

OUR NEXT CONCERT

Larry Toft's Red Hot Ramblers

Sunday, August 22, 2021, 2:00 to 4:30 pm

A concert **INDOORS** at the Community Arts Center, Wallingford PA
and a Live Stream Event on Facebook and YouTube



Photo by Jim McGann

The Community Arts Center requires guests to wear masks to attend this full-capacity indoor concert. Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination for admission. If this presents a problem, please consider enjoying the concert remotely, watching the live webcast on our YouTube channel, Facebook page, or the Tri-State Jazz website.

The Red Hot Ramblers are an authentic 1920s jazz ensemble in every way. They exemplify red-hot syncopation, stompin' rhythms, and lyrical melodies associated with the Jazz Age. The repertoire can extend before and after the 1920s from the early years in Jazz, such as New Orleans Style and Ragtime, up to the swing era of the 1930s and 40s and even into the modern Second Line New Orleans parade style. The Red Hot Ramblers have been pleasing audiences in every type of venue, from concert halls to dimly-lit bars to swing dances to outdoor events/weddings. Welcome them on their return to Tri-State, to recreate their success with us from November 2017.

Visit the band on Facebook

Watch them perform "Red Hot Mama"

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. Full-time students with ID, or children accompanied by a paying adult, are free.

Directions to the Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR SEPTEMBER CONCERT
Adam Swanson
Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 2pm



Photo courtesy Adam Swanson

Adam Swanson is one of the world's foremost performers of vintage American popular music, including ragtime, early jazz, the Great American Songbook, and more. He holds a bachelor's in classical piano and a master's in musicology from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University.

Although he is only twenty-seven years old, Adam has been a featured performer and lecturer at ragtime and jazz festivals across the United States, and he is the only four-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. In 2007, he appeared alongside John Arpin at the Bohem Ragtime and Jazz Festival in the Republic of Hungary and has also toured Switzerland and Australia. Adam made his New York debut in Carnegie Hall at the age of nineteen, where he performed with Michael Feinstein. Adam has accompanied silent films at the prestigious Cinecon Classic Film Festival at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and played privately for noted Disney/Hollywood composer Richard M. Sherman (*Mary Poppins*, etc.). In 2013, Adam made his first appearance at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C.

Adam enjoys working with other musicians and has recorded albums with pianist Frederick Hodges, former rock star Ian Whitcomb, and legendary 1950s recording artist Johnny Maddox, who was one of Adam's greatest influences. Adam's recordings have been used on the CBC-TV (Canada) show *Murdoch Mysteries*, and he frequently performs in the Diamond Belle Saloon at the Historic Strater Hotel in his hometown of Durango, Colorado.

Visit [Adam's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)

Listen to "[Maple Leaf Rag](#)", "[Delmar Rag](#)", and [a medley](#) at the Afterglow Party at the West Coast Ragtime Festival

The Midiri Brothers Sextet

Sunday, July 11, 2021

REVIEW by Jim McGann



Photo by Chris Jones

Band Personnel:

Joe Midiri - clarinet, soprano, alto and tenor saxophones

Paul Midiri - vibraphone and drums

Joe Holt - piano

Pat Mercuri - guitar

Jack Hegyi - string bass

Jim Lawlor - drums

A year of a pandemic makes one appreciate the simple pleasure of attending a live jazz concert. True, we have had some outdoor concerts in recent months, but speaking on my own, Sunday's concert with the Midiri Brothers Sextet was like revisiting the "old" normal. It was nice setting up my camera, taking notes on my legal pad, and seeing a live band and audience at CAC, and not in cubes in cyberspace. The Midiri Brothers Sextet provided the excellent musicianship as it always had. Joe Midiri is never less

than excellent on any of the reeds he brings to live performances. Brother Paul is an outstanding mallet-ist (is there such a word?) and very capable drummer. Complimenting to the two are pianist Joe Holt, whose unique approach to the keyboard is worth the price admission alone, but you also have a rhythm section of guitarist Pat Mercuri, bassist Jack Hegyi and drummer, the always beaming Jim Lawlor. With personnel like that, you know you are in Swing City.

