

# The Strutter

**VOLUME 26 NUMBER 2** 

Traditional Jazz in the Philadelphia Tri-State Area

**AUGUST 2015** 

# **OUR NEXT CONCERT**

Adrian Cunningham Sextet



Sunday, August 16, 2015 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Community Arts Center 414 Plush Mill Road Wallingford, PA 19086 Directions at

http://www.tristatejazz.org/directionscac.html

The Adrian Cunningham Sextet will play a Tri-State Jazz concert at the Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA on August 16, 2015. The band consists of:

Adrian Cunningham: Clarinet/leader

Joe Boga: Trumpet

Robert Edwards: Trombone

Oscar Perez: Piano Daniel Foose: Bass

Adrian Cunningham, a New York-based musician originally hailing from Australia, is one of his home country's best jazz exports. With fluent command of the saxophones, clarinet, and flute, he is one of the finest multi-instrumentalists in Jazz.

Since relocating to New York City in 2008, he has performed at some of the Big Apple's finest clubs-

Blue Note, Smalls, Birdland, 55 Bar, Apollo Theatre, Fat Cat, Dizzy's Club (Jazz @ Lincoln Center) and even a private event at the hallowed Village Vanguard; with such luminaries as Lew Soloff, Wycliffe Gordon, George Coleman Jr and Bucky Pizzarelli, Chris Potter, and Renee Marie.

Adrian became the leader of the saxophone section of the Grammy-winning Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, a NYC based 1920's swing orchestra, responsible for the soundtracks for Boardwalk Empire and movies like the Aviator.

Adrian has traveled the globe with the Wycliffe Gordon quintet with a schedule that includes Johannesburg Jazz Festival, London Jazz Festival, Bern Jazz Festival (Switzerland), and regular performances in New York at the prestigious clubs Dizzy's (Jazz at Lincoln Center) and the Kitano Hotel.

Adrian Cunningham plays the Sidney Bechet classic "Petit Fluer" with a quartet at Avoca Beach, New South Wales, Australia in 2013 in this Utube video-<a href="http://youtu.be/MB19XdYMfqU">http://youtu.be/MB19XdYMfqU</a>.

Adrian also appears in the following YouTube video performing the Benny Goodman classic "Sing, Sing, Sing": Click <u>Here</u> to listen.

# **Concert Admissions**

\$10 First-time attendees and Members \$20 General Admission High school/college students with ID and children with paying adult admitted free

Pay at the door

## In This Issue

Looking Ahead......Page 2
Red Hot Peppers Primer....Page 3
Annual Meeting.....Page 5
Future Concert Schedules.. Page 6

# LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR SEPTEMBER 2015 CONCERT

Adam Swanson will play a ragtime piano concert for Tri-State Jazz at the Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ on September 20, 2015. Adam is three-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest and has performed at Carnegie Hall in NYC and the Kennedy Center in DC.



Adam Swanson is rapidly becoming known as one of the world's foremost performers and historians of ragtime and early American popular music. He is a graduate student in musicology at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Adam has been a featured performer and lecturer at ragtime and jazz festivals across the United States, and is the youngest three-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest.

In 2007, he appeared alongside the late John Arpin at the Bohem Ragtime and Jazz Festival in the Republic of Hungary. Swanson made his New York debut in Carnegie Hall at the age of nineteen, where he performed with Michael Feinstein. He has played at the prestigious Cinecon Classic Film Festival at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., has toured in Switzerland. He performs every summer in the Diamond Belle Saloon at the historic Strater Hotel in Durango, Colorado, where he is musical director for the new Durango Ragtime and Early Jazz Festival. Adam also collects antique sheet music, records, and piano rolls. For samples and info, see http://www.adamgswanson.com/ and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrjFCu3Xtfw &feature=youtu.be.

# TRI-STATE JAZZ - RED HOT RAMBLERS - JULY 19 CONCERT

The Red Hot Ramblers from Philadelphia played a concert for the Tri-State Jazz Society at the Haddonfield Methodist Church on July 19th. It was a 90 degree day outside, but inside the Red Hot Ramblers of young musicians entertained a large audience with tunes of the 1920s and 1930s to their delight.

