

Swingtime Jazz Society Presents

BRIAN MELICK AND HEARD

Pages 8 and 9

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Bria Skonberg will bring her quintet to A Place for Jazz on November 7 to close their 2014 concert series. See Page 3.

The Night Owl



Ye Olde Puzzle

Jean Goldkette was our last mystery man. No one got it. His incubator bred Joe Venuti, the Dorsey brothers, Bix Beiderbecke, Russ Morgan, Frank Trumbauer, Bill Challis, Hoagy Carmichael, Spiegel Wilcox, 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, Venuti and Harold Stokes to do so. He had three bands under his own name and booked McKinney's Cotton Pickers, the Don Redman band and the Orange Blossom Band, which became the Casa Loma Orchestra.

Half Notes

Congratulations to saxophonist **Brian Patneude** on the recognition, via a full-page feature in the Albany Times Union, of albanyjazz.com, where you can learn all about what's going on in our music. Brian founded the web site in 2002 and it has grown bigger and better every year.

In Memoriam

Ruby Dee, award-winning actress whose 56-year marriage to actor Ossie Davis belied Hollywood norm, died at 81 in June.

Organ Summit

Renée Ann Louprette conducted an organ clinic (it was actually a concert) for a churchful of organists, students and music lovers at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany in January. Her "Out of the Depths" (Bach) was intense, uplifting and athletic. A Bach-inspired Franz Liszt piece was extremely difficult according to several organists attending. Both hands and feet were flying over keys and pedals.

The East Greenbush native, a graduate of The College of Saint Rose, used an encore of "Moon River" to honor her parents on their 50th anniversary. It was a delightful evening.

Ned Spain kicked off this season's noon organ recitals at Proctors in Schenectady. It was an excellent program. Goldie, the Giant Wurlitzer, al-

lowed full vent to Ned's dynamics and melodic sweeps. Harpist **Lydia Zotto**, resplendent in a pink gown, has excellent stage presence to complement her impressive artistry. Organist **Carl Hackert** joined Ned, now on grand piano, in a touching "Moonlight Serenade" and soloist **Charlie Peterson** contributed a nice vocal, "Embraceable You."

Peek at the Past

"Stormy Weather," by Linda Dahl, 1984, Pantheon, has much to say about three of our regional stars.

"Aerial, a quintet led by pianist **Nina Sheldon**, with Carline Ray on bass, Barbara Merjan on drums, Barbara London on flute and Jane Ira Bloom on reeds, was featured at the Women's Jazz Festival in 1979 and was the first all-woman group to appear at the Newport Jazz Festival that same year...**Erica Lindsay** on tenor sax (and Carline) were with Melba Liston's all-women septet."

Continued on page 5

A not-for-profit that is dedicated to presenting the very best in Jazz in a beautiful listening space.

A PLACE FOR

JAZZ

APFJ FALL 2014 SERIES

ALL PERFORMANCES BEGIN AT 7:30 PM
Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady,
1221 Wendell Avenue