The band kicked off with a number I can only associate with the King of Swing, "Close Your Eyes." Goodman recorded the song during a live performance in Tokyo in 1964. Joe Midiri adds a Goodmanesque riff – a repetitive three note vamp going up the scale. Paul Midiri provides some nice Norvo runs in his solo, Joe Holt sneaks in a quote from "Six Appeal" then goes on a tear with a mix of

stride and soulful chord clusters, Pat Mercuri plays a rather Tatumish guitar solo, not reminiscent of the former's lightning-fast arpeggios but in his manner of changing course several times during a solo. This all lead up to a minor riff which borrows the first few measures of "That Da Da Strain."

The following number "Because of You" was noteworthy for the Shearing Quintet unison chorus of Holt's piano, Mercuri's guitar and Paul Midiri's vibes. Then, the first of several swing numbers, Edgar Sampson's "Blue Lou" is given a BG sextet treatment, with Joe Midiri taking off once the melody concludes, Paul Midiri is gymnastic on the vibes, Mercuri swings with short, clipped notes, and Holt, equally energetic on the keyboard. The number closes with short Lawlor drum solos.

One of the highlights of the concert, Juan Tizol's "Gypsy Without A Song" has Midiri performing the melody subtone a la Barney Bigard. The sextet captures Ellington's tone colors without the benefit of a big band – Midiri's clarinet and soprano solos are expressive, wailing, pleading. Holt and Paul Midiri provide sympathetic support, but Joe Midiri's performance stands out. A gem.

"What A Dream," a Sidney Bechet composition, is straight ahead swing. Joe Midiri's soprano solo would make the master proud, Paul Midiri gets into a Hampton groove. After a swing riff which allows opportunity for Hegyi and Lawlor brief breaks, Joe Midiri leads the charge in an outstanding ride out chorus. In keeping with the dream theme, Sigmund Romberg's "When I Grow Too Old To Dream" makes Joe Holt an active dreamer, right hand up and down the keyboard; Pat Mercuri sleeps lightly in his guitar solo; Paul Midiri a short sleeper in his short solo; leading up to Joe Midiri, who seems to enjoy a good night's sleep, for his clarinet enjoys the dreamlike surroundings. No insomnia here.

The first set closed with a high-octane swinger, "Limehouse Blues." This version was notable for Joe Midiri's quoting the Nutcracker Suite at the close of his solo.



Photo by Jim McGann



Photo by Jim McGann



Photo by Paul Macatee



Photo by Paul Macatee

Set number two opened with a trio of the two Midiris (Paul on drums) and Joe Holt. “Oh, Lady Be Good” swings in an unusual way. You can hear hints of the Goodman Trio, but this trio brings out qualities in the Gershwin’s tune that one might not expect – Joe Holt’s rocking two choruses, heavy swinging left hand, incorporating boogie woogie, gradually segueing into two-fisted stride. Joe Midiri’s clarinet, while giving a few nods to the King of Swing, is full of experimental ideas. A key change in the final chorus accelerates the tension and brings the performance to an exciting conclusion.

“Polka Dots and Moonbeams” and “Who’s Sorry Now?” were showcases for Joe Midiri’s alto sax, as was “That Old Gang of Mine,” a vehicle of Joe’s roilingly raunchy tenor. As for the other players, Holt and Paul Midiri seem to have fun with their solos on “Who’s Sorry...” while providing tender support on “Moonbeams.”

The surprise of the afternoon was the South American “Tico Tico.” This departure from the swingers, good though they are, inspired the band as a whole (Jim Lawlor has a whale of a time on this one) and in its enticing solos from both Midiris, Holt and Mercuri make this reviewer wish for more pleasant surprises like this one.

