

Sunday, September 18, 2022
Rossano Sportiello, Piano
2:00 to 4:30 pm
Community Arts Center, Wallingford, PA

Award-winning Italian jazz pianist Rossano Sportiello returns to Tri-State! He last appeared in August 2016. He brings his eclectic style of pianism that blends classical training with jazz and stride. Rossano has performed with many of the world's finest jazz luminaries, including Clark Terry, Kenny Davern, Bucky Pizzarelli, Harry Allen, Nicki Parrott, Bill Charlap, Dick Hyman, and many others, in venues such as Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, the Blue Note, Birdland, and Feinstein's, to name a few. We're pleased to present Rossano in this live audience engagement, as life returns to something like normal following the isolation of the pandemic.

Also Live-Streaming to a device near you!
Watch on [YouTube](#) – Watch on [Facebook](#)

We can also recommend his ongoing live webcast series and his archive of concerts, "Live at the Flat in Greenwich Village". The photo above is from concert #60 (yes, that's sixty - and not the latest, either) – on [YouTube](#).



Concert Covid Policy

Tri-State Jazz Society recommends that guests wear masks, based on personal preference, to attend this full-capacity indoor concert. You may also enjoy watching the concert remotely on our [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook page](#).

CALL OUR HOTLINE for up-to-the-minute updates (856) 720-0232

ADA compliance - access to our concert venues is available at grade level.

Restroom facilities are available at grade level.

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.

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

Coming October 16, 2022
Richard Barnes & Blackbird Society Orchestra
 2:00 to 4:30 pm
 Haddonfield United Methodist Church



Richard Barnes' Blackbird Society Orchestra is Philadelphia's Premier 1920s Hot Jazz / Dance Orchestra dedicated to the preservation of the music of "The Jazz Age," "The Roaring 20s," "The Gatsby Era," Flappers, Prohibition, Gangsters, Model A's and the invention of an American art form known as "Jazz!" At this fifth return visit to TSJS, the BSO will once again display its masterful interpretations of this golden musical age. Come early; it's sure to be a sell-out!

Band Personnel

Richard Barnes – Guitar, Vocals, Leader
Dennis Hancock - Violin
Rob Ford – Trumpet
Alex Gittleman – Trumpet
Jim Gicking – Trombone
Jeff Hart – Reeds

Travis Johnson - Reeds
Bill DiBiase – Reeds
Frank McKinney – Reeds
Spencer Kashmanian – Piano
Bill Quinn – Banjo
Charlie Ford - Bass
Glenn Cowen - Drums

Visit the [BSO website](#)
 Videos: ["Black and Tan Fantasy,"](#)
["Out of Nowhere"](#)

Background By Robert Robbins

Working from **bandleader Richard Barnes'** collection of original vintage stock charts and arrangements, BSO authentically and accurately recreates many classic jazz recordings that once spun from scratchy 78 RPM records on a Victrola when the world was still in black and white! Barnes discovered the jazz/blues guitarist and vocalist Leon Redbone in 1992, playing regionally with him for a decade. He also spent five years performing obscure 1920s jazz with the Kim Milliner Band. In 1997, Barnes formed BSO with the intention of preserving 1920s jazz in note-for-note re-creations using original stock charts and transcriptions from vintage recordings. Thirteen years later, he launched Eddie Lang Day, an annual music/charity event celebrating the musical contributions of the native Philadelphian and pioneer jazz guitarist (nee Salvatore



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

Massaro), who teamed with his boyhood pal, violinist Joe Venuti, to form one of the all-time legendary duos in jazz history. In October of 2016, Barnes spearheaded the dedication of an exterior wall to Lang by Philly's Mural Arts Program, and a year later the annual Lang festivities were highlighted by the Philadelphia premiere of the film documentary *There's a Future In the Past*, which commemorates bandleader and jazz historian Vince Giordano's near half-century musical career. Barnes re-created the original 1923-30 Paul Whiteman band library in performances both at TSJS and outdoors in Rose Tree Park near Media in 2017.

