OUR NEXT CONCERT
The All Star Band
CYNTHIA SAYER & SPARKS FLY

Cynthia Sayer is regarded as one of the top 4-string banjoists in the world today. A member of Woody Allen’s Jazz band for over 10 years, Cynthia has established herself as an acclaimed bandleader in her own right. Her eclectic repertoire includes swing, hot jazz, tango, western, classical among other stylings. Ms. Sayer has worked with a variety of leading jazz and popular artists such as Dick Hyman, Kenny Davern, Milt Hinton, Warren Vaché, Randy Sandke, Les Paul, Bucky Pizzarelli and many others. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the White House and has accumulated numerous awards and honors.

Cynthia has performed for TSJS recently as part of the Jim Fryer-Bria Skonberg Borderline Jazz Band. Her All Star Band will include some of the best NYC musicians among them multi-instrumentalist Scott Robinson from Marty Grosz’ Hot Winds and Charlie Caranicas, who has appeared in Doug Finke’s Independent Hall Jazz Band and Tom Roberts and his Rhythm Club Orchestra.

With
Cynthia Sayer, banjo and leader
Charlie Caranicas, trumpet
Scott Robinson, reeds
Mike Weatherly, bass
Larry Eagle, drums

Sunday November 21st, 2010
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Brooklawn American Legion Hall
Post 72, 11 Railroad Ave
Brooklawn, NJ

Directions on page 7

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LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Coming up on Sunday, December 12, 2010 will be The Al Harrison Dixieland Band, who will be performing at First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE. **Note:** There is a time change to the start time of the concert. Concert will begin at 1:30 p.m.

AMERICAN RAG WINNERS

Every month, TSJS selects from its membership a winner of a free four month subscription to the American Rag. There is no winner for October, 2010. 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 - ATLANTIC CITY JAZZ BAND

The Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sunday, October 17, 2010
The Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2618 New Albany Road, Cinnaminson, NJ
The Band: Herb Roselle, trombone and leader; Bob Ferguson, trumpet; Bob Rawlins, clarinet and alto sax; Nancy Rawlins, piano; Franny Smith, banjo; John McClernan, tuba; Chuck Harms, drums

It had been a year since the Atlantic City Band performed for TSJS. Since their last TSJS concert, the ACJB, under the leadership of Herb Roselle, have been enjoying success performing in venues within the Jersey Shore parameters.

A new venue for TSJS, The Covenant Presbyterian Church provided excellent acoustics and sight lines. From a photographer’s standpoint (meaning yours truly), the organ loft along with the multitude of incandescent lights made it less challenging to set up shots.

Roselle, Smith, the Rawlins, and Ferguson returned to provide more musical fireworks and the newcomers John McClernan on tuba and Chuck Harms on drums were the appropriate rhythmic match to light the fuse.

The afternoon was a mixture of classic Dixieland, popular, campy popular and campy adaptations of popular songs.

For Dixieland purists, there was the lively “Once In A While” – not the popular song by Michael Edwards and Bud Green, but a 1920’s number composed by a “W. Butler”, and recorded by Louis Armstrong. McClernan performed the verse of this rare number. “Panama”, a selection from the ACJB’s CD, “Making Waves” featured a gruff Roselle trombone, a subtle Rawlins clarinet and a swinging Ferguson. Best of all was “Wolverine Blues”, taken at a frantic clip. Rawlins clarinet was New Orleans bound, while Franny Smith provided some “frac-tious fingering” (a term coined by Fats Waller) on the banjo. To close out the number, all the horns took to the center of the church floor, accompanied by Harms’ woodblocks, swinging madly.

There were plenty of popular songs to go around. The afternoon began with “On the Sunny Side of the Street” with Smith taking the vocal. “Did I Remember?” allowed Rawlins a chance to
perform on alto – sweet sound, while Nancy Rawlins took a rare piano solo. TSJS volunteer/pianist Ray Whearty replaced Rawlins on “If I Had You” and “Rosetta”, splitting a chorus with Bob Ferguson on the latter tune.

If camp is your thing, the ACJB will provide. Tunes like “I Got A Bimbo Down on the Bamboo Isle” speak for themselves. But the “adapted” lyrics of “Has Anybody Seen My Gal?” sung by Roselle and Smith, makes one wonder if anyone really wants to see this gal.

