

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Swingtime Star

Jeanne O'Connor heads the bill for the June 8 Swingtime Jazz Society concert and jam session at Portofino's, in the Travelodge above Latham Circle. It's at 4 p.m. with open jam at 6. Call 584-3548 for reservations. See Pages 8 and 9 for details.

Photo by C. Robie Booth

The Night Owl



Ye Olde Puzzler

Tony Pastor was our last mystery man. Several past winners identified the man whose bands included the Clooney Sisters and local legendary trumpeter **Al Quaglieri**.

Ye Newe Puzzler

One of the most influential early band leaders is our mystery man. His incubator bred Joe Venuti, the Dorsey brothers, Bix Beiderbecke, Russ Morgan, Frank Trumbauer, Bill Challis, Hoagy Carmichael, Pee Wee Hunt, Victor Young, Artie Shaw, Charlie Spivak and Glenn Miller.

He was a concert pianist and did not himself conduct, instead appointing Trumbauer, Young and Harold Stokes to do so. Spiegel Wilcox, the Ithaca trombonist familiar to many Capital District fans, was also in the band.

Harbison Revisited

John Harbison was one of the modern composers showcased by the Albany Symphony Orchestra in recent years. He has won the Pulitzer Prize and is institute professor of music at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I mentioned to him, at a Stetson University concert in DeLand, Fla., that I had enjoyed his music at ASO. He complimented ASO and conductor David Allan Miller as important promoters of modern music.

He is also a jazz pianist and said “Monk (Thelonious) and Ellington (Duke) were my biggest influences.” His wife, violinist Rose Mary Harbison, sparkled on his Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano (2011).

Not Encouraging

The good news is that high schools including Lansingburgh, South Colonie and Mohonasen are presenting good jazz and instilling a love of good music in young people. And Music Haven in Schenectady will present two jazz programs.

The bad news is that there is no jazz where there used to be. Proctor’s has nothing on its next year’s calendar. Alive at Five and Empire State Plaza have no jazz. Nor does Powers Park in Lansingburgh or Pruyn House in Colonie. Thank goodness for Jazz on Jay!

Big Band Bash

Georgie Wonders Orchestra plays July 10 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Crossings in Colonie. It’s free. They play at 7 p.m. July 19 at the Carol Theater in Chestertown. They will be at Danceland (opposite Latham Ford on Columbia Street Extension, the Cohoes road) May 31 at 7:30 p.m. The flier says they’ll “play the big band sounds of the ’30s and ’40s; music from the ’50s, ’60s and ’70s; and Sinatra to Santana.” \$12 admission, huge hardwood dance floor and full bar. Call 785-3888.

Straight ahead, little friend.

—C. ROBIE BOOTH

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SEPTEMBER 12

Trombonist Clifton Anderson began performing with his uncle, Sonny Rollins, in 1983. He now leads his own dynamic quintet, which has a repertoire that ranges from swinging bop to Latin grooves and calypso.

SEPTEMBER 26

Tenor saxophonist George Garzone is a member of The Fringe, a trio founded in 1972 that performs regularly in the Boston area and has toured world wide. He has appeared on over 20 recordings, including as a member of the Grammy-winning Joe Lovano Nonet. He will bring a quartet to our stage.



OCTOBER 10

Award-winning jazz vocalist Alexis Cole has made an impressive impact on audiences ever since she first took the stage as a teenager. She won the 2007 Jazzmobile competition and received an award in the Montreux Jazz Vocal Competition. She will be backed by a quartet that includes the outstanding tenor saxophonist Eric Alexander and the great pianist Harold Mabern.



OCTOBER 24

Bassist John Menegon has been a mainstay of the regional jazz scene for years. He will head the lively quartet that is featured on his latest CD "I Remember You."



NOVEMBER 7

Trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg covers jazz from swing to modern. Her stage presence, coupled with her husky singing voice and trumpet chops, have garnered a "Rising Star" spot in DownBeat Magazine's 2013 Critics Poll and an "Up and Coming Star" nod from the Jazz Journalists' Association. She will close out the season with a quintet.