Violinist **Dennis Hancock** is a full-time general music teacher in Philadelphia, and he enjoys making music accessible to all. He teaches students from kindergarten to 8th grade. Over the years, Dennis has studied under notable Philadelphia Orchestra violinists including Barbara Sonies, Booker Rowe, and Joe Lanza. In addition to teaching, Dennis has performed at distinguished venues in and around New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kimmel Center (Verizon Hall and Perelman Theater), Sovereign Performing Arts Center, Rutgers Performing Arts Center, Upper Darby Performing Arts Center, Centennial Hall at Haverford School, and the Broadway Theater in Pitman, New Jersey. Dennis currently performs with the Old York Road Symphony and the Blackbird Society Orchestra.

Trumpeter **Rob Ford**, who has a Music Education degree from West Chester University, spent over two decades teaching music in Abington and as a private instructor. He has also performed in all styles of music as a freelance player in the Philadelphia area and northeast PA for many years. Rob's current associations include the BSO, Pennsylvania German Brass Band and the Galena Brass.

Alex Gittelman (second trumpet) is a proud graduate of Haverford High School Class of '05. While at Haverford, Gittelman participated in every musical ensemble, followed by a stint with the Philadelphia Grammy Jazz Band for two years. He then served as the lead trumpeter in the PMEA All-State Jazz Band for another two years, plus the All-Eastern Jazz Band in 2005. Gittelman graduated from the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a Jazz Component. He played with various ensembles at Temple, including the Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Band, Jazz Combos, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, and Marching Band. Gittelman earned his Master of Music Education degree from the University of the Arts in 2016, while serving as an instrumental music teacher in the Pennsbury School District.

Apart from a seven-year stint in New York in the late 70s with jazz record companies A&M, Artists House, and CTI Records, where he worked with Jim Hall, Art Pepper, Chet Baker, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis among others, trombonist **Jim Gicking** has lived in the Philadelphia area, also playing guitar in big bands, small groups, and pit orchestras. He fell in love with the music of the 20s and 30s after hearing Marty Grosz on NPR's Fresh Air, and Marty has become a friend and a mentor.

Clarinetist/alto saxist **Jeff Hart** studied Music Education at Duquesne University and Jazz Performance at the University of Toledo. He is currently band director at Haverford High School, and he loves all antiques, including his 1914 Victrola phonograph and vintage 78 RPM records.

Director and arranger for the Ferko String Band for much of the 1970s and 1980s, **Bill DiBiase** has played baritone sax with the Chester County Concert Band, the Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds, Archie Lane's Big Band, and 22 Park Avenue. Bill holds a Ph.D. in Psychology, of which he is Professor Emeritus at Delaware County Community College.

Spencer Kashmanian has played ragtime and stride piano, sometimes alongside Barnes on guitar, at the re-created speakeasy C. R. Hummingbird to Mars in Wilmington, DE for the past several years.

Self-taught on plectrum/tenor banjo, accordion, piano, and drums, **Bill Quinn** is a three-decade Mummer veteran, having played banjo in the Fralinger String Band. He is also a former snare drummer for the Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, with which he performed for President George W. Bush. Bill has been heard at Disney World and during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and he appeared on ABC-TV's The View with Frankie "Fats" Montana.

Bassist **Charlie Ford** is the son of trumpeter Rob Ford.

Drummer **Glenn Cowen** has a degree in percussion from the University of PA and is the Director of Bands at Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove. He performs with regular BSO fiddler Dr. Michael Salsburg in the country-rock band Hank's Cadillac.

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A trumpet player at home in any jazz context

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022 (2 – 4:30 P.M.)

