

# The Strutter

"Best of South Jersey" 2008 & 2009!

**VOLUME 20 NUMBER 10** 

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

**APRIL 2010** 

# Our Next Concert Drew Nugent & the Midnight Society



With
Drew Nugent - Cornet, Piano,
Recorder
Aaron Irwin - Clarinet and
Saxophone
Paul Salter - Guitar
Gary Cattley - Tuba
Skip Rorich - Drums

Sunday April 25, 2010 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. First Unitarian Church 730 Halstead Rd Wilmington DE 19803

**Directions on page 7** 

Drew began his musical career by playing violin at age 9, then began formal piano lessons with jazz pianist Joe Benedict after the young Nugent transposed songs he knew from the violin to the piano. He embraced the music of Ragtime and when the Ken Burns Jazz series came to PBS, he expanded his musical vocabulary to include jazz. An admirer of Louis Armstrong, he took up the trumpet at age 15, and got hooked on the Hot Jazz of the Roaring 20s. He imitated many great singers but at age 19 went out to try and find his own voice. He played with Garrison Keeler, Marty Grosz's Hot Winds & on the Delta and Mississippi Queens.

Mr. Nugent is no stranger to TSJS audiences. He has appeared at our annual Jam Session last year, and was a last minute substitution at the Marty Grosz -Hot Winds concert: he replaced Scott Robinson, who had to leave the concert for another engagement.

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

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# L®®KING AHEAD TO MAY

Coming up on Sunday, May 23rd, Dan Levinson will bring his Hot Club of France inspired quintet, Fête Manouche at the Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, Browning Road and Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ. To give you an idea what this band is capable of in live performance, read Bill Wallace's review on page 3.

# AMERICAN RAG WINNERS

La winner of a free four month subscription to the American Rag. The winner for April, 2010 is: Adam Rogers of West Chester, PA. 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.

The American Rag  SUBSCRIBE TODAY  News You Can Use About Traditional Jazz and Ragtime One Year: U.S.\$26 -:- Canadian \$39U.S. Funds* Two Years: U.S.\$48 -:- Canadian \$74U.S. Funds*  (*) Includes Airmail Delivery Make check payable to: The American Rag				
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# REVIEW - THE MIDIRI BROTHERS SEPTET

The Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Sunday, March 21, 2010

The Place: Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, 318 Chester Avenue, Moorestown, NJ

Chester Avenue, Moorestown, NJ
The Band: The Midiri Brothers Septet: Joe Midiri,
clarinet, alto and soprano saxes: Paul Midiri

clarinet, alto and soprano saxes; Paul Midiri, vibraphone, trombone and drums; Dan Tobias, cornet and flugelhorn; Steve Kramer, piano; Pat Mercuri, amplified guitar; Ed Wise, string bass; Jim Lawlor, drums

Joe Midiri commented halfway through the concert about the acoustics in the church. He made note about how great the music sounded without cumbersome amplification, stating that's the way it should be. This reviewer cannot argue with that.



Joe Midiri

From a personnel standpoint, the Midiri entourage was relatively intact, the only major addition to the septet was pianist Steve Kramer. Regarding the newcomer, Joe Midiri pointed out in his introduction of the pianist, when Artie Shaw assembled his last orchestra in the 1980s; he selected Kramer as the pianist.

The concert began with a swinging Irving Berlin offering, "All Alone" with subtle Dan Tobias cornet, blowing brief rising-up-the-scale riffs. Steve Kramer displayed a modern touch, echoing the sounds of a pianist that performed with Artie Shaw in the 1940's: Dodo Marmarosa. Pat Mercuri, backed by riffs from Tobias and the Midiris, swung effortlessly. Paul Midiri inserted the familiar Lionel Hampton riff from "Avalon," while Joe Midiri mixed modern and traditional approaches in his solo. Interesting solemn acapella ending by Paul Midiri.

Following a dreamy Kramer introduction, the "weather-inspired" "Indian Summer" by Victor Herbert followed the Berlin number. Paul Midiri had the only extended outing here, with Tobias, Mercuri, and Kramer all splitting choruses, and he made the most of it with creative double-timing, interesting arpeggios, and octave-bar jumps. Joe Midiri, who stated the melody at the beginning of the piece, roared into the altissimo range for his final ½ chorus.

Edgar Sampson, saxophonist and arranger for Chick Webb, was remembered in two selections.

In the first set, "If Dreams Come True" found Tobias taking on a Rex Stewart attack with intermixing Bobby Hackett lines. "Blue Lou" from the second set, featured a relaxed Midiri clarinet and good slapping bass from Ed Wise.

