TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY

# The Strutter

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 1 | *Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area* | July 2026

## Our Next Concert:

# The Tri-State Jazz All-Stars

## Sunday, July 12, 2026 – Community Arts Center, Wallingford PA

Photo: Marian Konop – the 2024 Tri-State All-Stars

A beloved Tri-State tradition returns with the All-Star Jam! Amateur or professional musicians from our community are invited to sit in for a song or two with Dave Robinson and his Conservatory Classic Jazz Band, a top Washington, DC-based group that plays regularly for the Potomac River Jazz Club, and for Tri-State too.

We are back in Wallingford for this year's concert!

The jam tune set list is available here - https://www.tristatejazz.org/images/Jam-files/2026-AllStars-assignments.pdf. For tunes drawn from Bob Rawlins' **The Real Dixieland Book** (Hal Leonard), page numbers and keys are listed.

Musicians should bring their own instruments (piano and drums are provided)

Pre-registered sit-ins should sign in at the door, and will be admitted free of charge. Family members and friends will be admitted with our member rate of $10 (half the general admission charge). When you arrive, say hi to Dave Robinson, our fearless leader. We will have printed copies of the set list for you too, if you didn't bring one.

Dave will call up the sit-ins to play, per the distributed set list, and asks "please be ready to take the stage promptly when your tunes come up, and leave the stage promptly afterwards."

Though pre-registration has closed, walk-in jammers will also be admitted free of charge and will be invited to sit-in, on the second set, if time allows – check-in with Dave when you arrive.

## Coming Soon:

# Neville Dickie with Joe and Paul Midiri

### Sunday, August 23, 2026 – Haddonfield United Methodist Church

Photo: TSJS video – the trio's last appearance in March 2025

World-class British pianist Neville Dickie rejoins TSJS veterans Joe and Paul Midiri in the (almost) annual return engagement. 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. The trio has been performing for Tri-State audiences since at least 2013 – by our count, this will be their eleventh appearance together!

As our reviewer noted last year, "...what marks the greatness of this trio is the performance of Joe Midiri's soprano with its Bechet calls and wails, Dickie's rocking stride and Paul Midiri's tub thumping – you feel transported back to the twenties, at some speakeasy, with loads of cash feeding the kitty."

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

# Larry Toft's Red Hot Ramblers

## June 14, 2026, at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church

**Review by Bill Hoffman**

Photo: TSJS video

For the first time in almost five years, the Red Hot Ramblers made an appearance at our June 14 concert. This local sextet specializes in 1920s and 30s popular American music. There were four personnel changes from their previous concert: Frank Velardo on banjo, Bob Rawlins on clarinet, alto, and C-melody sax (about which more below), and Mike DeMonte on drums, though Chad Brown was listed in the program as drummer. The other bandmembers were Larry Toft, leader, on trombone and vocals, Adam Hershberger, trumpet, and Dan Nosheny, sousaphone.

Before getting into the music, a little about the C-melody sax. It was a common feature in 1920s dance bands, Frankie Trumbauer being probably its most eminent player. It is pitched in the key of C, while most saxes are pitched in B-flat or E-flat. The C is slightly larger than an alto but smaller than a tenor, though all have mostly similar shapes. Production of Cs ended about 1930, but a few present-day musicians in addition to Bob who play hundred-year-old tunes have them, including Dan Levinson and Colin Hancock.

The Ramblers played a number of tunes that, I would venture, hardly any of the people in attendance knew, and perhaps had never heard. I, for one, appreciate these rarities more than the usual warhorses that everyone knows, and perhaps some even tire of hearing. But I was stumped by one number, "Lina's Blues," written by trumpeter Jabbo Smith. Still, every band needs to play some old favorites to keep the crowd happy, and the Ramblers did just that.

Of the fifteen numbers played during the two sets, thirteen featured vocals. Larry has very clear diction, but I'll describe his singing this way: you would not mistake him for Bing Crosby. Yet several of the obscure tunes played were enhanced by our hearing the lyrics, some of which were penned by eminent tunesmiths like Walter Donaldson, Howard Dietz and Roy Turk. The two non-vocals, "Kiss Me Sweet" and "Borneo" do have lyrics; the latter achieved moderate popularity in 1928 when sung by Scrappy Lambert with Frankie Trumbauer's band that included Bix Beiderbecke.