FIRST TIMERS: \$15.00 PJS MEMBERS \$15.00
STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS FREE! CASH OR CHECK ONLY, PLEASE

CONGREGATION BRITH SHOLOM
1190 WEST MACADA ROAD, BETHLEHEM, PA 18017
Pajazzsociety.org
For information, phone 610-625-4640

Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival

September 22-25 2022

Four fun-filled days of music, silent movies, lectures, open houses, and more. Hear Ragtime favorites, Jazz, Boogie-Woogie, Stride, Blues, and hits from the Great American Songbook, all performed by Grammy Award winning musicians. Plus, enjoy rides on the town's two signature attractions, the historic East Broad Top Railroad, and the neighboring Rockhill Trolley Museum! Visit the festival website at www.rockhillragtime.com

Featured Musicians Include: Frederick Hodges, Adam Swanson, Martin Spitznagel, Bryan Wright, Brian Holland, Danny Coats, Richard Dowling, and Andrew Greene's Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra.

ONE MORE REASON to become a PREMIUM MEMBER!

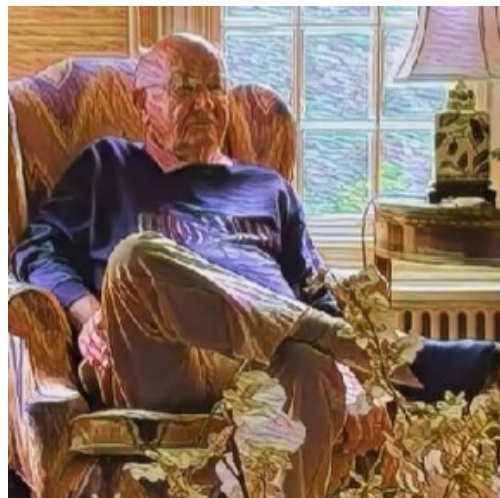
The end of an era! DeWitt Peterson, founder of the Tri-State Jazz Society, is selling his house and the tradition of the Friendly Jazz Picnic will come to a close with one final concert.

September 17 **Barbara Montgomery Trio**

Lee Smith - bass
Tom Lawton - piano
Craig McIver - drums

Salads, Entrees, Desserts, and Donations Accepted
ALL Drinks Supplied

Dress is informal and comfortable. We will be outdoors with fine music on a beautifully shaded lawn. Chairs provided.



Invitations will be sent to Tri-State Jazz Society
Premium Members, Volunteers, and Board Members

Second Jazz Picnic of the Summer of 2022

Ben Mauger's Irregulars

Ben Mauger - trumpet
Bob Rawlins - reeds
John McClernan - tuba
Jack Gabriel - trombone
Bob Kreitz - keyboard
Allan Hubbell - drums



VIDEOS on YouTube

[Video of the FIRST SET](#)

[Video of the SECOND SET](#)

[Video of the THIRD SET](#)

Videos by Chris Jones



Midiri Brothers Sextet

Sunday, August 21, 2022

REVIEW by Mike Mudry

Joe Midiri – Reeds
Paul Midiri – Vibes
Joe Holt – Piano
Pat Mercuri – Guitar
Jack Hegyi – Bass
Jim Lawlor – Drums

After many, many months during which Covid-19 resulted in the Tri-State Jazz Society having only virtual concerts or, more recently, live concerts which very few individuals attended, the concert given by the Midiri Brothers Sextet



Photo by Chris Jones

at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church on August 21, 2022 resulted in a huge step toward normality by attracting 133 members and non-members to the Church. In addition, hundreds more listened to the concert on YouTube either during the concert or since then. Listening to the splendid musical performance of the Sextet explains why the attendance jumped as much as it did. The Sextet was composed of Joe Midiri on reeds, Paul Midiri on sax and vibes (and on drums during the climax), Joe Holt on piano, Pat Mercuri on banjo and guitar, Jack Hegyi on bass and Jim Lawlor on drums.

