

OUR NEXT CONCERT

Dave Posmontier's Dixie Kings



Photo by Jim McGann

Sunday, January 7, 2018

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>

Dave Posmontier - Leader, piano
 Stan Slotter - Co-leader, trumpet, cornet, flute
 Dave Brodie - Bass
 Grant MacAvoy - Drums
 Pat Mercuri - Banjo, guitar
 Bob Butryn - Clarinet
 Fred Scott - Trombone

Tri-State members know Dave Posmontier as a renowned keyboard artist who has performed and recorded with many jazz artists – including Christian McBride, James Moody, Chris Potter, Grover Washington Jr., David "Fathead" Newman,

and Johnny Hartman. Here is another side of Dave's talent – becoming interested in traditional jazz in the 1990's, he formed the Dixie Kings with trumpeter Stan Slotter. Dave brings the Dixie Kings septet to Tri-State to celebrate the true New Orleans Mardi Gras style. The band includes many of the same local musicians who were members of the well-respected **Ed Wise Jazz Band** under bassist Ed Wise.

For info about Dave, visit www.daveposmontier.com.

Listen to a sample of Dave's music at [Aint-Misbehavin'](#)

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 FEBRUARY 2018 CONCERT

On February 11, 2018, our concert will feature Sue Keller, a ragtime and vintage jazz pianist at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church in Haddonfield, NJ.



Sue Keller makes her Tri-State debut on February 11, 2018 in Haddonfield. Sue is an American ragtime, blues and jazz pianist and singer. Versatile in many musical styles, she concentrates on vintage jazz and ragtime. In 1992, Sue established Ragtime Press to publish rags by little-known composers, and the HVR label to document her music. She was the festival Artistic Director for the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Foundation from 2003 through 2009. Sue was honored with the foundation's 2010 Scott Joplin Award for distinguished lifetime achievement and support of ragtime.

Click to watch Sue play “I Love a Piano”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmpGrA9cwXQ>
and “Dizzy Fingers”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOWuQvuPk-A>
Sue’s website is <http://rtpress.com>.

A 1970 alumna of Marple-Newtown High School in Newtown Square, PA and Indiana’s DePauw University four years later, Sue has been performing since childhood, not only as a singer and pianist, but also as a sometime actress, vocal coach, and musical director of Off-Broadway productions. Sue maintains her own production company, Ragtime Press, for which she has recorded over a dozen CDs.

COCUZZI COURTET CONCERT REVIEW

By Jim McGann

The Time: Sunday, November 19, 2017

The Place: Haddonfield United Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ.

The Band: John Cocuzzi, piano and vocals; Kristy Reed-Cocuzzi, vocals, clarinet, alto sax; Jack Hegyi, string bass; Harry Himles, drums



Photo by Jim McGann

I did not know what to expect with the Cocuzzi Courtet. I had never heard of this group, nor had I heard any of the individual members in other bands. So I had nothing. From the looks of it, it appeared to be something similar to a Vegas lounge act, and with that bias floating around in my head I did not have high expectations. After witnessing two hours of the Courtet, I have to say that I walked away with mixed feelings about the group.

Musically, if you were expecting traditional jazz there was little to be found. Several of the program's selections consisted of works associated with early jazz. However the band's allegiance seemed to be closer to Louis Jordan's Tympani Five rather than to Louis Armstrong, with the results interpreting a rhythm and blues feel. There were exceptions to be found, particularly the Fats Waller numbers, the band was highly capable of pulling off, in quartet fashion, a quality jazz performance. The concert as a whole, on the other hand, was a mixed bag in concept.

Performance-wise, this was about the show, and the show did manage to mask some of the band's deficiencies. For example, John Cocuzzi wondered what New Orleans would have been like if the

Germans arrived in New Orleans instead of the French, before launching into a heavily Oom-pah version of the "Clarinet Polka." The campy "new" lyrics of Irving Berlin's "Always," addressing long lines at the ladies' room, is another example.



John Cocuzzi

Kristy Reed-Cocuzzi

Photos by Jim McGann

As with the earlier November concert, there was more emphasis on vocals. While the singing voices of both Cocuzzis were more appealing than those of the earlier concert, two thirds of the concert with vocals was a bit much.

