

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

Volume 31, Number 2

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Swingtime Jazz Society

Summer 2021

*Tanager is playing traditional jazz for the
Swingtime Jazz Society on June 13. See Pages 4 & 5.*

Tanager



Scott Yorwald



Bill Hoerich



Megan Wilson



Ben Rau

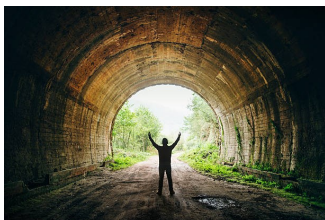


Andrew Mollica

This, That, and the Other Thing

A medley of assorted odds, ends, and miscellany related (if somewhat loosely) to the local music scene, compiled by a farrago of folks from our staff and beyond.

As I'm writing this, we seem to be fast approaching the end of the tunnel. The CDC says that those of us who are vaxxed can unmask almost everywhere. State and local guidelines are still in flux but moving in a good direction. And most important, live jazz gigs are beginning to repopulate the jazz calendar at aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm. By the time you read this, it's unclear what the rules will be regarding audience capacity, reservations and indoor masks, so we suggest that you call before attending any concert or performance.



We expect a number of changes to the local music scene. Old places will be closing or no longer featuring live jazz, and new places will be filling the void. Just in the past two days, we learned about two new jazz venues—at least new to us. Origins Café in Cooperstown looks like they'll have jazz and other genres during the week and at Sunday brunches. Drummer Eric Jagels does the bookings and usually plays. Keep an eye on the jazz calendar for their schedule.

The other one is Schenectady's Taj Mahal Restaurant, which has moved into Renaissance Hall, the remodeled church at 820 Eastern Ave. Every Saturday from 6-8 pm, you'll hear Josh Klamka (piano), Nick Dwarika (upright bass), Joshua Gruft (drums) and Richard Genest (vocals).

The Albany Musicians Association, Local 14, has arranged for three free outdoor concerts series featuring their members. One is at the Henry Hudson Riverfront Park in Hudson, NY, from 8 pm to 9 pm:

July 14 - Oldies Nite with Band of Gold

July 21 - Jazz Nite with Jeanne O'Connor Jazz Quintet

July 28 - Classical Nite with Brass Abbey

Another one is at the Crossings of Colonie

Farmers Market. All dates are 11:30 am to 12:30 pm by the gazebo, rain or shine.

June 19 - Linda Brown Trio

June 26 - Eileen Mack Trio

July 17 - Standard Time Trio

And the third one is outside the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall from 6 to 7:30 pm:

July 16 – Bossamba

July 17 – Deb Cavanaugh

July 23 – MC²

July 24 – Joe Gorman

July 30 – Jon LeRoy & Joe Finn

July 31 – Teresa Broadwell Trio

All concerts are sponsored by the Music Performance Trust Fund and Jim Clark Community Performance Fund. Plan on stopping by!

SWING IT, DINE & DANCE.
Josh Klamka (Piano), Nick Dwarika (Upright bass),
Joshua Gruft (Drums), Richard Genest (Singer).
Call on: 518-370-3664, 518-795-5894

At Taj Mahal Restaurant
820 Eastern Avenue, Schenectady, New York- 12308

Taj Mahal
Authentic Indian Cuisine

The Blues

Plagiarized from Facebook's "Music Humor" Group

1. Most Blues begin "Woke up this mornin'..."

2. "I got a good woman" is a bad way to begin the Blues, unless you stick somethin' nasty in the next line like, "I got a good woman, with the meanest face in town."

3. The Blues is simple. After you get the first line right, repeat it. Then find somethin' that rhymes... sort of: "Got a good woman with the meanest face in town. Yeah, I got a good woman with the meanest face in town. Got teeth like Margaret Thatcher, and she weigh 500 pounds."

4. The Blues is NOT about choice. You are stuck in a ditch, you are stuck in a ditch-- ain't no way out.

5. Blues cars: Chevys, Fords, Cadillacs and broken-down trucks. Blues don't travel in Volvos, BMWs, or Sport Utility Vehicles. Most Blues transportation is a Greyhound bus or a south-bound train. Jet aircraft and state-sponsored motor pools ain't even in the runnin'. Walking plays a major part in the blues lifestyle. So does fixin' to die.

6. Teenagers can't sing the Blues. They ain't fixin' to die yet. Adults sing the Blues. In Blues, "adulthood" means being old enough to get the electric chair if you shoot a man in Memphis.

