

## Our Next Concert Sunday, November 12, 2023 Mark Shane, solo piano

Haddonfield United Methodist Church



Mark Shane's playing is firmly rooted in a tradition established by such jazz piano masters as James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, Teddy Wilson, Count Basie, Earl Hines and Art Tatum. While developing his solo style, Mark Shane served an extended tenure as house pianist in New York's "Eddie Condon's" jazz club, adding a distinctive new piano voice to the Condon tradition of hot ensemble playing. Shane has played with Benny Goodman, Buck Clayton, Buddy Tate and many other all star alumni from the great bands of Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller.

Named to the Steinway international roster of piano artists, Mark Shane has been called "...one of the great accompanists of his time..." by the Mississippi Rag. Shane's piano, featured on many recordings, reflects a true sense of living jazz history and continues the tradition of deep swing and lyrical melodic improvisation. Mark Shane plays Classic Jazz Piano, America's unique musical contribution to world culture.



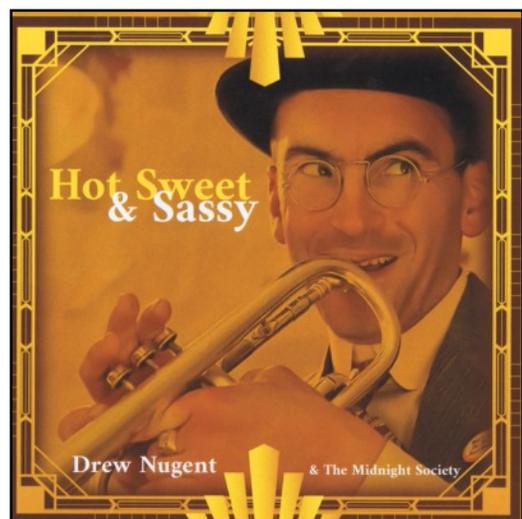
Made possible by funds from the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Camden County College, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

**Coming on January 21, 2024**  
**Drew Nugent & the Midnight Society**  
Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA



Drew Nugent is a jazz musician, hailing from the city of Philadelphia, and bandleader of the ensemble “Drew Nugent & the Midnight Society.” Nugent and his ensemble specialize in traditional or “Hot” Jazz, from the 1900s to the 1940s, with the main area of focus being the Jazz Age - the Roaring 20s. Nugent’s instruments of choice are the cornet and piano, plus his own vocals. He is also known for his playing of an odd contraption called the “Hot Tea-Kettle,” or the “Teapot Trumpet” as some fans have named it. Drew made his debut in 2005, at age 19, on the classic NPR radio show A Prairie Home Companion, where he placed 3rd on the “Talent from 12-20 Contest.” The Midnight Society’s TSJS debut was in April, 2010, and they last returned for an outdoor concert in 2021. They perform the “good ol’ tunes,” and have earned a reputation as one of the best bands in the “trad” style.

Listen to Drew Nugent & the Midnight Society on YouTube



**Sunday, October 15, 2023**  
**Richard Barnes and the Blackbird Society Orchestra**  
**Review by Jim McGann**



Photo by Jim McGann

- Richard Barnes** - leader, guitar, vocals
- Rob Ford, Alex Gittleman** - trumpets
- Andy Hutton** - trombone
- Jim Gicking** - trombone and guitar
- Jeff Hart, Bill Dibiase,**  
**Travis Johnson, Frank McKinney** - reeds
- Byron Pondexter** - violin
- Spencer Kashmanian** - piano
- Josy Conklin** - tuba
- Glenn Cowen** - drums

It is October. Red October if you are a fan of a certain baseball team. While not getting into specifics, the country as it is could use an escape from all the chaos that is going on these days. Some solve this problem by going on vacations, or reading books, and some seek solace in the form of music. The lively hot dance music of the 1920s certainly would make one forget the troubles in the world temporarily, and Richard Barnes and the Blackbird Society Orchestra, specializing in the aforementioned product, made such an escape a delightful experience.

Most of the personnel in this 2023 edition of the BSO were familiar faces from concerts past, although there were a few newcomers. Frank McKinney's tenor sax was a welcome addition as was Byron Pondexter's



violin. Josy Conklin's robust tuba aided the rhythm section of Kashmanian, Barnes, and Cowan. Along with some new personnel, there was new material. Barnes announced some of these new arrangements as "rehearsals." If that were the case, I would take these rehearsals over some other bands' output, which sound like rehearsals (and they are the finished product, supposedly).