The band consisted of:
Larry Toft - Trombone, Leader
Adam Hershberger - Trumpet
Paul Butler - Clarinet
Evan Cory Levine - Guitar, Banjo
Dan Nosheny - Tuba
Chad Brown - Drums



Editors Note: Our Strutter photographers and reviewer for the Red Hot Rambler concert were on vacation so we will miss their complete review and photos of this concert.

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# A RED HOT PEPPERS PRIMER

The Red Hot Peppers, under the leadership of pianist-composer-entertainer Jelly Roll Morton, was ahead of its time in regards to arranging for a jazz orchestra. This established Morton's musical contributions as a sound foundation for Jazz.

To scale down Jelly Roll Morton's accomplishments prior to 1926 to a few paragraphs is like attempting to compress a Mount St. Helens eruption with a cork, but here it goes....

Jelly Roll Morton was born Ferdinand Joseph Lamothe on October 20th, 1890 to unwed parents Edward J. Lamothe and Louise Monette. In 1894, Louise married William Mouton and moved with Ferdinand to 1443 Frenchman Street in the Faubourg Marigny section of New Orleans. In 1901, young Ferdinand moved in with his Godmother, Laura Hunter in the Creole section of New Orleans, retaining the surname of his stepfather. While there, he took piano lessons from Rachel Moment after taking up the banjo.

Around 1907, he left home to perform in the "sporting houses", where prostitution and gambling reign, and after hours he, Tony Jackson and other pianists played in all-night cutting contests at the Frenchman's saloon. The following year, Morton began touring with various Vaudeville companies (Billy Kersand's Minstrels, Fred Barrasso, McCabe's Troubadours, and William Benbow among others), and performed on the same bill with, among others, Clarence Williams, Tony Jackson, the Spikes brothers, Curtis Mosby, and Benson Moore, to whom Morton dedicated his composition, **Frog-I-More Rag.** 

In 1910 Morton toured the red light districts along the Gulf coast with a husband and wife team called Mack and Mack. From 1913 through 1914, he put together a musical comedy vaudeville act with girlfriend Rosa Brown. The tour traveled through the Midwest, with one stop at the Standard Theater in Philadelphia.

In the summer of 1914, Morton led his first band at the Pompeii Café in Chicago. In 1915, **The Jelly Roll Blues** (correct title: **Original Jelly Roll Blues**) "by Ferd Morton" is published. In 1917, he moved to California, led the "Creole Jazz Band" consisting of Buddy Petit, cornet, Willie Moorehead, trombone, Mack Lewis, clarinet, and

Dink Johnson, drums. The band toured the West Coast from 1919 to 1921, concluding at the Paradise Gardens in Los Angeles.

In 1921, with Prohibition and a San Diego cabaretdancing ban in effect, Morton got a Mexican work visa and performed and resided regularly in Tijuana. In 1922, Morton was manager of the Wayside Amusement Park in Los Angeles, led a band there, and made occasional excursions to Leah's Lake. In 1923, he performed at a benefit for Charles Carleton, an African-American accused of murdering a policeman in Mexico. Because of this incident, Jelly Roll and other entertainers, leave Tijuana for American soil.

In mid 1923, Morton made his first solo and orchestra recordings for the Paramount and Gennett labels and that year he also records Sobbin' Blues with the New Orleans Rhythm Kings. He performed at the Tokio Gardens in South Bend, Indiana in late 1923-early 1924. In 1924, he recorded piano rolls for the Hollywood company in Cincinnati, and recorded King Porter and Tom Cat with King Oliver. He made his radio appearance in 1925 while touring through Louisville, KY. On April 20, 1926, Morton recorded Fat Meat and Greens, King Porter Stomp, and Sweetheart of Mine for Vocalion. In June of that year, he performed at a benefit taking place at the Booker T. Washington Theater in St. Louis. The band performed at the Royal Palais Ballroom in Galena, Illinois in July 1926.

