

## OUR NEXT CONCERT

### Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band



Photo by Dinko-Mitic

Sunday, October 16, 2016

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Community Arts Center

414 Plush Mill Road

Wallingford, PA 19086

Directions at

<http://www.tristatejazz.org/directions-cac.html>

Cornetist Ben Mauger returns to Tri-State with his 6-piece Vintage Jazz Band, playing those good ole tunes from the 1920s and '30s, as well as the Swing NYC-style revival jazz made famous in the '50s and '60s. His last performance for Tri-State was in September 2013, with his 10-piece Roaring '20s Jazz Orchestra. With their home base in central Pennsylvania, Ben's groups have become mainstays at prestige jazz venues and festivals up and down the East Coast. The Vintage Jazz Band recently released their 2nd CD, *Tunes of the Twenties*. Get yourself to Wallingford on October 16 for an afternoon of high octane, knock-your-socks-off, traditional jazz!

The Vintage Jazz Band will consist of:

Ben Mauger - Leader, Cornet

Bob Kreitz - Piano

Bob Rawlins - Clarinet, Saxes

Bruce Campbell - Bass

Bob Peruzzi - Trombone

Larry Bortz - Drums

Visit Ben's website for information and videos:  
[www.benmaugersvintagejazzband.com](http://www.benmaugersvintagejazzband.com), or hear samples at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Me8LextQHsE> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZOV9cEVlog>.

### 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*

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR NOVEMBER 2016 CONCERT

The Midiri Brothers Sextet will play a TSJS concert on November 13 at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church in Haddonfield, NJ.



Photo by Lynn Redmile

The Midiri Brothers have delighted swing dancers and been acclaimed by critics at jazz festivals throughout the country for many years. L.A. Jazz Magazine said, "Catch them whenever you can! Their sextet is one of the most exciting small group swing units around today." Bob Fallstrom wrote in the Decatur Herald-Review, "I've seen and heard hundreds of clarinet players. Joe Midiri is the best ... I've seen every Joe Midiri set here [and was]enthralled by his tone, his technique, his creativity, his imagination and sound." Of Paul Midiri, Brian D. Clifford in The Express-Time said, "His amazing virtuosity brought to mind some of the great vibes players of our time."

Joe and Paul Midiri have recorded with groups ranging from trios to big bands featuring the arrangements of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and the Dorsey Brothers as well as Paul's original arrangements and compositions. More information about the band is on their Web site, [www.midiribros.com](http://www.midiribros.com), or youtube: [www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=cBUkkAelTHU#t=0s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=cBUkkAelTHU#t=0s).

## DAN LEVINSON SEPTEMBER 18 CONCERT REVIEW

By Jim McGann

The Place: Haddonfield United Methodist Church

The Band: Dan Levinson, leader, clarinet, tenor sax and vocals; Molly Ryan, vocals and guitar; Mike Davis, cornet and vocals; Jim Fryer, trombone and vocals; Mark Shane, piano; Mike Weatherly, string bass; Kevin Dorn, drums; Richard Barnes, guest musician - guitar

What's in a name? To be specific, what's in a band name?

Jazz (and Non-Jazz) Bands of the 1920s and 30s had catchy names. So-and-so and his orchestra was common place; So-and-so and his Red Hot Syncopators was something to be heard! I took it upon myself to do a brief summary of this phenomenon. There were bands identified with North American states (Duke Ellington's Washingtonians, The California Ramblers, Alabama Jug Band), cities (Original Memphis 5, Scranton Sirens), hotels/nightclubs (The Cotton Club Orchestra, Casa Loma Orchestra, Alex Bartha and his Hotel Traymore Orchestra, Ben Bernie and his Hotel Roosevelt Orchestra, Merritt Brunies and his Friars Inn Orchestra), various bands ending in Collegians, Syncopators, Rhythm Kings, Serenaders, Swingsters or Stompers. Some are beyond category (Johnny Bayersdorffer and his Jazzola Novelty Orchestra, Bennett's Swamplanders, Bogans Birmingham Busters, Frank Bunch and his Fuzzy Wuzzies, Busse's Buzzards, Johnny Claes and his Clay Pigeons, Bubbling Over Five, Sunny Clapp and his Band O'Sunshine).

