

OUR NEXT CONCERT

TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY
Presents
EMILY ASHER'S GARDEN PARTY



Emily Asher, trombone, leader
Bria Skonberg, trumpet
Dan Levinson, clarinet
Gordon Webster, piano
Sean Cronin, bass
Kevin Dorn, drums

Sunday, March 18, 2012
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Community Arts Center
414 Plush Mill Road
Wallingford, PA
Directions on [Page 7](#)

On March 18, Emily Asher says, The Garden Party will play a variety of hot jazz and early swing, their instrumentation and concept influenced by Louis Armstrong's Hot Fives and Sevens, Armstrong's All-Stars, and Eddie Condon's classic recording groups. Their repertoire will also include material from the heart of the West Coast Dixieland revival, Lu Watters' Yerba Buena Jazz Band.

Trombonist and vocalist Emily Asher is a rising musical personality in New York, leading the Garden Party and The Emily Asher Quartet and making regular appearances with the Brooklyn-based Baby Soda Jazz Band. She toured North America with the ground-breaking Mighty Aphrodite Jazz Band and Europe with New Orleans' Tuba Skinny. See Asher on [Page 2](#)

CONCERT ADMISSION

\$20 ADMISSION

**\$10 FIRST TIME ATTENDEES & MEMBERS
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LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL, 2012

Coming up on Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., Terry Waldo will perform a solo piano concert at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, 318 Chester Avenue, Moorestown, NJ

AMERICAN RAG WINNERS

At one concert each month, TSJS picks a winner of a free four-month subscription to the American Rag as a door prize. The winner for February, 2012 is Joe Deshayes of Collingswood, 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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ASHER - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Emily has performed at small private events for Kofi Anan, Barbara Walters, Tom Brokaw, and distinguished foreign diplomats. This past year she recorded and performed with Wycliffe Gordon on his *Hello Pops!* tribute to Louis Armstrong. Originally from Seattle, she earned three Bachelor's degrees from the University of Washington and completed her Master's in music performance from CUNY Queens College in May of 2009. Visit her at www.emilyasher.com/.

To hear The Garden Party in action, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLRzzH2MLGI&feature=player_embedded
www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8RWjsOH59c&feature=related

[e=related](#)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF8m8DpsVMY

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvtdobPwQ98

REVIEW - RICHARD BARNES AND THE BLACKBIRD SOCIETY ORCHESTRA

The Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday, February 15, 2012

The Place: Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA

The Band: Richard Barnes, guitar, clarinet and leader; Michael Salsburg, violin; Paul Rogers, trumpet; Jim Gicking, trombone, banjo and suitcase; Jay Rattman, clarinet and alto sax; John Southard, piano; Dan Nosheny, sousaphone

The Scranton Sirens, The Melody Sheiks, Emerson Gill, Vincent Lopez, Sam Lanin, Gus Arnheim, Abe Lyman, Ben Selvin, Fred Rich, Ben Bernie, Coon-Sanders, Ted Weems, and on a grander scale, Jean Goldkette. What do they all have in common? They all are considered "Hot Dance Bands" in the 1920s.

"Hot Dance" is a hotly-disputed, controversial issue in jazz circles. Jazz purists cry "It's not jazz!" – citing the use of scores, compromising improvisation, etc. The other side of the coin is that while it is not jazz of the free-of-written-music kind, whenever a Louis Armstrong or a Bix Beiderbecke blasted an 8, 12, or 16 bar solo, for those few moments it is jazz, regardless of setting. I would like to add there's more to Jazz than improvisation – communication is needed and you have to have a genuine *feel* for the music. At the concert, trumpeter Paul Rogers played the Armstrong trumpet intro which may or may not have been written in the score – the end result was it swung and it was hot. If a student musician or even a professional performed the same intro, without exposure to recordings, without that *feel*, the results would be different.

Richard Barnes and the Blackbird Society Orchestra performed jazz in this context – mostly arranged, but swinging with hot solos. The band gave the aura of a hotel orchestra bedaubed in a setting with palm trees and Art Deco designs.