“Stand Up For Jesus” brought a cascade of stride piano from Joe Holt, and if one could compare tapdancing to a mallet instrument, that is the best way to describe Paul Midiri’s here, for his mallets seem to fall in perfect synchronization to tap steps. Pat Mercuri swings with the least amount of string picking, proving once again less is more. By the time Joe Midiri takes the spotlight, it is an all-out swinger.

The concert ended with an up-tempo version of “Yours Is My Heart Alone.” For the trivia experts, it was Dennis Day’s theme song. I remember the Benny Goodman- Helen Forrest recording but I digress. Like most of their performances in the past, this one did not disappoint. A nice way to enter the new normal.

This Month in Recorded Jazz History

By Jim McGann

August 7 (1936) Louis Armstrong with Jimmy Dorsey and his Orchestra recorded in Los Angeles, on the Decca label. Louis re-creates his famous 1925 solo on "Dippermouth Blues" originally made with Fletcher Henderson under the title of "Sugar Foot Stomp."

Personnel: Armstrong - trumpet, vocals*; Dorsey - clarinet, alto sax, bandleader; George Thow, Toots Camarata - trumpets; Bobby Byrne, Joe Yukl, Don Mattison - trombones; Jack Stacey, Fud Livingston, Skeets Herfurt - saxes; Bobby Van Eps - piano; Roscoe Hillman - guitar; Jim Taft - bass; Ray McKinley - drums.
"The Skeleton in the Closet,"* "When Ruben Swings The Cuban,"* "Hurdy-Gurdy Man,"* "Dippermouth Blues," "Swing That Music"

August 11 (1939) Eddie Condon and His Chicagoans recorded in New York City on the Decca label.

Personnel: Condon - guitar and bandleader; Max Kaminsky - trumpet; Brad Gowans - valve trombone; Pee Wee Russell - clarinet; Bud Freeman - tenor sax; Joe Sullivan - piano; Clyde Newcombe - bass; and Dave Tough - drums.

"There'll Be Some Changes Made," "Nobody's Sweetheart," "Friars Point Shuffle," "Someday Sweetheart"

August 15 (1934) Wingy Mannone and his Orchestra recorded in New York City. This recording session is noteworthy for the appearance of Jelly Roll Morton - his first appearance on record after his last Red Hot Peppers recording session in late 1930. It would be another four years before he would appear again - the 1938 Library of Congress interviews with Alan Lomax.

Personnel: Mannone - trumpet and bandleader; Dicky Wells - trombone; Artie Shaw - clarinet; Bud Freeman - tenor sax; Jelly Roll Morton* or Teddy Wilson - piano; Frank Victor - guitar, John Kirby - bass; Kaiser Marshall - drums.

"Easy Like," "In the Slot," "Never Had No Lovin',"* "I'm Alone Without You*"

August 16 (1937) Lionel Hampton and his Orchestra recorded in Hollywood, California on the Victor label.

Personnel: Hampton - vibraphone, piano, drums, vocals*, bandleader; Jonah Jones - trumpet; Eddie Barefield - clarinet; Clyde Hart - piano; Bobby Bennett - guitar; Mack Walker - bass; Cozy Cole - drums.

"I'm Confessin',"* "Drum Stomp (Crazy Rhythm)," "Piano Stomp (Shine)," "I Surrender Dear"

August 23 (1928) Jimmie Noone and his Apex Club Orchestra recorded in Chicago on the Vocalion label.

Personnel: Noone - clarinet, bandleader; Joe Poston - alto sax; Earl Hines - piano; Bud Scott - banjo; Lawson Buford - tuba; Johnny Wells - drums.

"Apex Blues," "A Monday Date," "Blues My Naughty Sweetie Gives To Me," "Oh, Sister! Aint That Hot," "King Joe," "Sweet Lorraine"

August 30 (1927) Miff Mole's (Little) Molers recorded in New York City, on the Okeh label.

