

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

Volume 21, Number 7

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Ltd.

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Photo by C. Robie Booth

O'Connor-Phipps Star for Swingtime

Jeanne O'Connor, premier jazz singer, with pianist Nat Phipps (right) and bassist Pete Toigo star in the January 9 Swingtime Jazz Society concert at Provence Restaurant in Stuyvesant Plaza. Drummer will be Pete Sweeney. Stories on Pages 3 and 9.

Ten Broeck Presents ESYO Ensemble

The Empire State Youth Orchestra Ensemble will play for the Friday, Dec. 10, Christmas program at historic Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany. The teenagers of unusually mature musical talent will present a selection of holiday music, a waltz, a tango, standards and their usual tableau of Mozart, Bach and Haydn.

They are directed by Kitty Fitzgerald, who teaches 24 students in flute, a career she began 16 years ago and has been conducting in the Capital District the last nine years. The Ten Broeck program begins at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. See story and photo on Page 5.

The Night Owl



From Solo to Ensemble

C. Robie Booth is pleased to announce that **Swingtime**, written, edited and produced for 21 years by himself, now has a team of five working to bring our readers the only **good music** magazine in the region.

The team is **Jerry Gordon**, president of Swingtime Jazz Society; **Tim Coakley**, president of A Place for Jazz, broadcaster and drummer; **Patti Melita**, SJS treasurer, noted jazz bandleader and singer; **Helen Wallace Fitzgerald**, leader emeritus of the Timeless Tappers; and Robie.

A New Puzzler

Several of our finest Capital District jazz musicians spent time with this band.

Our mystery man formed his band in the mid-1930s. He had played at the Kenmore Ballroom in Albany with Paul Spect, and with Ben Pollack, Russ Morgan and Ben Bernie.

His sidemen included Al Quaglieri, Rennie Crain and Al Mastren from our area; Peanuts Hucko, Ted Nash, Bill Harris, Herbie Steward, and John La Porta; arranger David Rose; vocalists Betty Bradley, Bill Darnell, Gene Howard and the Rhythmaires. He recorded for Bluebird. His theme song, which he wrote, was "Sunburst." His band had the Miller sound, which some wags claim preceded Glenn. A tenor saxophonist, he continued to lead a swinging band through the mid-1950s.

First correct answer, telephone 428-7618, or mailed, wins a lifetime subscription to **Swingtime**.

Down Memory Lane

Al Trace formed a band in 1933 with **Toni Arden** as vocalist. His theme was "Mairzy Doats" and he wrote "You Call Everybody Darling" and "If I Knew You Were Coming I'd Have Baked a Cake." His Western band did "Silly Symphony" and starred on "It Pays To Be Ignorant."

Half-Notes

Alex Torres claims his fine Latin big band is the area's longest lasting, 30 years, in any genre. *The Record* (Troy) did a nice "Five Questions" column on him.

Nice recovery, **Ray Lamere**. Our oldest boy singer had two serious medical setbacks, but he's nicely on the mend now. Still crooning with the Sammy Kaye Orchestra.

Straight ahead, little friend.

Need a tax break?

The SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY is now a 501(c)(3) organization, which means that your donations are tax-deductible. If you'd like to make a contribution, please send it to

**Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer
PO Box 232
Troy, NY 12181-0232**

Nat Phipps has long and swinging history, and not just around here

Pianist Nat Phipps has been a vital part of the Capital Region jazz scene for a number of years, but not everyone realizes what a long and varied musical career he has had outside of our area.

He spent much of his professional career playing in his native Newark, N.J., as well as New York City. During that time, he led several groups that included musicians who would go on to become well-known artists, including Wayne Shorter, Woody Shaw, Grachan Moncur III and Tom MacIntosh.

Nat also played as a sideman in groups that were led by George Benson, Booker Ervin and Rahsaan Roland Kirk.

His accompanying skills also allowed him to play with such entertainers as Betty Carter, Moms Mabley and Little Jimmy Scott.

Nat has recorded on the Savoy and Cool labels, and recently made his own trio CD with Pete Toigo on bass and Pete Sweeney on drums.



Classically trained, Nat earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from New York University and a certificate of advanced studies from Hunter College.

