

# Swingtime

*The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!*

Volume 22, Number 4 Published by C. Robie Booth, Ltd.

Christmas 2011



Photo by C. Robie Booth

## Tim Olsen Stars for Swingtime

Pianist Tim Olsen will lead his quintet at the Jan. 8 Swingtime Jazz Society concert and jam session at Stockade Inn in Schenectady. Sidemen will be Eric Walentowicz on reeds; Rick Rosoff, trombone; Steve Lambert, trumpet, and Pete Toigo, bass. The concert is at 4; jam session open to all, 6 p.m. Call 584-3548 for reservations.

# The Night Owl



Ye olde puzzler

The response to our last puzzler was small but accurate. Tony Zusdorf at Coltonie Town Library, Sonny Daye, and Ray Lamere nailed it. All win lifetime subscriptions.

Who featured many vocalists (and a whistler) including Perry Como, Elmo Tanner, Art Jarrett, Parker Gibbs, Country Washburn, Jo Stafford and Marilyn Maxwell? He seldom had a straight instrumental. Answer: Ted Weems.

Random Reviews

**Peg Delaney Trio** at Grappa '72. The pianist spun an electric "I'll Remember April" and stomped on "Route 66."

Restaurant manager Tom Buckley sang "Summer Wind" and "That's All." "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" was given an original and humorous treatment. It was most unusual and enjoyed immensely by the listeners. The trio did a lovely too-seldom heard "Let's Take a Walk Around the Block" by Harold Arlen. We were treated twice by the ever cheerful drummer-vocalist **Earl Davis** to Mel Tormé im-

pressions, which I liked better than his patented Tony Bennett stylings. Bassist **Bill Delaney** was excellent throughout. As usual.

**Sensemaya** won loud ovations at a sparkling A Place for Jazz concert in Schenectady. Pianist-leader **David Gleason** topped it all with a brilliant sweeping classical solo after an added treat, the Central Park Youth Jazz Ensemble led by **Rob Aronstein** at intermission. We were impressed by **Pete Sweeney** employing the full set of drums then just bare hands a la conga on "Sofrico."

The rhythm was certainly huge, with **Tony Garcia Jr.** on congas, **Tony Sr.** on bongos and **Walter Ramos** on various percussion. It was too dominant at times. Trumpeter **Pete Giroux**, **Tim Williams**, reeds, **Erik Johnson** on bass and **Ben O'Shea** on trombone were all excellent on leads and ensemble.

Need a tax break?

The SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY is a 501(c)(3) corporation, 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

Subscribe to **Swingtime** magazine. A lifetime subscription is just ten smackers, and it's delivered to you first-class mail. Send checks to:

**C. Robie Booth, Ltd.**  
6 Briarwood Road  
Loudonville, NY 12211

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Holiday House at Ten Broeck

The multi-award-winning **Criscione Sisters Violin Duo** from the Empire State Youth Orchestras will perform a Christmas program Dec. 10 at the historic Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany.

Clare is concertmaster of the ESYO; June is assistant concertmaster. June is in 11th grade and Clare in 9th at Albany High School. Both are leading members of the AHS Advanced Orchestra and String Quartet.



**Violin Duo Clare (left) and June Criscione**

June studied at New York State's School of Orchestral Studies and played in Music Adventure in Siena, Italy. She was selected for the 2011 All-State Orchestra. The girls as a duo placed third in the ESYO Lois Lyman Concerto Competition. They've played many top venues in the Concerts with a Conscience program.

The mansion, flagship of the Albany County Historical Association, presents its usual excellent Holiday House programs including:

Champagne Preview Party, Dec. 1, 5:30--8:30, champagne reception, silent auction, grand opening of gift shop, visit from Sinterklass, \$70, prepaid reservations required.

Holiday Tea, Dec. 3, seating at noon and 2:30, high tea with lots of tasty goodies, \$20, prepaid reservations required.

German-American Advent Celebration, Dec. 9, 5:30-9, caroling, light buffet dinner, \$20, prepaid reservation required.

Open House, Dec. 10, noon--3, choirs, children's crafts, Sinterklass (Santa), \$5

adults, \$1 children under 12.

