



The Strutter

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 3

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

SEPTEMBER 2017

OUR NEXT CONCERT

Richard Dowling - Solo Piano



Photo by Peter Schaaf

Sunday, August 20, 2017

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Community Arts Center

414 Plush Mill Road

Wallingford, PA 19086

Directions at

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

The classically-trained pianist and musicologist Richard Dowling, who celebrated the centennial of Scott Joplin's death with a Carnegie Hall concert this past April featuring the ragtime master's complete piano works (which he had previously recorded in a 3-CD set), makes his Tri-State debut.

Dowling, whose father's family had strong ties to both Philadelphia and Camden, is the first pianist to perform the complete cycle of Joplin's 53 rags, marches, waltzes and cakewalks in public.

Throughout 2017 & 2018 he will perform over 60 all-Joplin recitals nationwide in commemoration of the centennial of Joplin's death and the sesquicentennial of his birth. Veteran celebrity ragtime pianist Max Morath says, "Richard

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OUR SEPTEMBER CONCERT

Dan Levinson's Roof Garden Jass Band



Photo by Edward Ohr

Sunday, September 24, 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>

Dan Levinson - Leader, Reeds

Jim Fryer – trombone

Mike Davis – trumpet

Kevin Dorn – drums

Dalton Ridenhour – piano

Dan Levinson brings his Roof Garden Jass Band to Tri-State, to re-create the style of the Original Dixieland Jass Band and the earliest sounds of recorded jazz. 2017 is being observed as the centennial year of commercially recorded jazz music, and the Roof Garden Jass Band is a celebration of that milestone.

Funding for this concert has been made possible by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through the Camden County

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Dowling's mastery of the Joplin rags invokes a tenderness that charms us and a technical command that inspires our admiration."

On the Web:

Richard Dowling plays William Bolcom's "Graceful Ghost Rag" at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwJ7DiHjfeU&list=RDBwJ7DiHjfeU>

"Original Rags" by Scott Joplin
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTTk7K_slgg

The artist's website is
<http://www.richard-dowling.com>

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

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 back issues at
www.tristatejazz.org/strutter-archives.html

SEE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/tristatejazz

Tri State Jazz Society is on Facebook! Our Facebook page is available for comments, questions, and suggestions.

Cultural & Heritage Commission at Camden County College, the designated arts agency of Camden County.

For music samples and info about Dan's bands, visit <http://www.danlevinson.com>. Watch the Roof Garden Jass Band perform "Look at 'Em Doin' It", https://youtu.be/MIQt2j7c_a8, and "My Baby's Arms", <https://youtu.be/dI3OvLSwKh4>.

Tri-State Jazz Society Current Membership Policy

1. All new and renewal memberships will be effective for 12 months, expiring at the end of the 12th calendar month.
2. Any prepayments prior to a membership expiration will extend the membership for 12 months from the expiration date of their current membership.

Most current memberships expired on June 30, 2017. If a member pays for a renewal prior to July 31, 2017, that renewal will provide membership until June 30, 2018. If a member does not renew prior to June 30, 2017 and the member renews some time later - such as possibly August, 2017 - that member will have a membership until the end of July, 2018.

Basic membership dues are \$20 for individuals; \$40 for couples. As a member, you will be able to attend all concerts at half price. Members also receive the monthly Strutter newsletter by email.

Members pay half the General Admission price (\$10 when the full price is \$20) for all regular concerts throughout the membership year. It pays to be a member even if you attend just two concerts a year, but after the second concert, members continue saving \$10 per concert, compared to non-member rates.

We hope you will also consider renewing your membership - or becoming a member - at the Sustainer, Patron or Sponsor level. Your donations enable us to bring you top bands from this region and beyond without raising our admission prices.

Yearly dues for Sustainers are \$200 or more (\$220 for couples). Patrons are \$100 or more (\$120 for couples). Sponsors dues are \$50 (\$70 for couples).

Printed copies of the Strutter are mailed to Sustainers, Patrons and Sponsors on request.

GALVANIZED JAZZ BAND CONCERT REVIEW

By Jim McGann

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

The Place: Haddonfield United Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ

The Band: Fred Vigorito, cornet; Jim Fryer, trombone, euphonium, trumpet and vocals; Noel Kaletsky, clarinet, soprano and alto saxophones; Bill Sinclair, piano; Art Hovey, string bass and tuba; Jim Lawlor, drums and vocals



Photo by Jim McGann

A fellow Tri-State member came up to me during the concert and said, "This is why I joined the Tri State Jazz Society!" In reviewing the Connecticut-based Galvanized Jazz Band, I couldn't agree with that statement more. If I was in New Orleans and entered a nightclub off of Bourbon Street (or Canal Street or whatever), the music played by the Galvanized Jazz Band would be the music I would want to hear.

For the life of me, I cannot explain why. The Tri State Jazz Society has hosted hundreds of tradjazz bands over the years that have played some the numbers that Galvanized played on this Sunday afternoon, but for most the spirit of the music isn't there. Aside from the longevity of some of the band members, there is not a sustainable reason how a tradjazz band succeeds in capturing the moment. To paraphrase Goodman biographer D. Russell Conner, on some nights the stars align; other nights they do not.

