

Our Next Concert:

Neville Dickie with Joe and Paul Midiri

Sunday, August 23, 2026 – Haddonfield United Methodist Church – 2:00 pm



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

World-class British pianist Neville Dickie rejoins TSJS veterans Joe and Paul Midiri in this (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.

Coming Soon:

Richard Barnes' Blackbird Society Orchestra

September 27, 2026, 2:00 pm

Wallingford Community Arts Center



Photo by Jim McGann

Richard Barnes' BSO returns! The Blackbird Society Orchestra has become one of Tri-State's favorites. Working from Richard's collection of original vintage stock charts and arrangements, BSO authentically and accurately recreates many classic jazz recordings that once spun from scratchy 78 RPM records on a Victrola when the world was still in black and white!

Barnes discovered the jazz/blues guitarist and vocalist Leon Redbone in 1992, playing regionally with him for a decade. He also spent five years performing obscure 1920s jazz with the Kim Milliner Band.

In 1997, Barnes formed BSO with the intention of preserving 1920s jazz in note-for-note re-creations using original stock charts and transcriptions from vintage recordings. Thirteen years later, he launched Eddie Lang Day, an annual music/charity event celebrating the musical contributions of the native Philadelphian and pioneer jazz guitarist (nee Salvatore Massaro), who teamed with his boyhood pal, violinist Joe Venuti, to form one of the all-time legendary duos in jazz history.

The Tri-State Jazz All-Stars

July 12, 2026, at the Wallingford Community Arts Center

Review and photos by Jim McGann

Core Band: The Conservatory Classic Jazz Band. Personnel: Dave Robinson, cornet, trumpet, and leader/MC; Gary Greg, clarinet, soprano and tenor saxes; Brian Priebe, trombone; Rick Rown, guitar, banjo; Dan Hall, string bass; Brian Alpert, drums

Guest Musicians: Joel Albert, washboard, and drums; Tom Spain, tuba; Skip Livingston, clarinet; Scott Ricketts, cornet; Bill Nixon, violin; Khadijah Renee, vocals; Nancy Kays, trombone, and vocals; Wyman Brantley, alto sax

And once again, it is time for the All Stars. Not referring to the whoopla a few miles north where a plethora of overpaid athletes (in this case, the cream of overpaid athletes) practice the study of launch angles, WHIP and WAR. The all stars I am speaking of are accomplished musicians who, whether connected to an ensemble or simply want to share their talent and perform their love of traditional jazz, and backed by a professional band which plays such music. The 2026 All Stars concert featured many familiar faces from previous Jam sessions, and some fresh faces as well.



The Core Band with Joel Albert



Tom Spain



The rhythm section –
Dan Hall, Rick Rowe, Brian Alpert



Gary Greg Brian Alpert Scott Ricketts

First, credit goes to the Conservatory Classic Jazz Band for providing a solid environment for the many diversified musicians performing on stage. Dave Robinson, cornet and leader, in his soft-spoken way, kept the concert moving at a good clip. The band itself made one want it to perform one more selection of their own before the guesting musicians poured in (maybe another Alex Hill arrangement as this reviewer was hoping.) Having the CCJB back a budding musician only magnified the results.



Khadijah Renee



Nancy Kays



Wyman Brantley



Bill Nixon

Skip Livingston

For those who have participated in the past, there was Joel Albert, the joyous percussionist of washboard and drums, performing on former instrument on “Just A Little While To Stay Here,” and on drum for “Bourbon Street Parade,” and “Cakewalking Babies.” While I thoroughly enjoyed “Just A Little While...,” I wished Mr. Albert did not jettison his

washboard after one number, but us reviewers cannot be choosers. Scott Ricketts, of the Riverton Vintage Jazz Band, provided fine cornet work on “Doctor Jazz” and “Smiles.” Skip Livingston, aided and abetted Ricketts on “Doctor Jazz,” and joined another All Star veteran, violinist Bill Nixon on “Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans?” Nixon, was also featured on the second set opener, “Undecided.” Khadijah Renee, supplied her deep alto vocals and light percussion (tambourine and maracas) to “Deed I Do,” “Baby, Won’t You Please Come Home,” and “I’m Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself A Letter,” with the latter selection augmented with Nixon’s violin.