Personnel: Mole - trombone, bandleader; Red Nichols - cornet; Fud Livingston - clarinet, tenor sax, arranger; Adrian Rollini - bass sax; Arthur Schutt - piano; Dick McDonough - banjo; Eddie Lang - guitar; Vic Berton - drums.

"Imagination," "Feelin' No Pain," "Original Dixieland One Step"



With a passion for traditional jazz, Jim McGann has reviewed and photographed Tri-State Jazz concerts since the early 2000s.

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for your continued support

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And THANK YOU to **ALL** our members for renewing memberships
enabling Tri-State Jazz Society to fulfill our mission of the preservation
and live performance of traditional jazz.

TRI-STATE JAZZ SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The annual membership meeting of Tri-State Jazz Society will be held during the August 22 concert intermission at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19002. Members who attend in person will be eligible to vote. Members of the Board of Directors will be nominated and elected in accordance with the by-laws.

TSJS CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:

PO Box 896
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

[Click to Send us an Email](#)

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

Online Membership Enrollment and Renewal Now Available!

Online enrollment and renewal are available with PayPal. You can use your PayPal account or make credit card payments using PayPal's secure website, accessed directly from our Tri-State Jazz Society website.

[New Members, Renewal](#)

Complete the contact information entry, then click Submit Form to access the PayPal site and complete the payment transaction.

You do not need to be a PayPal member to use this service.

THE STRUTTER IS ON THE WEB

Current and back issues of The Strutter are on the Tri-State Jazz Society website. The Strutter archives cover over ten years of back issues listing all the bands and soloists who performed during that period.

[Read back issues of The Strutter](#)

Pennsylvania Jazz Society

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Glenn Crytzer Quartet

Sunday, October 10, 2021

The Jazz Lobsters Big Band

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Jam Session

Events will be held from 2 to 4:30pm

Dewey Hall

502 Durham Street,
Hellertown, PA 18055

First timers \$15

PJS members admission fee \$15

Non-PJS members \$20

Children always free

Cash or check – no credit cards

Questions? Phone (610) 625-4640

pajazzsociety.org

CONCERT SCHEDULE
Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 pm



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).

8/22/21 INDOORS Wallingford (Also online)	Larry Toft's Red Hot Ramblers Larry Toft and the Red Hot Ramblers return! Bumped from their November 2020 slot, they are roaring back now.
9/19/21 INDOORS Haddonfield (Also online)	Adam Swanson - Ragtime and Early Jazz Pianist Adam, who first performed for Tri-State in 2015 while a student at the Peabody Conservatory, returns as a seasoned veteran of ragtime festivals and winner of many competitions. Adam was originally on our March 2020 schedule.
10/31/21 INDOORS Wallingford (Also online)	Richard Barnes and the Blackbird Society Orchestra Richard brings his popular 20s-era band back to commemorate Eddie Lang Day and perform a lot of obscure favorites you didn't know you had! Come early--his concerts draw large crowds.
11/14/2021 INDOORS Haddonfield (Also online)	Cynthia Sayer and her Joy Ride Band This quintet from NYC led by banjoist Cynthia Sayer last played for us in August, 2018 and nearly filled the hall. We eagerly anticipate another great performance.
January 2022	TBD - watch this space!
February 2022	TBD - watch this space!
March 2022	TBD - watch this space!

Streaming concerts can be viewed on the [Tri-State Jazz Society, Facebook page](#), or our [YouTube channel](#)

Wallingford concerts are held at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086; one mile from Exit 3 of I-476 ("The Blue Route"). Located between Media and Swarthmore.

[Directions](#)

Haddonfield concerts are held at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield, NJ 08033; just south of Kings Highway near the center of town; two blocks from the PATCO station.

[Directions](#)



Membership Form

Basic Dues: Individual \$20 Couple \$40
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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.

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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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