

Our Next Concert:

Rossano Sportiello – Piano

Sunday, May 31, 2026, 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Wallingford Community Arts Center



TSJS video – Rossano's 9/22/2022 concert

Award-winning jazz pianist Rossano Sportiello returns to Tri-State! He last appeared in September 2022. Based in New York City, Rossano is a classically trained Italian pianist who transitioned to Jazz at a very young age. He brings his eclectic style of pianism that blends classical training with jazz and stride. He is a master of both genres and his classical skills frequently come to the fore along with Harlem Stride Piano. He plays with a relaxed swing, paying respect to the original melodies while also adding something of his own to each performance.

Stylistically, Rossano is a follower of Ralph Sutton, Hank Jones, Tommy Flanagan, Dave McKenna and Barry Harris, but is also influenced by the masters like Fats Waller, Teddy Wilson, Art Tatum, Erroll Garner, George Shearing, Count Basie, Earl Hines, Ellis Larkins and Bill Evans. He has performed with many of the world's finest jazz luminaries, including Clark Terry, Kenny Davern, Bucky Pizzarelli, Harry Allen, Bill Charlap, Dick Hyman, and many others, in venues such as Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, the Blue Note, Birdland, and Feinstein's, to name a few.

Though Tri-State will not be live-streaming or posting Rossano's concert on our YouTube channel, Rossano has an extensive internet presence. He has been live-streaming, then posting "**Live at the Flat in Greenwich Village**" since 2021. By February of this year, **141** episodes were available! Click [HERE](#) to see.

(<https://rossanosportiello.com/live-stream>)

Coming Soon:
Larry Toft's Red Hot Ramblers

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 2:00 to 4:30 pm
Haddonfield United Methodist Church



Photo by Jim McGann from a previous appearance – even some of the same players today!

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. The Red Hot Ramblers have been pleasing audiences in every type of venue, from concert halls to dimly-lit bars to swing dances to outdoor events/weddings. Welcome them on their return to Tri-State, to recreate their success with us from August 2021.

Today's band will include

Larry Toft – leader, trombone, vocals (pictured)

Adam Hershberger – trumpet (pictured)

Bob Rawlins – reeds

Frank Velardo – banjo

Dan Nosheny – tuba/sousaphone (pictured)

Chad Brown – drums



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

The Orleans Kids

April 12, 2026, at Haddonfield United Methodist Church

Review and Photos by Jim McGann



Band Personnel: Alex Owen, leader, cornet and vocals; Dan Gabel, trombone and vocals; John Clark, clarinet and alto sax; Alonso De La Fuente, guitar and banjo; Brian Nalepka, tuba; Samoa Wilson, vocals.

The Orleans Kids is a new traditional band based out of Massachusetts consisting of musicians from New York, Boston, and Maine. Founded by Cassidy Holden and cornetist Alex Owen, the band has been making regular appearances in the Boston area since 2016 and in 2022, put out their first album, "Ipswich Bound." This was the band's first appearance for TSJS, and I hope it is not the last. In reading the "What Is Traditional Jazz" page on the TSJS website, The Orleans Kids hit all the check marks. While they do not delve too much into Ragtime or Boogie Woogie, the Early New Orleans sounds are alive and well. The introduction of blues by Ma Rainey and Robert Johnson, as performed by Samoa Wilson, added character to the band's overall performance.



Alex Owen

<http://www.alexowenmusic.com/>

The concert opened with "Cornet Chop Suey," a classic from Louis Armstrong's Hot Five. The piano less/drum less quintet managed to keep the "hotness" of the Armstrong tune while opening some subtleties, most notably during Alex Owen's stop time cornet solo. After "Yellow Dog Blues," vocalist Samoa Wilson was introduced. For once, the casting was right. Trad jazz treats vocals with a secondary nature – most of the vocals are by the musicians themselves; in most cases, not trained singers. On rare occasions, however, you will find a Lee Wiley in the mix – trained but can fit within the context of singing with a traditional jazz band



Samoa Wilson

<https://www.samoawilson.com/>

This applies to Samoa Wilson – you did not leave the concert remembering her voice, but her style. While her vocals worked best on the blues, such as Ma Rainey's "Farewell Daddy Blues," her singing provided a different take on lighthearted numbers like "Exactly Like You" or "Two Sleepy People."

As for the band, this is the music I would expect when coming to a TSJS concert. No flashy trumpeting playing outside the genre, or music outside the genre altogether. Just musicians dedicated to performing early jazz and doing their best to emulate that era. The tunes, aside from the blues, were familiar fare. The Orleans Kids projected a sound close to the time.