After the LeRoy Shield theme of "Good Ol' Days," the band kicked off a number popular with Eddie Cantor and bandleader Harry Roy, "Yes! Yes! (My Baby Said Yes)." This was followed by Fletcher Henderson's arrangement of "Copenhagen," based on the 1924 Wolverine's performance, which allowed for solos from Frank McKinney (tenor sax), Alex Gittleman, and Spencer Kashmanian. In honor of the 14th Eddie Lang Day, the BSO performed selections associated with the guitarist. The first was the sweet "I Don't Mind Walking In the Rain," taken from a 1930 Bix Beiderbecke recording session. Barnes took the vocals, while Rob Ford played the Bix parts. Most interesting was the clarinet/violin duo by Jeff Hart and Byron Pondexter adding to the sweetness of the arrangement.

With Halloween being the theme of the afternoon, "Mysterious Mose" was the first of such vehicles, the tune associated with bandleader Ted Weems. Saxophonist Bill DiBiase was credited for the arrangement which kept the spirit (no pun intended) of the early Weems recordings, including the humorous band vocal interjections. Later on, beginning the second set, Ellington's "Jubilee Stomp" roared in with soli from Ford, Hart, Travis Johnson (on clarinet and alto), and trombonist Jim Gicking. While not identified with Halloween per se, the arrangement's minor key makes one wonder where the "jubilee" was located. Most curious was Fletcher Henderson's "Stampede." Again, not identified with Halloween, but it fit within the program. Rex Stewart's cornet on the 1927 recording immediately set the tune ablaze, though he only appeared briefly, as was the clarinet trio of Don Redman, Buster Bailey, and Coleman Hawkins, performing a multi-octave break in two or three measures of music. One



walked away from the recording remembering those two elements. The arrangement performed by the BSO lacked those two moments, and while performed well by the band, I walked away reminded of Henderson's 1937 remake – even though the solo sequence identified with the 1927 recording. It seemed more like a “rumble” than a “stampede.”

“Breezin’ Along with the Breeze” taken at a jaunty pace, hinting that the breeze maybe a little blustier than first perceived. In keeping with the times, it was not unusual for tunes of this period to be taken at a faster tempo, only to decrease in future years. A good example of this is Carmichael's “Stardust” which was taken at a faster time initially but slowed down as the years progressed, making it the classic it is. A note about the performance was the very effective soprano sax choir, making the “breeze” have a coasting effect despite the faster tempo.

“Body and Soul,” based on an Armstrong recording, featured a Rob Ford trumpet lead, Andy Hutton on trombone and Alex Gittleman providing the high note coda. A tune from the Hot Five book “Once In A While” featured a small group with Rob Ford leading the charge on cornet and Travis Johnson providing the clarinet work. Finally, returning to the big band format, “Dinah,” based on an Armstrong recording allowed for more



All concert and reception photos by Jim McGann, Chris Jones, and Marian Konop

McKinney tenor sax and creative stop time cornet breaks from Ford.

Other highlights include two more Eddie Lang items, this time from the Jean Goldkette canon, "Idolizing" and "My Pretty Girl." The former had trombonist Gicking switching to guitar to back Barnes' vocal (there was a brief comparison of guitar sounds prior to the performance – the guitar Gicking performed on was a Gibson L-5, the guitar Eddie Lang played, which retained a strong sound minus amplification), Rob Ford took the brief Bix part and Andy Hutton took Bill Rank's trombone part. The latter had Jeff Hart taking the clarinet solo originated by Danny Polo, and Travis Johnson took the brief manic alto break. On both performances, Bryon Pondexter's had brief moments to shine.

Two noteworthy performances included the sax section performing Rudy Wiedoeft's "Saxophobia." With Jeff Hart leading on soprano sax, the quartet rocked through the raggy tune without the aid of a rhythm section - Bill DiBiase's baritone was significant enough. The other was "Flamin' Mamie." taken from the book of that most celebrated of 1920s hot dance bands, Coon-Sanders Nighthawks, this composition by Paul Whiteman and Fred Rose captures the spirit of the decade that roared, kicking off with a trumpet break by Gittleman, one could envision dancers in Kansas City charleston-ing away at the midnight hours, soli by Andy Hutton, Jeff Hart (alto), Bill DiBiase (baritone), leading up to Barnes' gymnastic vocal, backed by the band hand clapping, a clarinet choir crescendo-ing from the clarion to the altissimo register completed an excellent performance.

If only our country would appreciate music like this...there would be fewer wars and more dancing. One can only hope.

### Review by Jim McGann

With a passion for traditional jazz, Jim McGann has reviewed and photographed Tri-State Jazz concerts since the early 2000s.



### A reception followed the concert honoring our Premium Members, Board of Directors, and Volunteers.



Thanks to Buffe Savant for the exquisite tablescape and delicious food. Thanks to Buffe's mother and Board Member Sally Cannon for helping to cater a lovely party.

