

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

Volume 28, Number 1

Published by C. Robie Booth

Spring 2017



The Steve Horowitz Quintet will perform at Swingtime Jazz Society's concert on March 12 at the Van Schaick Island Country Club. See Pages 3 and 6 for details.

The Night Owl



Memory Lane

Setting: Press preview of "Dallas North Forty" in New Orleans, late 1970s.

CRB: May I have your autograph, Kris?

Kris Kristofferson: Sure...your name?

CRB: Robie...

Publicity man, indignant, glaring at me: It's a wrap!

Kris: Wait a minute. I'm talking to Robie.

That pleasant memory from 1978 is just one of several that I'd like to recall from a career spanning 60 years.

The true greats were always cordial: Ella, Duke, Bill Basie, Dizzy, Satchmo, Charlie Barnett, Phyllis Curtin...many more. Our own local greats Lee Shaw (piano-songwriter), Nick Brignola (reeds) and Jody Bolden (a.k.a. pianist Bobby Henderson) were frequent interviewees and always extremely friendly.

There were many correspondents: Marian McPartland, Maynard Ferguson, Ray Eberle, Ralph Flanagan and my favorite, Peter Nero, who said I was the best definer of his free-form piano artistry.

My biggest thrill was at a Stan Kenton concert at Clinton Arena in the late 1950s. At intermission I'd asked him if I could interview him after the show. He nodded. After the concert as I approached him, a very pretty broadcaster from Utica radio WIBX barged in front of me. "I'm on deadline," she expostulated, shoving her recorder mike in his face. "After I've talked with Chuck," he said.

In Memoriam: Nat Hentoff

Perhaps the most influential mentor for young jazz writers (I was one) in the 1950s was Nat Hentoff. He died Jan. 7 at age 91 of natural causes.

He was an iconoclast, an historian and an educator, weaned on long talks with Duke Ellington, Rex Stewart and Jo Jones. A Jew, he ate a salami sandwich in front of his house on Yom Kippur. When kicked out of his Jewish school, he graduated from Boston Latin, rated as the toughest academic high school in the country. While at Northeastern University, he frequented

the Savoy Cafe, becoming more immersed in jazz culture.

Basically liberal, he opposed abortion and Israel's invasion of Lebanon. He wrote for many prestigious publications, edited *down beat* and for 50 years wrote a column for *Village Voice*. Rest in peace.

Half Notes

Some 2016 kudos that need to be acknowledged include pianist **Rob Hunt**, singers **Jayda Chaner** and **Judy Wyle**, saxophonists **Kenny McCabe** and **Henry Hernandez**, and drummer **Freddy Isabella** for sitting in on Swingtime jam sessions. . . **Rudeke**, father and son team **Scott** and **Michael Ruddy**, bass, guitar and vocals at Swifty's marvelous pub on Everett Road in West Albany. Vocalist **Hanna Hill** brightened up their fine act. . . Baritone sax **Scott Hall**, trumpeters **Chris Pasin** and **Steve Lambert**, saxophonist **Dave Fisk**, bandleader **Phil Allen**, for their various artistry in groups large and small . . . **Karen DeWitt**, **Cathy Woodruff** and **Casey Seiler** for rib-tickling roles in "Downton Andy," the LCA musical spoof.

Non-subscribers can always get free copies of the latest [Swingtime](#) magazine at Sanford Town Library in Colonie, d'Raymonds restaurant in Loudonville and Swifty's restaurant and pub on Everett Road in West Albany. . . Elks members can find them at the lodge off Route 155 in Latham.

Straight ahead, little friend.

— C. ROBIE BOOTH

GWO Valentine's Dance

Georgie Wonders Orchestra will play for a Valentine's dance at 7:30 Saturday Feb. 11 at Danceland, 638 Columbia Street Extension, Latham.

They play big band arrangements from the Swing Era and popular sounds "from Sinatra to Santana." Admission \$12

Horowitz 5 Plays for SJS Mar. 12

Trumpeter and flugelhornist **Steve Horowitz** has long been one of the regulars at the Swingtime jam sessions. A computer geek by day, Steve has been gigging here, there and everywhere for over 30 years. Born and raised on Long Island, Steve obtained his bachelor's degree in computer science at SUNY Albany, during which time he worked with a number of area musicians including Doc Scanlon and pianist Ray Rettig.

Comfortable in both jazz and classical settings, Steve's extensive experience as a freelancer has taken him all over the tri-state area, playing church services, college graduations and in countless jazz settings, from duos to big bands. In addition, he has worked steadily as a member of the horn section with many wedding bands and agencies including Steven Scott Orchestras, Heartbeat Entertainment, Avenue K Entertainment and locally with the New York Players. During his many years in the Poughkeepsie area, he performed with many area musicians including saxophonist Hugh Brodie, guitarist Steve Raleigh and pianists John Esposito and Peter Tomlinson. He can be heard on Pete's studio recording "Time Lines."

Now living in the Capital Region with his wife and son, Steve has most recently spent two years as a member of the Al Haugen Trio.

Jack Speraw has been playing trombone in the Capital District for the past 14 years after not having played since high school. He has been a regular at the Swingtime Jazz Society concerts and open jam sessions for several years. He has attended the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops at the University of Louisville, and he currently plays with the Burnt Hills Melody Makers Big Band and the Swing Docs, and has subbed with the Georgie Wonders Orchestra.

