

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

Volume 27, Number 3

Published by C. Robie Booth

Autumn 2016



Brian Patneau



David Gleason



Dave Fisk



Ben O'Shea



Mike Lawrence



Andrew Hearn

DadTet Plays for SWS Oct 9

See Pages 4 and 5 for details.

The Night Owl



Looking Forward

The Empire Jazz Orchestra performs work by several major composers Oct. 18 at the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium, Schenectady County Community College.

The 8 p.m. concert conducted by **Dr. William Meckley**, dean of music, will feature works by Billy Strayhorn, Louis Bellson, Oliver Nelson, Jimmy Heath, Bill Finegan, Gordon Goodwin, Benny Carter, our own **Keith Pray** and more.

New arrangements by **Jim Corigliano** will feature the splendid vocalist **Colleen Pratt**. Tickets are \$20; \$5 for students.

Memory Lane

In 1958, the Interludes starred at Rudy Cicotti's Uptown Club on Central Avenue in Albany. They were **Johnny Romeo** on accordion, **Lew Petteys** on saxophones and **Joe Sorrentino** on drums. The latter two are still active. Joe leads his quartet every Sunday brunch in Saratoga Springs' Prime eatery. The Interludes evolved into a quartet that played in Miami. **Jerry Benoit** was guitarist with **Johnny Milanese** on drums and vocals, **Mickey Milan** on vocals and **Jackie Pender** on sax.

David Bournazian, the late great educator and saxophonist, who put the much-lauded Mohonasen music programs on the map, played with Neal Hefti's orchestra. Hefti gained fame as Woody Herman's trumpeter and composer-arranger and his marriage to singer Frances Wayne. He wrote "The Kid from Red Bank," "Falling in Love All Over Again," "Girl Talk" and many more; arranged for Charlie Barnet, Charlie Ventura, Count Basie, Georgie Auld and Harry James.

Half-Notes

The local press often misses local connections with famous musicians. Case in point,

the recent appearance of bassist **Carol Jantsch** with the Albany Symphony Orchestra. She made national news when, straight out of University of Michigan, she was hired as first tuba at an entry wage of \$104,000 by the Philadelphia Orchestra. Her teacher was the son of **Tony Riccobono**, who leads the dance band that plays regularly in Clifton Park. She was sensational on Edward Elgar's Tuba Concerto.

Issie Swickle, debuting as Annie in "Annie" at Proctors, proves another star is born. Lynn Andrews as Miss Hannigan was terrific as was Ashley Edler as Grace Farrell. She starred as Nanette in off-Broadway's "No No Nanette," one of the pioneer American musicals.

Among many highlights of the Lee Shaw tribute at Schenectady's Whisperdome was her original "Little Friend" played by pianist **Nick Hetko** and the program's organizers **Rich Syracuse** (bass) and **Jeff Siegel** (drums). It got a standing ovation. **Patti Melita** sang an unforgettable Shaw original which deserves to be a standard, "Holiday," with new words "by **Stan Marsden** tweaked by **Jody Shayne**." **Peg Delaney** (piano), **Bill Delaney** (bass) and **Gene Garone** (drums) provided excellent backing.

Singer **Eileen Mack** (see photo in center-fold) and pianist Peg Delaney put on a wonderful show at Schenectady's Stockade Inn recently. She has excellent modulation, phrasing and timing. She is an alto with a nice high register. Highlights were "Can't We Be Friends" and "Black Coffee," which was lively, torchy and touching.

And for trivia buffs: In 1927, Gene Krupa was the first to use a full set of drums on a record.



Winners of the 2016 Lee Shaw Scholarship Award

Téa Mottolese graduated from Emma Willard and is going to Peabody Conservatory at The Johns Hopkins University. Téa plays alto saxophone and was a student of Keith Pray and then Brian Patneaude.

Elias Assimakapoulos graduated from Niskayuna High School and is going to Crane School of Music. He is Dave Fisk's student and plays trombone.

Their awards were presented at the Swingtime concert on June 12, 2016.

See Page 9 for information on the scholarship.

Dadtet Plays for SJS Oct 9

The **Dadtet** plays a mixture of straight-ahead jazz and Latin-influenced music, including music written by Duke Ellington, Benny Carter and others. The members of the group all play together in a number of other ensembles such as Sensemaya, Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble and various smaller groups on a regular basis. All of the members are respected music educators in the region, representing numerous public school districts as well as Schenectady Community College and The College of Saint Rose. The name Dadtet came from a mutual appreciation of the nuanced joy that comes with having (very) young children, as most of us have children age 3 and younger.

