. Additional melody lines were provided by Forest Rankin on C-melody sax; he left the music business to operate a dog kennel in Leonia, NJ and succumbed in the 1950’s. Kenneth Snell from Schenectady, NY, now deceased, handled the bass. Frank Farrell was on piano.

Later on Billy Wynne was able to swing a recording contract with Edison. He had to augment the Inn band for the recording sessions. So he hired his friend from the Union office, Sam Goldbetter on lead trumpet, and his partner on club dates, Dave Brethauer, on trombone. On someone’s recommendation he hired the up-and-coming young hot trumpet player, Red Nichols, for the second chair. During the session the producer asked for extra choruses to fill out the recording time. So Billy gave the hot chorus to Sam while Red Nichols sat with his horn on his lap. Before the session was concluded, Red’s ability was no longer an unknown quantity in Billy’s mind and Red solos on the second tune.

Those rounding out the date were probably Billy Richards, hot sax man who died about 1966, and the Nassberg brothers, Jules and Joe, on reeds --- Joe remembers the date because he wasn’t 16 at the time. Rankin played on C-melody sax and did not record with the band. No tuba is heard on the first session, so perhaps Snell used a string bass; thereafter, however, he used a sousaphone.

The band did eleven Edison dates. Condell recalls Ted Bartell(tp) and Mike Durso(tb) were on at least two of the dates as well as Ernest Hare doing vocals. Jules Nassberg believes he made most of the dates, plus others after the Edison sessions. Frank Farrell believes he was on most of the dates and that Wynne used brass men such as Sam Lewis, Hymie Faberman, Tommy Gott, Leo McConville, Manny Klein in addition to Red Nichols. The reeds also included Larry Abbott, Arnold Brillhart, and Alfie Evans.
The orchestra also had three record dates for the Harmony label and their last session for the Perfect label in April 1926. The Wynne Orch. played regularly 7 days a week at the Inn until the end of September 1928. They broadcasted over WEAF. Condell recalls they were on the air when the program was interrupted to announce Lindbergh’s landing in Paris in 1927. That’s the saga of Billy Wynne as the best we can uncover it today – Woody Backensto

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.tristatejazz.org

CONCERT SCHEDULE
(All concerts start at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

Apr 25 Drew Nugent & the Midnight Society, First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE

May 23 Fête Manouche with Dan Levinson, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, Browning Road and 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ

June 20 TSJS Annual Jam Session Led by Steve Barbone. Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, Browning Road and 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ

OTHER VENUES

PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY
www.pajazzsociety.org, 610-625-4640

Concerts are at 2:00 p.m. (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, student admission is free

Apr 11 The President’s Men Jazz Band, Easton Moose Lodge

Jun 13 “Satchmo Sunday” with The New York Stompers featuring Joe Muranyi, Easton Moose Lodge

NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY
www.njjs.org, 1-800-303-NJJS
For events co-sponsored by NJJS, check the Bickford Theater and Ocean County College listings.

THE BICKFORD THEATRE
6 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, NJ
All concerts 8-9:30 p.m.
$15(advance), $18 (at the door), 973-971-3706.

Mar 22 Frank Vignola’s Hot Club Quintet
Apr 12 Bucky Pizzarelli

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

Mar 14 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Marylou Newnam’s Dixieland Jazz
Apr 11 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Atlantic City Jazz Band

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 8:00 p.m. Concerts at Mancini Hall, Ocean County Library, 101 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ 08753

Mar 17 Big Bix Blast w/Randy Sandke, Jon-Erik Kellso, Dan Levinson, Mark Shane, Scott Robinson, Joel Forbes, Harvey Tibbs and Rob Garcia
Apr 14 Atlantic City Jazz Band

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB
www.prjc.org

Mar 21 2-4:00 p.m. Dixieland Express, Rosensteel Hall, 9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, MD Tickets $10.00
May 22 7-10:00 p.m. Hot Club of DC. Rockville Elks Lodge #15, 5 Taft Court, Rockville, MD. Tickets $15.00 members/$20.00 non-members

BAND SCHEDULES

ATLANTIC CITY JAZZ BAND
http://www.myspace.com/atlanticcityjazzband
See also Cape May Traditional Jazz Society and Ocean County College listings

Apr 18 3:00 p.m. South Jersey Philharmonic Fundraiser, Moorestown High School, 350
Bridgeboro Road, Moores...Tickets $15

BARBONE STREET JAZZ BAND
http://www.barbonestreet.com

Mar 20 7:00 p.m. The Temperence House, State Street, Newtown, PA
Apr 11 1:00 p.m. Free Event. Chester County Library, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA
Apr 29 7:00 p.m. Springhouse Estates, Norristown Road, Lower Gwynedd (Ambler), 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. 8-11:00 p.m.
$15 cover plus $15 food/drink minimum

APR 17 5:45-8:00 p.m. Live broadcast of “A Prairie Home Companion” at New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Prudential Hall, Newark, NJ. Tickets and more information available at www.njpac.org.