The band played 19 songs during the performance, ranging from slow tunes such as “In a Sentimental Mood” to fast tunes such as “Limehouse Blues.” Some of the features of the concert were as follows:

1. The only song that was completely a solo was played nicely by Pat Mercuri on his guitar.
2. Two French-titled tunes (“Petite Fleur” and “C’est Magnifique”) were very well done by the band.
3. Guest vocalist Franny Smith did a good job in singing one after another “My Baby Just Cares For Me,” “Stars Fell on Alabama” and “Wicky, Wacky, Woo”.
4. Joe and Paul Midiri did their usual great solos on many of the tunes played.
5. The names of 5 of the songs played began with S, as follows: Smiles, Stars Fell on Alabama, Summertime, Sweet Lorraine and S'Wonderful.
6. Paul Midiri and Jim Lawlor did a bang-up job as dual drum players on the final tune of Limehouse Blues.

The Sextet was fabulous and we'll all be anxiously looking forward to their future concerts for the Tri-State Jazz Society.



Photos by Marian Konop

From The 51st Bix Beiderbecke Jazz Festival

by Bill Hoffman

August 2022

Jazz Travels in The Syncopated Times

The 51st Bix Beiderbecke Jazz Festival In Davenport, Iowa, got under way, as usual, with a free concert at the Putnam Museum on Thursday afternoon, August 4. This year the music, which included Bix's cornet brought into service, was provided by the Chicago Cellar Boys. The horn was played, appropriately and beautifully, by Bix protege Andy Schumm.

Due to my train arriving late in Chicago, I missed the first 20 minutes or so of this one-hour concert. As I walked into the theater, who greets me but Andy himself. He was sitting out one number, which coincidentally could have applied to me: "Out of Town Guy"—er, "Gal."

I normally change trains in Chicago to get to Galesburg or Kewanee, then bicycle the 50-60 miles to and from Davenport. This year, partly because I had already experienced Iowa's heat and humidity early in June right after the Glenn Miller festival, I opted not to risk a repeat, and instead rented a car in Chicago and drove to Davenport. As soon as I stepped out of the car at the Putnam I knew I had made the right decision. And it only got worse as the weekend went on. And Sunday it rained heavily all morning, making bicycling anywhere a risky proposition.

Thursday evening at the Rhythm City Casino was an auspicious start to the festival. The Bix Youth Band, numbering about 15 pieces, gave a very creditable performance. Due to COVID, a few of the young members were absent and were replaced by adult subs. Their set was followed by the T.J. Muller trio, consisting of T.J. on banjo, guitar, and vocals, Matt Tolentino on accordion, bass sax, and vocals, and Jeff Barnhart on piano and vocals. This was a different and very enjoyable group, playing together for the first time anywhere.

The program listed the next set as "Jeff Barnhart: Ragtime to Swing." I assumed that meant a solo show by Jeff. It was much more than that. With Jeff were seven other musicians: T.J. and Matt from the previous set plus most of the Cellar Boys' front line (Andy Schumm, John Otto, and Dave Bock), and drummer Hal Smith and bassist Michael Gamble. With most of them playing more than one instrument, a wider repertory could be presented, and was. This was a double set, lasting almost two hours with a break. Between the music and Jeff's commentary about the development of jazz and the tunes chosen to present that theme, it was a wonderful show.

The schedule for the weekend called for 45-minute sets with 15 minutes in between, running from 11:30AM to 4:15PM and 6 to 10:45PM (except 9:45 on Thursday). Thus, there were five sets each afternoon and evening. Each band had three sets except for the T.J. trio which had two and the "Benny Goodman Quartet" led by Dave Bennett that played only one time as such.

The other bands booked this year were: the perennial favorite the Chicago Cellar Boys (which now includes one "Girl," Natalie Scharf on reeds), the NOLA Jazz Band from Des Moines, the New Orleans Night Owls, Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles from Denver, and Josh Duffee's Graystone Monarchs from Davenport (but with some non-local players).