7. Blues can take place in New York City but not in Hawaii or any place in Canada. Hard times in Minneapolis or Seattle is probably just clinical depression. Chicago, St. Louis, and Kansas City are good places to have the Blues. New Orleans, Memphis, Greenwood, Mobile and Statesboro are even better places to have the Blues 'cause that's where Blues was born.

Actually, a dirt farm in the Mississippi delta is the best possible place to have the Blues. You cannot have the blues in any place that don't get rain.

8. A man with male pattern baldness ain't the blues. A woman with male pattern baldness is. Breaking your leg 'cause you were skiing is not the blues. Breaking your leg 'cause a alligator be chompin' on it is.

9. You can't have no Blues in a office or a shopping mall. The lighting is all wrong. Go

outside to the parkin' lot or sit down by the dumpster.

10. Good places for the Blues:

- a. highway
- b. jailhouse
- c. empty bed
- d. bottom of a whiskey glass

Bad places for the Blues:

- a. Nordstrom's
- b. gallery openings
- c. Ivy League institutions
- d. golf courses

11. No one will believe it's the Blues if you wear a suit, 'less'n you happen to be an ol' ethnic person, and you slept in it.

12. Do you have the right to sing the Blues? Yes, if:

- a. you older than dirt
- b. you blind
- c. you shot a man in Memphis

No, if:

- a. you have all your teeth
- b. you were once blind but now can see
- c. the man in Memphis lived
- d. you have a 401K or trust fund

13. Blues is not a matter of color. It's a matter of bad luck. Tiger Woods cannot sing the blues. Sonny Liston could. Ugly white people also got a leg up on the blues.

14. If you ask for water and your darlin' give you gasoline, it's the Blues. Other acceptable Blues beverages are:

- a. cheap wine
- b. whiskey or bourbon
- c. muddy water
- d. nasty black coffee

(Continued on Page 8)

Tanager



Megan Gebert is the voice of Tanager. Troy native and firebrand, Megan trained as a classical/opera singer but started singing jazz while pursuing her grad school performance degree and it was love at first sight (sing?). It is said she can knock down a great army with her incredible tone. In addition to performing, Megan is a voice professor at Russell Sage College, the Emma Willard School and also maintains her own private voice studio. More info about Megan can be found at her website, www.megangebertwilson.com.



Scott Vorwald gives Tanager the flavor of fine wine. He transcends melodies and compliments his fellow bandmates with artful poise. A monstrous woodwind player and a natural leader. Scott is the band director at Hudson Central School District. Scott also works as a founding member of Oobleck, the most deliberate funk band around.



Bill Hoeprich plays bass for Tanager. Love of music and performance resonate through his instrument. He has a bachelor's degree from SUNY Fredonia and a master's degree from North Texas State University, both in Music Education. He is also a NYSSMA Ad-

judicator, certified in brass, woodwinds, and instrumental jazz. Bill's performing experience on various instruments includes: The Jazz Connection, The Blue Skies All Stars, Brass-O-Mania, The Keith Pray Big Soul Ensemble, The Joey Thomas Big Band, The Bavarian Barons, After Hours, Soul Provider, The Big Smoothies, the Georgie Wonders Big Band, The Swing Docs, The Willie Amrod Band, Carnival Cruise Bands, The Red Caps, and numerous other bands.



Andrew Mollica is a Brooklyn native. A lover of all kinds of music, he is drawn to improvisation of all kinds. He does not fear bears. He studied with Marco Oppedisano before his education at SUNY Plattsburgh. There he worked under the late great Rick Davies, Michelangelo Fratino, and Bill Pfaff among others. He does a number of solo works, and loves working in small combos. He currently lives in Greenwich, New York, and teaches privately through Rural Soul Studios. You can learn more at www.andrewmollicamusic.com



Ben Rau plays percussion and slide whistle for Tanager. He is a killer drummer and a handsome devil. He also works with Soul Provider and the Georgie Wonder Big Band, among others. Quite frankly, nobody knows how he does it.

For the area's most up-to-date jazz calendar, visit APlaceForJazz.org/calendar.htm

SWINGTIME

Jazz Society

swingtimejazz.org



Proudly Presents



Sunday, June 13, 2021, 4-6 p.m.

Followed by an open jam session 6-7p.m.

Panza's Brick Oven Pizza
510 NY-9P on Saratoga Lake
[More than just pizza!](#)

**Pub menu and beverages available for purchase
Open to the public - \$15/person (\$5 for students)**

**Reservations: Ralph Rosenthal at (518) 423-9343
or rosenthalralph@verizon.net**



Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival is returning to SPAC's amphitheater on June 26 and 27, 2021!