Jazz musicians, too led bands with unusual monikers. Jelly Roll Morton had his Red Hot Peppers, Bix Beiderbecke recorded with his Rhythm Jugglers, Bechet led his New Orleans Feetwarmers, Jimmy Bertrand had his Washboard Wizards, Harlan Leonard's Rockets, Bigard's Jazz-O-Pators, Cootie Williams' Rug Cutters, Al Coopers Savoy Sultans, Bob Crosby's Bob Cats and Tommy Dorsey's Clambake 7 to name a few.

Which brings us to Dan Levinson, who is no stranger to band name creativity. TSJS has hosted

his Anachronists, Mama's Boys, Palomar Quartet and Three Benny Opera. His latest creation, the Tiger-Tulip Jazz Band, was dedicated to the late Caren Brodsky, who tirelessly promoted bands led by Levinson, Vince Giordano, Marty Grosz et al. Tiger and Tulip were the names of Brodsky's pet rabbits.



Photo by Jim McGann

At first glance, Levinson's Tiger-Tulip group appeared to be an extension of Banu Gibson's group who performed for TSJS a year ago with much of the same personnel. The format seemed the same. Instrumentalists yielded to vocalists providing short solos not extending 12 bars, with arrangements that favored something out of The Three Ts.



Photo by Jim McGann

Fortunately, my first impression proved unfounded. The band kicked out a lively "At the Codfish Ball" with Levinson's clarinet wailing wildly. Mike Davis' cornet had opportunities to shine on the Bixian "Blue River" and his later vocal feature, "A Shanty In Old Shanty Town." Mark Shane performed a wistful "She's Funny That Way," and trombonist Jim Fryer performed a beautiful version of Albert Hague's "Young and Foolish." Levinson favored the tenor sax for this concert, sounding Trumbauer-like on the aforementioned "Blue River" and quite moving on a piece associated with Sidney Bechet, "The Song of Songs." His

clarinet was present on "My Inspiration," a dedication to Pete Fountain who passed away in August.

Collectively, the Tiger-Tulip band shined on the traditional pieces. Mel Stitzel's "The Chant," "Copenhagen" and "Frog-I-More Rag," the latter having guest guitarist Richard Barnes sitting in.

Vocals for this concert were hit or miss. Molly Ryan, like Banu Gibson, knows what to do with the material at hand, and gave exceptional performances on "Let Yourself Go," "The Lady In Red" and a rare item, Bud Flanagan's "Wanderer." Messrs. Levinson, Davis, and Fryer tried their hand at a vocal and for this reviewer, I would have traded their vocal chorus for an instrumental one. Low point for me was the duet by Levinson and Ryan on "Nothing's Too Good For My Baby," a tune associated with Louis Prima and Keeley Smith. While it was sung well, it lacked the wit and spirit that made the Prima-Smith collaboration special.



Photo by Jim McGann

Nitpicking aside, the Tiger-Tulip Jazz Band was an enjoyable effort. You can't lose with a band showcasing the talents of Dan Levinson, Molly Ryan et al. The band can hold its own with the many Stompers and Syncopators that graced the ballrooms and concert halls of a bygone era.

Quote of the Month  
By Rabbi Lou Kaplan



What is it that distinguishes Louis from the rest? Why does an Armstrong solo stand out like a mountain peak over its neighboring foothills? There are four salient features, none of which, to my mind, take priority, but which are inseparable elements of a single tonal conception: (1) his superior choice of notes and the resultant shape of his lines; (2) his incomparable basic quality of tone; (3) his equally incomparable sense of swing, that is, the sureness with which notes are placed in the time continuum and the remarkable varied attack and release properties of his phrasing; (4) and, perhaps his most original contribution, the subtly varied repertory of vibratos and shakes with which Armstrong colors and embellishes individual notes. The importance of the last fact cannot be emphasized enough, since it gives an Armstrong solo that peculiar sense of inner drive and forward momentum.

