

## OUR NEXT CONCERT

Cocuzzi Courtet



Photo by Kristy Cocuzzi

Sunday, November 19, 2017

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Haddonfield United Methodist Church

29 Warwick Road

Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Directions at

<http://www.tristatejazz.org/directions-haddonfield.html>

John Cocuzzi – Leader, piano

Kristy Cocuzzi – reeds, vocals

Jack Hegyi – bass

Harry Himles – drums

The Cocuzzis have taken the classic jazz world by storm. John performs on piano, while Kristy has a passionate sultry voice, and plays amazing clarinet and sax. They bring lyrics to life through dynamic vocal interpretations of songs from the great composers and song stylists of the 1930's, 40's and beyond, taking audiences on fantastic musical journeys.

Today they are on tour from the West Coast with their trad jazz quartet, the Courtet. (Yes, it's spelled

Courtet! It's a New Orleans reference – the King and his Court.) John is on piano, Kristy on reeds, with Jack Hegyi on bass and Harry Himles on drums.

For info about the band, visit

<https://sites.google.com/view/cocuzzimusic/home>

See Louisiana Fairytale here –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMdsia8C28U>

John Cocuzzi performs with passion and intensity on piano and vocals. For more than 35 years, John has been entertaining crowds internationally performing alongside jazz and blues greats. With dynamic style and diverse rhythms, John's innovation breathes new life into familiar tunes, from “swingin’ and burnin’” jazz and blues to lush and sultry ballads.

Kristy Reed-Cocuzzi has a sultry voice that has thrilled audiences for 30 years, and has toured with the Live Lawrence Welk Show throughout the United States and Canada. She is also a member of the “Champagne Music Makers” at the Welk Resort in Branson, Missouri, as well as part of the “Wunnerful Women of Welk” vocal quartet. Kristy takes clarinet to a whole new emotional level, especially in the chalumeau (low) register, with a passion and feel that is both soothing and energizing.

### Concert Admissions

\$10 First-time attendees and Members

\$20 General Admission

High school/college students with ID and children with paying adult admitted free

*Pay at the door*

### In This Issue

Looking Ahead.....[Page 2](#)

Dan Levinson Review.....[Page 2](#)

Ramblers Review.....[Page 3](#)

Jazz Travels.....[Page 4](#)

Concert Schedules.....[Page 6](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR JANUARY 2018 CONCERT

On January 7, 2018, our concert will feature Dave Posmontier's Dixie Kings at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA.



Photo by Jim McGann

Dave Posmontier - Leader, piano  
Stan Slotter - Co-leader, trumpet, cornet  
Dave Brodie - Bass  
Grant MacAvoy - Drums  
Pat Mercuri - Banjo, guitar  
Charly Salinger - Clarinet  
Fred Scott - Trombone

Tri-State members know Dave Posmontier as a renowned keyboard artist who has performed and recorded with many jazz artists – including Christian McBride, James Moody, Chris Potter, Grover Washington Jr., David "Fathead" Newman, and Johnny Hartman. Here is another side of Dave's talent – becoming interested in traditional jazz in the 1990's, he formed the Dixie Kings with trumpeter Stan Slotter. Dave brings the Dixie Kings septet to Tri-State to celebrate the true New Orleans Mardi Gras style. The band includes many of the same local musicians who were members of the well-respected **Ed Wise Jazz Band** under bassist Ed Wise.

For info about Dave, visit  
[www.daveposmontier.com](http://www.daveposmontier.com).

Listen to a sample of Dave's music at [Aint-Misbehavin'](#)

## DAN LEVINSON'S ROOF GARDEN JASS BAND CONCERT REVIEW

By Robert Robbins

### Dan Levinson's Roof Garden Jass Band Celebrates Centennial of the First Jazz Recordings



Photo by Paul MacAtee

On February 26, 1917, the Original Dixieland Jass Band, freshly arrived from its native New Orleans via Chicago, entered the New York studio of the Victor Talking Machine Company (later RCA Victor) to wax the initial jazz recordings in the young history of the music, simultaneously launching what became known as The Jazz Age. Over a century later, TSJS favorite and reed man extraordinaire Dan Levinson brought his expert re-creation of these jazz pioneers to the Haddonfield United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 24, 2017, for nearly two hours of classic early jazz dating from 1916-23. The NYC-based ensemble, all of whom are veterans of Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, consisted of Levinson, cornetist Mike Davis, trombonist Jim Fryer, pianist Dalton Ridenhour, and drummer Kevin Dorn in the respective roles of ODJB members Larry Shields, Nick LaRocca, Eddie Edwards, Henry Ragas (succeeded by J. Russel Robinson), and Tony Sbarbaro.