The music wasn't all orchestral. Barnes, violinist Michael Salsburg and pianist John

Southard provided tributes to Eddie Lang and Joe Venuti, the best of which was a solo Lang number by Barnes, "A Little Love, A Little Kiss," "The Wild Cat" and "Raggin' The Scale," which had Salsburg playing pizzicato, Southard recalling Arthur Schutt and a wildly swinging finish.

Of the band solos, several which stand out are Paul Rogers's lively lead and stop-time solo, and Dan Nosheny's lyrical sousaphone on "Struttin' With Some Barbecue," Jay Rattman's four-chorus clarinet ride on "China Boy" and Jim Gicking's Miff Molish trombone on "Royal Garden Blues."

Most of the numbers performed were familiar ones, but there were some surprises. Bandleader-pianist Cliff Jackson's "The Terror" (where Barnes supplied some percussive effects on his banjo) and a McKinney's Cotton Pickers selection – "Sellin' That Stuff" are tunes that you don't hear often. Dan Nosheny's original composition, "Peaches and Honey Dews" reminded one of Willard Robison's musically stylistic period pieces.

While the "Hot Dance" argument may never reach an agreeable conclusion, Richard Barnes and the Blackbird Society Orchestra provided enough "hot" to leave this reviewer satisfied. - Jim McGann

LEO WATSON, TEDDY BUNN, AND THE SPIRITS OF RHYTHM - Part 2

5th Street, in the 1930s, was a breeding ground for Jazz musicians. At any one time, musicians of the caliber of Bunny Berigan, Eddie Condon, Joe Sullivan, John Kirby, Stuff Smith, Midge Williams, Frank Froeba, Frank Newton, Billie Holiday and Pete Brown could be seen performing at a Swing street venue. The Spirits made their residency at the Onyx Club.

The Onyx Club, originally located at 35 West 52nd Street, was once a former speakeasy. The owner, Joe Helbrook, turned the establishment into an entertainment facility once Prohibition was repealed. The Spirits were one of the first acts at the club, and enjoyed a long residency, even when the Onyx moved to a bigger venue on 72 West 52nd in February, 1934.

The bulk of the Spirits recording activities consisted of 9 sessions within a year's time (Sept.

1933-Sept. 1934), recording for Decca, Brunswick and ARC.

By late 1934, the Spirits added Wilson "Serious" Myers on string bass. Myers had an interesting journey prior to joining the Spirits. Born in 1906, he began his professional career as a drummer in a touring show, backing Bessie Smith. While proficient on clarinet and trombone, he switched to the banjo and guitar in 1925. He worked with King Oliver in 1931, then – after making another switch, this time to string bass – with Sidney Bechet's New Orleans Feetwarmers in 1932. He had just returned from a tour of France in the bands of Lucky Millinder and Willie Bryant before joining the Spirits.

The second Onyx club closed temporarily from February-July, 1935 due to a fire. Only evidence of the Spirits whereabouts was in a July 7th, 1935 Syracuse (NY) Herald article, which had the group performing on a Sunday night radio broadcast over the NBC radio network.

One source claims long time bassist Wellman Braud left Duke Ellington in 1935 to manage and occasionally play with the Spirits of Rhythm (an undated photo shows Braud on bass with Scroggins, Watson and Bunn). If this is so, Braud took on this assignment in a period of transition.

The Onyx closed again in the spring of 1937, and the group experienced personnel changes. Wilson Myers left the group to join Alex Combrille in Europe. Bunn and possibly Watson had joined the first edition of the John Kirby sextet, along with Frank Newton on trumpet, Pete Brown on alto, Don Frye on piano. If Watson was a regular participant, his stay was short; he would join Artie Shaw, briefly, later that year.

Sometime in 1938, the group moved to Nick's to play at intermission. Soprano saxophonist Sidney Bechet, encouraged by Braud, sat in with Eddie Condon's group. One source claims that Bechet performed with the Spirits, too, but Bechet, in his autobiography, mentioned his experience at Nick's and wrote compliments about Condon during this period, but eluded the Spirits altogether.

