TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY

The Strutter

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 4 | *Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area* | October 2026

Our Next Concert:

The Anderson Brothers Play Gershwin – with Adam Moezinia

October 18, 2026, Haddonfield United Methodist Church

Photo credit: Lynn Redmile

"Virtuosos on clarinet and saxophone" (New York Times), Grammy-winning Juilliard graduates and identical twins Peter and Will Anderson present the music of George Gershwin. The Anderson brothers have performed on Broadway, at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, the New Orleans Jazz Festival, for radio and film, and regularly perform at the famed Birdland Jazz Club in the heart of New York City. The Washington Post said they "consistently bring a fresh perspective to classic jazz." Guitarist Adam Moezinia, a graduate of the Juilliard School's Jazz Studies program, has shared the stage with Herbie Hancock, Wynton Marsalis, George Coleman, Paquito D'Rivera, Jane Monheit, Jon Faddis, Antonio Hart, and Bobby Watson. He has also performed at the Hollywood Bowl, the Kodak Theatre, Monterey Jazz Festival, the Kennedy Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Blue Note, the Jazz Standard, Joe's Pub, and Jazz Alley. Join Peter and Will (saxophones, clarinets, flutes) and guitarist Adam Moezinia for a wonderful afternoon of jazz favorites: "Rhapsody in Blue," "Summertime," "I Got Rhythm," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," and more in a show chronicling Gershwin's musical journey.

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:

Kris Tokarski – Piano

November 15, 2026, Wallingford Community Arts Center

Photo credit: ***Drop Me Off In Harlem*** CD release

New Orleans pianist Kris Tokarski appears in a solo performance that is sure to feature legendary NOLA composers like Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Originally from North Jersey, Kris has been a go-to pianist in the Crescent City for many years. He has appeared at many festivals and jazz cruises.

“He knows how to swing and stride — with both hands — and his playing is fluid, supple — never stiff. His accompaniment is the very definition of sweet teamwork, and his solos are full of surprises: you can’t tell where he is about to land, but it’s graceful and satisfying when he does.” – *Michael Steinman (Jazz Lives)*

Living in New Orleans, the "Cradle of Jazz" he embraced the early piano traditions of the city as well as those of the early New York and Chicago masters. A keen interest in the music of Jelly Roll Morton, James P. Johnson, Earl Hines and Teddy Wilson; combined with his bebop roots allowed Tokarski to develop an all-encompassing voice of his own, deeply rooted in the jazz piano tradition.

Tokarski also manages a busy schedule outside of New Orleans. He has performed at a number of major national and international festivals including the Umbria Winter Jazz Festival, The Montreal Jazz Fest, The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the French Quarter Fest, San Diego Jazz Fest, etc. He’s performed at world class venues such as Snug Harbor, Preservation Hall, The Green Mill, and The Jazz Corner. Kris has shared the stage and performed with Jason Marsalis, Duke Heitger, Evan Christopher, Tim Laughlin, Andy Schumm, Connie Jones, Hal Smith, and many others.

He has recorded on a number of records as a sideman and as a leader. While he is recognized largely by traditional jazz lovers, he has also recorded and toured in the realm of popular music with the “Squirrel Nut Zippers”.

Richard Barnes' Blackbird Society Orchestra

September 27, 2026, Wallingford Community Arts Center

Review by Bill Hoffman – Photos by Jim McGann

In the years Richard Barnes's Blackbird Society Orchestra has been playing for TSJS, I've never been disappointed by any of their performances going back at least ten years. Their September 27 concert continued that record of excellence. And a few personnel changes from recent years that I noted from re-reading Jim McGann's past reviews did not put their reputation at risk.

I'll get those changes out of the way before delving into the concert itself. Steve Torrico, whom I've known personally for a number of years and have seen with other bands, brought his 20s-era drum kit to his second appearance at Tri-State (I missed last year's concert where he debuted). He also played washboard, which he calls *Scratchovarius*, on one number. Washboard is not a regular member of the BSO's stable of instruments, but it fit well on the tune it was used in.