The concert opened in an unusual way, leader-cornetist Fred Vigorito introduced each band member beginning with pianist Bill Sinclair, and as

each musician arrived on stage, they would begin played their instrument until the full complement of the band was onstage, then commenced with "Basin Street Blues" with Jim Fryer performing an extended coda a la Jack Teagarden.

The first set featured a mix of the familiar and the unfamiliar and a couple of, shall we say in 2017 speak, mash-up. Johnny St. Cyr's "Oriental Strut," "That Da Da Strain," "Oh, Baby," "Blue Again" and the aforementioned "Basin Street" make up the familiar portion, with "Oriental" the best of the lot. The Wild Bill Davison tribute, "Blue Again", a close second. "When I Leave This World Behind," the novelty "I'm Gonna Skidaddle Back To Seattle," and the New Orleans Parade inspired "Mobile Stomp" make up the unfamiliar, with "Mobile" getting top honors with the band marching through the aisles. The only commentary I have for "Skidaddle" was that Noel Kaletsky's Jimmie Noone inspired New Orleans clarinet saved the number from complete campiness. The two "mash-ups" refer to "Algiers Waltz," a rare jazz waltz, and "New Orleans Shuffle." I call them mash-ups because the two tunes use the same chord structure as other familiar tunes. "Algiers" uses the same chord structure as "Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey?" as demonstrated by Vigorito and Jim Fryer. On "Shuffle," the band merged that melody with the pop tune "Fools Fall In Love."

The second set featured a few rarities, "Joe Avery's Piece," Duke Ellington's "Stevedore Stomp," and a Lu Watters composition, the name of which escapes me, but which inspired Jim Fryer to a take a rare solo on trumpet.

As with the first set, there was familiar fare. "Pennies From Heaven," the only vocal offering by Jim Lawlor, Walter Donaldson's "You're Driving Me Crazy" and concluding the concert with a "trifecta" of tradjazz favorites - an exhilarating "Panama," followed by a sobering "Amazing Grace" with Kaletsky's sub tone clarinet leading the way, giving way to another march through the audience with the band performing the "Saints," concluding with a few measures of "Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans?" If anyone listens to the GJB with its infectious spirited performance they will come appreciate, even if they have never been there, what it truly means to miss New Orleans.

PIANO DYNAMOS: A Celebration of the Piano in Jazz

Reprinted from The Jim Cullum Riverwalk Jazz Collection, Stanford University

Think of all the duos in show business history: George Burns and Gracie Allen, Laurel and Hardy, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. When the chemistry between two artists clicks, there's nothing like it. Alone, each one might be a genius but together they make history.



John Sheridan & Dick Hyman
Photo Courtesy Riverwalk Jazz

The remarkable partnership between jazz legend Dick Hyman and Cullum Band pianist John Sheridan began in May 1989. Dick Hyman flew down to San Antonio

from his home base in New York to appear on the first national radio broadcast of "Riverwalk, Live from the Landing," now known as Riverwalk Jazz. The show was a tribute to Fats Waller called "It Ain't Over 'Til the Fat Man Swings." Getting set to perform before a live audience on a live broadcast bouncing off a satellite in space into radios across the country, our dynamic duo faced off across two grand pianos on our tiny stage at the Landing. On stage left, wearing a red bow tie, our premier piano man John Sheridan. On the right, world-class pianist Dick Hyman. The result? Pianistic pyrotechnics filled the air.

There's not much that Dick Hyman has left undone in a career, which began in the 1950s. Memorable highlights include his early days taking piano lessons from Teddy Wilson and playing with Benny Goodman; a stint as Music Director for Arthur Godfrey on television; his work composing film scores for numerous Woody Allen movies; his "History of Jazz" concerts with Leonard Feather; his original compositions for ballet, television and theater; plus a catalog of over 100 recordings under his own name.

John Sheridan was born in Columbus, Ohio and began performing when he was only thirteen. He went on to receive a Master's degree in Music Theory from the renowned music school at North Texas State University. As pianist with The Jim Cullum Jazz Band for more than two decades, he honed his chops playing six nights a week at The

Landing jazz club. As music arranger for the Riverwalk Jazz radio series, John scored hundreds of arrangements; notably a jazz transcription of George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," and full band arrangements of rarely heard compositions by James P. Johnson, Fats Waller and Jelly Roll Morton. John Sheridan is a "walking encyclopedia" with a photographic memory, full of interesting bits of knowledge about music and the movies.

Both Sheridan and Hyman are life-long devotees of the "Harlem Big Three" stride piano masters: James P. Johnson, Willie "The Lion" Smith and Thomas "Fats" Waller. This edition of Riverwalk Jazz features works by all three groundbreaking jazzmen.