I found John Cocuzzi an exciting, if not impressive, pianist. It was the effortless way he played the instrument, as if he could light a cigarette, and conduct a long conversation without missing a note on the keyboard. Kristy Reed-Cocuzzi, on the other hand, left me less enthusiastic. Her clarinet and alto playing were at best capable, the best being her interpretations of Sidney Bechet's "Si Tu Va Ma Mere" and Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine." On vocals, she fared better, with the belting version of "Hard Hearted Hannah," her best of the afternoon.

The 'Seriously Cool' Banjo of Cynthia Sayer by Lew Shaw

Reprinted by special arrangement with The Syncopated Times

It's Trivia Night down at the local pub, and the question is: "Who was the official banjoist for the New York Yankees?"

Or the question might be: "What member of the National 4-String Banjo Hall of Fame was the piano player in Woody Allen's New Orleans Jazz Band?"

Or: "Who recently published a play-along book with CDs and downloads for people seeking to learn and practice traditional hot jazz and swing?"

And finally: "Who is the only banjoist to have graced the stage of the Metropolitan Opera concert hall and to have performed with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra?"

Congratulations if your answer to all of the above was "Cynthia Sayer."

Cynthia Sayer has made a career out of doing something she loves. She originally wanted to play the drums, but when she was 13, her parents bribed her with a banjo and lessons as a more peaceful pursuit. This happenstance put her on a career path that has led to work in films, stints with symphony orchestras, performances at the White House and Carnegie Hall, teaching, and extensive international touring.

As a magna cum laude graduate from Ithaca College with a bachelor's degree in English, she thought about going to law school to become a lawyer, but decided to give music a shot for a year or two. She kept extending that "year or two," and it wasn't long before she concluded there's nothing wrong with earning your living at something you love doing.

She was soon playing with such legendary artists as Bucky Pizzarelli, Dick Hyman, Les Paul, Marvin Hamlisch, Wynton Marsalis, and Wycliffe Gordon. Her extensive career includes performing for two U.S. Presidents (once at the White House), playing banjo, ukulele and piano on feature film and TV soundtracks including several Woody Allen films, and doing TV commercials and radio jingles.

She tours with her bands, Cynthia Sayer & Joyride, Cynthia Sayer & Sparks Fly, and Cynthia Sayer's Women of the World Jazz Band (WOW). Her albums included Attractions with Bucky Pizzarelli and Joyride with Charlie Giordano, a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band. In 2006 she was inducted into the National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame, which is part of the American Banjo Museum.

She was featured on the PBS television documentary Give Me the Banjo that brought together contemporary players with folklorists, historians, instrument makers and passionate amateurs to tell the story of America's instrument in all its richness and diversity.

She was a founding member of Woody Allen's New Orleans Jazz Band and was its pianist for over 10 years. "When I was first approached I wondered why they would ask me when there are a ton of great piano players in New York City. I'm better on banjo. However, as I thought about it, I realized that Woody was partial to the clarinet style of George Lewis, and the band was like a George Lewis- Bunk Johnson New Orleans-style band, which has a very particular kind of sound."

"I concluded I was actually okay on piano because I understood that kind of music whereas most New York players have this extraordinary technical skill and don't tend to connect to this style. I loved the band and did play banjo on occasion when Eddy Davis, the regular banjo player, couldn't make it."

A gig playing for the New York Yankees led to board game fame for Cynthia, who was featured on a card in the 1998 edition of Trivial Pursuit. "I didn't know about the Trivial Pursuit question until a friend told me about it. What happened was that I was in the 'A Band' who played for certain home games at Yankee Stadium and also for some of the Yankee special events. I'm not a big sports fan, but got to meet a few players. It was cool."

Cynthia has also been active as an educator, performing programs about early jazz and the 4-string banjo at colleges, giving lecture/demonstrations for various organizations, teaching workshops while on tour worldwide, giving private lessons, hosting jam sessions, and writing feature articles for several American and British trade publications.