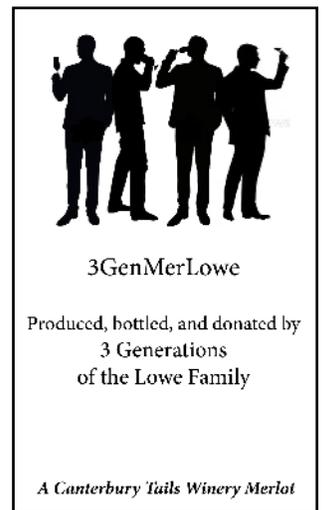
Buffe Savant Catering - 484 885-6134



**Richard Barnes** - leader, guitar, vocals  
**Jeff Hart** - clarinet  
**Bill Dibiase** - sax  
**Rob Ford** - trumpet  
**Jim Gicking** - trombone  
**Scott Ricketts** - Special guest and Premium Member - trumpet



The specially bottled merlot was donated by three generations of the family of Bob Lowe, our treasurer.



## No TSJS Concert during December 2023

### **Drew Nugent and the Midnight Society**

**01/21/2024**  
Wallingford

Drew Nugent and his Midnight Society return! Drew and the band specialize in playing in the traditional "hot" jazz style of the 1920s.

### **Jerry Rife's Blue Skies Jazz Quartet**

**02/18/2024**  
Haddonfield

The **Blue Skies Jazz Quartet** performs with infectious rhythm and a tight improvisational spirit, specializing in swing music of the early jazz pre-WWII period. They draw on the familiar tunes of the Great American Song Book, standard jazz and revival New Orleans Style.

### **Bryan Wright - Piano**

**03/24/2024**  
Wallingford

Bryan is a pianist and musicologist specializing in ragtime and early jazz piano styles. Brian has performed and lectured on ragtime across the United States and abroad. He is founder and executive producer of Rivermont Records, a Grammy-nominated label specializing in ragtime and early jazz.

### **Dave Posmontier's Philly Stomp!**

**04/21/2024**  
Haddonfield

"A New Orleans Band With a Philly Twist" -- **Philly Stomp!** is a six piece ensemble playing authentic New Orleans swinging jazz like you heard from the Twenties right up to today on Basin and Bourbon Streets and in the French Quarter.

### **Neville Dickie with Joe and Paul Midiri**

**05/19/2024**  
Haddonfield

World-class British pianist Neville Dickie rejoins TSJS veterans Joe and Paul Midiri. Neville is among the most accomplished stride and boogie-woogie pianists on either side of the Atlantic. Joe and Paul Midiri, well-known to Tri-State audiences, have recorded with everything from trios to big bands.

### **Danny Tobias and Friends**

**06/23/2024**  
Wallingford

Danny has quite a group of friends - a stellar array of talent - including Randy Reinhart, Jim Lawlor, Arnt Arntzen and Vince Giordano. A "must see" event!

### **The Tri-State Jazz All-Stars**

**07/21/2024**  
Wallingford

The Tri-State All-Stars return. Our annual tradition offers a core band of top performers jamming together with guest musicians, on familiar trad jazz tunes.

## Thank You to Our Premium Level Members

<b>SUSTAINERS</b>	<b>\$200 for individuals \$220 for couples</b>	
	David Gray & Susanne Abplanalp	Robert Lowe
	Sanford Catz	DeWitt Peterson
	William N. Hoffman	Sylvia Rosenberg
	Richard & Peggy Hughlett	Jazz Bo Jay & Orinda Lou Schultz
	Chris Jones & Amy Galer	Ken Wright & Elizabeth Hazard
	Joe Havasy & Marian Konop	
<b>PATRONS</b>	<b>\$100 for individuals \$120 for couples</b>	
	Gregory Babula	
	Joan Bauer	Ludwig & Claire Pisapia
	Gary Coller	Mark Raymond
	Michael c. Galan	Scott Ricketts
	Beverly A. Kovac	Sally Scheidemantel
	Craig & Jill Lowe	Candis Siatkowski
	Janney & Bill Murtha	Sam Sokolik
	Lester Owens	Natalie Sturr
	Nancy Pontone & Steve Peitzman	Edward & Joan Sutter
	Katherine & Michael Perloff	Rich Troyan
<b>SPONSORS</b>	<b>\$50 for individuals \$70 for couples</b>	
	Joel Albert	Janet Garwood and Mark Liss
	Chic Bach	Susan Miller
	Tim Bell	Grant Noble
	Gary Cornelius	Michael Olderman
	Amy Ahart & Tom DiGiovanni	Michael Prince & Carol Otte
	Bruce M. Gast	Terence W. Rave
	Marvin & Dorothy Gelb	R. Adam Rogers III
	Estherose Heyman	Virginia & Joseph Wheeler
	Roger W. Jacobs	Constance & Donald Windus
	Peggy de Prophetis & Louis Kaplan	

Tri-State Jazz Society depends on the generous contributions of members because basic membership dues and concert admission charges do not cover all costs. The board asks members to consider renewing their memberships at the Sponsor, Patron, or Sustainer level if they are able to do so.