While a student at Columbia University in New York, Hyman would frequently hop on the subway to take in the vibrant live music scene which abounded in Greenwich Village, on 52nd Street, in Harlem and points between. He wrote, "I [frequented] Jimmy Ryan's, sat in at Eddie Condon's club at the original Village location, and at the Pied Piper where both James P. Johnson and Willie "The Lion" Smith were playing a few blocks away, with trumpeter Max Kaminsky's band."

The "Father of Stride Piano" James P. Johnson (1894-1955), wrote "The Charleston," a tune that first hit Broadway in 1923 and launched a national dance craze.



James P. Johnson
Photo courtesy, red hot jazz



Willie 'The Lion' Smith ©
William P. Gottlieb,
courtesy Library of Congress

Willie "the Lion" Smith (1893-1973) was highly esteemed by pianists of his day, especially Duke Ellington who said, "Willie 'the Lion' was the greatest influence of all the great jazz piano players who have come along. He has a beat that stays in the mind."

Fats Waller (1904-1943) created and recorded a never-equalled series of virtuosic stride piano solo

pieces, of which "Handful of Keys" is perhaps the best known.



Fats Waller
Photo courtesy Wikimedia

John Sheridan says, "In 1938 the team of Johnny Mercer and Harry Warren came together to write music for motion pictures. Their first picture assignment was "Going Places" with Louis Armstrong as one of the supporting actors. It was a racetrack-themed movie and Armstrong had the part of a horse trainer. The script stated that Louis had to sing a song to a horse! It was the genius of Johnny Mercer to come up with the concept of making the name of the horse and the name of a song one and the same: "Jeepers Creepers."

Jazz Age cornetist Bix Beiderbecke became one of the first jazzmen fascinated with new harmonic ideas presented by the early 20th century Impressionist composers Ravel and Debussy. John Sheridan created his solo version of Beiderbecke's rarely heard composition for piano from his Modern Suite, a contemporary sounding piece influenced by Impressionist composer Eastwood Lane, "Candle Lights."

Piano dynamos Dick Hyman and John Sheridan join forces to bring this radio show to a close by tackling a challenging masterpiece from Chicago's Joe Sullivan, "Little Rock Getaway."

Quote of the Month By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

"The basic jazz funeral consists of an assembly at a mortuary or home with the band at the head of a procession of mourners or lodge members. "A dirge is then played to set the mood of mourning, moving the procession to the deceased's church, accompanied by familiar hymns and slow marches. After ceremonies, the band leads the way to the cemetery playing dirges and hymns. Once at the grave site the musicians form a corridor for the hearse, and a drum roll accompanies this final procession, known as 'turning the body loose.' A solemn hymn of farewell ends the graveside music. The band retreats a respectful distance from the cemetery and begins playing spirited marches and popular songs, accompanied by celebration and spontaneous street dancing. This tribute is the final act of respect for the deceased, providing a break to the solemnity of the occasion and emphasizing its social aspect. Most importantly, the band reaffirms, through music, the Christian promise of everlasting life." (Quoted from an anonymous source in Dan Marquis, "The New Orleans Jazz Funeral" in *The Second Line*, published by The New Orleans Jazz Club, vol. XLVIX, no. 1, spring 1999, p. 16.)

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.

November 5, 2017 Red Hot Ramblers.

Trombonist Larry Toft returns to Tri-State Jazz with his sextet to play more hot tunes of 20s and 30s. These young men from Philly play old music like old pros, Wallingford, PA

November 19, 2017 Cocuzzi Courtet. The Cocuzzis are on tour from the West Coast with a trad jazz quartet. John Cocuzzi is on piano, Kristy on reeds, Jack Hegyi on bass, Harry Himies on drums. Haddonfield, NJ

January 7, 2018 Dave Posmontier's Dixie

Kings. Pianist Dave Posmontier has reformed the old Ed Wise New Orleans Jazz Band without Ed, who lives in New Orleans now. The septet plays some of Ed's authentic arrangements. Wallingford, PA

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

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.

OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org

(610)-625-4640

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

October 15 Bill Warfield - Big Band Swing

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

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

August 3 Danny Bacher & Friends

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Toms River, NJ 08754

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.

August 23 Geoff Gallante

CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St.,

Cape May, NJ

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

August 13 Atlantic City Jazz Band

September 17 Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band

October 5 Midiri Brothers Jazz Band

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

Check out the numerous traditional jazz events sponsored by PRJC at www.prjc.org

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

TSJS SUSTAINERS

- Very Special - \$200 or more, \$220 couples
- Mary Ann & Dr. Charles H. Emely
 - Chuck Haggerty & Sarah Burke
 - William N. Hoffman
 - Richard & Peggy Hughlett
 - Chris Jones and Amy Galer
 - Wayne B. & Nancy Lewis
 - Bob Mackie
 - Dewaine & Clare Osman
 - DeWitt Peterson
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 - Sylvia Rosenberg
 - Alice V. Schmidt
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 -

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More Volunteers are listed on our website at:
www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html

TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

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08054

E-mail: info@tristatejazz.org

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



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:

(Check all boxes that apply.)

TSJS concert announcements and membership notices

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Strutter by U.S. Mail (Patrons, Sponsors, Sustainers Only)

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