Other highlights...Bob Rawlins’ straight reading of Sidney Bechet’s “Petite Fleur” accompanied by Nancy Rawlins on piano. Roselle and Ferguson also had solo moments, the former on Henry Filmore’s “Lassus Trombone”, the latter on “I Can’t Get Started.” Not all of the highlights were solo features. On “South Rampart Street Parade”, Roselle attempted Jack Teagarden’s “water glass” trick by removing the bell of his trombone, and replacing it with an ordinary water glass. The resulting effect is similar to a muted horn. Ferguson, then took the bell of Roselle’s trombone, attached a trumpet mouthpiece on the end of it, and played it!

Whether your taste was hot Jazz, popular song, or pure hokum, the Atlantic City Jazz Band provided for all, and left our TSJS faithful happy. – Jim McGann

EDDIE LANG NIGHT IN PHILADELPHIA

The Time: October 25, 2010, 7:30 p.m. until the wee hours of the morning
The Place: Chris Jazz Café, 1421 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA
The Band(s) and featured artists: Blackbird Society Orchestra with Richard Barnes and Michael Salsburg; Ferko String Band; Pat Mercuri; Marty Grosz and Jim Gickling; Wissahickon Student Jazz Band-521 Swing; The Cornbread Five; Jef Lee Johnson and Jonathan Dichter; Drew Nugent and Steve DiBonaventura

If you had told me that there would be a tribute to the life of Eddie Lang, with appearances by the Blackbird Society Orchestra, Marty Grosz, Pat Mercuri et al, and at a Jazz venue not known to be tradjazz friendly, I would probably think you were off your proverbial rocker.

Yet, truth is stranger than fiction. Emeeced by Richard Barnes, the whole evening was a celebration of the musical life of one of Philadelphia’s famous sons, Salvatore Massaro, known by his professional name, Eddie Lang. The event had acquired some notoriety in the local press recently, and yes, 77 years after his death, Mr. Lang still has a following – the event was sold out.

A proclamation from Mayor Michael Nutter’s office, read by Barnes, declared October 25, 2010 Eddie Lang Day in Philadelphia. Lang’s nephew, Ed Massaro, received the proclamation and expressed his gratitude to everyone in attendance and for those who made the event a reality.

The program, through the diverse performances, celebrated various ensembles where Lang participated. Barnes, violinist Michael Salsburg, pianist John Southard and bassist Ed Wise paid tribute to Lang the solo artist and his partnership with violinist Joe Venuti. Barnes performed solo guitar performances, beautiful Lang compositions “April Kisses” and the waltz-like, “A Little Love, A Little Kiss.” Joined by Southard, Wise, and Salsburg, the quartet recreated the first Venuti-Lang recording, “Black and Blue Bottom”, with Salsburg at one point, playing the violin with the bow hairs on the strings while the stick part underneath the violin – a favorite Venuti trick. The brief set closed with a favorite Venuti-Lang collaboration, “Wild Cat.”

Jazz musicians go to great lengths to master their instrument. For example, Roy Eldridge used to borrow his brother’s saxophone book and practice the exercises on the trumpet. Eddie Lang was no exception. Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Prelude In C Sharp Minor was a challenge to aspiring pianists, let alone guitarists. Yet Lang was able to transpose what was essentially a piano piece to the guitar, and retain the qualities of the composer’s intent. Pat Mercuri, in an all-too-brief appearance, recalled this recording, and while it did not reflect the guitarist’s Jazz side, it did demonstrate Lang’s mastery of his instrument and his appreciation of music outside of the Jazz arena. For historical significance, the only other Jazz musician to attempt Rachminoff’s Prelude was then-pianist Nat “King” Cole, recorded with his trio in 1944.
Members of the Wissahickon High School band, a Jazz sextet entitled “521 Swing” (clarinet, violin, bass and three guitars) performed three numbers, more associated with a latter-day string quintet – The Quintette of the Hot Club of France, than of Lang and Venuti. The best of the three, Duke Ellington’s “Caravan”, featured exciting guitar work.

An unlikely ensemble to perform at an Eddie Lang tribute, the Ferko String Band, performed four numbers (“Happy Days Are Here Again”, “I’m Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover”, “Somebody Stole My Gal” and “Idolizing”) associated with the Hot Dance bands of the twenties, of which Eddie Lang was associated. Ferko and the next act, Barnes’ Blackbird Society Orchestra, provided a smooth transition between acts; on the Jean Goldkette number, “Idolizing” Ferko performed an introductory chorus or two before conceding to Barnes’ ensemble whom completed the number.