Gunther Schuller, "Early Jazz: Its Roots and Musical Development" (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), p. 91.

Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival  
By Michael Mudry



In 1971, the Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Band of New Jersey came to Davenport, Iowa on the banks of the Mississippi River where Leon Bismark "Bix" Beiderbecke, the famous cornet player, pianist and composer, was born on March 10, 1903 and spent most of the rest of his life. The purpose of the visit was to honor him 40 years after his death from pneumonia on August 6, 1931 in New York City. The band played at Oakdale Cemetery where Bix is buried and then held a jam session at the then Davenport Holiday Inn which drew such a large crowd that the local residents decided to form the Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Society in 1972 and put together the first festival that year in Davenport, which is where the next 43 festivals took place.

On August 4, 5 and 6, 2016, the Society held its 45th festival in the neighboring city of Bettendorf due to scheduling conflicts. However, there were a number of special events by various groups which served to expand the music over the full week of Monday, the 1st (the date I arrived) through Sunday, the 7th. Actually, a prior event honoring Bix which had nothing to do with music was the Bix Race on the weekend before Monday in which several thousand runners ran a 7 mile course. The first musical event was a concert Monday, the 1st, by Dave Bennett and local musicians in Bettendorf outside the Governor's Pub & Grill. Dave is a popular clarinetist and pianist from Michigan. The band started at 7:00 pm, but quit before the scheduled ending time because of an approaching storm.

The next musical event was at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, the 2nd, in Wesley United Methodist Church in Muscatine, Iowa, about 25 miles downriver from Davenport. It featured the swing band of the prominent Davenport drummer, Josh Duffee. This was followed at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, the 3rd, by Dave Bennett playing with the local Jim Valentine band at Grumpy's Saloon in Davenport.

On Thursday, the 4th, a local trad band held forth outside the main library in downtown Davenport from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. During the intermission a youth all-drum band gave a sterling performance. Later that afternoon a 3:00 pm concert was given at the Putnam Art Museum in Davenport by Randy Sandke (using the Bix cornet from the museum's Bix exhibit) and Dick Hyman on piano. (The museum was holding a fascinating King Tut exhibit, which I stayed to see after the concert ended. I also spent some worthwhile time at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport.)

Thursday, the 4th, also saw the start at 6:00 pm in the Bettendorf Waterfront Convention Center of the music sessions for which paid tickets were required. The bands were the Bix Youth Jazz Band, Basin Street Boys and Dave Bennett's Memphis Speed Kings. Dave's band basically plays Jerry Lee Lewis rock and roll and, while definitely not trad, it has a big following at trad concerts.

Paid performances on Friday, the 5th, all started on the hour and began at noon at the Convention Center, with each set lasting about 45 minutes, followed by a 15-minute break. The last set ended at 10:45 pm. A meal break was taken from 4:45 to 6:00 pm. The same format was followed on Saturday, the 6th, but a second venue was added in the ballroom of the Isle Casino Hotel in Bettendorf. A jam session was held beginning at 11:00 pm Friday, but few showed up, so I left early.

Free sessions were also held from 6:00 to 10:45 pm on Friday and Saturday at LeClaire Park in Davenport. The bands there were primarily local ones.

Before Saturday's sessions, one of the highlights of the festival took place at 10:00 am at the Oakdale Cemetery, where Dan Levinson's Six Shades of Bix played at Bix's grave. It was the 85th anniversary of Bix's death and occurred on a beautiful, comfortable sunny day with great music. At the

end a flock of doves was released and flew over the cemetery before finally going their way.