Josy Conklin on tuba was the only female in the band, and handled the large horn admirably. But she had no solo opportunities so I was not able to further assess her talents. She, too, has played with the BSO at Tri-State before. And today there was no violin in the 11-piece ensemble.

The band played fourteen numbers in each set, most of which fit its tradition of playing less-well-known pieces. I don't know how large their book is, but they keep adding to it, and we were treated to a dry run of several new additions. I tend to enjoy these obscurities more than the warhorses that necessarily have to be part of every band's concerts, just as people like to hear at least a few familiar tunes on any band's CD (or now vinyl) that they're considering buying.

BSO always opens its concerts with "Good Ol' Days," the theme of the Little Rascals movies. They then launched into "Look at Him Now," a tune unfamiliar to me, taken from Hal Roach silents. There were some problems with Richard's mic at the outset that were corrected after the first couple numbers. Next came "The Moon and You," another seldom played tune that I knew only from Vince Giordano's Nighthawks using it as their opening theme for many years.

There were vocals on most of the 28 numbers on the set list, with all but two handled by Richard. Jim Gicking had one on "Bessie Couldn't Help It," a tune that he and the band have played for us before. The other was by Steve Torrico on Harry Woods' composition "She's a Great Great Girl," most famously recorded by Roger Wolfe Kahn in 1927. Steve's physically large stature enabled him to sing and be heard throughout the room; and his diction is impeccable.

The afternoon included works performed and/or recorded by Bix Beiderbecke and his Gang ("Margie," "Rhythm King," "Sorry"), Tiny Parham ("Blue Rhythm Blues"), Pinky Tomlin ("The Object of My Affection") and the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks ("Yes Sir, That's My Baby") among others.

While most of the tunes were ensemble efforts, a few noteworthy solos stood out: Jim Gicking on “Bessie” and on “Great Great Girl” where he re-created to excellent effect Miff Mole’s solo; Rob Ford recalling Louis Armstrong on “After You’ve Gone,” and a brief solo by pianist Vance Camisa on “Somebody Stole My Gal.” Three soprano saxes turned in a creditable “Crazy Rhythm.”

There were a few tunes the band had only once rehearsed—that morning—but were played as if they’d been in the book for years. These were “There’s Frost on the Moon” that had been recorded around 1936 by Artie Shaw’s and Tommy Dorsey’s bands, and Cliff Jackson’s “The Terror,” a term I used for a former girlfriend.

The second set opened and closed, respectively, with “happy” tunes: “Happy Days Are Here Again” and “Happy Feet.” The latter premiered in the 1930 film *The King of Jazz* that was a showcase for Paul Whiteman’s band and helped put Bing Crosby on the road to fame. The film has been colorized and is now available on DVD and Blu-ray.

In the interest of completeness, here is the roster of musicians:

Richard Barnes: leader, guitar, vocals
Steve Torrico: drums, washboard, vocal
Josy Conklin: tuba
Vance Camisa: piano
Travis Johnson, Jeff Hart and Bill DiBiase: saxes, clarinet
Alex Gittleman, Rob Ford: trumpet
Jim Gicking: trombone
Bill Quinn: banjo

And in case you were wondering, here’s the complete set list:

Set 1:
Good Ol’ Days
Look at Him Now
The Moon and You
Smile When the Raindrops Fall
It’s Tight Like That
Get Out and Get Under the Moon
Ida, Sweet as Apple Cider
Margie
Blue Rhythm Blues
There’s Frost on the Moon
On the Good Ship Lollypop
Bessie Couldn’t Help It
The Terror
Rhythm King
What’cha Call ‘Em Blues

Set 2:
Happy Days Are Here Again
Stardust
Yes Sir, That’s My Baby
Crazy Rhythm
Frankie and Johnny
She’s a Great Great Girl
Shout ‘Em
Sorry
Somebody Stole My Gal
The Object of My Affection
Once in a While
After You’ve Gone
Dream a Little Dream of Me
Happy Feet

It’s a shame that only about 30 people attended this concert. Whether it was the Phillies’ last game or the Nor’easter that brought wind but only intermittent rain during the afternoon that kept people away, I cannot say, but they missed a great show. BSO has been booked for October 17, 2027 in Haddonfield. Mark your calendar now.

