

## OUR NEXT CONCERT

### Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings



Photo by Jim McGann

Sunday, February 15, 2015

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Haddonfield Methodist Church

29 Warwick Road

Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Directions at

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

### Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings

Jerry Rife - Leader, Clarinet, Alto & Soprano Saxes

Dan Tobias - Trumpet

Pete Reichlin - Trombone

Pat Mercuri - Banjo & Guitar

Gary Cattley - Tuba & String Bass

Sean Dixon - Drums

Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings were inspired by the legendary early bands of New Orleans, most notably the New Orleans Rhythm Kings and the Original Dixieland Jazz Band, according to Dr. Rife. From their first concerts in 1984 they were committed to a hot-jazz style of performance that is associated with post-World War II "revival Dixieland," a return to the roots of New Orleans jazz.

Jerry Rife earned 2 degrees in music at Kansas State University before earning a PhD in

Musicology at Michigan State University. Dr. Rife teaches music history and directs the bands at Rider University and teaches at Westminster Choir College. He has been conductor and musical director of the 70-member Blawenburg Band since 1985. As leader of Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings and as clarinetist sideman, he has performed traditional jazz frequently for Tri-State Jazz Society and throughout the region. In 2012, he served as leader of the 2012 annual Tri-State Jazz Society jam session.



Photo by Jim McGann

All of the sidemen have distinguished themselves in numerous concert venues. Several of them have been featured at past Tri-State Jazz Society concerts. This is a concert that you will be sure to enjoy!

### 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*

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR MARCH 2015 CONCERT

Stephanie Trick will play a Tri-State Jazz solo piano concert at the Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA on March 15, 2015. As Dick Hyman says about Stephanie, "One of the nicest gifts to arrive on the jazz piano scene in recent times, and we couldn't be more delighted to welcome her."



Photo by Bill Peters

Stephanie Trick "has come to practically dominate the stride piano field," notes reviewer Jack Rummel. Harlem stride piano, which developed in the 1920s and '30s, is an orchestral style of two-handed piano playing that not only swings, but is also technically demanding and exciting to watch. Louis Mazetier, a respected interpreter of this genre, writes in the Bulletin of the Hot Club of France that Stephanie has "won the esteem of specialists in the genre with wonderful interpretations of stride classics, James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, and Don Lambert (which she learned by ear). She plays these pieces with a punch that is matched by her precise interpretation."

With a swinging approach inspired by second-generation stride pianists such as Dick Hyman, Ralph Sutton, and Dick Wellstood (as well as the original Harlem ticklers, James P. Johnson, Willie "The Lion" Smith, and Fats Waller), and one that includes boogie woogie and blues from the late '20s, Stephanie was the 2012 recipient of the prestigious Kobe-Breda Jazz Friendship Award, and has performed in many parts of the United States and Europe in a variety of venues, including the Teatro Dal Verme in Milan, Italy, the Breda Jazz Festival in the Netherlands, the Arbors Records Invitational Jazz Party, and the Sacramento Music Festival.

## STEPHANIE TRICK: Great Strides on the Piano

By Lew Shaw

It was a typical family outing with the grandparents at a local restaurant in St. Louis back in 1992. What made it special for the five-year old granddaughter was hearing tuneful melodies being played by a pianist while the family was dining. It was her first experience in hearing live music. She watched in awe as the pianist played one beautiful melody after another. When the family acknowledged the musician and told her about the little gal's reaction, the pianist mentioned that she gave lessons, and so began a relationship that was to last for the next 13 years. Stephanie Trick began the way most young music students do, learning the scales and simple classical pieces to become familiar with the piano. But she quickly separated herself from other students and challenged her teacher, Diane Ceccarini, for more advanced exercises. "Stephanie was the most dedicated student I ever had," according to Diane. "She would never let anything go without fully understanding it first."

At the age of 10, Stephanie was introduced to ragtime, and when she was in junior high school she took first place for three years in the St. Louis Friends of Scott Joplin competition. As she continued to study the music of the early jazz pianists, Diane gave her the sheet music for Carolina Shout, one of James P. Johnson's signature pieces. Stephanie was immediately hooked and knew she wanted to play more of this music.

As she explained, "Stride was developed in the 1920s and kind of sounds like a whole band is performing. The left hand makes the sound of the bass by hitting low notes, thereby creating a very full sound. Once I heard it, I was blown away and started to learn about its history and the people that played it." James P. Johnson is considered the Father of Stride, while other early practitioners were Donald Lambert, Willie "The Lion" Smith, Fats Waller and Luckey Roberts.

### - *Comments from Her Peers* -

Phil Flanigan was the bass player in Stephanie's trio at the 2012 Sacramento Music Festival. He was

quite expansive when asked his assessment of this talented young lady, saying "I don't know how one acquires such things, but from the very first bars of hearing her play, you can tell this is one serious believer, a true and faithful Harlem stride pianist. There's something about the feel, the way the beat comes out, the directness of attack, the certainty and assuredness (not to mention accuracy) in Steph's playing that leaves you thinking you're in a speakeasy on 138th Street."