He has taught at the University at Albany and at Schenectady County Community College,

where he teaches a class in beginning improvisation. He was named New York State teacher of the year in 1976 for his accomplishments as a vocal, instrumental and classroom music teacher.

In 2006, the Albany Musicians Union, Local 14, American Federation of Musicians, presented Nat with a certificate of appreciation for excellence as a jazz musician, educator and jazz ambassador.

In recent years, his working trio has consisted of himself, Pete Toigo and Pete Sweeney. They have played numerous venues in the Capital Region, and will back the talented vocalist Jeanne O'Connor in the next Swingtime concert at Provence in Stuyvesant Plaza on Sunday, January 9.

Looking forward . . .

'Tis the season ... and beyond

There will be plenty of music for the holidays this year. The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall will present Irish singer Andy Cooney on Dec. 11 and the always-festive Canadian Brass on Dec. 12. Perennial favorite Judy Collins will sing on Dec. 21 and you can welcome 2011 with The Berkshire Bach Society on Jan. 1.

Proctors in Schenectady will host its annual "Melodies of Christmas" show from Dec. 16 through 19, Kim and Reggie Harris will "Sing Solstice" on the 18th.

The Joey Thomas Big Band, featuring vocalist Bob Father and special guest Mia Scirocco, will present "Christmas, Sinatra Style" at the Egg in Albany at 2 p.m. on Dec. 11.

The Georgie Wonders Big Band will play for dancing from 8 to 11 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Albany Elks Club, 25 South Allen St. off Madison Avenue. The donation is \$15, students \$10. A dance lesson by Lyoni Fisher will be included from 7 to 8 p.m.

Swingtime treasurer Patti Melita will sing with pianist Nat Phipps at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady on Dec. 16. The same night, Swingtime board member Tim Coakley will join Skip Parsons' Clarinet Marmalade for the evening at Mercato's in Delmar.

JAZZ IN JANUARY

To celebrate New Year's Eve, Swingtime member Peg Delaney and her trio will play at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady.

Just after New Year's, jazz lovers will have lots to choose from. Coming up at The Egg in Albany will be the following outstanding jazz performers: Vocalist Tierney Sutton on Jan. 21, bassist Esperanza Spalding, on Jan. 23, the Joe Lovano/John Scofield Quartet on Jan. 30, and drummer Jimmy Cobb and Kind of Blue on Feb. 10.

For Valentine's Day, vocalist Jane Monheit will make an appearance on Feb. 13, and guitarist Al DiMeola will play on March 25.

At Proctors, the great swing guitarist Frank Vignola will perform on Jan. 7 and local performer Matt Steckler will lead Dead Cat Bounce on Jan. 15.

Check out our website for more great musical events: swingtimejazz.org.

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

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ESYO Ensemble players at Ten Broeck Mansion will include (from left) Justin Lafond, viola; Maura Fitzgerald, violin; Megan Martel, flute; Zoe Fitzgerald, cello; Grace Hartl, flute. All are Shaker High School (North Colonie) sophomores except Zoe, a senior.

ESYO Ensemble Stars at Ten Broeck

An ensemble of exceptional musicians will be sparkling stars on the Christmas season of events at Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany.

Their concert will encompass a delightful holiday potpourri of traditional seasonal music for all tastes and ages. Music will range from Broadway to Bach with a lot of stops in between.