The scratchy, vestigial sound of the original 1917 acoustic recording of "Livery Stable Blues" segued into the Roof Garden band performing the same tune as an opener, with barnyard sounds propelled by Dorn's onomatopoeic percussionism (he made frequent use of the wood blocks throughout the afternoon). "The Original Dixieland One-Step," the

flip side of the debut jazz record, ensued, with re-creations of music by ODJB contemporaries such as the saxophone pioneer Rudy Wiedoeft ("Pozzo", one of several numbers featuring Levinson on C-Melody sax), and the young Irving Berlin, who was represented by "I Lost My Heart In Dixieland." "Alice Blue Gown," "Look at 'Em Do It," and "Soudan" ("Oriental Jass") were all recorded by the ODJB in London during 1919.

Two of ODJB pianist Robinson's compositions, "Margie" and "(Lena from) Palesteena," both of which were huge hits during the Twenties (the latter, which was popularized by Eddie Cantor, was also a staple in the klezmer repertoire). This was followed by "Crazy Blues," which is considered the first recorded blues, from 1920, as well as Ted Lewis' "Blues My Naughty Sweetie Gave to Me." Ridenhour provided one of the concert's only extensive solos with a somewhat contemporary take on Jelly Roll Morton's "King Porter Stomp," which arranger Fletcher Henderson adapted into one of Benny Goodman's early hits. A notable omission, however, was the ODJB's "Tiger Rag."



Dalton Ridenhour Photo by Paul Macatee

Guest cornetist Colin Hancock, a jazz historian and Cornell student who has single-handedly revived the 19th century technology of recording on wax cylinders, joined the ensemble for "At the Jazz Band Ball," "Darktown Strutters' Ball," and trombonist Kid Ory's "Society Blues." Hancock then teamed with Davis on several opuses from King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, with both cornetists alternating the young Louis Armstrong's solos on "Camp Meeting Blues" (which anticipates Duke Ellington's "Creole Love Call"), "Buddy's Habit," and "Alligator Hop."

## Red Hot Ramblers Review

By Jim McGann



Photo by Jim McGann

The Time: Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2:00 p.m to 4:30 p.m.

The Place: Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

The Band: Larry Toft, leader, trombone and vocals; Adam Hershberger, trumpet; Paul Butler, clarinet and tenor sax; Evan Cory Levine, guitar, banjo and occasional vocals; Dan Nosheny, sousaphone; Chad Brown, drums

In the past I heard the Red Hot Ramblers in abbreviated form. A contingent of Larry Toft's group augmented Steve Barbone's group a while ago, and Toft sat in with the Atlantic City Jazz Band. Today's concert was the first opportunity to hear the entire Red Hot Ramblers ensemble. While the group's presentation and youthful enthusiasm were a welcoming sight, the overall content was a bit of a disappointment.

It all comes down to that old bugaboo of mine - too many vocals! The grand total of instrumentals at this concert were three - the opening number "Beau Koo Jack," a Toft feature "Lassus Trombone," and Spencer Williams' "Shim Me Sha Wabble." The rest of the program all contained a vocal by Toft, whose vocals talents do not equal his facility on trombone. To be fair, I believe Toft was trying to project a sort of Irving Kaufman / Seger Ellis type of vocal persona, and both Kaufman and Ellis did appear on record with Bix Beiderbecke. However, neither man was a bona fide jazz singer nor for that matter a very good singer. The idea, while well intentioned, did not work.



The overabundance of vocals spoiled what was a decent program of music which contained rare music by Jug Band leader Gus Cannon, Jimmy McHugh, Jelly Roll Morton, Oscar (Buddy) Woods, et al. Understandably, pop tunes like the Gershwins' "Who Cares" or "I'm Walking Between The Raindrops" require a vocal but some like Walter Donaldson's "There Aint No Land Like Dixieland" could have gotten by instrumentally.