"Yet you look and don't see a grizzled old, cigar-chomping saloon dweller at the piano. You see Stephanie Trick, a twenty-something, unassuming young lady from St. Louis. What you hear is the authentic feel of the music which I attribute to her slavish devotion to playing the piano as well as the incredible daily discipline it takes to emulate the old Harlem stride pianists, especially the esoteric Donald 'The Lamb' Lambert."

Rossano Sportiello, a pretty fair stride pianist in his own right (although his abilities are far too great to limit him to just one style), states Stephanie Trick is an exceptional young lady. Over the past few years, I've seen her grow musically to the point where she has developed an effortless piano technique. Her specialty is making very accurate transcriptions of the most complex stride and boogie woogie pieces associated with James P. Johnson, Willie 'The Lion' Smith, Fats Waller and Donald Lambert and playing them by heart with extreme accuracy and most of all, with a beautiful soft, yet energetic, sound."

"She reminds me of the great Ralph Sutton whose touch and rhythmic pulse still represent a reference to many piano players. She can be considered one of today's masters in the field of philological stride piano style along with Louis Mazetier, Bernd Lhotzky and the maestro, Dick Hyman."

### **- Experiences in Europe -**

Although she is well known in ragtime circles, Stephanie's reputation probably grew more over the past four years across the ocean in Europe than in this country, although based on her reception in Sacramento this past May, that is about to change. According to her father Allan, who served as her business manager and died in 2012, The Europeans really love classic jazz. It all started with a video of her performing Jelly Roll Morton's *Finger Breaker*

which was taken by a fan at the 2007 West Coast Ragtime Festival and then posted on YouTube."

"We weren't even aware of it until contacted by someone from Switzerland who saw it and invited Stephanie (then a junior in college) to the 2008 Stride & Swing Summit in Boswil (her first overseas trip) where she played with some of the world's best stride musicians. She's since been there five times and seems to attract more attention each time she goes. It was here that Louis Mazetier told her that in order to play authentic stride and traditional jazz, the most accurate sources are the recordings of the old masters - not sheet music."

### **- Family Support -**

In explaining his role in his daughter's career, Allan had said, "We considered engaging a booking agent, but there really aren't many that understand classic jazz. They just pigeon-hole her in the broad jazz category. I got an MBA a few years ago so I knew something about marketing ... and a lot about Stephanie."

"So I assumed that role in 2009, and it seems to be working. By my helping with the business side, she's able to spend more time at the keyboard. She practices six-plus hours a day, and that's really what she prefers doing rather than having to line up gigs, answer mail and deal with the accounting."

### **- Academic and Musical Accolades -**

Over the years, Stephanie's daily routine involved rising at 5 a.m. so she could practice before going to school where she was an excellent student, graduating at the top in her high school class. She attended the University of Chicago where she studied Baroque and the Romantic and Classical styles and graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music along with Phi Beta Kappa academic honors.

The Hot Club of France awarded her its 2011 New Talent Prize for her *Stephanie Trick LIVE* album. In May at the Breda Jazz Festival in Holland (Europe's largest outdoor festival), she won the Kobe Award given to one new artist each year and includes an invitation for her to go to the Kobe, Japan Festival.

Dick Hyman, the Maestro, remarked that "Stephanie Trick is one of the nicest gifts to arrive

on the jazz piano scene in recent times." Stephanie says she has no grand plan and will take what comes while continuing to do what she truly enjoys doing. Wherein Phil Flanagan adds, "Without question, Stephanie makes any listening experience way beyond just worthwhile." He boldly concludes, "If I ran this country, I'd immediately assign her National Treasure status and promote her as an example of the best of American culture."

Reprinted through courtesy of American Rag

## QUIZ TIME

By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

"Do you know your ABC's?" That question was posed to some of us when we started our schooling. We were being asked if we already knew the alphabet. Much later, as adults, we wanted to master quickly the ABC's, the basics, of our job. Now I ask, "Do you know the ABC's of famous jazz musicians--i.e., their last names that begin with those letters?"

1. \_ o \_ i \_ A \_ \_ s \_ \_ o \_ \_
2. B \_ \_ d y B \_ \_ \_ e \_
3. E \_ \_ \_ e C \_ \_ \_ \_ n
4. J \_ m \_ \_ A \_ c \_ e y
5. C \_ \_ \_ t B \_ s \_ e
6. \_ \_ c C h \_ \_ \_ \_ a m

(Answers elsewhere in this issue.)

## AL HARRISON DIXIELAND BAND JANUARY CONCERT REVIEW

On Sunday, January 18, 2015, at the Wallingford, PA Community Arts Center, Tri-State Jazz presented a concert featuring The Al Harrison Dixieland Band.