The peerless alto saxophone of Johnny Hodges, as was the writing of Duke Ellington, was recalled in "This Little Light of Mine." Midiri, on alto, evoked the sound and passion of the Rabbit, while Tobias achieved some successful growling on cornet. Paul Midiri picked up his trombone on this, providing a high range, Dorsey sound.



From left to right: Pat Mercuri, Dan Tobias, Joe and Paul Midiri

After an impromptu dirge-like version of "Chopsticks", Ray Charles arrangement of "Let's Go" opened the second set. Tobias performed with cool fire, and Mercuri sustained long swinging chords. It was Joe Midiri's exhilarating clarinet, however, which owned this tune. Beginning at a slow, almost a tempo pace, Midiri's clarinet generated a growing exhilaration with each successive chorus, culminating in the high altissimo register. Paul Midiri concluded the tune with an "Announcer's Blues" coda.

A favorite of mine from the Sy Oliver / Jimmie Lunceford book, "Dream of You," featured a vocal by drummer Jim Lawlor, with Joe Midiri taking on the Willie Smith alto lead. Beautiful, faithful rendition of the 1934 recording, with Lawlor capturing Oliver's subtle weary vocal, backed by beautiful voicings by Tobias, Joe and Paul Midiri (on trombone).

"I Always Knew," a rare Joe Midiri arrangement, had a Goodman sextet feel to it, with Midiri's quoting "I Never Knew" and "Daddy." Tobias made his only appearance on flugelhorn here. Excellent solos from Kramer, Mercuri and Paul Midiri, and the arrangement concludes with a Goodmanesque riff. For the third set, Creamer-Layton's "After You've Gone" got the Goodman treatment, and Ed Wise was featured on the Boswell Sister's "If I Had A Million Dollars." Then, Joe announced an untitled, uncomposed tune. Acquiring an Armstrong vocal, Joe Midiri bemoaned the miseries related to the winter blizzard last February. The untitled blues inspired a plunger mute duel between Dan Tobias and Paul Midiri.

The afternoon concluded with a break-neck version of "Limehouse Blues" with Joe Midiri providing some Jimmy Dorsey octave jumps and Paul Midiri and Lawlor exchanging turns at the drum chair. An end to a very successful TSJS concert.

To see more photos from this concert, go to <a href="http://picasaweb.google.com/photos.tsjs/MidiriBr">http://picasaweb.google.com/photos.tsjs/MidiriBr</a> othersSeptet# - Jim McGann

# REVIEW - FÊTE MANOUCHE at the Bickford Theatre, Morristown, NJ

To preview the first of its kind concert to be presented to Tri-Staters on May 23, Sally and I traveled last November to Morristown, New Jersey. There at the Bickford Theatre under the auspices of the New Jersey Jazz Society we heard Dan Levinson's newest musical configuration—Fete Manouche.

Fête Manouche takes its name from the French language and means literally Gypsy feast or festival. Dan's band composed of clarinet (of course), three (3) guitars and a bass paid tribute to the music of Django Reinhardt, the great Belgian born guitarist and composer. The music played by Django and his imitators combines elements of jazz with the fast paced rhythms of French Gypsy music, popularized during the 20's, 30's, 40's, and into the early 50's.

Fête Manouche recreates the rhythms of Gypsy music with a talented core of musicians in the persons of Dan Levinson on clarinet, guitarists Molly Ryan (doubling also on vocals), Tom Landman and Ted Gottsegan; and on bass, Cassidy Holden. Many of the songs played on this evening bore French titles, flawlessly announced in advance by Dan Levinson, a resident of France for several years. Not having studied French, the reviewer was at a disadvantage, complicated by a dime store pen

which reluctantly released its ink. Therefore in noting the songs I have to rely on an age-compromised memory.

Prior to the opening number Dan gave the audience a bit of history, pointing out that Django Reinhardt was born in 1910, thus making 2010 Django's centennial year. Dan predicted that many musicians will be performing tribute concerts to Django throughout the year. Dan remarked that while Django frequently performed with Stephane Grapelli, the great jazz violinist, there was an interlude during the World War II years when Grapelli left the band, to be replaced by a clarinetist.

The concert opened with a Gypsy melody whose French title escaped me. Like most it was a spirited number with Dan's dizzying fingers running up and down his instrument in a way that has become Dan's trademark. His solo was followed by sparkling guitar work by Tom Landman who throughout the concert amazed the audience with his virtuosity. He could dazzle with his high speed fingering; slow to a plaintive style; or launch into a bossa nova style with equal skill.

Fortunately there were a few identifiable standards during the evening including a variation of a Norwegian dance by Edward Grieg: I'll See You In My Dreams; Crazy Rhythm with Molly on vocals; and All Of Me. A surprise addition was a haunting rendition of I Wish You Love sung in impeccable French by Dan.