In accordance with New York State guidelines for large events and gatherings, this year's Jazz Festival will look a bit different than in a typical year. Some of the changes you can expect include:

- All performances will take place in the amphitheater; there will be no Discovery Stage this year.
- The amphitheater and lawn will operate at 20% capacity.
- All seating will be in socially-distanced pods of 1, 2, or 4 people.
- All attendees must provide proof of a completed vaccination (no sooner than 14 days prior to the event) or proof of a negative 72-hour COVID-19 test.
- All attendees must also complete a health screening questionnaire and pass a mandatory temperature check prior to entry.
- All attendees must maintain social distancing in the venue and wear a mask at all times unless seated in their pod or consuming food or beverage.
- The concerts will run from noon to 6 p.m.

2021 Performer Lineup

Saturday, June 26

- Dianne Reeves
- Christian McBride's New Jawn
- Joey Alexander
- Hot Club of Saratoga, presented by Caffè Lena

Sunday, June 27

- Cécile McLorin Salvant
- Artemis, presented by Skidmore Jazz Institute
- Al Di Meola
- Garland Nelson's *Joyful Noise*, presented by Caffè Lena

Artist lineup subject to change.

2021 Ticketing Information

2020 ticketholders who kept their tickets after last year's Festival was cancelled will be reseated in similar locations. SPAC Members will have early ticket access, depending on membership level, beginning on May 18. Tickets went on sale to the general public on May 21. Contact SPAC directly with any questions.

Need a Tax Break?

The SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY is a 501(c)(3) corporation, which means that your donations are tax-deductible. Please send contributions to

Colleen Pratt, SJS Treasurer
119 Brian Crest Court
Schenectady, NY 12306-3449



Presents

JAZZ ON JAY

JAY STREET
NOON-1:30PM

June 10 - 'Azzaam Hameed & Friends

A part of Downtown Schenectady ArtsWeek

June 17 - Quinton Cain Quartet

June 24 - Matty Stecks & The 518

July 8 - Jeanne O'Connor Jazz Ensemble

July 15 - Center Square

July 22 - Dylan Perrillo* Quintet

* 2020 Eddie's Award Jazz Artist of the Year

July 29 - Jon LeRoy Trio

Aug. 5 - Michael Benedict & BOPITUDE

Aug. 12 - The Dadtet

Aug. 19 - Henry Fernandez Quartet

Aug. 26 - Claire Daly Quartet

Sept. 2 - Joe Finn Quintet

Sept. 9 - Maggie MacDougall & Bossamba

Sept. 16 - Joshua Nelson Quartet

Sept. 23 - Awan Rashad Quartet

Supported by



In cooperation with



AFM Local 325-1-222

Produced by



SCHENECTADY
HERITAGE AREA



This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by The Arts Center of the Capital Region.

The **Lee Shaw Scholarship Award** was started in 2016, the year she died. The award has been given to 15 incredible high school seniors acknowledging their musical scholarship and leadership qualities. It has been a joy to receive these applications each year from very impressive musicians, showing evidence of their talent and dedication to music, as well as the high quality of the education they are receiving at school and in private lessons. Three of these past winners are going to be performing this summer in Schenectady for the free noontime Jazz on Jay concert series (see page 7). Quinton Cain Quartet will be on June 17, Henry Fernandez on August 19, and Awan Rashad on September 23. These young giants are not to be missed! Lee's legacy continues.

— Peg Delaney

Lee Shaw Scholarship Fund

To honor the memory of jazz pianist **Lee Shaw**, a scholarship will be awarded yearly to a high school senior planning to pursue music studies in college.

This fund is under the umbrella of the not-for-profit Swingtime Jazz Society. Contributions to this fund should be made payable to SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY and mailed to Colleen Pratt, Treasurer, 119 Brian Crest Ct, Schenectady, NY 12306-3449 with "Lee Shaw Schol-



arship Fund" in the memo line.

Swingtime Jazz Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. This means your donation is tax-deductible and it should qualify if your employer matches your charitable contributions. General Electric employees should register their donations for matching to SJS at gefoundation.com/matchinggifts.

For information about the scholarship, contact Chairperson Peg Delaney at 518-237-3129 or pegjazz1@gmail.com.

The Blues (continued from Page 3)

The following are NOT Blues beverages:

- a. Perrier
- b. Chardonnay
- c. Snapple
- d. Slim Fast

15. If death occurs in a cheap motel or a shotgun shack, it's a Blues death. Stabbed in the back by a jealous lover is another Blues way to die. So is the 'lectric chair, substance abuse and dying lonely on a broken down cot.

