

OUR NEXT CONCERT

Red Hot Ramblers



Photo by Red Hot Ramblers

Sunday, July 19, 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>

The Red Hot Ramblers will play a Tri-State Jazz concert at the Haddonfield Methodist Church on July 19, 2015. The band consists of:

Larry Toft: trombone/vocals/leader
 Adam Hershberger: trumpet
 Paul Butler: clarinet
 Evan Cory Levine: guitar/vocals
 Dan Nosheny: tuba
 Chad Brown: drums

The Red Hot Ramblers are an authentic 1920s jazz ensemble in every way. They exemplify red hot syncopation, stompin' rhythms, and lyrical melodies associated with the Jazz Age. Their snappy on-stage appearance would make you think you stepped back in time to the Roaring '20s.

From concert halls to dimly lit bars to swing dances to outdoor events/weddings, the Red Hot Ramblers have been pleasing audiences since 2012. Their repertoire can extend before and after the 1920s from the early years in Jazz, such as New Orleans Dixieland and Ragtime, up to the swing era of the 1930s and '40s and even into the modern Second Line New Orleans parade style.

The Red Hot Ramblers are sure to put a smile on your face and a hop to your step!

Tri-State Jazz Membership Year Ended on June 30, 2015

Membership for most members expires June 30. If you have not already renewed, please send your dues payment by mail with the form on the last page of this Strutter. Also consider becoming a Sponsor or Patron; your support will help us to continue our excellent programming.

Concert Admissions

\$10 First-time attendees and Members

\$20 General Admission

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LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR AUGUST 2015 CONCERT

The Adrian Cunningham Sextet will play a Tri-State jazz concert at the Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA on August 16, 2015. *All About Jazz* says "a young jazz artist who plays as if he has been playing for over a century."



Photo by Paul Macatee

Adrian Cunningham, a New York-based musician originally hailing from Australia, is one of his home country's best jazz exports. With fluent command of the saxophones, clarinet, and flute, he is one of the finest multi-instrumentalists in Jazz.

Since relocating to New York City in 2008, he has performed at some of the Big Apple's finest clubs- Blue Note, Smalls, Birdland, 55 Bar, Apollo Theatre, Fat Cat, Dizzy's Club (Jazz @ Lincoln Center) and even a private event at the hallowed Village Vanguard; with such luminaries as Lew Soloff, Wycliffe Gordon, George Coleman Jr and Bucky Pizzarelli, Chris Potter, and Renee Marie.

Adrian became the leader of the saxophone section of the Grammy-winning Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, a NYC based 1920's swing orchestra, responsible for the soundtracks for Boardwalk Empire and movies like the Aviator.

Adrian has traveled the globe with the Wycliffe Gordon quintet with a schedule that includes Johannesburg Jazz Festival, London Jazz Festival, Bern Jazz Festival (Switzerland), and regular performances in New York at the prestigious clubs Dizzy's (Jazz at Lincoln Center) and the Kitano Hotel.

TRI-STATE JAZZ JAM SESSION JUNE 28 CONCERT REVIEW

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

TSJS Core Band: Bob Rawlins, clarinet, soprano and alto saxes, leader; Ben Mauger, cornet; Franny Smith, banjo and vocals; Brian Nalepka, tuba and string bass; Alan Hubbell, drums.

Guest Musicians: John Tatum, trombone, vocals and whistling; Nancy Rawlins, piano; Bill Nixon, violin; Ray Mallach, piano; Jack Hobbs, drums; Skip Livingston, clarinet; Paul Hubbell, soprano and tenor saxes; Bob Kreitz, piano; Janney Murtha, vocals; Selina Higgins, vocals; Chic Bach, piano.

It is late June, and that can only mean two things - renew your Tri-State Jazz Society membership and it is time for the annual Jam session.

This year's jam session featured a familiar cast - Bob Rawlins leading the core group of Franny Smith on banjo, Brian Nalepka on bass and Alan Hubbell on drums. Replacing trumpeter Randy Reinhart was cornetist-bandleader Ben Mauger, whose fiery Armstrong sounds were a welcome sound in this setting.

The music was familiar fare for the most part. The first set opened with "Back Home Again In Indiana" with just the core band, allowing all band members to take a solo. For the rest of the concert, guest musicians were invited to sit in for one, two or more performances. First invitee was trombonist John Tatum who was featured on "Basin Street Blues" showcasing his pristine tone on the instrument. His sound reminded one of the great Teagarden, inspiring a Rawlins clarinet that displayed more than a hint of Barney Bigard, Teagarden's band mate in the first edition of Louis Armstrong's All Stars.



John Tatum

Photo by Jim McGann

Violinist Bill Nixon was featured on Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies," evoking sweetness and swing, and trading fours with Tatum's trombone. Pianist Ray Mallach, drummer Jack Hobbs, and clarinetist Skip Livingston joined the core band with Rawlins switching to alto sax for a swinging version of "Blues My Naughty Sweetie Gave To Me," with pianist Mallach the winner, displaying a unique, modern approach to stride. The "Sheik of Araby" followed, noteworthy for a hearty, slapping Nalepka bass solo.