Ben O'Shea is an active trombonist and educator in the Capital Region. He teaches high school band in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District while maintaining a private studio and performing regularly. As a performer, Ben has shared the stage with many well-known artists including Johnny Mathis, Linda Ronstadt, Leslie Uggams, Bobby Rydell, the Temptations, Ernestine Anderson, Jimmy Heath, Conrad Herwig, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. He also toured across the United States for nearly two years as a member of the band with the Ringling Brothers Circus 137th Edition. Lately, he has been performing regularly with several local groups that include Sensemaya and Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble, as well as in venues such as Proctors Theatre, the Palace Theatre and Capital Repertory Theatre. Ben holds degrees in music performance and music education from the University of Arizona, Central Washington University and the College of Saint Rose.

Dave Fisk is a jazz saxophonist from Albany. Dave is a performer and leader of his own group, The Dave Fisk Quartet. As a leader of this quartet, he performs regularly at local venues, including 9 Maple Ave Jazz club in Saratoga and The Speakeasy 518, and has also been featured at the Jazz on Jay series in Schenectady. Dave is an original member of Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble and has been playing alto saxophone with that group for the last 9 years. He can also be seen performing with many other groups in the Capital Region. Dave has been teaching at Niskayuna Central Schools for the past 18 years.

Brian Patneau is a professional musician and educator living in New York's Capital District. In addition to leading his own quartet (with five critically acclaimed albums to their credit), the saxophonist maintains an active performance schedule with a number of area ensembles including The Empire Jazz Orchestra, Michael Benedict & Bopitude and Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble. He teaches saxophone at Blue Sky Music Studios and is an adjunct saxophone instructor at The College of Saint Rose and Schenectady County Community College, where he also directs the community college's Jazz Combo. Patneau has performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival, the Kingston International Jazz Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival Saratoga, the Albany Riverfront Jazz Festi-

val, the Rochester International Jazz Festival and countless clubs and concert halls throughout the Northeast, including an eight and a half year weekly residency at what was Albany's premiere jazz club, Justin's.

David Gleason is a music educator, pianist and composer living in New York's Capital Region. He received an M.A. from Tufts University, where he studied ethnomusicology and composition. He has researched folk and popular music in Puerto Rico and Cuba and is a contributing ethnomusicologist to the Museo Del Barrio's permanent collection online. As a jazz and Latin pianist, he has performed with ensembles such as RumbaNaMa, The Boston Latin Band, The Either/Orchestra and The Empire Jazz Orchestra. He has also performed with Lee Konitz, Laurel Massé, Fred Wesley, Gary Smulyan, Danilo Perez and John Fedchock. He currently leads the Latin jazz ensemble, Sensemaya. Gleason studied music education and jazz studies at the Crane School of Music in Potsdam. He has taught at the John Sayles School of Fine Arts and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. David Gleason is also the author of Alfred Publishing's "The Total Blues Keyboardist."

Bassist **Mike Lawrence** teaches orchestra and string lessons in the Schenectady City Schools and is a proud father to daughters Cecilia and Rose. He has recorded with the Gary McFarland Legacy Ensemble alongside Joe Locke, Sharel Cassity, Bruce Barth and Michael Benedict on the album "Circulation: The Music of Gary McFarland." He has recorded with Michael Benedict's Bopitude on "Five and One" featuring Gary Smulyan and "Bopitude." Mike has performed on stage with Frank Foster, Bruce Barth, Gene Bertocini, Harry Allen, Paul Meyers, Steve Nelson, Ray Vega, Ralph Lalama, Blue Lou Marini, Wycliffe Gordon, Sonny Turner's Platters, Bobby Rydell, Keith Pray's Soul Jazz Revival and Peanut Gallery Jazz Trio, along with many others as a freelance bassist. Mike has previously played in concert for the Swingtime Jazz Society with Jeanne O'Connor and Richard Lanham, Dave Gleason/Pete Sweeney/Mike Lawrence Trio, and the Joe Finn/Dan Faulk Quartet.

Drummer **Andrew Hearn** grew up playing in bands with friends around central New York. He began playing professionally while in college at the Crane School of Music. After graduating, he played shows for Music Theater North (summer stock theater in Potsdam), which led to two 3-month tours of Europe with The Scala Theater Group. After returning home, Andrew started his teaching career at South Colonie Central Schools, where he directs two bands at Lisha Kill Middle School. His students frequent regional and state-wide music festivals. Andrew has been an active member of the Capital Region music scene, performing and/or recording with Jon Leroy Trio, Dave Fisk Quartet, Tas Cru, Arc, Tom Healey Band, Charlie Smith Blues Band, Larry Lewis, New Regime, Karen Lawrence Band, Lil Jay and the Card Sharks, Scotty Mac, Jeff Gonzales, Schenectady Light Opera, Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and Capital Region Wind Ensemble.



