

OUR NEXT CONCERT THE AL HARRISON DIXIELAND BAND



Al Harrison at TSJS concert, Brooklawn, NJ, July, 2009

**Al Harrison, trumpet, cornet,
flugelhorn**

Gil Bennett, clarinet

Fred Scott, trombone

Dave Posmontier, piano

Jim Parker, tuba

Lew Leabman, drums

Sunday December 12th, 2010

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(Please note time change)

First Unitarian Church,

730 Halstead Road,

Wilmington, DE

[Directions on page 7](#)

Al Harrison has toured extensively with orchestras such as the Ward Marsten, Mike Carney, Phil Giordano, Scott Romig, Bill Newnam, and Midnight Sun Orchestras. Venues include performing at the Kimmel Center in downtown Philadelphia, and at several casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, including the Showboat Casino. He played Dixieland on the historic steamboat *Delta Queen*, and has backed up such greats as Tony Bennett, Billy Daniels, Jack Jones, and Sammy Davis, Jr.

The Al Harrison Dixieland Band was formed in 2007. They have performed two concerts in the Regol Concerts Peerless Performances series (11/18/07 and 11/22/09). CD recordings of these concerts are available. The band has performed for Tri-State Jazz Society in Brooklawn, NJ and for Cape May Traditional Jazz Society in 2009 and 2010.

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\$20 ADMISSION

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LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY, 2011

Coming up in January, TSJS will have **TWO** – count ‘em – **TWO CONCERTS!** On Sunday, January 16, 2011, Ed Wise and his New Orleans Jazz Band will perform at Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ, and on January 30, Mark Kramer will perform a solo piano concert at the Porch Club, 4th and Howard Streets, Riverton, NJ.

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 November, 2010 is: Richard Troyan of Woodbury, 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.



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Tri-State Jazz Society

REVIEW - CYNTHIA SAYER & SPARKS FLY

The Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sunday, November 21, 2010

The Place: Brooklawn American Legion Hall
Post 72, 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ

The Band: Cynthia Sayer, banjo and leader; Charlie Caranicas, trumpet, cornet and flugelhorn; Scott Robinson, tenor sax, Bb and Eb clarinet; Mike Weatherly, bass; Larry Eagle, drums and washboard

I subscribe to the Word of the Day. The word for today was enspirited, which means “to infuse life into, to enliven.” After witnessing their concert on Sunday, I can honestly say Cynthia Sayer and Sparks Fly are the epitome of that word. Ms. Sayer’s rhythmic drive on banjo enspirited her band mates (trumpeter Charlie Caranicas, reedman Scott Robinson, bassist Mike Weatherly, and drummer Larry Eagle), and together, turned in an exciting performance.

It was an education, too. I must admit my knowledge of the banjo does not extend far beyond Johnny St. Cyr and Mike Pingatore. Through Ms. Sayer, I discovered the banjo was very popular in settings outside of Jazz in the early 20th century – in society orchestras, in vaudeville, etc. It was also the instrument of choice in early acoustic recording.

The group’s sound was definitive. From the banjo intro of “Boogaloosa Strut” to the closing strains of Ellington’s “Digga Digga Doo”, every note from every instrument could be heard clearly, without distortion or increased amplification, throughout the concert. The entire band was heard to good advantage.

Another interesting characteristic of the band was its abandon to conventions. Yip Harburg’s “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”, often performed with a sense of wonderment, was taken with an uplifted bounce, with a firm determination to find that elusive pot of gold. Scott Robinson’s feature, “At Sundown”, traditionally an up-tempo vehicle, was more serene, with the tenorist unwinding, gazing at the sunset. Most radical was “You Are My Sunshine,” taken completely out of its sing-along context, and recast in a New Orleans funk groove.

Everyone in the band had an opportunity to shine. Multi-instrumentalist Scott Robinson did not bring his usual cache of instruments, settling for tenor and clarinet, with an E^b clarinet thrown in for good measure. His airy, Prez-like tenor was heard to good advantage on “Shakin’ the Blues Away” and “Lover, Come Back to Me” where he and Caranicas (on flugelhorn) emulated a Kansas City-Count Basie small group sound. His clarinet soared on the jet-propelled “Dark Eyes” but displayed a begging facade on a slow “Baby, Won’t You Please Come Home.”