The concert opened with the jaunty "Keep Your Sunny Side Up" and featured solos by Bob, Larry and Dan. This set the pattern for the rest of the afternoon: all tunes included solos by most members, with the horns taking the majority of them. But Frank on banjo and Mike on drums were not totally ignored, and both turned in noteworthy (no pun intended) efforts when called upon. Worthy of shoutouts were Dan's extended solo on "Lina's Blues" and Adam's growling trumpet on "Moanin' Low."

The 20s and early 30s, especially, produced some of America's finest pop music that includes tunes that are often played today. The Ramblers did a couple of them: "I Found a Million Dollar Baby (in a Five-and-Ten-Cent Store)," "Moanin' Low" (made famous by torch singer Libby Holman), and "Love, Your Magic Spell is Everywhere." Some of the more obscure numbers were "I'm Walking Between the Raindrops," "I'm in the Market for You" (from a not-overly-successful show

“High Society Blues” (1930)), and “There Ain’t No Land Like Dixieland.” The latter, and “Kansas City Kitty,” also on the card, were written by Walter Donaldson, to whom Larry paid due homage as one of the period’s most overlooked composers. Donaldson wrote over 600 songs, which doesn’t quite put him up there with Irving Berlin’s 1500, but he’s in the company of Harry Warren and perhaps even Cole Porter.

Instrumentally I found no weak links in the band; everyone was strong in his domain. It was an enjoyable concert and I, as the Artistic Director, promise not to wait another five years to invite them back.

## Other Jazz Happenings

Potomac River Jazz Club Zoom Jazz Talk:
**Birth of the Hot Five**
featuring **Ricky Riccardi**

Louis Armstrong's Hot Five was formed 100 years ago, and their music is still HOT! Join us on an audio/visual journey with Ricky Riccardi. In November 1925, Louis Armstrong recorded his first session as a leader, assembling a studio group known as the Hot Five. By the time of the group's second session in February 1926, Hot Five had altered the course of jazz history. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hot Five, Louis Armstrong historian, author, and archivist Ricky Riccardi will be on hand to do a deep dive on these seminal early sessions.

Monday, July 13, 2026 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm EDT

Register before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (two hours before the program) to get the link for the Zoom presentation. All of our Jazz Talk programs are offered for FREE, but we also have "donation" tickets available and appreciate all contributions toward the program.

Registration

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/prjc-zoom-jazz-talk-birth-of-the-hot-five-with-ricky-riccardi-tickets-1990718835626

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

# Concert Schedule

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 7/12/2026<br>Wallingford | The Tri-State All-Stars Jam<br>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<br>Haddonfield | Neville Dickie with Joe and Paul Midiri<br>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<br>Wallingford | The Blackbird Society Orchestra<br>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<br>Haddonfield | Pete & Will Anderson with Adam Moezina<br>Twin brothers Peter and Will Anderson have wowed TSJS audiences before with their reed mastery. This time they're bringing a friend – guitarist Adam Moezinia – with whom they've played a series of concerts around New York and beyond. |
| 11/15/2026<br>Wallingford | Kris Tokarski – Piano<br>New Orleans pianist Kris Tokarski offers a solo performance that is sure to feature legendary NOLA composers like Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. |

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**
By Lou Kaplan

The word "Baby" occurs in each of the following song titles,
Can you fill in the missing words?
Answers are on page 6.

1. "Yes, ___. ___ ___ Baby"
2. "Baby, ___ ___ Please ___ ___"
3. "___ Found ___ ___ ___ Baby ___ ___ ___ ___ Ten ___ ___"
4. "Baby ___"
5. "___ Baby"
6. " ___ ___ ___ New Baby"
7. "___ Loves ___ Baby"

## THANK YOU TO OUR PREMIUM MEMBERS AND DONORS

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

Gary Coller
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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.

**ANSWERS TO THE BLANKS**

1. "Yes, Sir, That's My Baby"
2. "Baby, Won't You Please Come Home"
3. "I Found a Million Dollar Baby in a Five and Ten Cent Store"
4. "Baby Doll"
5. "Pretty Baby"
6. "I Found a New Baby"
7. "Eeverybody Loves My Baby"

*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.

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).

**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.

# 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**