Tickets: \$15. One child under 12 admitted for free when accompanied by an adult. Series ticket: \$60 until September 12. To purchase tickets or become a member: aplaceforjazz.org 518.393.4011 | coakjazz@aol.com

WWW.APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG





Photo by Norma Colasessano

Co-stars Confab: **Singer Paula McNulty and multi-reed artist David Bullard co-starred in last winter's Christmas concert at Ten Broeck Mansion. Here they reunite at a Swingtime Jazz Society party at Jerry and Maryanne Gordon's home.**

Swingtime Jazz Society Party Time!



Neil Brown, Tim Coakley, Peg Delaney, Marsha Thomas



Alice Rudnick, Bev Elander, Patti Salvatore



Sharon Wesley, Bill Harrison, Bill Delaney

Photos by
Norma Colasessano



C. Robie Booth, Doc Salvatore, Georgie Wonders



Swingtime Snapshots

Photos by
Jerry Gordon



The featured quintet at the Wishing Well on March 9 (L-R): Bobby Kendall, Adam Siegel, Bob Halek, George Muscatello, Steve Lambert.



Jammers at "the Well": Upper right: Patti Melita, Maggie MacDougall, Elisa Lopez, Lew Petteys.

Along the bottom: Bob Halek, Tim Coakley, Olivia Canavan (a 10th-grader at Schenectady H.S.), Rob Aronstein, Howard Lester, Dave Lambert, Olivia.



Swingtime Presents the Jeanne O'Connor Quintet in Concert

The Swingtime Jazz Society presents Jeanne O'Connor and her NYC-based singing partner Richard Lanham in concert on Sunday, June 8, at Portofino's Ristorante in Latham. The concert, from 4-6 p.m., is followed by a one-hour jam session.

Music from swing to soul: O'Connor & Lanham is a male-female vocal duo that brings a fresh sound and an entertaining face to classic jazz, swing, and rhythm-and-blues.

When Jeanne O'Connor and Richard Lanham sing together, you'll hear traces of the great recordings of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, the jumping sounds of the early Nat King Cole Trio and Louis Jordan's Tympani Five, and the classic soul of Smoky Robinson and Curtis Mayfield. And, you'll hear original arrangements that draw on the best of modern jazz.

Jeanne and Richard were thrown together by chance on a big band gig in the NYC metro area some years ago. They enjoyed each other's musical company so much that they began to rehearse and explore great vocal jazz duos of the past, as well as classic R&B and soul artists. Since then, Lanham and O'Connor have brought their unique blend to some of New York's most elegant nightspots, including "21," Chanterelle, the Four Seasons, the Rainbow Room, and the restaurant Daniel. Richard and Jeanne have entertained at events for clients such as Fortune magazine, Saks Fifth Avenue and FIT. They have performed at the Museum Mile festival, the Greenport Music Festival, the 34th Street Partnership music series, the Frick, and the Museum of Modern Art. And, they have done studio vocals for various arrangers and songwriters.

Jeanne O'Connor moved to Saratoga Springs some 10 years ago, having spent much of her musical career in New York City. Since then, she has appeared at the legendary Caffe Lena in Saratoga Springs, Justin's jazz club in Albany, Upbeat on the Roof at Skidmore College, "A Place for Jazz" concert series in Schenectady, Jazz on Jay, and the Saratoga Arts Festival.

In New York City, Jeanne has appeared at New York's Blue Note, Elaine's, Sweet Rhythm, the Rainbow Room, Smoke, and many other

jazz clubs. Jeanne was a featured vocalist on opening night of "Midsummer Night's Swing" at Lincoln Center, sharing the stage with Nicholas Payton. She did a six-week run at the Guggenheim Museum as part of its "Worldbeat Jazz" series. Jeanne is also a founding member of the renowned "String of Pearls" female jazz vocal trio. With the "Pearls," Jeanne has appeared at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Avery Fisher Hall, Town Hall, the JVC Jazz Festival, the Cape Cod Jazz Festival, the Provincetown Jazz Festival, and in clubs and concert halls in France, Germany and Japan.