Trumpeter Charlie Caranicas provided some fireworks for the afternoon. His feature on flugelhorn, "I Want To Be Happy" had nice short, sweet swinging horn phrases. He also had exhilarative soli on "Dark Eyes", while subtly building to a fiery second chorus on "Kansas City Kitty."

The rhythm section of Mike Weatherly on bass and Larry Eagle on drums were simply the right wings to give a good jazz band flight. Weatherly's bass had an unforgettable sound; a huge, pulsating one which pulled the listener in, while at the same time never overpowering. He brought humorous commentary whilst displaying his mastery of the elephantine instrument ("there's a reason why [slapping the bass] went out of style – it hurts!", "I'm not Slam Stewart – I wish that I was.") Weatherly was in good voice on Sunday, preaching the gospel on "By and By" and singing the rarely performed verse on "New Orleans", evoking some Caranicas high notes. Eagle could swing with anything at his disposal. In addition to his drum kit, he displayed a command of the washboard, soloing on "Boogaloo Strut" and "Shakin' the Blues Away". The closing number, "Digga Digga Doo", had the drummer playing everything within close proximity to his drum kit (Weatherly's bass strings a la "Big Noise from Winnetka", the body of Sayer's banjo, nearby wrought iron railing, etc). He even made the cardboard base of his drum stool swing on "El Choclo."

The leader's work on banjo was comfortable in every setting, eschewing the instrument's hold on nostalgia. Her rhythmic work on "Dark Eyes" electrified the rest of the band, while her shared chorus with Weatherly on "Lover, Come Back to Me" equated the modernity of her band mates. Her solo features, the aforementioned tango, "El Choclo" and the vaudeville duet with Weatherly, "Midnight In Moscow" deserve comment. The former took you out of the Jazz club and into an Argentinean café, inspiring tango dancing even to those who have never danced. "Moscow" was taken out of its Russian roots, and transformed into a early vaudeville tour de force, with tempo escalating with each subsequent chorus, whipping up to a frenzied climax. Sayer, like Weatherly, was in good voice, most effective on the emotive,

"What'll I do?" and even providing a voice of reason on "Aba Daba Honeymoon" whilst abetted by Robinson's animal sounds, Weatherly's slapping bass, and Eagles tribal drums.

Yes, the word of the day was enspirited. For a good definition of the word, go see Cynthia Sayer and Sparks Fly.

–Jim McGann

IRVING FAZOLA

Irving Henry Prestopnik (Fazola), born December 12, 1912, is one of the last in a generation of great New Orleans clarinetists; a clarinet dynasty which included musicians Alphonse Picou, Lorenzo Tio, Jr., Alcide "Yellow" Nunez, Jimmie Noone, Sidney Bechet, Johnny Dodds, Omer Simeon, Barney Bigard, Edmond Hall, Peter DuConge, and George Lewis. Unlike most of the aforementioned musicians, Fazola's clarinet adapted to the musical environments outside the New Orleans tradition.

Fazola began musical instruction on c-melody sax and piano, before turning to the clarinet at age 13. Being true to his New Orleans heritage, Fazola performed on an Albert system clarinet, the instrument of choice for traditional Jazz clarinetists. While attending Warren Easton High School, Fazola performed his first paid jobs with Candy Candido and Sharkey Bonano. He would also perform with the territorial bands of Louis Prima, Armand Hug, Ellis Stratakos, and Roy Teal.

One interesting story from Irving's youth. One day, Irving and trumpeter Sharkey Bonano were involved in a fracas, were picked up in a police wagon, and led off to jail. The driver of the wagon, recognized the musicians, and let them go. The name of the driver: former ODJB clarinetist Alcide "Yellow" Nunez.

Fazola inherited his namesake while performing in a band with Louis Prima. Prima called the clarinetist "a fah-sol-lah guy". The name derived from the notes in the tonic scale (*Do-Re-Me-Fa-So-La-Te-Do*). From then on, Fazola remained his surname.