You can't have a Blues death if you die during a tennis match or while getting liposuction.

16. Some Blues names for women:

- a. Sadie
- b. Big Mama
- c. Bessie
- d. Fat River Dumpling

17. Some Blues names for men:

- a. Joe
- b. Willie
- c. Little Willie
- d. Big Willie

18. Persons with names like Michelle, Amber, Debbie, and Heather can't sing the Blues no matter how many men they shoot in Memphis.

19. Make your own Blues name Starter Kit:

- a. name of physical infirmity (Blind, Cripple, Lame, etc.)
- b. first name (see above) plus name of fruit (Lemon, Lime, Kiwi, etc.)
- c. last name of President (Jefferson, Johnson, Fillmore, etc.) For example: Blind Lime Jefferson, Jakeleg Lemon Johnson or Cripple Kiwi Fillmore, etc. (Well, maybe not "Kiwi.")

20. It doesn't matter how tragic your life... if you own even one computer, you cannot sing the blues.

Fall Concert Schedule

All concerts are at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Ave, Schenectady, NY



September 10, 2021: Ann Hampton Callaway is one of the leading champions of the great American Songbook, having made her mark as a singer, pianist, composer, lyricist, arranger, actress, educator, TV host and producer. A born entertainer, her unique singing style blends jazz and traditional pop, making her a mainstay in concert halls, theaters and jazz clubs as well as in the recording studio, on television, and in film. She is best known for her Tony-nominated performance in the hit Broadway musical *Swing!* and for writing and singing the theme song to the hit TV series *The Nanny*. Callaway is a Platinum Award-winning writer whose songs are featured on seven of Barbra Streisand's recent CDs. The only composer to have collaborated with Cole Porter, she has also written songs with Carole King, Rolf Lovland and Barbara Carroll, to name a few.

September 24, 2021: The Peg Delaney Big Band features an 18-piece big band assembled by renowned pianist Peg Delaney especially for this occasion. This will be a concert that you will not want to miss!



October 8, 2021: Saxophonist, composer, arranger and educator **Bobby Watson** grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, and trained formally at the University of Miami, a school with a distinguished and well-respected jazz program. After graduating, he proceeded to earn his "doctorate" – on the bandstand – as musical director of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. After completing a four-year-plus Jazz Messengers tenure (1977-1981), he became a much-sought after musician, working along the way with a potpourri of notables. Later, in association with bassist Curtis Lundy and drummer Victor Lewis, Watson launched the first edition of Horizon, an acoustic quintet modeled in many ways after the Jazz Messengers but one with its own distinct, slightly more modern twist.

October 22, 2021: Geoff Keezer was only 17 when he became the last pianist in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers (1988-1990), a perfect gig for the talented hard bop musician who fit right in with the tradition of Horace Silver, Bobby Timmons, Cedar Walton, James Williams, and Benny Green. Keezer has recorded steadily as a leader for Sunnyside, Blue Note, DIW/Columbia, and Sackville and played on records led by Art Farmer, Roy Hargrove, and Antonio Hart, among others. We'll hear the Geoffrey Keezer Trio featuring vocalist Gillian Margot.



November 5, 2021: Steve Davis is widely regarded as one of today's leading voices on the trombone. His lyrical, hard-swinging style first gained him broad recognition. He has released 20 albums in addition to appearing on over 100 other recordings with names including Chick Corea, Freddie Hubbard, Horace Silver, Cedar Walton and Hank Jones. He previously appeared at A Place for Jazz in 2009 with Eric Alexander's One for All. His latest release with his sextet is "Correlations" on Smoke Sessions Records. He's bringing a sextet.

Leadership Change at A Place for Jazz

Bill McCann

After more than 16 years at the helm of A Place for Jazz, **Tim Coakley** has recently stepped down as president and taken up the position of president emeritus. **Al Brooks**, long-time board member and vice-president, has been elected to the position of president.

A Place for Jazz was founded in 1987 by the late **Butch Conn**, who led the organization from its inception to his untimely passing in 2005 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Facing an existential crisis for the first time, the volunteers who were serving the organization needed to fill the massive void left by Butch's death. It was quickly decided that Tim Coakley would be the perfect candidate for the job. An icon in the Capital District's Jazz community, he has been the long-time host of the Tim Coakley Jazz Show on 90.3 FM, WAMC, Albany, as well as being an active member of The Swingtime Jazz Society, and regularly working as a professional jazz drummer, primarily keeping perfect time as a member of the Skip Parson's Riverboat Jazz Band. Tim, being universally liked and admired, was the perfect unifying tonic for the disparate

personalities volunteering for the board. He seamlessly took over the reins of the organization and allowed it to keep alive the dream and vision of founder Butch Conn.