Continuing with the Hot Dance bands, the Blackbird Society Orchestra provided familiar (and not-so-familiar) arrangements of popular songs from the 1920’s and early 1930’s, including selections from the Roger Wolfe Kahn, Jean Goldkette and Fletcher Henderson libraries. Out of the nine selections performed, “She’s A Great, Great Girl” with Salsburg and trombonist Mike Hood taking the Venuti and Teagarden soli from the 1928 recording, an enthusiastic “Happy Feet” with Barnes and Salsburg sharing the vocal, and a Jelly Roll Morton number, the name of which escapes me, were the best realized.

The only act of the evening to incite an encore, Marty Grosz, along with fellow guitarist Jim Gckling, performed two duets that originated on record in 1932 by Lang and Carl Kress, “Pickin’ My Way” and “Feelin’ My Way.” The pair also performed “Chicken A La Swing,” which originally paired Kress with another master rhythm guitarist, Dick McDonough. For the encore, Grosz sang “Way Down Yonder In New Orleans.”

If the evening was to have a sour note at all, it was the out of tune ramblings of the Cornbread Five, a contingent of the Hoppin’ John Orchestra. Led by trombonist Mike Hood, the band played as if it was playing hot Jazz for the first time, with enthusiasm replacing quality. Tony Gairo’s clarinet was fine as long as he did not attempt the altissimo register which, unfortunately, was in every solo he played. Lauren Lark’s vocals would have been a better fit at a Sarah Vaughan tribute, not Eddie Lang. If some prior rehearsals/listening/research were conducted, the whole set could have improved considerably.

Fresh from their recent recording on Range records, “Rediscovering Lonnie Johnson,” Jef Lee Johnson and Jonathan Dichter performed selections (on guitars dating back to the 1920’s) of duets originally performed by Lang and Lonnie Johnson, also from recordings under the banner of “Blind Willie Dunn and his Gin Bottle Four.” Dunn was a pseudonym for Lang. The best of the six tunes performed were the up-tempo “Handful of Riffs” and a favorite of this reviewer, “Midnight Call Blues.”

The evening closed with an impromptu jam with pianist Drew Nugent and banjoist Steve DiBonaventura. Both men were in excellent form as they performed tunes from the 1920’s with “Struttin’ with Some Barbeque” and “I Found A New Baby” the standouts.

All in all, Eddie Lang Day In Philadelphia was a success. The performances covered most of Lang’s musical career – the only thing was lacking was a good blues singer. Lang worked with some of the best blues singers of the day – Bessie Smith, Victoria Spivey and Texas Alexander among them, and Lang’s first major job, from a Jazz standpoint, was a European tour with Red McKenzie and the Mound City Blue Blowers. 521 Swing could have taken on that assignment instead of their modern approach, which had nothing to do with Eddie Lang. But these are minor ramblings. If anything, the concert should have told the appropriate ears that a tradjazz event in a major Jazz venue can be successful and bring joy to those who wish to hear it. – Jim McGann

**OBITUARY**

Our faithful and hard working member, John N. Membrino, died October 19, 2010, at Paoli Hospital. Jazz society members from Tri-State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Potomac River jazz societies will remember John sitting in the front
row and taping most every concert. After he taped a concert, he listened to it many times.

John never spoke much about his career or his other accomplishments. His jazz friends knew he had a second interest in sports cars. John and his friend Dennis usually attended car and jazz events together until Dennis died about 5 years ago. John’s wife of 56 years, Margaret Calhoun Membrino, died in 2001. John was close to his family: his siblings, nieces, and nephews. He and Margaret owned an Alfa Romeo and an MG. He also built and flew radio-controlled model planes, sailed his boat on the Chesapeake, and collected smoking tobacco pipes.

He held two patents for Scott Paper, was Manager of Packaging Engineering, and developed the use of barcodes for Scott. He was a World War II Air Force veteran, who stayed in the Reserves and retired as Major and was a navigator. He was a graduate of Upper Darby High School, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and many service schools.

He was the TSJS computer expert for many years, creating and managing our mailing lists of members, media, and musicians. He was a person who quietly offered suggestions for improvement that were usually accepted and installed. He was a friend to many. Wherever he went, he made friends quickly. His funeral was attended by many of them. John will be long remembered for his steadfastness, ingenuity, and loyalty to his friends, family, and interests. He was a REAL GEM. It has been my great privilege to be his good friend. -DeWitt Peterson

Dec 12 1:30 p.m. The Al Harrison Dixieland Band, First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE
Jan 16 Ed Wise and his New Orleans Jazz Band, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ
Feb 13 Jerry Rife’s Rhythm Kings, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, 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: 3320 Fox Hill Rd., Easton, PA 18045 OR at American Legion Hall, 217 North Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091.
$20, $18 members, student admission is free
Nov 14 2:00-5:00 p.m. Tex Wyndham and his Red Lion Jazz Band, 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.