Ray Mallach



Jack Hobbs

Photos by Paul Macatee



Skip Livingston, Photo by Paul Macatee



Bill Nixon, Photo by Jim McGann

Closing the first set was "Sweet Georgia Brown" featuring the nice, rolling tenor of Paul Hubbell. His effortless swing was nicely contrasted against Mauger's fiery cornet. Hubbell's presence inspired the others as well - Tatum took the first of two whistling solos, and Malek quoted "Carmen" in his piano.



Paul Hubbell



Ben Mauger

Photos by Paul Macatee

The second set opened with pianist Bob Kreitz performing a piece taken from a piano roll, entitled "The Jazz Dance Repertoire." The piece reflected a Ragtime style, but with a rare change in tempo. The change in tempo was not immediately recognizable; Kreitz was playing repetitive keyboard patterns so the listener did not pick up the change until four or five bars after the change took place. Nice job!



Bob Kreitz

Photo by Paul Macatee

Kreitz remained with the band to accompany two singers. The first, Janney Murtha, provided the swinging vocal on Harry Ruby's "Three Little Words", and the latter, Selina Higgins, projected a deep alto voice on Gershwin's "Summertime" backed by Ellingtonian brass and Rawlins' soprano sax. Murtha was invited back to sing on W. C. Handy's "St. Louis Blues," which allowed for a comedy moment. The tune was called to be played in the key of B Flat. After some confusion and even a false start, Ben Mauger's cornet roared out of nowhere, on key and everything fell into place.



Janney Murtha



Selina Higgins

Photos by Paul Macatee

The afternoon ended with "That's A Plenty," with most of the remaining guests participating. A fine way to conclude the 2015 TSJS Jam Session.

Jim McGann

QUIZ TIME
By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

Swing music of the big bands (c. 1930-1945) combined popular music and jazz. Those bands often included at least one singer, usually a woman. Can you fill in the missing letters of these well-known female singers? To help, I've added the band with which each singer is generally associated.

1. A ___ a O' ___ y (Gene Krupa)
2. H ___ n O' _____ l (Jimmy Dorsey)
3. P ___ y L _ e (Benny Goodman)
4. K ___ y K _____ n (Harry James)
5. H ___ n F _____ t (Artie Shaw)
6. M _____ e S _____ n (Claude Thornhill)
7. E ___ a F _____ d (Chick Webb)

(Answers elsewhere in this issue.)

Strutter by Mail Policy Changes

If you are a member who currently receives a printed copy of the Strutter newsletter in the mail, the Jazz Society will only be mailing the Strutter to Patrons and Sponsors starting on July 1, 2015. Patrons and Sponsors will receive their issues by mail at no charge, but must request it. All members can pick up a free paper copy of each issue on the literature table at our concerts.



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Tri-State Jazz Society

DAN LEVINSON: "Having a Great Time Playing Jazz" By Lew Shaw

Dan Levinson attributes whatever success he has achieved in his 26 years as a professional musician to the mentoring he received from two veterans who took the time to further his career. He says the late Rosy McHargue taught him most of what he knows about music and life. From a six-year association with pianist Dick Hyman, he learned the business side of the profession. Today he is filling that mentoring role for many up-and-coming musicians who have sought him out seeking advice and direction.



photo by Chao Petroselli

Growing up in the Los Angeles area, Dan studied piano and guitar, but says, "I really didn't have the discipline to learn them." In his early teens, he discovered early jazz listening to records borrowed from the Santa Monica Public Library. One was a 1950 RCA recording of *The Best of Dixieland*, and the tune that really got his attention was *Livery*

Stable Blues by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band.

That prompted him to return to the piano to learn ragtime, but he acknowledged that he couldn't read music very well. He took trumpet and clarinet lessons and settled on the latter, which he considered the easier of the two instruments. But his interest was primarily in the theater, and he became a drama major at New York University.

On a visit home, his father suggested they go hear 82-year-old saxophonist Rosy McHargue who was leading a band at a Santa Monica steakhouse. To 19-year-old Dan, Rosy was a celebrity who had been around when jazz was in its infancy. Rosy had met Bix Beiderbecke, knew Benny Goodman, recorded with Frankie Trumbauer, and had been a member of the Ted Weems and Kay Kyser big bands.

“Rosy didn’t treat me the way I see some musicians treating people in the audience, giving them an impersonal greeting and quickly moving on. Rosy invited me to his apartment to listen to records. Later on, he tried to talk me out of being a musician, but everything he said was encouraging. He wasn’t optimistic about the state of the music, saying, ‘In the old days, if you played your instrument well, you could make a living, but it’s not that way now.’ Well, I found a niche, and I’m making a living.”