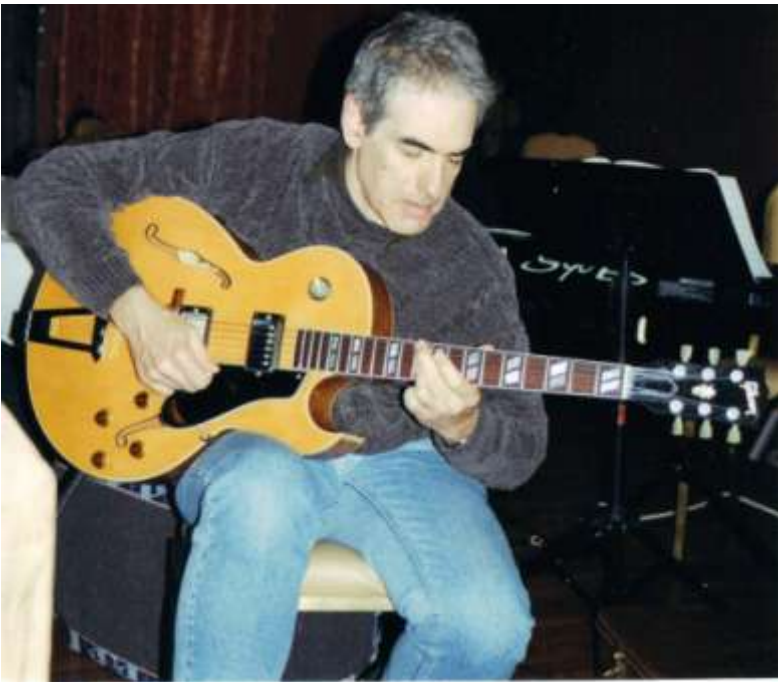
While these youngsters (all above, plus a possible addition on string bass) happen to be from Shaker High, the

splendid Empire State Youth Orchestra personnel cover most of eastern New York.

Albany County Historical Association hosts the event at 6 p.m., Dec. 10, in the mansion at Ten Broeck Street and Livingston Avenue. Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$10; \$5 for 12 and younger. The beautifully decorated rooms are open to the public. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call 436-9826.

Swingtime Snapshots

Photos by C. Robie Booth



Mark Capon at Swingtime jam session



Jill Hughes heads sextet at Swingtime October concert



Jeanne O'Connor at Provence

Leo Russo, master of flute and reeds, receives the 11th Annual Swingtime Lifetime Achievement Award from editor C. Robie Booth (left) with David Bournazian, another fine player, as witness. *Photo by Ned Spain*





Eric Walentowicz and Peter Bellino



Dennis Rymanowski at Pruy House



Greg Cortelyou, Jill's drummer



Jon Werking at Appletini's



Joe Ryck on trumpet, Bob Brodz on tenor, Jerry Romanowicz, accordion/arranger



Recent Swingtime snaps show three of the artists scheduled for the Ultimate Swingtime All-Stars concert June 12, 2011: Tom Shields (above left), Bill Delaney (above right), and Colleen Pratt. Doc Scanlon Trio plays Provence (below, from left): Scott Black, Doc Scanlon and Graham Tichy.

Photos by C. Robie Booth



SWINGTIME

Jazz Society
swingtimejazz.org



Sunday, January 9, 2011 from 4-7 PM

(Concert from 4-6 PM, followed by 1-hour open jam session)

Doors open at 3:30pm

Featured Artist:

Nat Phipps Trio

Featuring vocalist

Jeanne O'Connor

Pete Toigo on bass
Pete Sweeney on drums



Stuyvesant Plaza
Albany, NY

Reservations: (518) 584-3548 or
docsal@nycap.rr.com

Admission \$15 adults
(only \$5 for students)

PROVENCE

O'Connor & Trio Icons of Taste

“Impeccable choice of tunes” are large words on my scribbled notes from a recent Jeanne O'Connor Trio appearance at Provence in Stuyvesant Plaza, Guilderland.

That's the same voice and venue you'll be served Jan. 9 when Jeanne O'Connor and the Nat Phipps Trio (see story and picture on Page 3) star at the Swingtime Jazz Society concert and jam session. The outstanding drummer Pete Sweeney joins pianist Nat and bassist Pete Toigo in his trio.

“With this trio, there's nothing we can't do,” Jeanne told me. “Nat is so experienced and knows so many tunes, we can play for any audience. We have a really big repertoire. It's a versatile trio and with Pete Sweeney it's a wonderful sound.”

Versatility plus. Their work this night covered Ray Charles, Brazilian, Rodgers and Hart, Frank Loesser (“Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat”); a medley of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn compositions, arranged by Nat, included “Do Nothing Till You Hear from Me” and the too-seldom heard “Daydream.”

You'll hear Dave Richburg compositions; “The Great City,” in which Jeanne “put down (wrote) the chords and chart changes”; “I'll Know” (another Frank Loesser, a favorite composer of Jeanne's) arranged by her late husband Don Grolnick, who also arranged “Beautiful Love.” Both can be heard on her splendid album “Something's Coming,” available at the upcoming concert.