That brings us up to the first Red Hot Peppers recordings. The Victor Talking Machine Company recorded the band at the Webster Hotel Ballroom in Chicago on September 15 and 21, 1926. The company was promoting its new electrical recording process, having introduced the process in November the previous year. The new Orthophonic recordings had an improved sound quality over its acoustic counterparts. The sides Jelly Roll recorded at these sessions were some of his best: Black Bottom Stomp, Deadman's Blues, Grandpa's Spells, Original Jelly Roll Blues, Sidewalk Blues, Smoke House Blues, Someday Sweetheart, and The Chant.

The band personnel Jelly Roll picked came from the King Oliver and Lil Armstrong stables. Cornetist George Mitchell was from Lil Armstrong's Dreamland Syncopators along with trombonist Kid Ory, and banjoist Johnny St. Cyr. Ory and St. Cyr were also part of the Louis Armstrong Hot Five. Clarinetist Omer Simeon was a member of Charlie Elgar's Creole Orchestra. Veteran bassist John Lindsay and Doc Cook drummer Andrew Hilaire complimented Morton in the rhythm section.

The band was probably the most pure in terms of a collective Jazz ensemble. The band would rehearse with a minimal (if any) amount of music, and Jelly Roll would "coach" the musicians when and where each solo, break or ensemble part was to take place on the recording. The band also, on occasion created an aural theater with recordings like **Sidewalk Blues** (1926), which opens to an assimilated traffic jam, complete with whistles, car horns, and some verbal abuse from Morton. The car horns continue throughout and conclude the side. Clearly, Jelly never forgot his Vaudeville roots.

Neither Morton nor anyone else ever duplicated the success of the 1926-27 recordings in Chicago. Morton continued recording the Red Hot Peppers until 1930, and despite musicians of the caliber of Henry "Red" Allen and Paul Barbarin, and tunes like the up-tempo **Georgia Swing**, the spirit and fire of the early Chicago sides was missing.

Jelly Roll Morton, affected by the Great Depression along with many entertainers of the decade, ceased recording after 1930. While continuing to perform at a regular clip, his recording activity declined. Aside from one appearance in 1934, Morton did not appear on record until producer Alan Lomax recorded him in 1938. The Library of Congress recordings, in which Jelly Roll talked, sang and performed, resurrected his career. Not long afterward, Morton led sessions on the Bluebird and General labels.

His disposition had not changed. In 1938, he was involved in a fiery dispute with W.C. Handy over an acknowledgement on the Ripley's Believe It or Not program, claiming Handy was the originator of Jazz and Blues. In 1940, in an interview with Down Beat magazine's George Hoefer, Jr., Morton protested, "Everyone today is playing my stuff and I don't even get credit....Kansas City style, Chicago style, New Orleans style - hell they are all Jelly Roll style!" In response to the ASCAP ban, he formed a short-lived publishing company with Benjamin Spikes, of the Spikes Brothers.

In 1941, with his health declining, he finally succumbed to heart failure on July 10. His work with the Red Hot Peppers proved that Jazz could be structured and arranged, not just be a strictly improvised idiom. With Morton's groundbreaking, bandleaders such as Duke Ellington, Don Redman, and Fletcher Henderson would later build on this foundation, merging written arrangement and improvisation.

### **Bibliography**

#### Websites:

 $\underline{http://www.doctorjazz.freeserve.co.uk/page10.h}\\tml$ 

http://www.redhotjazz.com/jellyroll.html http://www.redhotjazz.com/redhot.html http://www.redhotjazz.com/jellyo.html http://www.redhotjazz.com/kingo.html

#### Books:

Jazz and Ragtime Records, 1897-1942, author Brian Rust, published by Mainspring Press, Copyright ©2002

#### Other Media:

Liner notes from The Pearls (RCA 6588-4-RB), author Orrin Keepnews, Copyright © 1988

Article by Jim McGann

# Tri-State Jazz Membership Year Ended on June 30, 2015

Membership for most members expires June 30. If you have not already renewed, please send your dues payment by mail with the form on the last page of this Strutter. Also consider becoming a Sponsor or Patron; your support will help us to continue our excellent programming.

#### DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ELECTED

The annual meeting of the Tri-State Jazz Society was held during the annual jam session concert on June 28, 2015. During intermission, President Sandy Catz called the meeting to order and presided over an election of three members to the Board of Directors.

The following names were placed in nomination by the nominating committee for three-year terms:

Dewaine Osman from Haddonfield, NJ -Board Member for past 3 years, currently Vice President, member of the Executive Committee, editor of the Strutter and Haddonfield publicity coordinator.

Rabbi Louis Kaplan from Wallingford, PA -Board Member for past 3 years, currently Strutter writer and member of the Admissions and Membership team.

Chris Jones from Philadelphia, PA - Currently email communications manager and member of the Admissions and Membership team.

There were no nominations from the floor. The three nominees were elected by unanimous consent.

Sandy recognized the accomplishments of outgoing Board member, Ray Whearty, who served on the Board for five years. As Publicity Editor, he prepared press releases and wrote the text used in most of our promotional materials. He also trained and supervised other writers and assistant editors. As Jam Session Co-organizer for three years, he recruited the core band members and sit-in guest performers.

Interim financial and membership results for 11 months through May, 2015 were presented. Income exceeded expenses by \$6607 and membership reached a record level of 420. Sandy thanked the 33 Patrons and 45 Sponsors for their generous donations.

Editors Note: Average audience attendance at Wallingford, PA was 101 with a high of 134 at one concert. Average audience attendance at Haddonfield was 151 with a high of 231 at one concert

### **QUIZ TIME**

By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

This year, 2015, marks the hundredth birthday of the man, now deceased, whom music critic Robert Christgan called "the greatest singer of the 20th century." His record sales exceed 150 million. In October 1944 there were no more seats inside New York City's Paramount Theater for the 35,000 fans outside hoping to see and hear him. Darling of the "bobby soxers" (teenage girls) for his crooning, he won the Best Actor Award in 1955 for his role in "The Man With the Golden Arm." Who else could it be but Francis Albert Sinatra (Dec. 12, 1915-May 14, 1998)?

"Sinatra is best known as a popular singer, but he is nevertheless highly respected in jazz circles, above all for his relaxed and subtle sense of swing." ("The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz," ed. Barry Kernfeld, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994, p. 1122) He developed and soon flourished during his 1940-1942 stint with Swing Era bandleader Tommy Dorsey. From T.D. he learned much about timing one's breathing, dividing words into phrases, the effect of differing degrees of softness and loudness, as well as overall musical knowledge and sound judgment.

Can you complete the song titles of seven of Sinatra's greatest hits with Tommy Dorsey's band?

1. I'll	Again	
2. East	_ Sun (	_ Moon)
3. The	Love (	Else)
4. Polka	Moonbeams	
5. Everything	Me	
6. This	Mine	
7. A Sinner	Angel	

(Answers elsewhere in this issue.)

# Strutter by Mail Policy Changes

If you are a member who currently receives a printed copy of the Strutter newsletter in the mail, the Jazz Society will only be mailing the Strutter to Patrons and Sponsors starting on July 1, 2015. Patrons and Sponsors will receive their issues by mail at no charge, but must request it. All members can pick up a free paper copy of each issue on the literature table at our concerts.

# **FUTURE CONCERTS**



All Concerts from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

October 18, 2015 David Sager's Pie-in-the-Sky Jazz Band, Trombonist and leader of this D.C.-based septet, David got his trad jazz cred in New Orleans, Wallingford, PA.

November 8, 2015 Banu Gibson Band,

Singer/band leader from New Orleans leads an allstar New York band. She brings original song stylings of '20s-'30s tunes to world stages and NPR; now to TSJS, Haddonfield, NJ.

**January 17, 2016 Terry Waldo-Solo Piano,** "A witty charmer who specializes in the twenties style stride piano in the manner of James P. Johnson." - The New Yorker, Wallingford, PA.

February 21, 2016 Bria Skonberg Quintet, Bria has been a TSJS favorite ever since her first appearance here on tour in 2008. An international star singer, trumpeter, composer, she now lives in NYC, Haddonfield, NJ.