Back in New York City, he practiced the clarinet constantly and visited all the clubs that featured traditional jazz. Along the way, he struck up a friendship with ragtime pianist Max Morath. Shortly before Dan was due to graduate from NYU, Max told him that Dick Hyman was looking for an assistant to catalogue Dick’s huge record and tape collection, file correspondence and run errands.

Dan took what appeared to be a fairly routine job, but said, “Because Dick was away much of the time, my function became much more significant. I was the one who held down the fort, mailing out publicity material, filling record orders and even copying music. Dick is a great businessman, and if there was a problem, he always came up with a solution. He was especially good at dealing with other musicians.”

This association continued for six years, interrupted by a year traveling through 17 countries in Europe, six months in New Orleans, and tours with Leon Redbone. Dick also counseled Dan that he should learn to play the saxophone. “Reluctantly, I got an alto sax and took lessons. A year later, I got my hands on a C-melody sax, and now I play all the saxophones from soprano down to baritone.”

“I gave up any thoughts about pursuing a career in the theater, not wanting to end up as a waiter in some New York restaurant, which happens to many aspiring actors. But from the start, I was fortunate that I was working constantly as a musician. I was young and enthusiastic - the new kid on the block - and that seemed to appeal to people.”

Today Dan is one of the most prolific reedmen on the jazz circuit, both as a leader and sideman, and his busy schedule takes him around the world to

perform. His tributes to Benny Goodman have brought him many accolades over the years. His own ensembles vary considerably in style and repertoire, running the gamut from ragtime to early jazz and swing. He has performed on over 150 CDs, including nine under his own name, and a prominent Dutch discographer has even published a separate booklet on Dan’s many recordings as part of his *Swinging Americans* series.

Dan knows from experience that it is important to encourage young musicians. One night at Eddie Condon’s club 30 years ago, he met trombonist Dan Barrett who offered to share his extensive record collection with the then-19-year-old clarinetist and also got him to do some arranging. Banjoist Eddy Davis is another who promoted Dan, often inviting him to sit in with his band. Dan is currently living in Eddy’s old apartment on Washington Square in the Big Apple, which is directly above the apartment once occupied by Eddie Condon.

As he approaches his 50th birthday, Dan gets great satisfaction in reaching out to young musicians to share his knowledge and experience as a jazz musician. “I don’t see helping a younger person as a threat to my livelihood. They are the future of this music. Many don’t take the time to research the history and tradition of the music, and they no longer have direct links to the people whose music they play. But when they are exposed, their minds are like sponges.”

Certainly a prime beneficiary of Dan’s largesse is vocalist Molly Ryan, who will celebrate her 31st birthday in October 2015. The two met at the Sacramento Jubilee, and Dan admits it was love at first sight. He had been battling throat cancer which compromised his ability to speak. “I no longer sing because I’ve been married to my favorite singer since 2008. She’s my voice,” the always-dapper Dan Levinson said with a smile.

Article reprint courtesy of The American Rag.

FUTURE CONCERTS



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

September 20, 2015 Adam Swanson-Ragtime Piano, Three-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest has performed at Carnegie Hall in NYC and the Kennedy Center in D.C., Haddonfield, NJ.

October 18, 2015 David Sager's Pie-in-the-Sky Jazz Band, Trombonist and leader of this D.C.-based septet, David got his trad jazz cred in New Orleans, Wallingford, PA.

November 8, 2015 Banu Gibson Band, Singer/band leader from New Orleans leads an all-star New York band. She brings original song stylings of '20s-'30s tunes to world stages and NPR; now to TSJS, Haddonfield, NJ.

January 17, 2016 Terry Waldo-Solo Piano, "A witty charmer who specializes in the twenties style stride piano in the manner of James P. Johnson." - The New Yorker, Wallingford, PA.

February 21, 2016 Bria Skonberg Quintet, Bria has been a TSJS favorite ever since her first appearance here on tour in 2008. An international star singer, trumpeter, composer, she now lives in NYC, Haddonfield, NJ.

March 20, 2016 Danny Tobias Band, Danny is a TSJS veteran, played trumpet with the Midiri Brothers, Jerry Rife, and others; now leading his own early jazz and swing band, Wallingford, PA.

April 17, 2016 Ivory & Gold® featuring Jeff and Anne Barnhart, Stride pianist and flutist, last time at TSJS was 2011, 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.

Detailed directions at www.tristatejazz.org.

OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org

(610)-625-4640

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

July 12 The Midiri Brothers

NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY

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

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

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Toms River, NJ 08753

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.

August 5 Geoff Gallante

September 16 The Jazz Lobsters

CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St.,

Cape May, NJ

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

July 12 Jack Melton Jazz Band

August 16 Al Harrison Dixieland Band

September 20 Atlantic City Jazz Band

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

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3. Peggy Lee
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6. Maxine Sullivan
7. Ella Fitzgerald