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



An Autumnful of Good Music

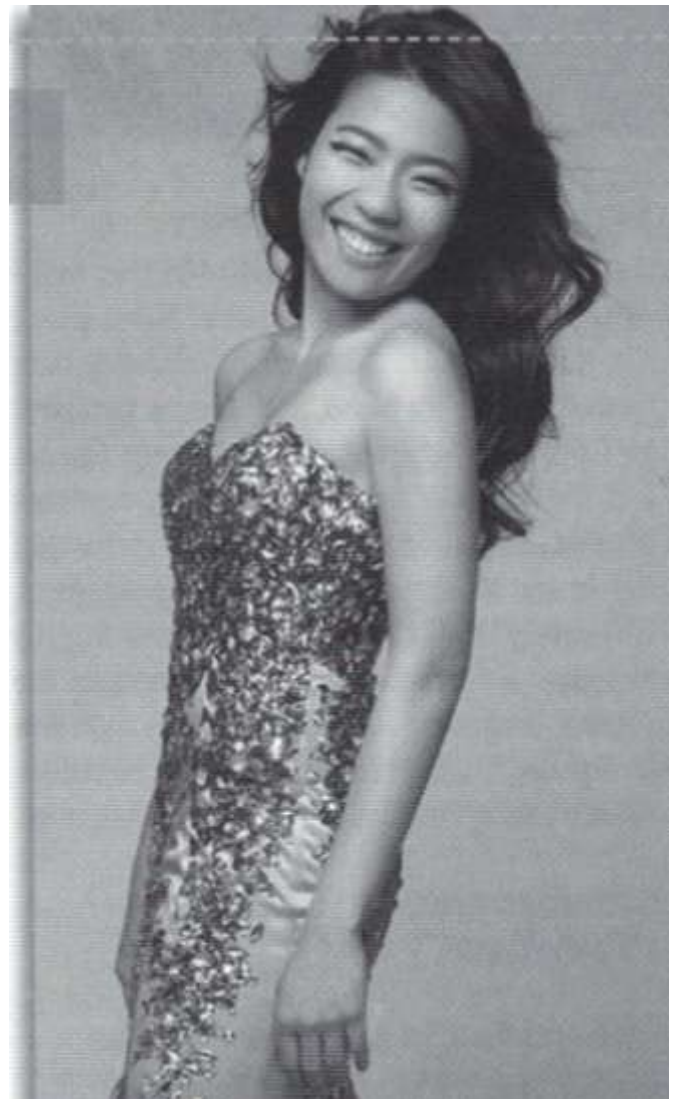
Gordon Jevons will present the third annual Dixieland Jazz Concert Sunday, Oct. 5, from 4 to 6 at the Canaan Congregational Church. It is located on County Route 5, west of Route 295. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. There will be a wine and cider bar for refreshments. See photo in centerfold. Many will remember Gordon as the sponsor of the Mill Road Acres All-Stars which included Tom Shields, Mike Canonico, Al Quaglieri, Lou Gardner and Bill Delaney.

The next Proctors noontime organ concert Oct. 21 features **Andrew Krystopolski** and **David Paul**; Nov. 11, **Robert Frederick** and **John Wiesner**; Dec. 8, **Greg Klingler, Al Moser** and **Ed Goodemote**; Jan. 6, **Bill Hubert** and **Carl Hackert**; Feb. 3, **Claudia Bracaliello** and **Rob Klienschmidt**; March 17, **Charles Jones**; April 14, **Helen Maksymicz**; May 12, **Nixon McMillan** and Friends; June 2, **Dan Minervini**. All are free.

Georgie Wonders Orchestra plays at Danceland (opposite Latham Ford on Columbia Street Extension, the Cohoes road) Oct. 4 at 7:30.

Bronte Roman, the dynamic whirling dervish of a singer (photo in centerfold), appears the fourth Friday of every month at Blu Stone Bistro, across Albany-Shaker Road from the Desmond. She'll also be at taste on Beaver Street in Albany on Oct. 18. On a good night (meaning a good audience), her fine "jazz/pop dance ensemble," usually a quintet, does mostly jazz. With a less hip crowd she'll tend to pop and maybe a touch of rock.

Pianist **Joyce Yang** will star in ASO's Oct. 18 7:30 concert at the Palace Theater. She will play Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini." Also on the program, Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique" symphony and a



Joyce Yang

chamber orchestra piece, "Apart," by Andrew Norman.

The Empire Jazz Orchestra under the direction of **Dr. William Meckley** presents their next concert on Oct. 14 at 8 in the Taylor Auditorium at Schenectady County Community College.

Lee Shaw Trio plays at taste on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27 at 7. The trio will be playing the second and fourth Saturday of October, November and December. That's great news for those who appreciate the splendid ensemble and solo work of pianist Lee, bassist **Rich Syracuse** and Drummer **Jeff Siegel**.



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Karen MacWatters leads Colonie Central HS Jazz Band at Albany Musicians' Gala.

The Night Owl

Continued from page 2

Liston was the foremost female trombonist, having played with Dizzy Gillespie before heading her own bands. Liston's drummer Dottie Dodgion called Erica "a fine tenor player."

"By 1981, Liston's was a truly mixed company that included tenor saxophonist Erica Lindsay and pianist **Chessie Tanksley**." Carline Ray is again mentioned as being with Nina. (Note: "Chessie" is now better-known locally as Francesca.)

"Among other talented women pianists today...Nina Sheldon was born in California but has been based in New York since the sixties. She studied at Juilliard and is a performer, composer, singer and lecturer. After apprenticing with numerous players, including saxophonists Sonny Stitt and George Coleman, she led the house trio at the Village Gate jazz club from 1974 to 1977. Sheldon then formed and led the all-woman combo Aerial ('79-'80), and she continues to be a popular performer at East Coast clubs. Her playing is characterized by layers of airy runs by her right hand while her left hand feeds firm, rhythmic chords. She is also noted for her witty, melodic compositions." My only grouse with the book: She devotes only one sentence to June Christy.