The weather outside was miserable. There was ice on the streets, both bridges to Camden were shut down , and the expressway was a mess.

But inside the Wallingford Arts Center there was a significant-size house , and the Al Harrison Jazz Band had its own ideas on climate control. Some tunes like "Limehouse Blues" and "Sweet Georgia Brown" kicked the heat up a notch. Others, like "Creole Love Song", the title track for Al's upcoming CD, cooled it back some, and with "St. James Infirmary" there was a noticeable chill in the air.

Several members of the Band were bandleaders themselves. Franny Smith, banjoist and entertainer supreme, who worked with Al at the Showboat Casino, leads the Atlantic City Jazz Band . His toe-tapping, tongue-twisting version of "The Blues My Naughty Sweetie Gave to Me" was clever and well executed.



Franny Smith Photo by Paul Macatee

Jimmy Parker has had success with his West Philadelphia Orchestra, and got a great response when featured on "Basin Street Blues".



Jimmy Parker Photo by Paul Macatee

# The American Rag

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*Tri-State Jazz Society*

Joe Midiri is in a class by himself and is perhaps the greatest traditional clarinetist to come out of Philadelphia since Harold Karabel. Al gave him carte blanche on "Avalon" and he played endless choruses until it finally morphed into "Hindustan" and "China Boy".



Joe Midiri Photo by Paul Macatee

Chic Spirell, formerly drummer in the Mike Douglas Show band, and Fred Scott, trombone, rounded out the combo.



Chic Spirell



Fred Scott

Photos by Paul Macatee

The show ended with the traditional "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" followed by the \$10 song. (There is a sign on the wall at Pat O'Brien's, home of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band that reads, "All requests \$5, the Saint's \$10.") The audience, now warm and friendly gave the boys a standing ovation.



Photo by Paul Macatee

Al's band had melted the ice inside and spirits were high when the crowd stepped back into the cold weather.



Al Harrison Photo by Paul Macatee

The Strutter editor wishes to thank Renee Goldman, President of Regol Concerts, for this review of the Al Harrison Dixieland Band concert.

## THE STRUTTER IS ON THE WEB

The current and back issues of The Strutter are on the Tri-State Jazz Society Web. The Strutter archives cover over three years of back issues and all the bands and soloists who performed during that period are listed there.

Read the current issue at [www.tristatejazz.org/Strutter.pdf](http://www.tristatejazz.org/Strutter.pdf).

## 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:

- If you like to TALK to people and network, help us publicize TSJS. Contact newspapers and media in your area.
- Distribute FLIERS and post them on bulletin boards in your neighborhood.
- Help at CONCERTS. Come early or help at intermission: Both our Wallingford, PA and Haddonfield, NJ venues have openings for help at the admissions table, literature table, refreshments and ushers.

## FUTURE CONCERTS



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

**April 12, 2015** The Peter and Will Anderson Quartet, Wallingford, PA.

**May 3, 2015** The Barbone Street Jazz Band, Haddonfield, NJ.

**May 31, 2015** Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers Trio, Haddonfield, NJ.

**June 28, 2015** Annual Jam Session and Meeting, Wallingford, PA.

**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 station.

**Detailed directions at [www.tristatejazz.org](http://www.tristatejazz.org).**

## QUIZ TIME ANSWERS

1. Louis Armstrong (1901-1971): trumpet, singer, bandleader
2. Buddy Bolden (1877-1931): cornet, bandleader
3. Eddie Condon (1905-1973): banjo, guitar, bandleader, club owner
4. Jimmy Archey (1902-1967): trombone
5. Count Basie (1904-1984): piano, bandleader
6. Doc Cheatham (1905-1997): trumpet, singer, bandleader

## OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

### PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

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

(610)-625-4640

Dewey Fire Company Hall, 502 Durham Street, Hellertown, PA., 2:00-5:00 p.m.

**February 22** Bill Warfield & The Storyville Jazz Band

**April 26** Drew Nugent and the Midnight Society

**June 14** Marty Grosz, Danny Tobias and Others

### NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY

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

(800)-303-NJJS

**March 1** Pee Wee Russell Memorial Stomp, Birchwood Manor, Whippany, NJ, Noon to 5 p.m.

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)

All concerts 8:00 p.m. (973)-971-3706.

**February 17** Jazz Lobsters Big Band

**March 10** Bix Beiderbecke Birthday Bash

**March 30** Geoff Galante

#### OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

[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, Community and Arts Center, College Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753

**February 11** Blind Boy Paxton

**March 11** Danny Tobias & his Bixian Fig Pickers, with Dan Levinson & Marty Grosz

### CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St.,  
Cape May, NJ

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

**February 8** Barbone Street Jazz Band

**March 8** Perseverance Jazz Band

**April 12** Al Harrison Dixieland Band

### POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

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

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08054

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**Hotline Phone for updated concert information:**  
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Tri State Jazz Society is on Facebook! Our Facebook page is available for comments, questions, and suggestions.



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