Other Jazz Happenings

THE RESTORED "MA" RAINEY,
MOTHER OF THE BLUES

Her life, career & the definitive boxed set!

A PRJC Jazz Educational Talk by David Sager

Potomac River Jazz Club Zoom Jazz Talk, October 19, 2026:
Jazz Talk: The Restored "Ma" Rainey (and the definitive new 5 CD issue)
Featuring **David Sager**

David Sager gives a multimedia tour of Ma Rainey's life and music, focusing on a new 5-CD boxed set *Mother of the Blues: The Complete Paramount Recordings, 1923–1928*, from the GHB Jazz Foundation. Jazz historian and author David Sager wrote the collection's historic new liner notes, and makes this special presentation exploring Ma Rainey's extraordinary life, groundbreaking career, and the making of this landmark release.

Monday, October 19, 2026 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm EDT

Register by 5:00 p.m. the day of the talk to receive the Zoom link.
Although all of our Jazz Talks are FREE, we appreciate donations to offset the cost of the program.

click
Registration

Or click this link
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1998913940405

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)

10/18/2026 Haddonfield	**The Anderson Brothers Play Gershwin – 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** Living in New Orleans, the "Cradle of Jazz", Kris embraced the early piano traditions of the city as well as those of the early New York and Chicago masters. A keen interest in the music of Jelly Roll Morton, James P. Johnson, Earl Hines and Teddy Wilson – combined with his bebop roots – allowed Tokarski to develop an all-encompassing voice of his own, deeply rooted in the jazz piano tradition.
1/10/2027 Wallingford	**The Midiri Brothers Sextet** The Midiri Brothers return with their sextet to Wallingford today. The Midiris have delighted swing dancers and been acclaimed by critics at jazz festivals throughout the country for many years. They have recorded with groups ranging from trios to big bands – featuring the arrangements of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and the Dorsey Brothers.
2/21/2027 Haddonfield	**Miss Maybell and her Ragtime Romeos** Miss Maybell (Lauren Sansaricq) and Charlie Judkins – with the Ragtime Romeos – play a large repertoire of early Jazz, Ragtime and Blues from the 1890's - 1920's. They source their tunes from dusty old 78 records and antique sheet music, giving new life to songs created over 100 years ago!
3/14/2027 Wallingford	**Danny Tobias and Friends** 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 Dan Block on reeds, Pat Mercuri on guitar and banjo, Joe Plowman on bass and Jim Lawlor on drums.
4/18/2027 Haddonfield	**The Sleep Chasers** Gavin Rice has assembled this great band, with some of New York's finest trad-jazz (or any kind of jazz!) performers in this premier appearance for our Tri-State audience.
5/23/2027 Wallingford	**Glenn Crytzer Quartet** Glenn Crytzer returns with his Quartet to Tri-State, playing music from the Jazz Age and the Swing Era - "Vintage American Jazz". Glenn draws on the broad repertoire of styles of jazz that were performed prior to World War II. This includes the earliest jazz from New Orleans around the turn of the 20th century, and the styles that were part of the gradual morphing into the "hot jazz" style played by the dance orchestras (early big bands) and combos of the 1920s.
6/13/2027 Haddonfield	**Neville Dickie with Danny Coots and Dan Levinson** Neville Dickie, top stride/boogie-woogie pianist from Surrey England is joined by Danny Coots, Grammy award winning drummer, and Tri-State favorite Dan Levinson on reeds, for a concert of traditional jazz. Think Fats Waller, James P. Johnson, Louis Armstrong, Art Tatum, Earl Hines, and more!!

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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.

The Tri-State Jazz Society Officers and Board of Directors – effective July 1 2026 to June 30 2027

Bill Hoffman (2029) – President
Chris Jones (2027) – Vice President
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Features Now ONLINE on the Tri-State Jazz Website:

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

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_____

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Mail with check payable to Tri-State Jazz Society, Inc., P.O. Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

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