Ten Broeck Has Busy Holidays

Holiday House 2014 at Ten Broeck Mansion will be happy and busy time. The schedule:

Dec. 4, 5:30-8:30, champagne preview party. \$70 prepaid; Dec. 6, noon-6, open house, holiday crafts and a visit from Sinterklaas for children, tours of mansion and gift shop, \$5 adults, \$1 children under 12.

Dec. 11, 1 p.m., lecture "Hanukkah" by **Rabbi Don Cashman**, free; Dec. 12, 7 p.m., **Musicians of Ma'alwyck**, \$25;

Dec. 13, seatings at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Holiday Tea, \$25, \$20 Albany County Historical Association members; prepaid.

Dec. 20, Children's Story Hour, 10:30-noon, games, crafts and refreshments, free; 1:30-4, Holiday Madrigals, coffee and desserts, **Helderberg Madrigal Singers**, \$25.

Call 436-9826 for reservations. There is lots of parking, free, on the property at the corner of Ten Broeck Street and Livingston Avenue

Swingtime Presents Brian Melick and Heard in Concert

The Swingtime Jazz Society presents **Brian Melick and Heard** in concert on Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Albany Rail Yard. The concert, from 4 to 6 p.m., is followed by a one-hour jam session.

The original repertoire of HEARD is the work of composer-arranger-pianist **Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius**, who brings a wide array of styles -- jazz, classical and world music -- into her captivating soundscape. Her inspirations come from her diverse experiences and interests and are often drawn from the raw and powerful sources that nature provides. Heard's dynamic and eclectic lineup of musicians gives Elizabeth a multitude of talents and textures to compose for, and to perform with. Elizabeth received her formal musical training at the University of Washington and Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, where she studied ethnomusicology, piano performance and composition with Brazilian pianist Jovino Santos Neto, trombonist Julian Priestler and Big Band leader/trumpet player Jim Knapp, as well as with Nigerian Juju musician IK Dairo. In addition to teaching composition and piano privately, she has been an adjunct professor for 11 years in the dance department at Russell Sage College in Troy, where she works as a dance musician and composer-in-residence, as well as a yoga teacher. Her collaborations with dancers have also led her to work with the NYC-based Mark Morris, Jose Limon, and Doug Varone Companies, and the NYC Ballet, and with Saratoga Springs' TangoFusion. Her work with the capital **-district**-based Ellen Sinopoli Modern Dance Company has led to numerous Arts-in-Education Residencies in regional elementary schools. Elizabeth has also played keyboard and percussion with the Brazilian group The Berkshire Bateria for eight years, as well as with vocalist/songwriter Joy Adler. Elizabeth's music has been featured on the NPR programs "Theme & Variations," "All Things Considered" and "Performance Place," and she is currently at work on her third CD. heardmusic.net

Brian Melick is a percussive treasure who is

known for his unique "hybrid" sound, built from his incredible collection of world music instruments. His sensitivity, musicality, and adaptability lend an eclecticism to Heard, and his playfulness is irresistible to watch and be a part of. He tours regularly with a diverse range of groups ranging musically from Flamenco to Celtic. uduboy.com

Woodwinds player **Jonathan Greene** is an active freelance musician in the capital **region's** jazz, world and classical scenes. He has performed with the Albany and Glens Falls symphonies and was recently a guest performer on the recital of world-renowned chamber pianist Andre-Michel Shub. Jonathan attended Skidmore College, where he was the recipient of the Filene Music Scholarship. Originally from Seattle, Jon attended Garfield High, where he was part of their internationally known jazz program and Big Band, with whom he toured Europe and Japan his senior year. While in Seattle, he also became an accomplished marimba player, through the vibrant world music scene happening out of University of Washington.

Bobby Kendall, bass, brings his great experience as a jazz, rock and post-rock stand-up and electric bass player to HEARD. He's been playing with the group for three years. A Skidmore College graduate with a master's from SUNY Purchase, Bobby resides in Troy.