Dispelling all the bad jokes about banjos and people who play the instrument, Cynthia recently gave a lecture/demo at the Lincoln Center Jazz Academy entitled THE VENERABLE JAZZ BANJO: Stars & Music from Speakeasies, Vaudeville, Concert Halls and More. While people normally associate the banjo with bluegrass, folk and country music, Cynthia pointed out that it was the 4-string jazz banjo that defined the hot rhythm section sound of American pop music of the Roaring '20s and early '30s. She went on to say that it remains an integral ingredient of America's traditional jazz sound, embraced by players and listeners alike in today's resurgent hot jazz scenes.

As for the play-along book, which is titled You're in The Band, she said, "My students had expressed a good deal of frustration over the years in trying to find the right kind of play-along materials. They asked me to put something together, but I was always too busy with gigs and other work. Finally the time was right.

"Once I conceived the project, it grew organically to be more involved than I thought it would be. And I'm really pleased the way it turned out. It's designed to give a genuine experience of what it's like to play in a hot jazz, trad-style group, and is for all jazz instruments, not just banjo. Bria Skonberg (trumpet), Mike Weatherly (string bass) and Kevin Dorn (drums) recorded 13 familiar tunes with me. Each tune is performed at two different speeds: practice or gig tempo, and we leave space for the musician to play along. The book also gives lots of info and tips. The You're in the Band package will help players learn real traditional jazz by utilizing accurate music, playing styles and tempos as are played on quality professional gigs today—and to have fun in the process!"

There's no question in Cynthia Sayer's mind that she made the right decision to become a musician instead of a barrister, and that she picked the right instrument on which to build her career. "The banjo is in the midst of an enormous renaissance, and there is some great talent out there. It is seriously cool to be a banjo player right now. Needless to say, I'm happy about that.

"I remember when I was in my 20s going to parties, and people would say to me, 'Oh, what do you do?' I would reply, 'I play the banjo,' and they would

look at me and literally not know how to respond. It was just not part of the consciousness of my generation. Now if I say I play the banjo, everyone is like, 'Wow, that's so cool!'"

Mark Twain had that figured out 150 years ago when he wrote in volume 2 of his *Early Tales and Sketches*, "The piano may do for lovesick girls who lace themselves to skeletons, and lunch on chalk, pickles, and slate pencils. But give me the banjo... When you want genuine music—music that will come right home to you like a bad quarter, suffuse your system like strychnine whiskey...ramify your whole constitution like the measles, and break out on your hide like the pin-feather pimples on a picked goose—when you want all this, just smash your piano, and invoke the glory-beaming banjo!"

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The work of Tri-State Jazz is done by its board and interested volunteers. We need new volunteers for the following jobs and training will be provided:

- Refreshments volunteer at Wallingford, PA. We're looking for a volunteer to take on the shopper-delivery role for the events in Pennsylvania. This person shops for the concerts, buying the packages of cookies, candy, bottles of beverages, and an order of soft pretzels (and the pretzels mean mustards too). Besides the food there are the supplies of napkins, beverage cups, paper plates, and serving plates. (Tri-State pays cash reimbursements at the concert.) The shopper-delivery job includes bringing the food and supplies to Wallingford, early before the start of the concert, so other volunteers can finish setting up and putting everything out.
- Web publicity submissions - use web forms to submit pre-concert publicity information to Philly Funguide, The Courier Post, and Philly.com.

Quiz Time By Rabbi Lou Kaplan

In 2016 our Tri-State Jazz Society presented 12 concerts. With some names missing, listed below are seven of those 12 programs. Can you fill in what is omitted?

1. Dan _____ and His Tiger Tulip Jazz Band
2. _____ Brothers Sextet
3. Al _____ Dixieland Band
4. Bria _____ Quintet
5. Terry _____, Stride Pianist
6. _____ City Jazz Band
7. _____ Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band

(Answers elsewhere in this issue)

SEE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/tristatejazz

Tri State Jazz Society is on Facebook! Our Facebook page is available for comments, questions, and suggestions.

THE STRUTTER IS ON THE WEB

The current and back issues of *The Strutter* are on the Tri-State Jazz Society Web. The *Strutter* archives cover over three years of back issues and all the bands and soloists who performed during that period are listed there.