The concert ended with an electric version of Dark Eyes. Molly opened on vocal, followed quickly by Dan on clarinet and Tom on guitar playing in unison, identically note for note bringing the audience to its feet.

As the concert concluded Sally and I were suddenly brought back to reality, recognizing that we had a 130 mile trip home to Chester County, PA. Weary but energized by what we heard we flopped into bed at 2 am with strains of Dark Eyes playing over and over in our minds.

Can't wait to hear more of the same when Fête Manouche performs at Brooklawn on Sunday afternoon, May 23. The shorter drive this time will be a blessing. – Bill Wallace

# **RECALLING MUSIC OF THE PAST**

The July 1962 issue of RECORD RESEARCH announced a new record label, Queen Vee, formed by Victoria Spivey. The first release is Queen Vee EP 101 with 4 selections: "Turpentine", "Buddy Tate", "From Broadway to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue", and "Playing with the Keys", played by Victoria (p & vo), Eddie Barefield (as) and Pat Wilson (dm).

In the same RR-issue, Victoria Spivey's column "Blues Is My Business" is about her friend, Bessie Smith. She relates: "I recently read a little book with a beautiful picture of Bessie Smith on the cover, called KINGS OF JAZZ – BESSIE SMITH by Paul Oliver and put out by Cassell-London. The book was very interesting, but somewhere along the way it got haywire toward the end. Page 65 says. 'Road shows were scarcely paying their way but Bessie barnstormed her way southwards, shouting her blues in tumbledown theaters and under leaking canvas roofs. Her voice was beginning to crack.'"

"I am startled to read this because it's not true. The above quote apparently is talking about Bessie early 30's travels. In my opinion, Bessie never had a real poor day from Gulf Coast Blues all the way through that fateful crash which took this wonderful singer away from us. I was at a party given by Bessie soon after her "St. Louis Blues" 1930 picture and I saw her spend \$700 in one night. Bessie controlled 2 homes at the time. At the end of 1930, Bessie was so big that she had a 25 people company that was touring theaters like the Lincoln in New Orleans, the biggest theater in New Orleans for vaudeville --- a far cry from 'tumbledown theaters and leaking canvas roofs.' I had the wonderful privilege to be in one of Bessie's shows about 1934/5. They met me in a big expensive Lincoln Phaeton sedan. Bessie was not 'selling chewing gum and candy in theater aisles' (another far-fetched statement found on page 68). I can't understand how Bessie could have been so down-and-out as when she was in the crash that took her life --- she was carrying her own act and a band with her."

"Now about some other blues singers during the 30's period. Miss Ida Cox was far from starving. She toured with a big troupe and a band in her famous "Raisin' Cain" show. Clara Smith and Ma Rainey were also riding high with their own traveling shows. Yours truly was making \$100 a day for myself through 1931 singing plenty of blues with my own orchestra. It's a good bet that Bessie was topping my payroll." – Woody Backensto

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**



www.tristatejazz.org

# **CONCERT SCHEDULE**

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

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 Theatre and Ocean County College listings.

Jazz Film Series, Library of the Chathams, 214 Main Street, Chatham, NJ. All shows 7:00 p.m. **Apr 28** "Improvisation" (1950) and "Jammin' the Blues (1944)

**May 26** "Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday" (1994)

### THE BICKFORD THEATRE

6 Normandy Heights Road Morristown, NJ

All concerts 8:00-9:30 p.m.

\$15(advance), \$18 (at the door), 973-971-3706.

**Apr 12** Bucky Pizzarelli **Apr 20** John Gill Salutes Fris

**Apr 20** John Gill Salutes Frisco Jazz with Dan Levinson, Jon-Erik Kellso, Kevin Dorn and others **Apr 26** Ivory and Gold with Jeff and Anne Barnhart

May 3 Midiri Brothers Septet

### CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com PO Box 113, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247 ashbc@comcast.net, Dues \$10

**Apr 11** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Atlantic City Jazz Band **May 16** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band

**June 16** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ed Wise and his New Orleans Jazz Band "Lite"

# 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

Apr 14 Atlantic City Jazz Band

# POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

www.prjc.org

**Apr 18** 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Swing Time Big Band Rockville Elks Lodge #15, 5 Taft Court, Rockville, MD.