West African drummer **Zorkie Nelson** comes from a long line of Ghanaian master drummers and brings an exciting and deep richness to the music of HEARD. In addition to his percussive role in the band, he also lends his talents on flute and vocals. Zorkie was a founding member of the Pan African Orchestra (PAO), with the group from 1988-97. With PAO he toured the U.S., Canada, France and the UK and recorded Opus 1; he toured Denmark with the Ghana National Dance Ensemble. Now based in upstate NY, Zorkie also leads his own group, Gballoi, and was a member of drum master Yacub Addy's Ghanaian ensemble Odadaa! for 11 years. myspace.com/gballoi



In Concert

Brian Melick Presents Heard

Jonathan Greene, Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius,
Bobby Kendall, Zorkie Nelson, Brian Melick



4-6 p.m. Sunday, October 12, 2014

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



The Albany Rail Yard
(formerly Appletini's)
118 Central Ave, Albany, NY

Pub menu and beverages available for purchase
\$15/person (\$5 for students)

Cats and Jammers



Rompin' Reviews

Out of the Box is a versatile trio. Kicking it up t'other Friday at Blu Stone Bistro in Colonie were pianist-vocalist **Larry Gravett**, bassist **Michael Hurt** and drummer **Gary Nowik**. I was especially pleased with their "On Green Dolphin Street" amidst a repertoire of soul and urban music. You can catch them every third Friday of the month starting at 7 p.m.

Albany Symphony Orchestra had a dazzling opening night Sept. 6 at the Palace in Albany. **Clint Needham**, a 33-year-old composer, has an astounding resume of writing, education and awards. His "The Body Electric" featured brash brass (I could have absorbed more), great pizzicato on all strings, bowing on the basses, much with a touch of jazz. Good work.

Famed violinist **Joshua Bell** was simply stunning on Bruch's "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 1". The entire orchestra under **David Alan Miller** sparkled on Elgar's 14 Variations on "Enigma," which has more variety than 90 percent of the standard repertoire.

Half-Notes

Carmen Mastren of Cohoes played with George Hall before his famed tenure with Tommy Dorsey when he was *down beat* guitarist of the year in 1937 and won the *Metronome* poll in 1939 and '40. Hall turned his band over to singer Dolly Dawn (and "Her Dawn Patrol") on July

4, 1941, in a well-publicized ceremony at Roseland Ballroom. He retired as her manager a year later. Carmen was also in bands led by Wingy Manone, Glenn Miller, Morton Downey and Skitch Henderson. Leonard Feather called him the most popular guitarist in jazz.

Carmen's brother **Al Mastren** was a trombonist with Glenn Miller and Bob Chester. **Al Quaglieri**, Albany trumpeter, was also in the Chester band, as were Bill Harris, Herbie Steward and John LaPorta.

Jane Russell and Julie Conway sang with Kay Kyser...Frankie Carle, Jack Jenney, Jack Teagarden, Toots Mondello and Turk Murphy all played for Mal Hallett's East Coast band.

Straight ahead, little friend.

—C. ROBIE BOOTH

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Spass Still Singing

Many old-timers and maybe a few middle-aged night clubbers remember when about 100 spots had live music hereabouts. Most everyone had weekend music; many had weekday sounds as well.

One name in the papers every Friday and Saturday: Dick Spass and the Coachmen. They were a professional group; a septet in their heyday, a quartet on many gigs. It's exactly 20 years since they disbanded, as did many groups due to closing taverns and stricter drinking and driving laws.

Today, Dick still sings a strong program of oldies, pop, rock and country at the fine establishment run by Dierdre Dodge (thus the name), Dee Dee's on the Watervliet-Shaker Road in Latham. He on from 5 to 9 every Tuesday and at 8 Saturdays. Jimmy D croons a la Neil Diamond Wednesdays at 7.

Dick will volunteer his talents for a breast cancer fundraiser at 2 p.m. Oct. 18. Stop in and celebrate Dee's 28th year at the helm. "We feature an extensive and imaginative menu, and are proud of our homemade soups and daily specials," says the boss lady. And that's the truth.

Photos by C. Robie Booth

At the Albany Musicians Association Gala last April, Neil Brown (left) and Dave Bournazian received awards for their lifetime contributions to area music and education.



Dick Spass at Dee Dee's

Singer Richard Spass was one of the most active bandleaders of the last half-century. Now he is soloist, dee jay and sometimes social director at Dee Dee's.



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 8 and 9 for our Oct. 12 attraction, **Brian Melick Presents Heard..**

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

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