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Jeanne O'Connor and Pete Toigo

The statuesque blonde, a natural alto, is a jazz musician, bop singer, balladeer with an impeccable (again) appreciation of lyrics whether it's “I Believe in You” (every bit as good as Nancy Wilson) or the novelty “The Duck.”

She said her trio was formed when “I worked with Pete, Pete recommended me to (drummer-leader) Joe Sorrentino and Nat just happened to be there.”

The concert begins at 4 p.m. with open jam session at 6. The food is excellent and so is the grog.

Space is somewhat limited at Provence, so I'd recommend reservations. Call Doc Salvatore, SJS program chairman, at 584-3548 or e-mail doc-sal@nycap.rr.com.

Organist Ned Spain is event chairman.

—CRB

Stay on the Beat

Keep abreast of the music. Catch us at
SwingtimeJazz.org

Cats and Jammers



One of our now favorite singers started life in Philadelphia as Myrtle Audrey Arinsburg.

Then, in order, she was Audrey Brown, Audrey Grant, and Gogi Grant. She has a better voice than ever and sings quality standards with a most artistic touch. You can catch her often on "Singers and Standards," Channel 1267 on Time Warner Cable.

Georgie Wonders Orchestra plays for dancing and digging Jan. 9 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Colonie Elks, open to the public. I guess it's what we used to call a tea dance.

On Feb. 13 from 2 to 6 they'll reprise at the same club, Watervliet-Shaker Road between Fiddlers Lane and Delatour Road. I presume it's a Valentine's theme.

Ten Broeck Mansion Has Busy Holidays

Some goodies for your calendar begin Dec. 3 at the Ten Broeck Mansion, Albany County Historical Association headquarters on Ten Broeck Street at Livingston Avenue in Albany.

Dec. 3 at 5:30 there will be a champagne preview party; Dec. 4, noon--3 p.m. is an open house for the public to see the beautifully decorated rooms. Lake George Opera will present a musical program from 4:30--6:30 the same day.

A free lecture on "Christmas Past" will be given by historian Sue McLane, an expert on the Victorian Era, at 1 p.m. Dec. 8. The Empire State Youth Orchestra Ensemble will play a selection of Christmas, classical, and popular music at 6 p.m. Friday Dec. 10. Refreshments will be served. See story, photo, Page 5.

There will be a holiday tea with two sittings starting at noon Sunday Dec. 12. At 7 p.m. Dec. 16 will be Christmas Traditions; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 12, Children's Story Hour; 2 p.m., Dec. 18, Madrigals. Call 436-9826 for reservations.

Cohoes Music Hall Presents Scrooge

"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens will be presented Dec. 2--12 at historic Cohoes Music Hall.

Leading the cast as Scrooge will be Jim Charles, artistic director of C-R Productions now in its 8th successful year at this wonderful theater.

Others in the cast are Andrew Lipman as Marley; Tony Edgerton, Bob Cratchit; Caitlin Fischer, a sparkling CMH veteran, Mrs. Cratchit; Sara Bobok, Martha Cratchit; Evan Finke, Aiden Patrick Fecko and Jack Siple, Tiny Tim; Connor Meehan, young Scrooge; Hailey Aldrich, young Fan; Sam Simahk, young Ebenezer; Christine Lacey, Emily; Paul Cereghino, young Marley; Chelsea Wengler as Sally; Cynthia Thomas, another CMH star as Christmas Present; Alison Rose Munn as Christmas Past; Michele McShane as Future; Kris Anderson, Jack Boice, Steve Mazzoccone, Hollie Miller, Francesco Carlo, Eric Stephenson, DJ Bucciarelli, Heather Pangburn and local favorite Carol Charniga and Mrs. Mops.

Performances are at 3 p.m. Sundays Dec. 4, 5, 11 and 12; and at 8 pm. On Dec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11.

In Memoriam: Tom Hyde

Our dear friend Tom Hyde passed to that big ballroom in the sky at the end of November.