March 20, 2016 Danny Tobias Band, Danny is a TSJS veteran, played trumpet with the Midiri Brothers, Jerry Rife, and others; now leading his own early jazz and swing band, Wallingford, PA.

April 17, 2016 Ivory & Gold® featuring Jeff and Anne Barnhart, Stride pianist and flutist, last time at TSJS was 2011, Haddonfield, NJ.

**Wallingford:** Concerts are held at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd; just west of exit 3 of I-495 ("The Blue Route").

**Haddonfield:** Concerts are held at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd., just south of Kings Highway; about a ten minute walk from the PATCO train station.

Detailed directions at www.tristatejazz.org.

# OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

# PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

www.pajazzsociety.org (610)-625-4640

Dewey Banquet Hall, 502 Durham Street, Hellertown, PA.

October 25 The Dave Roper Trio, 2:00-3:00p.m.
The Elm Street Jazz Workshop Big
Band, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

#### **NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY**

www.njjs.org

(800)-303-NJJS

NJJS also co-sponsors events at the Bickford Theatre and Ocean County College.

### THE BICKFORD THEATRE

6 Normandy Heights Road Morristown, NJ

www.njjs.org/p/services/bickford.html

All concerts 8:00 p.m. (973)-971-3706. **August 17** Nicki Parrott and "Day In, Day Out" **August 24** Mark Shane's Shane Gang **September 9** Warren Vache and Friends

## OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Toms River, NJ 08753

www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html (732)-255-0500

All concerts start at 8:00 p.m. Ocean County College campus, Community and Arts Center, College Drive.

**August 5** Geoff Gallante **September 16** The Jazz Lobsters

# CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St., Cape May, NJ

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

**August 16** Al Harrison Dixieland Band **September 20** Atlantic City Jazz Band **October 11** MaryLou Newnam Jazz Band

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNIVERSARY **August 25, 5:00-8:00 p.m.,** Barbone Street Jazz Band, Philadelphia, PA, Independence Mall, 6<sup>th</sup> and Market

#### **TSJS PATRONS 2015-2016**

The Big Time - \$100 or more, \$120 couples

- Jack & Joan Adams
- Walt Brenner
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Louis Kaplan, Writer, 2018

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Jay Schultz, Membership Chairman

membership@tristatejazz.org

More Volunteers are listed on our website at:

www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html

#### TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

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08054

E-mail: info@tristatejazz.org

**Hotline Phone for updated concert information:** 

(856) 720-0232

# **QUIZ TIME ANSWERS**

- 1. I'll Never Smile Again
- 2. East of the Sun (and West of the Moon)
- 3. The One I Love (Belongs to Somebody Else)
- 4. Polka Dots and Moonbeams
- 5. Everything Happens to Me
- 6. This Love of Mine
- 7. A Sinner Kissed an Angel



# Membership Renewal Form For 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016

Memberships expire June 30 of each year

This form is for rene	wing members and forn	ner members only. New n	nembers must us	se a different form.*	
Individual Dues:	Basic Member \$20	☐ Sponsor** \$50	☐ Patron** \$1	100 or more	
Couple Dues:	Basic Members \$4	0 Sponsors** \$70	☐ Patrons** \$	\$120 or more	
<b>Email and Newslette</b>	er Options:	TSJS concert announce	ments and mem	bership notices	
(Check all boxes that	apply.)	Strutter newsletter by Email			
		Other traditional jazz eve	ent notices (not s	sponsored by TSJS)	
Mail Delivery:		Strutter Newsletter by U	.S. Mail (Patrons	& Sponsors Only)	
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Date	Check No	TOTAL PA	AYMENT <u>\$</u>		
Mail with check paya	able to Tri-State Jazz S	Society, Inc., P.O. Box 89	96, Mount Laure	l, NJ 08054	
	ember Application, call trg/application-to-mail.htr	he hotline at 856-720-023 nl.	32 or visit the TS	JS website:	
** If you are a Patron o	or Sponsor and do <b>NOT</b>	want your name included	in the <i>Strutter</i> or	our website, check this	

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