Criscione Sisters Violin Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Christmas, classical and a variety of fine music, light refreshments, \$10 per person.

Opera at Ten Broeck, Dec. 11, 2--4:30, Opera Saratoga, refreshments, meet the musicians, \$10.

Children's Story Hour, Dec. 17, 10:30--noon, stories by Sinterklass, parlor games, refreshments, recommended for ages 3 to 10, free admission.

Holiday Madrigals, Coffee and Desserts, Dec. 17, 2--4:30, songs by the Helderberg Madrigal Singers, \$20.

Twelfth Night Dinner, Jan. 6, 5--8, gourmet formal dinner, seating limited to 12 adults, \$100, prepaid reservations required.

Each room will be beautifully decorated by different garden or decorating groups, and open to visitors at every event. An exquisite gift shop offers a wide selection and there is ample free off-street parking.

Call 436-9826 with any questions.

# Olsen a true master of music

**Tim Olsen** is active as composer, performer, and educator. Born in 1961 in St. Paul, Minnesota, his early training involved playing trumpet in marching, concert, and jazz bands.

Olsen began writing and arranging for these groups and picked up piano by ear. He went on to earn a bachelor of music (*summa cum laude*) in music theory and composition from Washington University in St. Louis (1983), a master of arts in music theory and composition from the University of Minnesota (1985), and master of music (1988), master of musical arts (1989), and doctor of musical arts (1995) in composition from Yale University.

As a Fulbright Scholar in 1990-91, Olsen studied with composer Ib Nørholm at the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music

in Copenhagen. Olsen joined the faculty of Union College in Schenectady in 1994 where he is currently associate professor of music. He teaches courses in the music and culture of the United States, Latin America, and Africa; music theory; and jazz improvisation.

Olsen is also director of the Union College Jazz Ensemble. As a jazz pianist and trumpeter, Olsen has played in concerts, clubs, and private venues throughout the United States and in Denmark.

The Tim Olsen Band varies in size from a quartet/quintet to an 18-piece big band. Olsen also regularly collaborates with the Albany-based Joey Thomas Big Band, for whom he has produced over 60 arrangements and original compositions. Olsen is also organist/choirmaster at St. George's Episcopal Church in Clifton Park.

## Dandy Duo at Donnelly Doings



Photo by Bill Delaney

This pair of standard bearers for the Swingtime Jazz Society does a bopping duet in the jam session segment at the recent concert headed by singer Nancy Donnelly at Provence Restaurant in Stuyvesant Plaza. Singing the standard "All of Me" are **Patti Melita**, treasurer of SJS, and saxophonist **Lew Petteys**.

# Cats and Jammers



## Half-Notes

A lively bunch sat in at the autumn Swingtime Jazz Society jam session at Provence Restaurant in Stuyvesant Plaza. A first-time guest was the fine young clarinetist **Greg Razzano**. I think you'll be seeing a lot more of him. There was the **Double Delaney** (**Stan Marsden's** label) of pianist **Peg** and bassist **Bill**; always reliable drummer **Tim Coakley**; saxophonist **Lew Petteys**, singer **Patti Melita**, bop singer **Maggie MacDougall** and bassist **Pete Toigo**. When one of the featured players, **Otto Gardner**, sat in on bass, some wag asked, "Is this baseball?" No. "Well then, why do you have a third bass?"

During **Nancy Donnelly's** concert, the singer dazzled us with Annie Ross' 1959 "Twisted." She delivered a poignant heart-tugger, Fred Jacuse's "For All We Know," which received excellent trio backing by Gardner, pianist **Peter Tomlinson** and drummer **Peter O'Brien**. That, by the by, gave us a threepart: Petes Toigo, Tomlinson and O'Brien. The lovely vocalist gave us groovy bop singing on Dizzy Gillespie's "Night in Tunisia," a torchy "Black Coffee" and a beautiful "The Real Thing" (Mulligan-Tormé).

The **Roger Held** Trio plays 6 to 9 Wednesdays - Saturdays at the 677 Prime upscale restaurant downtown Albany . . . The trio of Lew Petteys, reeds; **Dino Cimino**, bass; and Roger Held, piano, played a nice gig at Provence in Stuyvesant Plaza.