During his more than 16 years as president, Tim led a great team of volunteers that brought about the financial stabilization of the organization. He also oversaw the committee tasked with the selection process for picking the first-rate artists who annually grace the stage at the Whisperdome. Wanting to ensure a smooth transition, Tim decided that now would be a good time to allow someone else to take APFJ into its next iteration. The board of directors determined that Al Brooks, as long-time vice-president, who had also quite wisely and ably served as counsel to the board, had the perfect background and experience to take the lead.

Long-time board member **Bill McCann**, also very well known in the Capital District's jazz world as the host of "The Saturday Morning Edition of Jazz" on 90.9 FM, WCDB, Albany (online at wcdbfm.com) was named vice-president to fill the vacancy in that position. Bill has hosted his four-hour jazz radio show since 1985.



Tim Coakley (L) and Al Brooks.
Photo credit: Alexander Brooks

A Review of Sketches of Influence CD “The Grind”

Tom Pierce



SKETCHES OF INFLUENCE / THE GRIND

Stacy Dillard, saxophones Davis Whitfield, grand piano

Otto Gardner, bass Joe Barna, drums & cymbals

1. The Grind (9:37)
2. Oh Feline, I'm Glad You're Mine (14:05)
3. A Children's Song (13:21)
4. The Return Of Shah (11:39)
5. Living Without You (10:17)
6. Nine Maple Syrup (11:38)

All songs composed by Joe Barna
Recorded live at Middle C Jazz, Charlotte N.C.
March 13th & 14th 2020
Engineered by John Brighton
Mixing & Mastering by Scott Pelitto
Artwork by Tony Avacato

~ This album is dedicated in loving memory to pianist and friend Scott Bassinson. His love of family and passion for music will live in our hearts forever.



Bandleader/drummer/composer Joe Barna continues his multi-faceted career with this invigorating CD created live in March 2020 at the Middle C Jazz club in Charlotte, NC.

The very experienced Sketches of Influence quartet's performance is extremely well-balanced, artfully blending powerful swing, melodic precision and varied captivating moods.

Long-time Capital area jazz fans are no doubt already familiar with this popular band, which is described at albanyjazz.com/musicians/joebarna.html.

The up-tempo opening title track quickly establishes the invigorating band's no-nonsense, swinging approach fronted by the powerful tenor sax of Stacy Dillard, with consistently strong support from the well-integrated rhythm section. "The Grind" alludes to the effort called for in the ongoing work week, but in an uplifting, positive manner.

"Oh, Feline, I'm Glad You're Mine" was especially pleasurable for this listener because of the bass work of the always reliable and inventive Otto Gardner. I also enjoyed here the stimulating piano work of Davis Whitfield. Despite his young age, he exhibits a great deal of maturity, no doubt partially influenced by playing with his father, renowned guitarist Mark Whitfield.

Barna described the composing of "A Children's Song," a very touching ballad, as being based on comments by a friend he met in New York City, describing positive memories of her happy childhood. The playing here of Whitfield and the rhythm section is no less compelling than on the up-tempo numbers.

Based on discussions over the years with Barna, it's obvious that his composing and playing are as much based on personal interactions as technical considerations and his musical training.

"The Return of Shah" is likewise based on a friendship with a young bassist he met and played with in Troy; and while essentially a medium tempo number, it clearly has as much gripping intensity and power as the faster songs. This observation certainly also applies to "Living Without You," a ballad he composed several years ago in support of some family grieving by Michael Benedict, whose band Barna was in at the time.

It also became clear how important were Barna's positive relationships with venue managers, like the owners of Nine Maple in Saratoga Springs, which he described when questioned about the origins of "Nine Maple Syrup." Stacy Dillard's powerful tenor sax approach here also evokes strong memories of John Coltrane.

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 98. 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 once-only fee of \$100 to join.

See Pages 1, 4 and 5 for our June 13 attraction, **Tanager**.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: Colleen Pratt, SJS Treasurer
119 Brian Crest Court
Schenectady, NY 12306-3449



Swingtime Jazz Society
15 Hyland Circle
Troy, NY 12182-1690
518-235-8232

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