The instrumentalists were limited to split choruses, not much opportunity to catch fire. Even in truncated form, there were moments. I found Adam Hershberger a vastly improved player, and wanted to hear more of his snarling trumpet on "...Sha Wabble." Dan Nosheny played tuba in a witty unique style, blowing humorous high notes and providing Boogie Woogie lines on vehicles like "Lassus' Trombone." Evan Cory Levine's work on guitar (an unusual one, with a metallic body, adorned with multitude of ventilation slots!) and banjo were noteworthy, but like the leader, his (high falsetto) vocals were less welcoming.

The Red Hot Ramblers scored high in terms of presentation and enthusiasm. The band has an opportunity to improve instrumentally. In order to do that, it needs to reduce the vocal content. If vocals are necessary, hire a vocalist and leave the musicians to their respective instruments.

## Jazz Travels By Bill Hoffman

Near the end of October, upon completing a bicycle trip, I spent two days in New Orleans. It was my first time there since 1994. Because of a large convention, I was unable to get a hotel room downtown at a price I was willing to pay, so I wound up at an airport hotel and used the local public bus to go back and forth to the city. This meant I wasn't able to take in any late evening music gigs because the bus doesn't run much beyond 10PM. Using my bike for transportation was not a reasonable option because of the risk of theft and of having to ride 10 miles back to the hotel at night, possibly in the rain.

Therefore, I was only able to catch three gigs. The first was at a bar called Buffa's, where Banu Gibson was appearing with a quartet. In the quartet was Chicago multi-instrumentalist Andy Schumm, an unexpected treat for me. Andy is a great musician and jazz historian who is in great demand all over the world. A few days after I saw him he was at the Whitley Bay jazz festival in England. Banu hired Andy to help her celebrate her 70th birthday, which was a few days later but which she celebrated throughout the weekend, and beyond. Buffa's is an unpretentious place on the edge of the French Quarter. There is no cover charge and the food and drinks are reasonably priced. A number of Banu's friends were on hand the night I was there. She sang mostly pop and show tunes from the 30s. Some of you may remember her concert for Tri-State in November, 2015.

The next day, a Friday, I visited the New Orleans Jazz Museum. I was very disappointed in the exhibits, both in quantity and quality. I did some further research and found that the museum, which has had several different locations in its 55-year history, lost some artifacts in Hurricane Katrina, but also is in a period of redevelopment. It's now owned by the state, which may have limited resources to apply, or simply has other priorities. In any case, the 45 minutes I spent there was more than enough to see everything. The museum is located in the old U.S. Mint, and the Mint artifacts on display were better than the jazz items, yet New Orleans is far better known for jazz than for being the site of a mint.

My next stop was a bar on Frenchmen Street, where a local duo of guitar and mandolin were playing. I was walking by, and the sound of the music caught my attention. It was lunchtime, so I went in and listened while eating my po boy. They played a tune I've never heard any other band do: Stuff Smith's "I'se a-Muggin." Again, no cover charge, just a tip jar, as at Buffa's.

A stop at Preservation Hall is *de rigeur* for casual and serious jazz fans alike. There are one-hour sets (but with only about 35 minutes of music) every evening starting at 5. I was first in line for the opening set (no advance tickets are sold, but for an extra \$20 you can reserve a seat). I was familiar with three of the six musicians: leader and trumpeter Wendell Brunious, clarinetist Orange Kellin, and pianist Steve Pistorius. As I was leaving I ran into two fellow Tri-State members, whom I recognized but don't know their names, who were there for the 6 o'clock show. Preservation Hall has at least one traveling band, which I had heard once or twice before. It happened to be playing the following weekend in York, so I went. What I heard there bore absolutely no resemblance to jazz, Dixieland, or anything except a garage band-and a bad one at that-rehearsing. I was so disgusted I left at intermission, almost tempted to demand a refund for misrepresentation.

The only other event I attended in the Crescent City was an unforgettable one: Banu's birthday party at her home on Saturday evening, with several of the bandmembers from Buffa's providing entertainment. I got an invite when I emailed Banu before leaving home asking if she had any local gigs, as none were listed on her website. She told me about Buffa's and a late one Friday evening at the Bombay Club that I could not attend because of transportation issues.

Several other musicians I had hoped to see while I was in town, among them Ed Wise and Chloe Feoranzo, were out of town at the time. I left by train Sunday morning and got back to Lancaster around sunset on Monday. I shouldn't wait another 23 years to go back.