Martini Time costs you \$11 at Blu Stone, \$9 at Aperitivo and Grappa '72, and \$8.50

at D'Raymonds, where they serve no "bar" brands (just Beefeater, Bombay, like that). Beff's is a good bargain, \$6, and tied with D'Raymonds for size (large).

How refreshing: Half-time of Southern University-Florida A&M had all bands marching (spectacular) and no washed-out talking heads telling us what we'd already seen.

Roger Williams, whose "Autumn Leaves" is the largest selling piano recording of all time, is swinging now as witnessed on Aug. 20 PBS fundraiser. Oscar Peterson won't have to move over, but it's damn pleasant improvisation. . . Frankie Laine (then 91) was shown in a final appearance, so the show itself must be two years old.

The current Four Freshmen were wonderful. Trombonist Bob Flanigan, major influence on **Tom Shields**, was the owner of the quartet until his recent passing. The last member of the original Frosh died in late August in Simi Valley, Calif. Ross Barbour was the pixie who sang the chirpy "Sweet Lorraine" (dee dippie dippie doo).

**Pat Testo**, long-time mixologist at the Golden Fox in its heyday, died at age 84 after a long illness. The amiable bartender later operated Testo's Pizzeria in Clifton Park. Rest in Peace.

'Twas a treat to hear on Ch. 1267, in succession, vocalists Sara Lazarus, Stacey Kent (today's Joannie Sommers) and Bea Wain. . . Add to groovy titles: Artie Shaw's "Aesop's Foibles" . . . Clarinetist Barney Bigard once said Artie Shaw was the all-time greatest jazz musician.

# Swingtime Sna



Photo by Bill Delaney

**Nancy Donnelly at the Swingtime  
Jazz Society concert on October 9.**



“Did you know Illin  
brother?” asked a way  
the Jeanne O’Connor  
there he is.” The sign



Photo by Bill Delaney

**Peter O’Brien at the  
Swingtime Concert.**

# apshots



Photo by C. Robie Booth

**Dino Cimino Trio with Lew Petteys (sax) and Roger Held (keyboard) at the Stockade Inn.**



ois Jacquet had a  
g at Provence during  
show. "No." "Well,  
speaks for itself.

**Peg Delaney, C. Robie Booth, and Rich Syracuse between sets at Provence.**



A PLACE FOR  
**JAZZ**

**SWINGTIME**  
**Jazz Society**  
swingtimejazz.org



First Reformed Church of Schenectady

Proudly present

# *The Lee Shaw Trio*

*with Rich Syracuse (bass) and Jeff Siegel (drums)*



Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 7:30 PM

First Reformed Church of Schenectady  
8 North Church St, Schenectady, NY

Admission \$10 ~ Reservations: (518) 377-2201

[APlaceForJazz.org](http://APlaceForJazz.org)

[SwingtimeJazz.org](http://SwingtimeJazz.org)

[1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com)





Photo by C. Robie Booth

## *Terrific Trio*

Relaxing after a **Swingtime** rehearsal at **Chez Delaney** are (from left) **Pete Sweeney**, drummer; **Bill Delaney**, bassist; **Lee Shaw**, pianist. They were the rhythm trio in the **Ultimate All-Stars** sextet at a recent **Swingtime Jazz Society** concert.

## Looking Forward

**Sonny & Perley Trio** will perform at 7 p.m. Friday Dec. 16 at the Lager House, 185 Old Loudon Road, Latham. . . . On Friday Dec. 2, from 7-10, Wildfire featuring **Megan Lastra** will play the venue, which deserves your support.

The **Dino Cimino Trio** stars Friday Jan. 6 from 5:30-8:30 at Aperitivo (two doors west of Proctor's) in Schenectady. The trio plays a free concert from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday Jan. 8 at Schenectady Public Library.

**Gals Who Play Jazz** perform about 3 p.m. Sunday Dec. 4 at Brown's Pub on River Street during the Troy Victorian

Stroll. The gals are leader and pianist **Peg Delaney**, singer **Patti Melita** and bassist **Linda Brown**, all talents of great merit. We'll be doing a feature on them next issue.