Please visit [The Syncopated Times syncopatedtimes.com](http://The Syncopated Times syncopatedtimes.com)  
Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing.

Subscription information can be found at [syncopatedtimes.com/subscription-options/](http://syncopatedtimes.com/subscription-options/)



**POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB** [WWW.PRJC.ORG](http://WWW.PRJC.ORG)

**Monday, November 13 @ 7pm**  
**PRJC Jazz Talk Series.**

It's a deep dive into the fabulous Dukes of Dixieland featuring Deano Assunto, son of Dukes founder Frank "Frankie" Assunto. Deano is a former president of the New Orleans Jazz Club and keeps the flame alive with an active Dukes tribute band.

After Louis Armstrong's bands, The Dukes of Dixieland was, perhaps, the most widely admired jazz band. The Dukes was a New Orleans Assunto family creation. But tragedy struck twice along with a lawsuit over rights to the band's name. You'll hear the fascinating details of the story from Deano Assunto, son of one the band's originators on the next Zoom Jazz Talk (free) sponsored by the Potomac River Jazz Club that has bringing jazz and jazz education to fans since 1971.

Advance registration by 5pm the night of the talk is required: [CLICK HERE "Eventbrite - Dukes Talk"](#)

**PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY**

**JAM SESSION**  
 With  
**PJS Core Band**



**SUNDAY,  
 NOVEMBER 12,  
 2023  
 2 - 4:30 P.M.**  
**DEWEY BANQUET HALL  
 502 DURHAM STREET  
 HELLERTOWN, PA  
 18055**

**ADMISSION FEE:  
 \$15.00**

**FREE ADMISSION  
 FOR THOSE WHO  
 COME TO JAM**

**STUDENTS ADMITTED FREE**

**PAY AT THE DOOR –  
 NO ADVANCE SALES  
 CASH OR CHECK  
 ONLY**

All Jazz Musicians and Vocalists are invited to sit in with the core band.

An 88-key electric piano, an electric bass, and sheet music will be available for jammers.

**More information:  
 610-625-4640  
[Pajazzsociety.org](http://Pajazzsociety.org)**

RADIO:

Mon.-Fri. 10a.m.-12p.m. and Sat. 9-11a.m.  
 WWOZ's Trad Jazz program on  
[www.wooz.org](http://www.wooz.org)

Sat. 7-10 p.m. Hot Jazz Saturday Night with  
 Rob Bamberger on WAMU 88.5 FM radio  
[www.wamu.org](http://www.wamu.org)

Sun. 8-10 p.m. Dave Robinson's Jazz Gumbo  
 on WKHS-FM 90.5 (Worton, MD) or online at  
[www.wkhsradio.org](http://www.wkhsradio.org)

*Features Now ONLINE on the  
Tri-State Jazz Website*

Our Premium Level Members

Tri-State Jazz Society Board of Directors

Tri-State Jazz Society Contact Information

Online Membership Enrollment and Renewal

CONCERT SCHEDULE  
Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Visit our Tri-State Jazz Society website for up-to-the-minute news about schedule and concert changes, or call our Hotline at (856) 720-0232.

Member admission is \$10; general admission is \$20.

Introductory offer - start a new, first-time TSJS annual membership (\$20) at the door and receive free admission to this concert.

Full-time students with ID, or children accompanied by a paying adult, are free.

#### **Concert Covid Policy**

Tri-State Jazz Society recommends that guests wear masks, based on personal preference, to attend this full-capacity indoor concert.

You may also enjoy watching the concert remotely on our website or YouTube channel.

**CALL OUR HOTLINE for up-to-the-minute updates (856) 720-0232**

#### **ADA compliance**

Access to our concert venues is available at grade level.

Restroom facilities are available at grade level.



Tri-State Jazz Society, formed in 1988, is dedicated to the preservation and live performance of traditional jazz. Concerts featuring leading professional soloists and bands are presented throughout the year. Events are open to the public and all who enjoy traditional jazz are invited to join. The society is a non-profit educational corporation supported by its members.

#### **Membership**

Basic dues are \$20 per person. New and renewal memberships can be started in any month and run for one year. In addition to half-price concert admissions, members receive The Strutter newsletter by email.

**Premium memberships** help sustain and expand the work of Tri-State Jazz Society. Individual Sponsors contribute at the \$50 level (\$70 for couples); Patrons, \$100 (\$120 for couples); Sustainers \$200 or more (\$220 or more for couples). Premium-level members are eligible to attend an annual reception for Sponsors, Patrons and Sustainers.

*Visit our website for more details:*

**New Member application**

**Renew your membership** at the Sustainer, Patron, or Sponsor level.

Dues and donations may be tax deductible under IRS Section 501(c)(3).



# 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.*

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**