In 1935, Ben Pollack, on a tour, hired Irving. He remained in the band until 1936. In the band at the time were future bandleaders Harry James, Glenn Miller, and Freddie Slack. Pollack featured Irving on his theme, "Song of the Islands." He

would perform with Gus Arnheim for a few months in 1937, and then joined an early version of the Glenn Miller band, before the famous Miller reed sound was introduced.

In 1938, Fazola's career reached its creative peak when he joined the Bob Crosby orchestra. A co-op organization, with former Pollack band members Gil Rodin, Matty Matlock, Eddie Miller, and Ray Bauduc, Fazola's relaxed New Orleans clarinet found a perfect home with the Crosby band traditional Jazz approach. Fazola soloed on great Crosby sides like "My Inspiration", "Spain", "Skater's Waltz in Swingtime", "Hindustan", and "Air Mail Stomp."

In 1940, the marriage ended. Fazola, a man of many eccentricities and mood swings, left the Crosby band when he was involved in an altercation with trombonist/arranger Ray Conniff.

After a brief return home to New Orleans, Fazola joined the musically forward looking Claude Thornhill orchestra in 1941, performing on clarinet and bassoon. Fazola remained with the orchestra until the end of the year.

After performing in the Muggsy Spanier, Teddy Powell and Horace Heidt bands, Fazola, beset with health problems, returned to New Orleans. He led his own band, the Dixielanders from 1943 to 1947, performing on radio station WWL, and performed occasionally with local favorites Tony Almerico and Leon Prima (Louis' brother). Despite continued health problems, Fazola continued to work regularly until he passed away on March 20th, 1949 at the age of thirty-six.
– Jim McGann, 2002

SAVE THE SUNNYBROOK

The Sunnybrook Ballroom in Pottstown, PA – home to most of the big bands during the 1930's and 40's, is seeking help with renovations for the 79 year old facility. To date, only 25% of the overall renovation process has been completed.

Due to recent cuts in local and county grants, the Sunnybrook Foundation relies on private and business donations now in order to continue their efforts.

The Foundation needs to meet a lofty target of raising \$50,000 before December 31st.

For more information, go to <http://www.sunnybrookballroom.net/>

OBITUARY

Anthony Derf Nolde, 82, of North Wales, PA. Former professor at Rutgers University, Mr. Nolde led the Keystone Jazz Group and was the proprietor of Nolde's Music Box in Flemington, NJ for many years.

According to former TSJS President DeWitt Peterson, Nolde led one of the TSJS Jam Sessions, and "...ran Sunday concerts in Newtown, PA for years, using NYC and Philly Trad Jazz Musicians."

Mr. Nolde was born in Wyndmoor, PA and was a graduate of Germantown Friends School. He served in the Army during the Korean War and held degrees in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, and music history and theory from the Manhattan School of Music. He taught music history and composition during his years at Rutgers University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My almost 3-hour round trip from the Jersey Shore to a Tri-State event is always extremely rewarding. It gives me the opportunity to visit dear friends at a very engaging jazz concert in the Delaware Valley region.

Herb Roselle's Atlantic City Jazz Band, playing at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cinnaminson, was incredibly entertaining. Creative solo passages, impacting harmonics and interspersed humor by Herb all led to an excitingly satisfying afternoon. The request for musical suggestions from the audience added a new dimension to this concert.

An additional note: besides offering well-balanced acoustics in the sanctuary of this church, its volunteers prepared and served refreshments. Cookies, cakes and assorted beverages, were freely given to their guests- the audience and musicians.

Howard Mueller,
Manchester, NJ
October 21, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS



www.tristatejazz.org

FALL 2010-WINTER 2011 CONCERT SCHEDULE

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

Jan 16 Ed Wise and his New Orleans Jazz Band, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ

Jan 30 Mark Kramer, solo piano concert. The Porch Club, 4th and Howard Streets, Riverton, NJ

Feb 13 Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, Post 72, 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ

Feb 27 Joe Holt, solo piano concert. The Porch Club, 4th and Howard Streets, Riverton, NJ

Mar 11 Jeff Barnhart, solo piano concert. The Porch Club, 4th and Howard Streets, Riverton, NJ

Mar 20 Dan Levinson's Palomar Quartet and special guests The Anderson Twins, Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086

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

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.

