

Our Next Concert:
Bria Skonberg

Sunday, November 23, 2025
Haddonfield United Methodist Church



Photo by Shervin Lainez

Bria Skonberg is a Juno-award winning artist, 10x Downbeat Rising Star, recipient of the Legend Award by the Society for the Preservation of the Great American Songbook and a 2025 nominee for the prestigious "Academie du Jazz" awards. The trumpeter, vocalist, and songwriter has been called the "shining hope of hot jazz" (*NY Times*) and is considered "one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation" (*WSJ*). She has been a featured artist at hundreds of festivals and stages the world over, including New Orleans Jazz Heritage, Kobe, Monterey, Breda, Newport and Montreal Jazz Festivals and recently at Carnegie Hall.

She has been at the forefront of a revival of classic American music as both a performer and educator, programming concerts and workshops for students of all ages on behalf of Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Louis Armstrong House Museum, Jazz House Kids and more. She is a co-producer of the NY Hot Jazz Camp, now in its 10th year.



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 Soon **Danny Tobias and Friends**

January 25, 2026 – Wallingford Community Arts Center



Photo credit – PA Jazz Society - video

Get ready for "an oasis of joy!" (in the words of our reviewer after Dan's last appearance). Dan last brought his friends to Tri-State in June 2024; today we see the return of Dan leading and playing trumpet, with Randy Reinhart on trombone, Pat Mercuri on guitar and banjo, Joe Plowman on bass and Jim Lawlor on drums.

A 1985 graduate of Trenton State College (now College of New Jersey), **Danny Tobias** has worked with such jazz luminaries as Kenny Davern, Warren and Allan Vache, Harry Allen, Howard Alden, John Bunch, Marty Napoleon, Greg Cohen, Derek Smith and many other jazz legends. Danny just released a new CD on the Ride Symbol record label, *Silver Linings*, featuring multi-instrumentalist Scott Robinson, pianist Rossano Sportiello, bassist Joe Plowman and drummer Kevin Dorn (all of whom are TSJS alumni).

Jim Lawlor began playing drums after moving from Philadelphia to Atlantic City in 1979, just as the town was beginning its rise as the East Coast gambling mecca. His primary teacher was Chris Columbo, former drummer with Louis Jordan's Tympani Five and father of Count Basie drumming legend Sonny Payne. Jim spent eight years in the Chris Sooy Swing Band, a very popular group that pre-dated the Neo-Swing movement by a decade. He was then hired by Joe and Paul Midiri to play and sing in their small groups and big band. In 2000, the Midiri ensemble landed on the festival circuit and gave Jim a chance to travel and perform around the USA. He is another frequent performer at TSJS, noted primarily for his association with the Midiri Brothers and Danny Tobias.

Randy Reinhart played his first gigs when he was a teenager, making jazz his profession at the age of 18 and becoming an ongoing substitute at Eddie Condon's on 54th street in 1973. He played with some of the finest players on the New York scene including Vic Dickenson, Pee Wee Erwin, Herb Hall and drummer Connie Kay. In the mid 1970's he began doubling on trombone while touring with Paul Laval's Band Of America. You can hear his cornet in many Bix Beiderbecke tribute recording and concert orchestras. The Arbors release, "Celebrating Bix", places Randy with three cornetists, Jon-Erik Kellso, Randy Sandke and Dan Barrett.

Joe Plowman is a Philadelphia area bassist. An alumnus of Temple University's Boyer College of Music, Joe can often be seen playing anywhere from D.C. to New York. As music director and bassist for Carsie Blanton, he has toured the country opening for acts such as Paul Simon, The Wood Brothers, The Weepies, and Joan Osborne. Joe has performed with Chelsea Reed and the Fair Weather Five, Marty Grosz (at the Mermaid in Chestnut Hill, among other venues), Milton, and the Grand Slam Trio.

Banjoist/guitarist **Pat Mercuri** is one of the area's most active freelance jazz musicians. As a member of Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings, the Midiri Brothers' and Ed Wise's bands, he plays for TSJS frequently. Pat has also performed with local big bands, including the ensemble of reed man/composer/arranger Andrew Neu.