He was a wonderful gentleman with a bag full of amusing stories and reminiscences from his big band days and as a studio musician for "What's My Line?" with his friend Arlene Francis. A fine trombonist, he'll be greatly missed.

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 50. 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.

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 for a lifetime membership.

Visit SwingtimeJazz.org

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

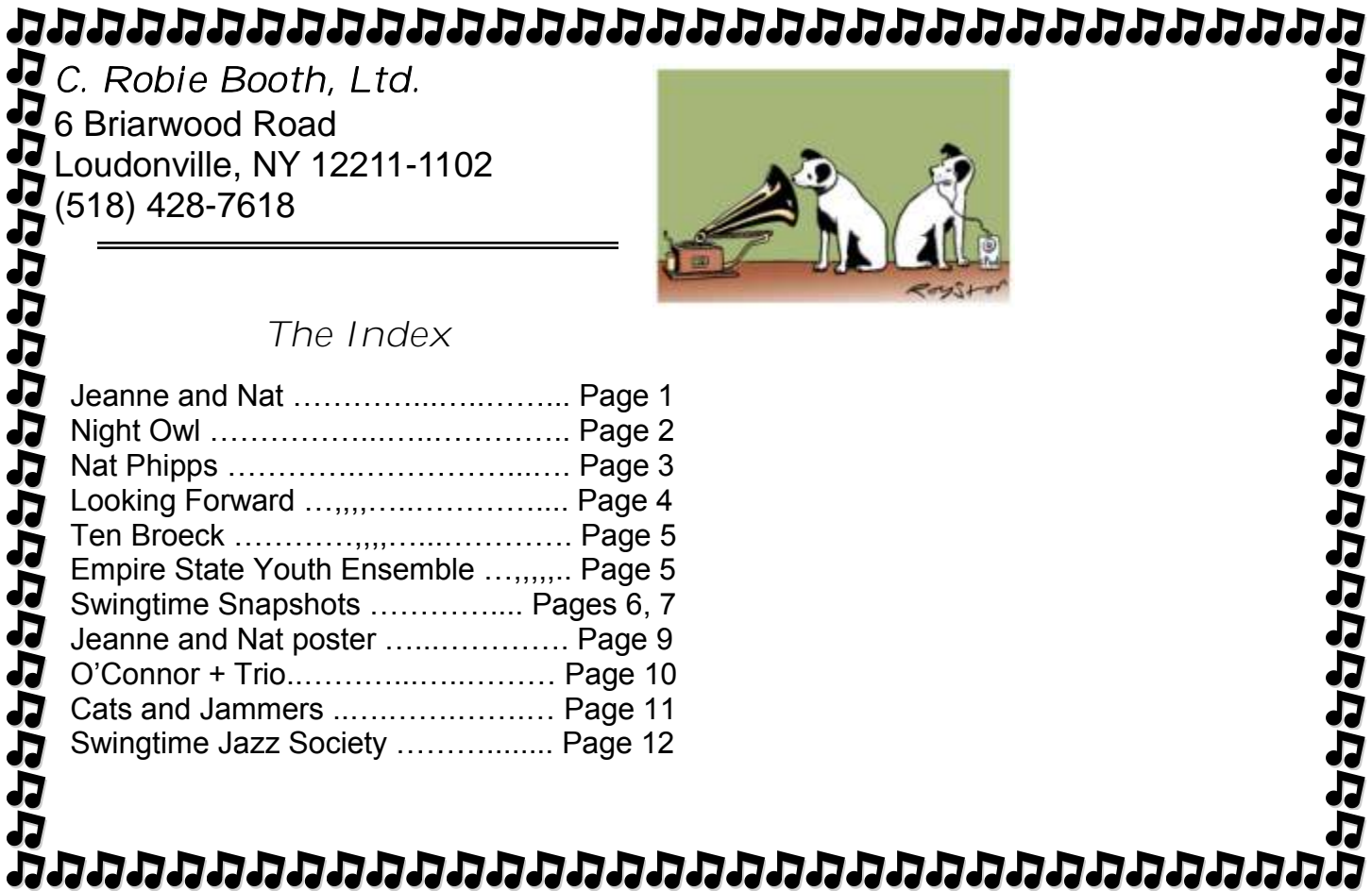
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