Read the back issues at
www.tristatejazz.org/strutter-archives.html

FUTURE CONCERTS



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

March 11, 2018 Conservatory Classic Jazz Band

Dave Robinson returns to TSJS with his DC-based early-jazz sextet to play music of pioneers like Morton, Armstrong, Beiderbecke and Goodman. Wallingford, PA

April 15, 2018 Richard Barnes Blackbird Society Orchestra

Following last year's sold-out concert at Wallingford, the 13-piece Blackbird Society Orchestra returns with a rousing performance of 20s and early 30s hot jazz. Haddonfield, NJ

May 20, 2018 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 usually a full house. Haddonfield, NJ

June 3, 2018 Danny Tobias and Friends

Trumpeter Danny Tobias will return to TSJS with his quintet, featuring Paul Midiri on vibes, Joe Holt on piano, Joe Plowman on bass and Jim Lawlor on drums. Wallingford, PA

June 24, 2018 Al Harrison Dixieland Band

Trumpeter Al Harrison will be returning to TSJS with a sextet. The program will again feature authentic early New Orleans jazz and traditional jazz standards. 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

(610)-625-4640

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

February 25, 2018 Mardi Gras

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

Concert 7:30 p.m. (973)-971-3706.

January 8, 2018 Bucky Pizzarelli Birthday Party

January 20, 2018 Chris Brubeck's Triple Play

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Toms River, NJ 08754

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

(732)-255-0500

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

January 24, 2018 The Midiri Brothers

February 14, 2018 The Birdland All-Stars featuring Tommy Igoe

CAPE MAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St.,

Cape May, NJ

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

March 11, 2018 Midiri Brothers Traditional Jazz

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

Check out the numerous traditional jazz events sponsored by PRJC at www.prjc.org

TSJS SUSTAINERS

Very Special - \$200 or more, \$220 couples

- Mary Ann & Dr. Charles H. Emely
- Chuck Haggerty & Sarah Burke
- William N. Hoffman
- Richard & Peggy Hughlett
- Chris Jones and Amy Galer
- Bob Mackie
- Dewaine & Clare Osman
- DeWitt Peterson
- Bob & Nancy Rawlins
- Dr. Myron E. & Phoebe R. Resnick
- Sylvia Rosenberg
- Alice V. Schmidt
- Jay & Orinda Lou Schultz

TSJS PATRONS

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

- Jack & Joan Adams
- Elaine Berkowitz
- John & Susan Bingley
- Walt Brenner
- Sanford Catz
- Stephen Faha
- Bruce Gast
- Carl Meister, Jr. & Linda Hickman
- James & Lorraine Maitland
- Mike Mudry
- Selina Higgins & Bill Nixon
- John Otterson
- Jolyne Dalzell & Richard Scarlett
- Robert Carr & Barbara Steele
- Jerry & Josephine Yocum

TSJS SPONSORS

Headliners - \$50 or more, \$70 couples

- Chic Bach
- Joan Bauer
- Jack Boesch
- Louis DePietro
- Robert & Cynthia Freedman
- J. Mervyn & Peg Harris
- John H. Hoover
- Jack Jennings
- Robert Kerns, Jr.
- Sheila Larson
- Michael & Irene Lastra
- Michael Lefkowitz
- Steven Peitzman & Nancy Pontone
- Katherine & Michael Perloff
- Peggy de Prophetis & Louis Kaplan
- Terry Rave
- Mark Raymond
- Peter Reichlin
- R. Adam Rogers III
- Lynn Ryan
- Bob & Kay Troxell
- Anne Uniman
- Fred Weber
- Constance & Donald Windus
- Mary Lou Adams & Sandra Zullo

ABOUT TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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membership@tristatejazz.org

More Volunteers are listed on our website at:
www.tristatejazz.org/officers.html

TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: PO Box 896, Mount Laurel, NJ.
08054

E-mail: info@tristatejazz.org

Hotline Phone for updated concert information:
(856) 720-0232

QUIZ TIME ANSWERS

1. Levinson
2. Midiri
3. Harrison
4. Skonberg
5. Waldo
6. Atlantic
7. Ben



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, expiring on the last day of the 12th month.

Email and Newsletter Options: TSJS concert announcements and membership notices
 (Check all boxes that apply.) Strutter Newsletter by Email
 Strutter by U.S. Mail (Patrons, Sponsors, Sustainers Only)

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.
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