The Night Owls were new to me but four of its seven members are old "friends." There were two subs in this band: Dave Bock of the Cellar Boys for Californian Clint Baker on trombone and Bill Reinhart from San Francisco for banjoist-guitarist John Gill. Both Clint and John were recovering from surgeries. Drummer and frequent TST contributor Hal Smith leads this band, and its roster guaranteed a good showing. They did not disappoint. The Owls recently released a remotely-recorded CD that I look forward to hearing.

I did not enjoy as much NOLA or the Spicy Pickles. I have seen both bands at the Bix before and they are competent but I feel they are better suited, especially the latter, to a more modern jazz setting. I will say,

however, that the Pickles' vocalist, 23-year-old Hannah Rodriguez, is very good. Perhaps these bands were hired to attract swing dancers, who must be acknowledged as a growing part of the jazz audience, and whose admission fees help support this and other festivals. But this time the trad bands brought out greater numbers of terpsichoreans.

Several musicians present acquit themselves nicely on multiple instruments: Dave Bock on tuba, trombone, and bass; Matt Tolentino on accordion and C-melody sax; T.J. Muller on banjo, guitar, and trumpet; and Andy Schumm on just about everything. Matt and T.J. are also fine singers.

The annual (since 2007) Bix Lives award was presented this year to Vince Giordano. He was unable to attend but recorded a 7-minute video thank-you that was shown. Truly a deserving recipient.

Due to the heat and humidity, I skipped the gravesite ceremony Saturday morning. Had it been the Cellar Boys or Night Owls I might have toughed it out, but I did not envy NOLA having to play under a tent for an hour.

Matt Tolentino serenades Frank Trumbauer's C melody saxophone at the Bix Beiderbecke Museum and Archives in Davenport, Iowa, with a note-perfect rendition of Tram's solo on "Singin' the Blues." Matt, a Texan now living in Cincinnati, in addition to being a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and bandleader, is the proud possessor of Adrian Rollini's bass sax, "Buster." (photo courtesy Matt Tolentino, via Facebook)

As sometimes happens at festivals, I meet people who actually read my columns and recognize me from the accompanying mug shot. This time it occurred at the Bix Museum. It was Glenn Wolfe from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, whose mother was Glenn Miller's sister. (See his letter to the editor this month.) He was born a few months after his namesake's disappearance. Unknowingly, our paths had crossed at the Miller festival in June but obviously, my report of that event only appeared last month. Another acquaintance was formed with Chuck Larrabee from Albuquerque, who had emailed me a few months ago asking about the way I combine bicycle travel with the Bix (and other) festivals. He is also a cyclist and told me he was coming to the Bix. During his college days he worked summers for the Santa Fe Railroad (this was pre-Amtrak), so we also had train stories to share. I enjoyed his company for most of Saturday's sets.

Then at breakfast Saturday at my hotel, a woman came up to me and asked, "Did I see you in biking clothes in Sedalia?" "Yes, you did." That opened the door to a half-hour conversation about cycling. She is also a lifetime cyclist, which made the discussion easier because she "spoke the language."

As mentioned in this paper's July issue, this was the first festival under the direction of Verna Burcher, the new Bix Society president. I made it a point to meet her, and after doing so I felt confident the festival will remain in good hands.

I often complain about Davenport's August weather (and that of a lot of other places as well), but the quality of this festival offsets the usually less-than-ideal (by my definition) weather and keeps me coming back. I have attended about ten Bixes going back to 2001, including all of the last seven or eight, and this was clearly one of the best.

The Syncopated Times

Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing

The Syncopated Times is the only monthly newspaper focused on hot jazz, ragtime, and swing. Each issue includes original feature stories, interviews with the current artists you should know about, and some interesting history lessons. Our reviews of newly released books and music will keep you in tune, and our festival and event listings will help you plan ahead. View The Syncopated Times [ONLINE HERE](#)



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Tri-State Jazz Website*

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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, or call our Hotline at (856) 720-0232.

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).



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.

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