By this time, Leo Watson was enjoying some degree of success. From June to December, he was the male vocalist for Gene Krupa's new orchestra.

The drummer had left Benny Goodman in March, and had organized a new band with guitarist Ray Biondi, tenor saxist Vido Musso and pianist Milt Raskin. Watson toured cross-country with the band, making appearances in Ohio, Chicago and Los Angeles. A reported altercation with a Pullman porter ended the singer's stay with the band.

Bunn, too, was not idle. Between 1937 and 1939, he recorded with Jimmie Noone, Johnny Dodds, Bob Howard, Milt Herth, Cow Cow Davenport, Mezz Mezzrow, Tommy Ladnier, and The Port of Harlem Jazzmen (with Sidney Bechet, Frankie Newton, J.C. Higginbotham), among others.

The Spirits did not appear again on record until 1940. Lionel Hampton, on hiatus from the Benny Goodman orchestra while the leader recovered from back surgery, recorded with a Watson-less Spirits plus pianist Marlowe Morris and veteran drummer Kaiser Marshall. Not long after this recording, Watson, Bunn and the Daniels brothers moved to the West Coast, performing at Billy Berg's Club Capri and the Radio Room in Los Angeles.

A broadcast on June 1st, 1942 at the Trouville Club with Lee and Lester Young, and Billie Holiday was the last where the original Spirits appeared. Bunn and Watson would record under the Spirits heading but with different instrumentation and personnel (journeyman pianist-music critic Leonard Feather recorded with the group in the 1940's). These later recordings have their moments (the 1945 "Scattin' The Blues," for example), but the freewheeling nature of the Spirits sound was compromised; Watson's vocals were still wacky, Bunn more potent on amplified guitar, but the tiple was gone, and the replacements, while technically more advanced, lacked the humor and enthusiasm which made the earlier records great.

Not long after the last Spirits recordings, Watson, and later Bunn, faded from the music scene. Watson enjoyed brief success with hipster/multi-instrumentalist Slim Gaillard in late 1945/early 1946, performing on the classic "Avocado Seed Soup Symphony." The same year, he led his second and last recording session, accompanied by Vic Dickenson, producing a hip version of the Christmas song, "Jingle Bells."

Known as a personality as erratic as his singing, Watson left the music scene, succumbing to pneumonia in 1952. Bunn, worked and recorded with the Edgar Hayes quartet, blues singers of varying quality, and finally with Rock and Roll groups in the late 1950s. He died in 1978, after a long illness.

The Spirits of Rhythm did not break any new ground, unless you can call extensive use of the tiple (see Part 1 in the February Strutter for brief description) in a jazz group an innovation. Scat singing was in existence since the early 1920s, and the group's instrumentation concept is similar to the earliest of Red McKenzie's Mound City Blue Blowers (The earliest version of the Blowers includes a musician using a suitcase as a percussion instrument). However, Leo Watson's scat vocals were like no other (Jon Hendricks, Ella Fitzgerald and Mel Torme cite Watson as an influence), and Bunn's bluesy, swinging guitar injected a prominent presence to make the Spirits a jazz ensemble.

LEO WATSON DISCOGRAPHY

<http://tsjsphotogallery.blogspot.com/2012/03/leo-watson-discography.html>

TEDDY BUNN DISCOGRAPHY

<http://tsjsphotogallery.blogspot.com/2012/03/teddy-bunn-discography.html>

SPIRITS OF RHYTHM DISCOGRAPHY

<http://tsjsphotogallery.blogspot.com/2012/03/spirits-of-rhythm-discography.html>

WORKS CITED

<http://tsjsphotogallery.blogspot.com/2012/03/spirits-of-rhythm-works-cited.html>

– Jim McGann

HELP WANTED

STRUTTER EDITOR: contributes, and edits and coordinates articles, information layout the pages to 8 maximum, have proofread, forward to be emailed to members. Work with TSJS board for revisions, Strutter content. Most work is done by email.