Richard Lanham is a remarkable singer who has mastered a wealth of musical styles, from doo-wop to rhythm-and-blues to smooth, swinging jazz. While still a youth, Richard appeared on American Bandstand and at the Apollo Theater with the Tempo Tones, a doo-wop group. He went on to sing with the King Curtis band, as well as jazz greats Wynton Kelly and Paul Chambers. He began to tour the U.S. and Europe with variety shows such as the Harlem Parade. Richard eventually joined the world-famous Drifters, an engagement that lasted two years. In his varied career, Richard has appeared in concerts, nightclubs and festivals with groups and artists including Howard Johnson, Bross Townsend, Bernard Purdie, Chico Freeman, and the HardBop Quintet. *The Washington Post* has called him "a fantastic singer," while the *Village Voice* has praised his "jazzy and romantic stylings," and his "smooth and dynamic showmanship."

At the Swingtime concert on June 8, Jeanne and Richard will be accompanied by **Peg Delaney** on piano, **Pete Sweeney** on drums and **Mike Lawrence** on bass.

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O'Connor & Lanham

Jeanne O'Connor & Richard Lanham, vocals,
Peg Delaney (piano), Mike Lawrence (bass) and Pete Sweeney (drums)



Sunday, June 8, 2014, 4-6 p.m.

Followed by an open jam session from 6 to 7 p.m.



Portofino's Ristorante
831 New Loudon Rd/Route 9
(on the traffic circle)
Latham, NY

\$15/person (\$5 for students)

Pub menu and beverages available for purchase

For reservations, call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548.

Lee Shaw Trio Swings with taste



On a recent Saturday evening, **Ruth** and **Al Sabo** celebrated their return to upstate New York for another six months by going to hear their next-door neighbor, the irreplaceable and inimitable **Lee Shaw**. Her trio, with **Rich Syracuse** on bass and **Jeff Siegel** on drums, graces the lounge at taste, one of downtown Albany's newer jazz spots. Located at 45 Beaver St, taste features jazz every Wed-Sat. In addition to Lee several times a month, their line-up includes the likes of **Brian Patneau**, **Out of the Box**, **Bronte Roman** and the **Swing Docs**. The Sabos and their dining companions, **Maryanne** and **Jerry Gordon**, can attest to the quality of the food.

Rich and Jeff will be heading to South Africa for 3 weeks in mid-June, where they will be playing with local musicians and attending a conference of jazz educators. Also, they've landed an every-Wednesday gig at Catskill Pizza Company in Woodstock, where they'll feature a different guest artist each week.

Meanwhile, while Rich and Jeff are away, Lee will be playing with a quintet comprising **Matt Finck** on guitar, **Chris Pasin** on trumpet, **Bobby Kendall** on bass and **Peter O'Brien** on drums. Should be an exciting change from her typical trio-based performances.

Story and photos by Jerry Gordon.

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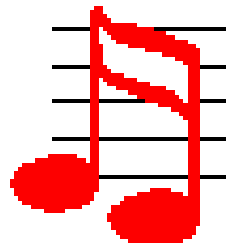
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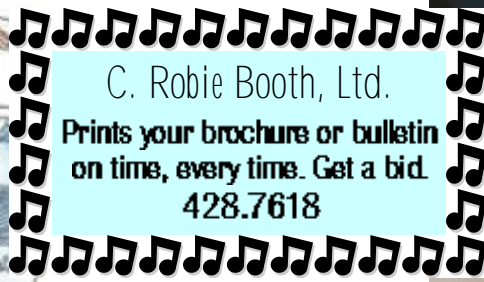




Photos by C. Robie Booth

At the Albany Musicians' Association Jazz Gala on April 13 at the Colonie Elks: The Ragtime Windjammers are Dave Lambert, Ernie Belanger, Ron Bill and Steve Lambert. Chris Martin receives award for his 50 years of broadcasting good music and nostalgia. You can hear him on WABY, 1160 AM, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and noon-3 p.m. on Sundays.





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Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 65. You are encouraged to join us by using the coupon on this page.

The Society's mission is to promote quality jazz by employing the finest regional artists for four or five events every year. The format is two hours of concert-cabaret music by the featured artists, followed by a one-hour jam session open to all cats.

All members have a full vote on future attractions and electing officers of the non-profit corporation. We also have a wonderful series of dinner meetings hosted by members. There is a one-only fee of \$100 for joining.

See Pages 1, 8 and 9 for our June 8 attraction, **Jeanne O'Connor Quintet**.

I want to join the Swingtime Jazz Society.
Enclosed find my membership fee of \$100.

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Mail to: Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer
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