Miss Maybell and Her Ragtime Romeos

October 19, 2025, at the Wallingford Community Arts Center
Review by Bill Hoffman – photos by Richard Barnes

I had agreed to review the October 19 concert with Miss Maybell and the Ragtime Romeos, so I planned to arrive well prepared and on time. But SEPTA had other ideas: the R3 from Center City to Wallingford was cancelled so I had to wait an hour for the next train. This made me half an hour late at CAC. Fortunately, Chris Jones had made his own recording of the concert and sent it to me so I could, after the fact, view what I missed in person. Not the same as being there, but any port in a storm.

Since their first appearance at Tri-State in May, 2023, the band has undergone a name change from the Ragtime Artistes and added a sixth member, Gavin Rice. He is a recent arrival on the NYC scene, having just graduated from Eastman and currently student teaching in Rochester, planning to move to Queens in a few months. Gavin is someone to keep on your radar. In three gigs over the same weekend, I saw him play banjo, drums, trumpet and alto sax, but he's also fluent on several other instruments, and very adept on all of them.

The other Romeos are the co-leaders Miss Maybell (Lauren Sansaricq) on banjo, ukelele, washboard, kazoo and vocals; her husband Charlie Judkins on piano; reedman Dan Levinson, no stranger to TSJS; Brian Nalepka on bass; and Andy Stein on violin. Brian contributed a solo vocal on "How 'Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm" as well as backing up Lauren on several other numbers, such as "Minnie the Mermaid."

The Romeos are in the midst of recording, on Rivermont Records, a bunch of songs from the early 20th century that have never been recorded. We got to hear several of them: "Plain Country Rose;" "Unknown Blues;" "Tennessee;" "New York, I'm All for You;" and "Eureka Trot." Guaranteed, nobody else on Plush Mill Road was playing those tunes that afternoon.

The concert opened with "Sailing Down Chesapeake Bay," complete with steamboat whistle and Lauren's vocal. She had vocals on all but 8 of the 25 songs performed. Her contralto voice is perfect, dare I say unique, for the types of tunes they play. It's reminiscent of the largely forgotten Lee Morse who was popular in



the 1920s. As well, the Romeos have created their own niche in the trad world, one that had landed them a 9-day residence at a club in Bern, Switzerland, just the week before.

A number of period instruments were played during this concert: Dan Levinson's C-melody sax, production of which ended around 1930; Gavin's Weymann banjo, made in Philadelphia in 1925 and used in Fred Waring's band around that time; and his trumpet, also from 1925.

We were treated to an original composition by Lauren, "I Dream of You in Berry Picking Time," which she also sang. It was very catchy. All the tunes played dated from about 1900 to 1925. The band's repertoire is growing, but a few tunes on today's card were also played in their previous concert for us. Not that that's a bad thing; many of those tunes are often requested by their audiences.

Most of the tunes were ensemble only, with Lauren's vocals, which reduced opportunities for the sidemen to solo, but over the course of the concert they all had chances to shine. And well they should, since other than Gavin, profiled above, all are veterans of early jazz.

The small crowd clearly enjoyed the concert, and requested an encore, which turned out to be "Coney Island Washboard." It's a shame so few people were in the house. The only other downside was that much of the time the sound was much louder than it needed to be for such a small crowd. The band used their own amp, which I think was the source of the problem. It made the vocals—and Lauren has precise diction—and announcements hard to understand at times, at least from my third-row seat. Perhaps with more people in the room, and the stage against the east wall as it usually is instead of the south-facing windows, some amplification would have been necessary because most of the audience would have been seated farther from the band.

You can expect to see the Romeos at future Tri-State concerts.

See the concert video –
click <https://youtu.be/q6PRgStfh5c>



Other Jazz Happenings



PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY presents

JAM SESSION with PJS Core Band
Sunday, November 9, 2025
2 – 4:30 pm
Congregation Brith Sholom
1190 W. Macada Road
Bethlehem PA 18017

\$15 admission
free admission for those who come to jam
More Information: 347-247-5214

Visit the Society's website at
<https://www.pajazzsociety.org/>



Potomac River Jazz Club Zoom Jazz Talk

A Tribute to Henry Butler – featuring Josh Paxton

Monday, November 17, 2025 – 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm EST

Dynamic New Orleans–based pianist Josh Paxton celebrates renowned Pianist/Composer Henry Butler in a combo of performance and stories.