Proudly Presents

The Dadtett



Dave Fisk
David Gleason



Brian Patneau
Ben O'Shea



Mike Lawrence
Andrew Hearn



Sunday, October 9, 2016 4-6 p.m.

Followed by a one-hour open jam session



**DoubleTree Hotel
100 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, NY**

**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

Swingtime Snapshots

Photos on Pages 6-9 by C. Robie Booth



Nitro Jazz Swings for SJS

Nitro Jazz gassed a crowd of diggers and dancers at the winter Swingtime Jazz Society event. From left: Billy Deuel, leader and vocalist; Scott Hall, Eric Walentowicz and Jon Bronk. The rousing music attracted a group of young dancers from Saratoga Springs as well as our regular elder cutters of the rug.

Eileen Mack at Stockade Inn

Singer Eileen Mack at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady. She was teamed with pianist Peg Delaney.



At the jam session after Swingtime's June concert, T-U columnist **Amy Biancolli** showed off her skills on the violin. L-R below: **Steve Horowitz**, **Jerry Gordon** and **Dylan Perrillo** also contributed to the musical festivities.





**Scott Bassinson recently performed at Athos Restaurant
with the Jeanne O'Connor Trio.**

Lee Shaw Scholarship Fund



**Photo courtesy
of Diane Reiner**

To honor the memory of **Lee Shaw**, a scholarship will be awarded yearly to a high school senior planning to pursue jazz 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 Patti Melita, Treasurer, PO Box 232, Troy, NY 12181-0232 with "Lee Shaw Scholarship Fund" in the memo line. Please remember that 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 donations.

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



The APFJ 2016 concert season had two very successful concerts on Sep 9 (Scott Hamilton) and 23 (Steve Kroon). Still to come:

Oct 7: Vocalist Denise Donatelli (photo left)

Oct 21: Joe Barna (photo below) and Sketches of Influence

Nov 4: Christian Jacob (photo lower left) Trio

All concerts are on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Whisperdome, the beautiful listening space in the Unitarian Universalist Society at 1221 Wendell Ave, Schenectady. See aplaceforjazz.org.



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

Lucy Ann Polk Remembered

By C. ROBIE BOOTH

Lucy Ann Polk (right) was a phenomenon, winning the **down beat** poll as best vocalist in 1951--54 and repeating the honor 50 years later. Today, few people remember the stunning and beautiful singer born of the Swing Era.

I remember her like a colorful blossom on the first sparkling day of spring.

She first came to my attention as Les Brown's vocalist on "Love Letters in the Sand." It was sexy, dreamy and with clarity, perfect pitch and the voice of a young angel. Later, with Jerry Fielding, she did one of the most poignant, chilling renditions ever recorded, "Chicken Road." "Honey, that's Missouri, land of the snake and the toad—chicken road..."

She was born May 16, 1928, in Sandpoint, Idaho. At age 9 she had her own radio show in Spokane, Wash. With her brothers Gordon and Charles and sister Elva she formed the Bobbettes, who changed the name to the Town Criers and sang with Les Brown, Kay Kyser, Lionel Hampton, Jimmy Lunceford, Bob Crosby and Earl Hines.

Gordon became soloist with Jimmy Dorsey, Tommy Dorsey and Harry James. Vernon joined the Modernaires and later became a guitarist with Les Brown. Elva married Les Brown's drummer Dick Shanahan. (Is this a family show, or what!) Lucy Ann married Dick Noel, TD's trombonist. Their daughter, Chris Noel, became a favorite singer at UFO shows during the Vietnam war. Dick was a popular disc jockey whose sign-off "Straight ahead, little friend" was stolen by your scribe.

Siegfried Holzbauer, who provided some of this background, said "Lucy Ann is a singer's singer and one of the most underrated singers of her time."

Of any time.



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

C. Robie Booth
6 Briarwood Road
Loudonville, NY 12211

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

☐ Yes, I'd like the e-version so I get it sooner, and in color!

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 79. 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 & 5 for our October 9 attraction, **The Dadtet**.

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

6 Briarwood Road

Loudonville, NY 12211-1102

(518) 428-7618

The Index

Dadtet	Pages 1, 4, 5
Lee Shaw Scholarship	Page 9
Lucy Ann Polk.....	Page 10
Night Owl	Page 2
Scholarship winners	Page 3
Swingtime Jazz Society	Page 12
Swingtime Snapshots	Pages 6-9
Swingtime Subscription Form	Page 11