ASSISTANT EDITOR (2): Work with Strutter Editor with collecting information from members, the web, jazz society clubs, received mail, musicians, any material suitable for Strutter publication, check for upcoming events, monitor Sponsors/Patrons list

UPCOMING EVENTS



www.tristatejazz.org

SPRING 2012

CONCERT SCHEDULE

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

Apr 22 Terry Waldo, solo piano concert. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 318 Chester Ave, Moorestown, NJ

May 20 Ed Wise and His New Orleans Jazz Band, Silverside Church, 2800 Silverside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810

June 3 Neville Dickie, solo piano concert. Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA

June 24 Annual Jam Session, Band TBD, Brooklawn American Legion Hall, 11 Railroad Ave, Brooklawn, NJ

FALL 2012

Sept 16 Barbone Street Jazz Band, venue TBD

Oct 7 Joe Holt, solo piano concert, Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA

Nov 18 The Al Harrison Dixieland Band, venue TBD

OTHER VENUES

PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org ,

1-(610)-625-4640

Concerts are at 2:00 p.m. (except July) at **Easton**

Moose: 3320 Fox Hill Road, Easton, PA. 18045

OR at **American Legion Hall**, 217 North Broadway, Wind Gap, PA. 18091.

\$20, \$18 members, student admission is free

Apr 15 Atlantic City Jazz Band

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), 1-(973)-971-3706.

Mar 21 Big Bix Beiderbecke Birthday Bash with Jon-Erik Kellso's Bixtet

Mar 26 Rio Clemente

Apr 16 Marty Grosz with Dan Tobias and Ed Wise

Apr 23 Baby Soda with Bria Skonberg and Emily Asher

Apr 30 Galvanized Jazz Band

May 7 Midiri Brothers Tribute to Sidney Bechet

CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

PO Box 113, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

ashbc@comcast.net , Dues \$10

Mar 11 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Midiri Brothers

Apr 15 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Al Harrison Dixieland Band

May 13 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

(At Ocean County Library)

<http://www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html>

1-(732)-255-0500 \$13 advance/ \$15 at the door.

All concerts start at 8:00 p.m. Concerts at Ocean

County College campus, Community and Arts

Center, College Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753

Mar 7 Fête Manouche with Dan Levinson

Apr 18 Emily Asher's Garden Party

May 30 Randy Reinhardt's All Stars

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

www.prjc.org

Mar 25 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band. Rosensteel K of C, 9707 Rosensteel Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910-1157

BAND SCHEDULES

VINCE GIORDANO AND HIS NIGHTHAWKS

www.myspace.com/vincegiordanothenighthawks

Every Monday and Tuesday, 8:00-11:00 p.m.

Sofia's Restaurant, 221 W 46th St, Edison Hotel,

NYC. 1-(212)-719-5799. \$15 cover plus \$15 food/drink minimum

Apr 13-14 8:00 p.m. Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Jazz Jam with Vince Giordano's Nighthawks and the Toshiko Akiyoski Jazz Orchestra. The Rose Theater, 33 West 60th St., NYC. Tickets: <http://jalc.org/concerts/details309a.asp?EventID=2654>

JOE HOLT

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

Mar 9 7:30 p.m. "A. D. D. Improvisation" The Caberet at Germano's, 300 South High Street, Baltimore, MD For reservations: 1-(410)-752-4515

DAN LEVINSON

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

(See also Bickford Theatre and Ocean County College listings)

Apr 15 "100 Years: Titanic – Survivors and Their Stories" Dan Levinson and his Café Parisien Band will provide the backdrop for this event with the actual music played on the ship. Ocean County College campus, Community and Arts Center, College Drive, Toms River, NJ. 08753. Titanic luncheon (11:30 a.m.), Performance (2:00 p.m.) Tickets (732) 255-0500 or tickets@ocean.edu Luncheon

info:

http://ocean.universitytickets.com/user_pages/event.asp?id=291&cid=24

Performance info:

http://ocean.universitytickets.com/user_pages/event.asp?id=248&cid=24

BEN MAUGER

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

(See also Cape May Traditional Jazz Society and Potomac River Jazz Society listings)