The Bickford Theatre
6 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, NJ
http://www.njjs.org/p/services/bickford.html
All concerts 8:00-9:30 p.m.
$15 (advance), $18 (at the door), 973-971-3706.
Nov 22 Big Apple Jazz Band
Nov 30 Stephane Seva with Dan Levinson

CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY
www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com
PO Box 113, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247
ashbc@comcast.net , Dues $10
Nov 18 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Al Harrison Dixieland Band
Dec 9 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bobby Quaile’s Ragtime

Ocean County College
(At Ocean County Library)
http://www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html
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

Nov 17 Jeff Barnhart
Dec 15 Mona’s Hot Four

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB
www.prjc.org
Dec 5 2:00-5:00 p.m. PRJC Holiday Bash with the Hot Society Orchestra, Rosensteel K of C, 9707 Rosensteel Ave, Silver Springs, Md

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BAND SCHEDULES

BARBONE STREET JAZZ BAND
http://www.barbonestreet.com
Dec 9 6:00 p.m. Batchelor Barge Club, Kelly Drive – Boathouse Row, Philadelphia, PA
Dec 23 1:00 p.m. Villas At St. Martha, Manor Ave, Downingtown, PA

VINCE GIORDANO AND HIS NIGHTHAWKS
www.myspace.com/vincegiordanothenighthawks
Every Monday and Tuesday, 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
Nov 12 8:00 p.m. with Leon Redbone. Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, 200 Hurd Road, Bethel, NY 12720. Tickets $38.00 Advance / $43.00 at door. More info: 1-866-781-2922
Nov 13 with Leon Redbone. Miller Center for the Arts, 4 North 2nd Street, Reading, PA. Tickets $27.00 Advance / $32.00 at the door / $20 Student

DAN LEVINSON
http://www.danlevinson.com/
See also Bickford Theater listings
Nov 12 8:00 p.m. “An Evening of Classic Jazz and Blues” with Kingfish O’Brien and Molly Ryan. Coffee Labs Roasters, 7 West Main Street, Tarrytown, NY

Nov 14 5:45 p.m. with Terry Waldo and the Gotham City Jazz Band. Fat Cat, 75 Christopher Street, NYC 212-675-6056
Nov 14 9:00 p.m. “The Django Experiment” with Stephane Wrembel. Barbès, 376 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY 347-422-0248

MIDIRI BROTHERS
www.midiribros.com
Nov 7 4:00 p.m. United Reformed Church, 100 West Main Street, Somerville, NJ. Info: 908-725-4545

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Deadline to contribute reviews, literature, and schedule changes for the December, 2010 Strutter is: Tuesday, November 30, 2010

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www.tristatejazz.org

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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:
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AMERICAN LEGION HALL

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FROM THE NORTH USING I-295: Take I-295 south. Keep to the left when you get to the ramp that takes you toward the Walt Whitman Bridge. The ramp merges with I-76. Take the first right ramp after the I-295 intersection. Make a left at the top of the ramp onto Market Street. At the second traffic light turn left on Route 130 South (Gloucester High School). Proceed 1-1/2 miles to Browning Road (Days Inn) and turn right. Go to the end of Browning Road and turn right. The American Legion is ahead on the right.

FROM THE EAST: Take the Atlantic City Expressway and Route 42 North and West to I-76. Take the first right ramp after the I-295 intersection. Make a left at the top of the ramp onto Market Street. At the second traffic light turn left on Route 130 South (Gloucester High School). Proceed 1-1/2 miles to Browning Road (Days Inn) and turn right. Go to the end of Browning Road and turn right. The American Legion is ahead on the right.

FROM THE SOUTH: Take I-295 North to Exit 23, continuing on Route 130 North. Go under a railroad trestle to a traffic circle with a Hess Station on your right. After rounding the circle, take the first right onto Spur Route 551 to the next traffic light (Browning Road). Turn left on Browning Road and cross over Route 130. Go to the end of Browning Road and turn right. The American Legion is ahead on the right.

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