For the newbies, two members of the Riverton Vintage Jazz Band, tubist Tom Spain and trombonist Nancy Kays supplied their talents, albeit in different sets, with Spain appearing in the first set on “Cakewalking Babies From Home,” “Some of These Days,” and “That’s A Plenty”, while Kays followed later in the second set on “There’ll Be Some Changes Made,” “Canal Street Blues,” and “Lonesome Road.” Kays also provided the vocals on “...Changes Made.” A relative newcomer, Wyman Brantley, who appeared at last year’s All Star concert, shared his alto sax sound on “Limehouse Blues,” “Rosetta” and “Back Home Again in Indiana” which concluded the concert.

While the All Stars at Wallingford may never reach the status of neighboring All Stars Harper and Schwarber, musically speaking the TSJS All Stars were very much capable of their own home run derby, and that is a launch angle that will satisfy any lover of tradition jazz.



"Speakeasies to Symphonies"

A Book Review by Bill Hoffman

My reading this summer consists mainly of “Speakeasies to Symphonies”, a recently issued biography of pianist and composer James P. (for Price) Johnson (1894-1955). He’s best known for compositions like “Charleston” (usually erroneously called “The Charleston”) and “Old Fashioned Love.”

This is actually a nearly complete rewrite by Dr. Scott Brown, a physician in Baltimore, whose initial bio of James P. was published 40 years ago as a thesis when he was a senior at Yale. In the interim Scott has not only reviewed his prior research, but added new information that includes interviews with several of Johnson’s descendants as well as other giants in the popular and Broadway music arenas who were not available to him the first time. And many of those who were contacted initially have since passed on.

Due to its 380 pages (plus another 83 devoted to footnotes, bibliography, and general, tune and show indexes), this is not a book you will complete in one sitting even if you’ve taken a speed-reading course. Like most biographies, it is chronological. Very logical: James P. did not do things in 1935 before the things he did in 1915.

Some readers may object to the extensive amount of minutiae, but if this book is to be viewed as a complete chronicle of Johnson’s life (and nobody else has explored this subject as extensively as Scott), this amount of detail is both appropriate and necessary. The 29 chapters range in length from 7 to 21 pages, so you can conveniently manage your reading without feeling a need to go to back a few pages at your next sitting to maintain context.

This book not only greatly increased my knowledge of Johnson and his works, but also brought to my eyes for the first time the names of other noteworthy (no pun intended) collaborators with whom he worked. In any book of this length—I’m sure it contains well over 100,000 words—there are bound to be typos, and without deliberately searching, I found a few. Having written two books myself (not about music) and edited a third, I fully know that no matter how many pairs of eyes review a manuscript, typos inevitably slip through. But, again without specifically searching, I did find one factual error that was immediately apparent, and probably should have been to Scott. On page 183, quoting the Chicago Defender, a black-owned newspaper (still in existence online), he wrote: “Johnson attended the annual ASCAP

dinner at the Ritz-Carlton on March 30, 1927, the first year after his induction into that organization. African-American members at that time included (twelve names were listed, all known to me).” One of those twelve, James Reese Europe, could not possibly have been a member in 1927, as he was murdered by one of his band members in 1919.

The book was published by the University Press of Mississippi, which is the publishing agency of all eight public colleges in that state. To order the paperback version, the ISBN is 978-1-4968-5753-8. For the hardcover edition (which retails for over \$100), the ISBN’s last five digits are 5752-1. Every bookstore knows what ISBNs are: they are inventory numbers used universally in the trade. You can appear extremely erudite when you go into the store or order by phone or online and recite the ISBN.



Concert Schedule

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

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 Moezinia 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 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.

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Gary Coller

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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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:

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Membership Form

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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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