Mar 22, 29, 30 9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Vintage Jazz Trio, Bethlehem Bookstore Speakeasy, 336 Adams Street, Bethlehem, PA Phone: 1-(610)-867-1100

Mar 24 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Roaring 20's Jazz Band, Lancaster Swing Dance Club, Living Hope Community Church, 2823 Columbia Avenue, Lancaster, PA Admission: \$10.00

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Tri State Jazz Society is now on Facebook! Our Facebook page is available for comments, questions, and suggestions offered in a public forum. To post a comment on Facebook, you need to set up a Facebook account, but anyone can visit our public page at www.facebook.com/tristatejazz. If you would like to post a comment, question, review, photo or shared link on our page and you don't have a Facebook account, follow the instructions to set up a new account.

ATTENTION STRUTTER CONTRIBUTORS!

Deadline to contribute reviews, literature, and schedule changes for the April, 2012 Strutter is: Tuesday, April 6th, 2012

THE STRUTTER IS NOW ON THE WEB

The Strutter is now on the Tri-State Jazz Society Web site, www.tristatejazz.org/strutter.pdf If you have trouble opening PDF files, download the free Adobe Reader software from www.adobe.com/products/reader/

DIRECTIONS TO COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER WALLINGFORD, PA

FROM I-476 SOUTHBOUND: Exit Route I-476 at Exit 3 (Media-Swarthmore). Take right ramp, and then turn right on Baltimore Pike toward Media. Go 0.2 mile to the first street on left. Turn left on Turner Road. Go 0.3 mile to the second street on the left. Turn left on Plush Mill Road. Go 0.3 mile to the Community Arts Center. It is on the right just beyond Pendle Hill conference center. (If you cross over I-476, you have gone too far). Park in the lot in front of the building.

FROM I-476 NORTHBOUND: Exit Route I-476 at Exit 3 (Media-Springfield). Take ramp on right, and then turn left at the light onto Baltimore Pike toward Media. Go 0.3 mile to the first street on left. Turn left on Turner Road. Go 0.3 mile to the second street on the left. Turn left on Plush Mill Road. Go 0.3 mile to the Community Arts Center. It is on the right just beyond Pendle Hill conference center. (If you cross over I-476, you have gone too far). Park in the lot in front of the building.

FROM SOUTH JERSEY: Cross the Ben Franklin or Walt Whitman Bridge to Philadelphia. Take I-95 South to Exit 7, I-476 North. Take ramp on right. Go north 3.4 miles to Exit 3, (Media-Springfield). Follow the directions above FROM I-476 NORTHBOUND.

FROM CITY LINE: Take Route 1 South to exit for I-476 South. Take ramp on right, then turn left onto I-476. Go south 1 mile to Exit 3, (Media-Springfield). Follow the directions above FROM I-476 SOUTHBOUND.

FROM DELAWARE: Take I-95 North to Exit 7, I-476 North. Take ramp on right. Go north 3.4 miles to Exit 3, (Media-Springfield). Follow the directions above FROM I-476 NORTHBOUND.

FROM CHESTER COUNTY AND WESTERN PA SUBURBS: Using Granite Run Mall/Riddle Memorial Hospital as a reference point. From there, proceed under the Route 352 overpass, continue on Route 1 North behind the Granite Run GMC/Buick dealership to the next exit (Route 252 South-Providence Road). Turn right on Providence and proceed 1.6 miles to Baltimore Pike. Left on Baltimore Pike for .8 miles to Turner Road on the right. Go 0.3 mile to the second street on the left. Turn left on Plush Mill Road. Go 0.3 mile to the Community Arts Center. It is on the right just beyond Pendle Hill conference center. (If you cross over I-476, you have gone too far). Park in the lot in front of the building.



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

- New** **Renewal** *Annual membership is valid through June 30, 2012.*
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