John Clark

<https://wolverinejazzband.net/about-the-band>

All the participating musicians were top notch, adding polish to trad jazz evergreens like “Muskrat Ramble” and “High Society.” The latter featured the expected Alphonse Picou solo with John Clark performing it. Somehow, he made it sound fresh and new. “San,” associated with Bix Beiderbecke, performed lively as a small band vehicle, added by Dan Gabel’s use of a hat mute. “Why Don’t You Do Right?” was taken at a funeral pace, far removed from the Peggy Lee-Benny Goodman version, with Samoa Wilson vocals a point of departure from Lee’s somewhat bossy interpretation.



Dan Gabel

<https://gabelmusic.com/>



Brian Nalepka

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/people/Brian-Nalepka/>

There were more highlights worth discussing; it was hard to find a substandard performance out of the twenty-one numbers performed on Sunday. I would highly recommend giving The Orleans Kids a listen, for the simple fact that a young band can play the early jazz...and get it right!



Alonso De La Fuente

<https://alonsodelafuente.com/>



This concert was made possible by funds from the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Upcoming Society Business!

Some advance notice – as you know, Tri-State Jazz Society is a non-profit educational society, supported by its members. At our June 14 2026 concert, we will conduct the annual membership meeting to enact some society business. The chief task will be filling Board of Director positions. This will likely include the nomination and re-election of four current members: Bill Hoffman, Sally Cannon, Mark Raymond and Ed Bohrer. There is also a vacant position and we will consider nominations to fill it.

Comments, suggestions, nominations? The easiest way to respond and express interest is to email:
Manage.mailer@tristatejazz.org

And of course, come in person on June 14 to participate directly.



Other Jazz Happenings



PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY presents

Coming in May–

Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi – duo piano

Sunday, May 17, 2026

2 – 4:30 pm

Congregation Brith Sholom

1190 W. Macada Road

Bethlehem PA 18017

Admission: First Timers \$15, PJS Members \$15
Non-PJS Members \$20 – Students are always free

More Information: 347-247-5214

Visit the Society's website at

<https://www.pajazzsociety.org/>



Potomac River Jazz Club Zoom Jazz Talk:
Rooted in Bass featuring **Dr. Philip Ravita**

Bassist and composer Dr. Philip Ravita of Ravita Jazz brings a bass "walk" through the 20th century featuring early jazz players and music through more modern forms of jazz. Highlighted will be artists such as Slam Stewart, James Jamerson, Scott Lafaro, Jimmy Blanton, Ron Carter, Ray Brown, Paul Chambers and more. Enjoy Early Jazz, Swing Fusion jazz, funk, and Blues. The audience will be treated to such classics such as Joe Ferrell's "Penny Arcade," and Marving Gaye's "What's Going On."

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm EDT
The event is FREE! Though donations accepted to offset the cost of this series. This presentation will be held via Zoom and a link will be sent by e-mail the day of the presentation. Registration required by 5pm on the day of the event:

[Registration](#)

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

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/prjc-zoom-jazz-talk-rooted-in-bass-with-dr-philip-ravita-tickets-1985992808953>

Call for Volunteers!

Since its inception, Tri-State has been a volunteer run organization. Volunteers perform a variety of tasks – publicity, the newsletter, organizing and staging concerts... We would like to invite you to volunteer.

Two useful services –

- REFRESHMENTS – we can use additional help – volunteers to bring and set up refreshments. Volunteers are retiring and we need new volunteers so we can continue offering refreshments. Likely we will recruit helpers for both Wallingford and Haddonfield.
- Who reads the STRUTTER? Our previous editor retired, and we’re doing a bare-bones job to keep it going. A new editor could take over publication. Even simpler, new contributors will help preserve it. Share your enthusiasm, maybe your expertise, for this music.

The easiest way to respond and express interest is to email: Manage.mailer@tristatejazz.org

Concert Schedule

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

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 – 1930s.
10/18/2026 Haddonfield	Pete & Will Anderson with Adam Moezina Twin brothers Peter and Will Anderson have wowed TSJS audiences before with their reed mastery. This time they’re bringing a friend – guitarist Adam Moezina – with whom they’ve played a series of concerts around New York and beyond.
11/15/2026 Wallingford	Kris Tokarski – Piano New Orleans pianist Kris Tokarski offers a solo performance that is sure to feature legendary NOLA composers like Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver.

THANK YOU TO OUR PREMIUM MEMBERS AND DONORS

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SPECIAL MENTION — DONATIONS — High Value, Frequent Donations, Recurring Donations

Gary Coller
Scott Ruehr

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



[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

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:

[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: | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$40 |
| Sponsor Dues: | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$70 |
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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 _____

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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**