Though we've been cooperative for many years, the first actual joint venture of **Swingtime Jazz Society** and **A Place for Jazz** will be at 7:30 Tuesday Dec. 27 at First Reformed Church in Schenectady. Starring will be the **Lee Shaw Trio**. It will be the first concert by the great pianist since she suffered a broken hip recently. **Rich Syracuse**, bass, and drummer Jeff **Siegel** join her. Call 377-3201 for reservations.



proudly presents

# The Tim Olsen Quintet

## Sunday January 8, 2012 4-7 pm

at the

### The Stockade Inn

1 North Church Street  
The Historic Stockade  
Schenectady NY 12305



**Admission: \$15** For reservations, please call 518-584-3548

# Cohoes Music Hall Sparkles

Unbelievable. Incredible. Fantastic. Just a few of the words you heard after the first act of "Les Miserables" at Cohoes Music Hall in November. And the second act was equally astounding.

This is theater by children as young as 9! And a couple of youths in college. Costumes and settings were of the usual professional quality.

**Caroline Codd**, Niskayuna High senior, as Fantine was sensational in singing, acting and looks. She, **Nick Martiniano** (Valjean) and **Kelly Swint** (a Shaker High senior as Cosette) excelled in difficult three-part singing. **Matthew Gariepy** (a Cohoes HS senior) and **Bailey Anne Medici** (a Shaker junior) were properly malicious as the greedy innkeeper and spouse. Ensemble singing and dancing were stunning. Considering that voices are not amplified at Cohoes, the solos are all the more remarkable.

Bassist **Dan Cordell** blared some groovy trombone in tavern scenes and the orchestra led by **Ming Aldrich-Gan** was good throughout.

Terry Gibbs in his book "Good Vibes" says Al Porcino was the best lead trumpet he'd ever heard. (First trumpet is often not the best soloist, but is often the best reader and surest leader.) He'd had many soloists including Shorty Rogers and Conte Candoli. (Thanks to **Tim Coakley** for the book loan.) . . . **Dick Kissinger**, father of **Dr. R. David Kissinger** who teaches jazz classes for OASIS, was



Trumpet team: Pete Campisi (left) and Dr. R. David Kissinger at the Almost Retired Musicians (ARM) luncheon at Central Steak.

bassist and singer with the Isham Jones orchestra.

There are about a dozen lady singers to every male on Channel 1267. Very impressed again by old-timers Marlene VerPlank (Billy VerPlank's wife and the lead in the John LaSalle Quartet), Ethel Ennis and Marilyn Maye (Vermont), and newer talents Renee Olstead, Kelly Harland, Christine Ebersole, Melissa Colvard and Patti Austin.

Don Redman's Chocolate Dandies record of "Six or Seven Times" has one of the first bop vocals (Redman's). . . Jelly Roll Morton claimed his "Hello Central, Get Me Dr. Jazz" (about 1920) was the first jazz arrangement. . . James Reese Europe's band gave a Carnegie Hall concert of ragtime, early jazz and military music. In 1911! Thanks to Dr. Kissinger for those facts.

*For the area's most up-to-date jazz calendar, visit  
[APlaceForJazz.org/calendar.htm](http://APlaceForJazz.org/calendar.htm)*

# Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 52. 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, 4, 10 for our January 8 attraction, the Tim Olsen Quintet.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer  
PO Box 232  
Troy, NY 12181-0232

*C. Robie Booth, Ltd.*

**6 Briarwood Road  
Loudonville, NY 12211-1102  
(518) 428-7618**



## *The Index*

Cats and Jammers .....	Page 5
Cohoes Music Hall, etc. ....	Page 11
Dandy Duo .....	Page 4
Lee Shaw concert .....	Page 8
Looking Forward .....	Page 9
Night Owl .....	Page 2
Swingtime Jazz Society .....	Pages 10, 12
Swingtime Snapshots .....	Pages 6-7
Swingtime Subscription .....	Page 2
Ten Broeck Mansion .....	Page 3
Terrific Trio .....	Page 9
Tim Olsen .....	Pages 1, 4, 10