## Quiz Time

By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

A band would not be termed a band unless it included several musicians in addition to the leader. Listed below are seven non-leader musicians who played in 2016 programs for our Tri-State Jazz Society. Can you fill in their first names?

1. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Arntzen (clarinet)
2. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Lawlor (drums)
3. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Smith (banjo)
4. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Toft (trombone)
5. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Davis (cornet)
6. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Rawlins (clarinet)
7. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Mercuri (guitar)

Answers elsewhere in this issue

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The work of Tri-State Jazz is done by its board and interested volunteers. We need new volunteers for the following jobs and training will be provided:

- Refreshments volunteer at Wallingford, PA. We're looking for a volunteer to take on the shopper-delivery role for the events in Pennsylvania. This person shops for the concerts, buying the packages of cookies, candy, bottles of beverages, and an order of soft pretzels (and the pretzels mean mustards too). Besides the food there are the supplies of napkins, beverage cups, paper plates, and serving plates. (Tri-State pays cash reimbursements at the concert.) The shopper-delivery job includes bringing the food and supplies to Wallingford, early before the start of the concert, so other volunteers can finish setting up and putting everything out.
- Web publicity submissions - use web forms to submit pre-concert publicity information to Philly Funguide, The Courier Post, and Philly.com.

## FUTURE CONCERTS



**All Concerts from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**February 11, 2018 Sue Keller-Solo Piano**

Ragtime and vintage jazz pianist makes a TSJS debut. She received the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Foundation's 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. Haddonfield, NJ

**March 11, 2018 Conservatory Classic Jazz Band**

Dave Robinson returns to TSJS with his DC-based early-jazz sextet to play music of pioneers like Morton, Armstrong, Beiderbecke and Goodman. Wallingford, PA

**April 15, 2018 Richard Barnes Blackbird Society Orchestra**

Following last year's sold-out concert at Wallingford, the 13-piece Blackbird Society Orchestra returns with a rousing performance of 20s and early 30s hot jazz. Haddonfield, NJ

**May 20, 2018 Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers**

Neville is coming from England and is on piano, Joe Midiri is on clarinet, Paul Midiri is on drums. It's an annual tradition. Come early; it's usually a full house. Haddonfield, NJ

**June 3, 2018 Danny Tobias and Friends**

Trumpeter Danny Tobias will return to TSJS with his quintet, featuring Paul Midiri on vibes, Joe Holt on piano, Joe Plowman on bass and Jim Lawlor on drums. Wallingford, PA

**June 24, 2018 Al Harrison Dixieland Band**

Trumpeter Al Harrison will be returning to TSJS with a sextet. The program will again feature authentic early New Orleans jazz and traditional jazz standards. Haddonfield, NJ

**Wallingford:** Concerts are held at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd; just west of exit 3 of I-495 ("The Blue Route").

**Haddonfield:** Concerts are held at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd., just south of Kings Highway; about a ten minute walk from the PATCO train station.

## OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

### PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

[www.pajazzsociety.org](http://www.pajazzsociety.org)

(610)-625-4640

Dewey Banquet Hall, 502 Durham Street, Hellertown, PA.

**November 12** The Buck and a Quarter Band

### NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY

[www.njjs.org](http://www.njjs.org)

(800)-303-NJJS

NJJS also co-sponsors events at the Bickford Theatre and Ocean County College.

#### THE BICKFORD THEATRE

6 Normandy Heights Road

Morristown, NJ

[www.njjs.org/p/services/bickford.html](http://www.njjs.org/p/services/bickford.html)

Concert 7:30 p.m. (973)-971-3706.

**November 13** Dan Levinson

#### OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Toms River, NJ 08754

[www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html](http://www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html)

(732)-255-0500

All concerts start at 8:00 p.m. Ocean County College campus, Grunin Center, College Drive.

### CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St.,

Cape May, NJ

[www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com](http://www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com)

**November 12** Atlantic City Jazz Band

### POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

Check out the numerous traditional jazz events sponsored by PRJC at [www.prjc.org](http://www.prjc.org)

## TSJS SUSTAINERS

Very Special - \$200 or more, \$220 couples

- Mary Ann & Dr. Charles H. Emely
- Chuck Haggerty & Sarah Burke
- Sanford Catz
- William N. Hoffman
- Richard & Peggy Hughlett
- Chris Jones and Amy Galer
- Wayne B. & Nancy Lewis
- Bob Mackie
- Dewaine & Clare Osman
- DeWitt Peterson
- Bob & Nancy Rawlins
- Dr. Myron E. & Phoebe R. Resnick
- Sylvia Rosenberg
- Alice V. Schmidt
- Jay & Orinda Lou Schultz

## TSJS PATRONS

The Big Time - \$100 or more, \$120 couples

- Jack & Joan Adams
- Elaine Berkowitz
- John & Susan Bingley
- Walt Brenner
- Stephen Faha
- Carl Meister, Jr. & Linda Hickman
- James & Lorraine Maitland
- Mike Mudry
- Selina Higgins & Bill Nixon
- John Otterson
- Jolyne Dalzell & Richard Scarlett
- Robert Carr & Barbara Steele
- Jerry & Josephine Yocum

## TSJS SPONSORS

Headliners - \$50 or more, \$70 couples

- Chic Bach
- Joan Bauer
- Jack Boesch
- Louis DePietro
- Robert & Cynthia Freedman
- J. Mervyn & Peg Harris
- John H. Hoover
- Jack Jennings
- Robert Kerns, Jr.
- Sheila Larson
- Michael & Irene Lastra
- Michael Lefkowitz
- Steven Peitzman & Nancy Pontone
- Peggy de Prophetis & Louis Kaplan
- Terry Rave
- Mark Raymond
- Peter Reichlin
- R. Adam Rogers III
- Lynn Ryan
- Bob & Kay Troxell
- Anne Uniman
- Fred Weber
- Constance & Donald Windus
- Marion Laws & Sandra Zullo

## ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sanford Catz, **President**, 2019,  
[president@tristatejazz.org](mailto:president@tristatejazz.org) , [webmaster@tristatejazz.org](mailto:webmaster@tristatejazz.org)

Chris Jones, **Vice President, Photo Editor**, 2018,  
[vp@tristatejazz.org](mailto:vp@tristatejazz.org)

Mike Mudry, **Treasurer**, 2019,  
[treasurer@tristatejazz.org](mailto:treasurer@tristatejazz.org)

Bill Hoffman, **Music Committee Chairman, Bands Contact**, 2020, [booking@tristatejazz.org](mailto:booking@tristatejazz.org)

Dewaine Osman, **Secretary, Strutter Editor**, 2018

Chic Bach, **Sound Coordinator**, 2019,  
[sound@tristatejazz.org](mailto:sound@tristatejazz.org)

Sally Cannon, **Refreshments Manager**, 2020

Bob Rawlins, **Music Committee**, 2020

Steven Peitzman, **Programs Editor**, 2018

Robert Robbins, **Publicity & Assistant Strutter Editor**, 2018

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Jay Schultz, **Membership Chairman**  
[membership@tristatejazz.org](mailto:membership@tristatejazz.org)

**More Volunteers are listed on our website at:**  
[www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html](http://www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html)

### TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ.  
08054

**E-mail:** [info@tristatejazz.org](mailto:info@tristatejazz.org)

**Hotline Phone for updated concert information:**  
(856) 720-0232

### QUIZ TIME ANSWERS

1. Evan
2. Jim
3. Franny
4. Larry
5. Mike
6. Bob
7. Pat



# Membership Form

**Basic Dues:**  Individual \$20  Couple \$40

**Sponsor Dues:**  Individual \$50  Couple \$70

**Patron Dues:**  Individual \$100  Couple \$120

**Sustainer Dues:**  Individual \$200 or more  Couple \$220 or more

**Amount Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check No.** \_\_\_\_\_

*Members are admitted to all regular concerts at half price. Memberships renewed prior to expiration start at the end of current membership; expired memberships start on receipt of payment. All memberships run for 12 months, expiring on the last day of the 12th month.*

**Email and Newsletter Options:**  TSJS concert announcements and membership notices  
 (Check all boxes that apply.)  Strutter Newsletter by Email  
 Strutter by U.S. Mail (Patrons, Sponsors, Sustainers Only)

First and Last Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with check payable to Tri-State Jazz Society, Inc., P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054**

**TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY, INC.  
 P.O. BOX 896  
 MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054**



