**May 22** 7:00-10:00 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, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Tickets \$15

**Apr 21** 7:00 p.m. Villa Fazzolari, 821 Harding Highway, Buena, NJ 08310

#### BARBONE STREET JAZZ BAND

http://www.barbonestreet.com

**Apr 11** 1:00 p.m. Free Event. Chester County Library, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA **Apr 17** 4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Dance and Jazz Concert, Hopewell Valley Central High School, 259 Pennington-Titusville Road, Pennington, NJ **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. 8:00-11:00
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 <a href="https://www.njpac.org">www.njpac.org</a>.
May 10 1:00-2:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
Hall, 1 East Oak Street, Basking Ridge, NJ For more
info: 908-204-3031 ex. 115

#### MIDIRI BROTHERS

www.midiribros.com

See also Bickford Theatre listings **May 1** Gloucester County Library, 389 Wolfert Station Road, Mullica Hill, NJ For more info 856-223-6000

# ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### MEMBER'S EWORLD CONVERSATION PAGES

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www.myspace.com/AtlanticCityJazzBand

#### **HEAVENLY STRUTTERS**

# THE SOCIETY NEEDS AND WELCOMES YOUR GIFTS!

July 2009-June 2010: Craig and Audrey Allan, Gladys and Woody Backensto, Steve Barbone, Flora Becker, Doris and Charles Bitterli, Walt Brenner, Sandy Catz and Paula Ingram, Bruce Gast, Lois and George Hines, Louis Kaplan, Mike Mudry, Frank Nissel, Peter Parisi, DeWitt Peterson, Anita and Joe Pew, Herb Roselle, Rita and Harry Schmoll, Lou and Jay Schultz, Katherine Smith, Kay and Bob Troxell, Ann Uniman, Sally and Bill Wallace, Fred Weber.

### TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

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08054

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

# PLEASE SEND TSJS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

Send an email to <a href="webmaster@tristatejazz.org">webmaster@tristatejazz.org</a> 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 May 2010 Strutter is:

Tuesday, May 11th, 2010

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

# THE STRUTTER IS NOW ON THE WEB

The Strutter is now on the Tri-State Jazz Society Web site, <a href="www.tristatejazz.org">www.tristatejazz.org</a>. 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 <a href="www.adobe.com/products/reader/">www.adobe.com/products/reader/</a>

# 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, 2010 will be increased to \$20 for individuals, \$40 for couples.

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)

Membership Class	Yearly Fee		Member Benefits		
	Single	Couple	1/2 Price Concerts	Free Concert Passes	Strutter Delivery
SUPPORTER	\$15	\$15	No		Yes
REGULAR	\$20	\$40	Yes		Yes
SPONSOR	\$50	\$70	Yes	1 per member	Yes
PATRON	\$100	\$120	Yes	1 per member	Yes

If you have questions about the new membership policy, please visit our Web site at <a href="https://www.tristatejazz.org/membership">www.tristatejazz.org/membership</a>, send your questions to <a href="mailto:president@tristatejazz.org">president@tristatejazz.org</a> or email our membership@tristatejazz.org

# DIRECTIONS TO FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

#### From PA and the North:

Follow Route 202 S (Concord Pike), passing Concord Mall on the left, a Quality Inn motel and a Boston Market on the right. Pull into the right lane passing Concord Gallery with a Staples store and a Waterloo Gardens outlet. Turn right at the next traffic light onto Whitby Drive. Go one block to the church at the corner of Whitby and Halstead Road.

# From Philadelphia, the Blue Route, or NJ via Commodore Barry Bridge:

I-95 S. to Exit 6, keeping right onto I-495, then stay right to exit onto Naamans Road (Route 92). Turn right on Naamans and go 3.6 miles, past Routes 3 and 261. At Route 202 (Concord Pike) turn left. Follow Route 202 south, passing Concord Mall on the left, a Quality Inn motel and a Boston Market on the right. Pull into the right lane passing Concord Gallery with a Staples store and a Waterloo Gardens outlet. Turn right at the next traffic light onto Whitby Drive. Go one block to the church at the corner of Whitby and Halstead Road.

# From the South or NJ via the Delaware Memorial Bridge:

Take I-95 N. to Exit 8 to Route 202(Concord Pike) north towards West Chester. Go past Route 141 and the Fairfax Shopping Center on the right. Go about 1 mile further, past a Pep Boys store on the left, then pull into the far left turning lane at the traffic light and turn left onto Whitby Drive. Go one block to the church at the corner of Whitby and Halstead Road.



Membership 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	l through Ju	ne 30, 2011.		
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 Na	me(s)					
Street						
City			State	_Zip		
Phone ()		E-mail				
Date	Check No	_ Mail with check payable t	o Tri-State J	lazz Society, Inc.		
TRADITIONAL JAZZ IN THE PHILADELPHIA, SOUTH JERSEY, DELAWARE AREA New Orleans, Dixieland, Swing, Boogie-Woogie, Stride *for renewing memberships only						

TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY, INC **PO BOX 896 MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054** 