Dec 5 2:00 p.m. NJJS Annual Meeting. Entertainment by Rossano Sportiello & Friends featuring Jon Burr on bass and Nick Russo on

guitar. Shanghai Jazz, 24 Main Street, Madison, NJ 07940 For more info, telephone 973.822.2899 or email info@shanghaijazz.com

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.

Dec 13 Fun Bunch Big Band

Coming up in 2011 - Bucky Pizzarelli's 85th birthday celebration January 11, followed by the annual romp, the Great GroundHog Day Jam. Next the 18-piece Jazz Lobsters are back, plus the Big Bix Beiderbecke Birthday Bash, the Midiri Brothers and much more.

CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

PO Box 113, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

ashbc@comcast.net, Dues \$10

Dec 9 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bobby Quaile's Ragtime

Jan 30 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Atlantic City Jazz Band

Feb 13 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The Al Harrison Dixieland Band

Mar 13 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Midiri Brothers

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

NEW LOCATION. In January, MidWeek Jazz will move back to the Community and Arts Center on the Ocean County College campus, College Drive, Toms River, NJ. The hall has been entirely refurbished during a two year renovation, with improved access, an elevator to the balcony, expanded rest room facilities and improvements in both lighting and sound.

Dec 15 Mona's Hot Four @ Mancini Hall

Jan 19 Midiri Brothers @ Ocean County College, Community and Arts Center, College Drive, Toms River, NJ

Coming in 2011 Acclaimed multi-instrumentalist Dorian Parreott, the annual Bix Beiderbecke Birthday Blast, the return of Bucky Pizzarelli with

Aaron Weinstein, and an encore visit from the Atlantic City Jazz Band

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

Feb 13 2:00-5:00 p.m. A PRJC Mardi Gras Celebration with John Royan from New Orleans. Rockville Elks Lodge, 5 Taft Court, Rockville, MD

SOMERS POINT JAZZ SOCIETY

<http://www.spjazz.org/>

Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Big Band Monday at Sandi Pointe with the Ed Vezinho/Jim Ward Big Band, Sandi Pointe Coastal Bistro, 908 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ. Admission \$5.00

EAR INN

www.earinn.com

326 Spring St. near West Side Hwy, Washington St., and Greenwich St., NYC

Sundays 8:00-11:00 p.m. EarRegulars with Jon-Erik Kellso, Matt Munisteri, and more.

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

Dec 31 8:00 p.m. New Years Eve Party. Riddle Village, Baltimore Pike, Media, PA

VINCE GIORDANO AND HIS NIGHTHAWKS

www.myspace.com/vincegiordanothenighthawks

See also New Jersey Jazz Society listings

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

DAN LEVINSON

<http://www.danlevinson.com/>

Jan 22 8:00 p.m. with James Langton's New York All-Star Big Band celebrating the anniversary of Benny Goodman's famous 1938 Carnegie Hall Jazz Concert with Charlie Caranicas, Bria Skonberg, Randy Reinhart, Jim Fryer, Harvey Tibbs, Marc

Phaneuf, Mark Shane, Mike Weatherly, Brooks Tegler, The Anderson Twins and Molly Ryan. Theatre of the Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools, 14 Vogt Drive, Bridgewater, NJ Tickets (908) 237-1238 or partnership2000@embarqmail.com

MIDIRI BROTHERS

www.midiribros.com

See Ocean County College and Cape May Traditional Jazz Society listings

MARLENE VERPLANCK

<http://www.marleneverplanck.com/>

Dec 12 2:00-4:00 p.m. Manalapan Library, Symmes Road, Manalapan, NJ. Free Event (732) 736-1027

Dec 19 2:00 p.m. Manhasset Public Library, 30 Onderdonk Avenue, Manhasset, NY. Telephone 516 627 2300

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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

ATTENTION STRUTTER CONTRIBUTORS!

Deadline to contribute reviews, literature, and schedule changes for the January, 2011 Strutter is:
Tuesday, January 4th, 2010

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www.tristatejazz.org

VISIT THE [PHOTO GALLERY](#)

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<http://picasaweb.google.com/photos.tsjs>

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, 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/

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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 Application/Renewal Form

TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY
P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

- New** **Renewal** *Annual membership is valid through June 30, 2011.*
- Regular:** Individual \$20 Couple \$40
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