MIDIRI BROTHERS
www.midiribros.com

Mar 14-16 Golden Inn Hotel and Resort, Oceanfront and 78th Street, Avalon, NJ For info/reservations 609-368-5155
May 1 Gloucester County Library, 389 Woffert Station Road, Mullica Hill, NJ For more info 856-223-6000

ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY

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Chic Bach, Sound, advant@voicenet.com

HEAVENLY STRUTTERS

THE SOCIETY NEEDS AND WELCOMES YOUR GIFTS!

TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION
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Email: info@tristatejazz.org
Phone: NJ: (856) 232-1463 PA: (610) 268-5930 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 April Strutter is: Tuesday, April 6th, 2010

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.tristatejazz.org

MEMBER’S EWORLD CONVERSATION PAGES
www.myspace.com/tristatejazzsociety
www.facebook.com/tristatejazzsociety
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www.myspace.com/sc/vincegiordanothenighthawks
http://myspace.com/danlevinson
www.myspace.com/barbonestreetjazzband
www.myspace.com/AtlanticCityJazzBand

Donald Neal Delaware Rep. donald_neal19803@yahoo.com
Roy A. Rogers III, Administration, miscellaneous assignments
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 to: editor@tristatejazz.org

THE STRUTTER IS NOW ON THE WEB

The Strutter is now on the Tri-State Jazz Society Web site, www.tristatejazz.org. Click on “Newsletter” on the home page menu to see current and past issues in PDF format. If you have trouble opening PDF files, download the free Adobe Reader software from www.adobe.com/products/reader/

NEW MEMBERSHIP POLICY

HALF-PRICE ADMISSIONS

The Tri-State Jazz Society board of directors has approved lower concert admissions as part of a new membership policy, effective July 1, 2010. Members will pay half the regular admission price for all concerts. That will be just $10 instead of the current $15. Regular price for most concerts will be $20, the same as this year. Current members who renew their membership before it expires on June 30, 2010 can pay next year’s dues at this year’s rates ($15 for individuals, $20 for couples). Regular membership dues paid after June 30, 2011 will be increased to $20 for individuals, $40 for couples.

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Other membership policy changes have been adopted to encourage newcomers to become members. All first-timers (not just guests of members) will be admitted to one concert for half-price ($10). If they attend another concert, they will be charged full-price admission unless they become members. But there’s a special deal for first-time members: If they pay their dues at a concert, they will be admitted to that concert free.

High school and college students with IDs will be admitted to concerts free instead of at the current student price of $10. Elementary school and middle school children will be admitted free if accompanied by parents, teachers or other responsible adults who pay for admission.

To better encourage and recognize contributors, the board has authorized Sponsor and Patron levels of membership. A Supporter level of membership, a more limited class of membership has been authorized for members who, because of distance, health or other considerations, are not able to attend concerts regularly. (see table for fees and benefits)

If you have questions about the new membership policy, please visit our Web site at www.tristatejazz.org/membership or email our membership chairman, Jay Schultz at membership@tristatejazz.org

DIRECTIONS TO ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM PHILADELPHIA OR DELAWARE:

Take the Betsy Ross Bridge to Route 90. Follow Route 90 to the end when it merges into Route 73. On Route 73, you will pass two traffic lights and go under two bridges. Immediately after the second bridge, on your right, there will be an exit ramp to Route 537 Maple Shade and Moorestown. Take the ramp. Make right at the end of the ramp, which will be Camden Ave. Follow Camden Ave until the end. Make left at fork in road, cross street will be Main Street. Take Main St until the second traffic light, which will be Chester Ave. Make left onto Chester. Pass one traffic light, cross railroad tracks. St. Matthew will be on the left past the 7-11.

FROM THE NORTH USING I-295:

Take I-295 south to Exit 40 (Route 38 – Moorestown), remain in merging lane and take the Marter Ave exit, make right at end of exit ramp (Stop Sign). Make left at second traffic light which will be Main Street. Go for about a mile, then make right at second traffic light, which will be Chester Ave. Pass one traffic light, cross railroad tracks. St. Matthew will be on the left past the 7-11.

FROM THE EAST:

Take the Atlantic City Expressway and Route 42 North. Take the I-295 North – Trenton ramp, after Creek Road. Follow directions “from the South” below.

FROM THE SOUTH:

Take I-295 North to Exit 36B (Route 73 North – Tacony Bridge). Pass one traffic light, stay in right lane. Take Route 38 to 41 Ben Franklin Bridge / Haddonfield exit after crossbridge. Take first exit after merging onto Route 38 – North Route 41 to South Route 73 Marlton. Merge onto Route 41, which is Kings Highway. Follow Kings Highway for five traffic lights (after the third light, Kings Highway becomes Main Street). Fifth Traffic light will be Chester Ave. Make left onto Chester. Pass one traffic light, cross railroad tracks. St. Matthew will be on the left past the 7-11.
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)

First and Last Name(s) _____________________________________________________________
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