The final two musical performances were on Sunday, the 7th. The first was by the Jim Valentine Jazz Band at the First Presbyterian Church in Davenport for morning services. Bix's mother, Agatha, was a musician who was the pianist and organist at the church. She adored Bix and is buried next to him at the cemetery.

The second began at 7:00 pm at what is now named Jim's Knoxville Tap, a tavern across the Mississippi River in Milan, Illinois. Bix had played there often, at which time it was known as a house of ill repute. The band there was the Lakeshore Syncopators.

The 12 groups that played at the venues where tickets were required were Dan Levinson's Six Shades of Bix, Rock Island Roustabouts, Lakeshore Syncopators, Dave Greer's Classic Jazz Stompers, Dave Bennett's Memphis Speed Kings, Dave Bennett Quartet, Randy Sandke and Dick Hyman, Dick Hyman solo, The Graystone Monarchs, Miss Jubilee & Her Humdingers, Basin Street Boys and Bix Youth Jazz Band. An additional six local bands played on Friday and Saturday at LeClaire Park. Although the band names may not be well known, most were composed of top notch musicians who performed splendidly. The songs played were primarily those connected with Bix and were mostly ensemble rather than one or two choruses followed by numerous solos. I consider the festival to have been great.

In addition to myself, there were three present or former TSJS board members at the festival. They were Bill Hoffman, Walt Brenner (a former TSJS president and still member who now lives in Georgia) and Doug Finke, who played trombone with the Rock Island Roustabouts.

## FUTURE CONCERTS



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

**No Concert in December due to Holidays**

### **January 15, 2017 Barbone Street Jazz Band.**

Clarinetist Steve Barbone leads one of the area's best and most experienced Dixieland bands. It has become the busiest trad jazz group in the Delaware Valley, Wallingford, PA

**February 12, 2017 Marty Grosz and the Hot Winds.** Guitarist and raconteur Marty Grosz is a legend of the jazz world. He returns with another edition of his quartet to perform old tunes you may not remember, Haddonfield, NJ

**March 12, 2017 Richard Barnes & the Blackbird Society Orchestra.** Led by guitarist Richard Barnes, this Philadelphia dance orchestra is dedicated to the preservation of 1920s red-hot jazz from the era of the flappers, Wallingford, PA

**April 9, 2017 Stephanie Trick - Solo Piano.** On tour from St. Louis, Stephanie first played at TSJS in March 2015. Widely considered one of the country's top stride pianists, she performs throughout the world, Haddonfield, NJ

**April 30, 2017 Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings.** Hot jazz inspired by the legendary early bands of New Orleans. Clarinetist Jerry Rife last led this great trad band for TSJS in February 2015, Wallingford, PA

**June 6, 2017 Neville Dickie and the Midiri Brothers.** Neville is coming from England and is on piano, Joe Midiri is on clarinet, Paul Midiri is on drums. It's an annual tradition. Come early; it's likely to be a full house, 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.

## OTHER JAZZ CONCERTS

### PENNSYLVANIA JAZZ SOCIETY

[www.pajazzsociety.org](http://www.pajazzsociety.org)

(610)-625-4640

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

**October 23** Big Band Swing with Bill Warfield, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**November 13** Jam Session, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY

[www.njjs.org](http://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](http://www.njjs.org/p/services/bickford.html)

All concerts 8:00 p.m. (973)-971-3706.

**October 10** Paris Washboard

**October 24** Frank Vignola Trio with Jon-Erik Kelso

#### 1867 SANCTUARY AT EWING

Scotch Road (Route 611), Ewing Township, NJ

**October 23** The Hazelrigg Brothers

#### OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Toms River, NJ 08753

[www.njjs.org/p/services/ocean.html](http://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.

**October 19** Bria Skonberg

### CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St.,  
Cape May, NJ

[www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com](http://www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com)

**October 9** Al Harrison Dixieland Band

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**More Volunteers are listed on our website at:**  
[www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html](http://www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html)

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