This on-line presentation is free (donations to defray production costs are appreciated) but you must advance register by 5pm EST the night of the talk. -- [Registration Link](#) -- Then, you'll get the Zoom link by email shortly before start time.

Or, go to the PRJC website at <https://prjc.org/> for more information.



Paul Macatee – In Memoriam

We were sorry to learn of Paul Macatee's passing in October. Long-time concert-goers and Strutter readers will remember Paul.



Paul was a creative individual with a deep appreciation for photography. He was a professional photographer for 30 years doing weddings, family portraits, and parties.

He was a member of the Tri State Jazz Society and also took pictures of the artists who performed there. Paul attended many, many concerts over the years, camera in hand, taking photos of the artists and the performances. His contributions made the Society's photo archive possible, as well as providing images for our newsletter.

He enjoyed ballroom and polka dancing and performed in shows and competitions with his wife, Barbara. He liked doing card tricks, dabbling in magic, playing the guitar, and collecting model cars.

Concert Schedule

All Concerts on Sunday afternoon, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm (unless otherwise noted)

11/23/2025 Haddonfield	Bria Skonberg "Bria Skonberg has become the shining hope of hot jazz, on the strength of a clarion trumpet style indebted to Louis Armstrong, a smooth purr of a singing voice inspired by Anita O'Day..." the New York Times
December 2025	No concert this month — enjoy the holidays!
1/25/2026 Wallingford	Danny Tobias and Friends Cornetist Danny Tobias returns to Tri—State at the helm of his group of friends. A much sought—after musician identified by his lyrical phrasing and fat, relaxed tone, Danny is frequently heard performing with many leading traditional jazz and swing groups.
2/22/2026 Haddonfield	Royce Martin – Piano Royce Martin - pianist, composer - has a rich musical background and an affinity for a myriad of genres. He worked as the in-house pianist and lecturer at the Scott Joplin State Historic Site between semesters at Berklee College of Music. And Royce has recorded an album of a dozen Joplin classics, reinterpreted in his own eclectic style. Royce also has composed original music for streaming documentaries.
3/15/2026 Wallingford	Manouche 5 Manouche 5, the Philadelphia based quintet, performs gypsy—jazz influenced standards and popular music similar to the original Hot Club of Paris. They've become a Tri—State favorite!
4/12/2026 Haddonfield	The Orleans Kids The Orleans Kids has evolved from a band that originated in the early 2010's in New Orleans. The band later relocated and formed anew; the Orleans Kids began to play at venues like the Boston Swing Central events, and the annual Roaring Twenties Lawn Party in Ipswich. And today, Tri-State Jazz presents the band for your enjoyment, under the leadership of Alex Owen.
5/31/2026 Wallingford	Rossano Sportiello Award—winning Italian jazz pianist Rossano Sportiello returns to Tri—State! He last appeared in September 2022. He brings his eclectic style of pianism that blends classical training with jazz and stride.
6/14/2026 Haddonfield	Larry Toft's Red Hot Ramblers 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. The repertoire can extend before and after the 1920s from the early years in Jazz, such as New Orleans Style and Ragtime, up to the swing era of the 1930s and 40s and even into the modern Second Line New Orleans parade style.
7/12/2026 Wallingford	The Tri-State All-Stars Jam 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. Guest musicians can pre-register, and even last-minute walk-ins may be accommodated, checking in the day of the concert.
8/23/2026 Haddonfield	Neville Dickie with Joe and Paul Midiri This Tri-State tradition continues! 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.
9/27/2026 Wallingford	The Blackbird Society Orchestra The 11 to 12-piece Blackbird Society Orchestra has become one of Tri-State's favorites. The Tri-state area's Premier Authentic 1920's/1930's Jazz Band plays original arrangements of bands of the 1920s and early 1930s.

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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.

Features Now ONLINE on the
Tri—State Jazz Website

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[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

Our Hotline number is (908) 349-0162

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 (*not applicable to renewal or re-activation*)
Full-time students with ID, or children accompanied by a paying adult, are free.

ADA compliance — access to our concert venues is available at grade level.

Restroom facilities are available at grade level.

Elevator access is available for the HUMC auditorium level.

Restroom facilities are available at the HUMC auditorium 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:

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☐ Individual \$100

☐ Couple \$120

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☐ Individual \$200 or more

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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.

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