Peter Tomlinson has been an adjunct professor at Western Connecticut State University since 1990. In 2006 Peter became an associate professor of jazz piano at Vassar College and is also on the music faculty of Poughkeepsie Day School.

Recent recordings include "Indigo Moods" with Judi Silvano, "Confluence" with Keith Pray, "A Little Dream" and "Journey" with Bar Scott and "So In Love," "Bewitched" and "SWonderful" with the Perry Beekman Trio. Of Peter's own al-

bums, "Momentum," on the Compose label, featured musicians include Dick Oatts, Dave Douglas and Jimmy Cobb. Rhodes Spedale of *Jazz Times Magazine* says, "He's talented, lyrical, imaginative and swinging - all the necessary attributes of a fine pianist." "For Evans' Sake" is a duo with guitarist Peter Einhorn. Jim Hall wrote "It's amazing... I loved it!" Other musicians he has worked with include Ron Carter, Hubert Laws, Laurel Massé, jazz tap legend Honi Coles, Sheila Jordan and singer/songwriter Natalie Merchant.

Peter is constantly in demand as a leader and sideman for small jazz combos.

Bassist **Lou Pappas**'s career encompasses both jazz and classical music. After beginning with orchestras in Colorado and Oklahoma, he moved to New York to accept a position as bassist with the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, from which he retired in 2006. Since then, Lou has kept a steady pace of performance with many groups in the New York area, such as the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Taconic Opera Company and the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra. His jazz work includes freelancing with a number of groups from Albany to Woodstock, New York City, Connecticut and New Jersey, including performances with such jazz greats as David Liebman, Byron Stripling, Randy Brecker, Steve Turre, James Williams, Claire Fischer, Harold Arlen, Dennis Mackrel, Billy Cobham and fellow bassist John Clayton. In addition to his playing schedule, Lou teaches double bass at Vassar College and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Tim Coakley was born in Utica and grew up listening to the best of the area's musicians, including tenor saxophonist J.R. Monterose, trumpeter Sal Amico, bassist Sam Mancuso and drummer Ronnie Zito. He listened especially raptly to the local drummers. Mostly self-taught, he had his first gig on a set of borrowed drums, and thereafter he began playing throughout Utica, often with tenor saxophonist Chick Esposito.

In 1974 he moved to Schenectady, and was asked by promoter Bob Rosenblum to join the rhythm section of swing trumpeter Doc Cheatham. His experiences with Cheatham led to appearances with **(Continued on Page 7)**

Swingtime Snapshots

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



Alegria (L-R: Maria Zemantausky, Brian Melick, Monica Roach and José Miralles) performed at the Stockade Inn on January 8.



At the jam session: Eileen Mack, Tim Coakley, Peg Delaney, Bill Delaney, Steve Horowitz and Jack Speraw.

Photos from
the Jan 8
concert by
Jerry Gordon



Eric Marzak jams on a Native American flute, accompanied by Brian Melick on a Peruvian drum. Tim, Peg and Bill are playing common western instruments.

SWINGTIME

Jazz Society

swingtimejazz.org



Proudly Presents

Steve Horowitz Quintet



Peter Tomlinson



Lou Pappas



Steve Horowitz



Jack Speraw



Tim Coakley

Sunday, March 12, 2017 4-6 p.m.

Followed by a one-hour open jam session



Van Schaick Island Country Club
201 Continental Ave.
Cohoes, 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

Horowitz ... (Continued from Page 3)

tenor saxophonist Buddy Tate, pianist Dill Jones and trombonist Vic Dickenson, performances at the Van Dyck Restaurant in Schenectady with guitarist Herb Ellis, and engagements with pianist Benny Harris.

In the later '70s he joined reeds player Skip Parsons and his Riverboat Jazz Band, with whom he still works. Since then he's had freelance jobs with trumpeter Mike Canonico, guitarist Jack Fragomeni, tenor saxophonist Leo Rus-

so and a score of others, and led a trio with Parsons and Rennie Crain at Leesa's, the Glen Sanders Mansion and Jazz on Jay Street in Schenectady, and 9 Maple in Saratoga Springs.

In addition to his drumming prowess, he is a jazz historian and WAMC radio personality who has been on the air (Saturday nights at 11 pm) for 30 years. He is a board member of Swingtime Jazz Society and president of A Place for Jazz. For his involvement in and contributions to the local jazz scene, Tim was chosen as the 2013 local recipient of the Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Hero award.

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:

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 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!

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 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



Photo courtesy
of Diane Reiner

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 pegjazz1@gmail.com or 518-237-3129.

We are pleased to announce that Swingtime Jazz Society has been entered into the GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program database. G.E. donors may now register their donations for matching to SJS at www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts.

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, 3 & 6 for our March 12 attraction, **The Steve Horowitz 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

6 Briarwood Road

Loudonville, NY 12211-1102

(518) 428-7618

The Index

Georgie Wonders Orchestra	Page 2
Lee Shaw Scholarship	Page 7
Nat Hentoff	Page 2
Night Owl	Page 2
Steve Horowitz Quintet	Pages 1, 3, 6
Swingtime Jazz Society	Page 8
Swingtime Snapshots	Pages 4, 5
Swingtime Subscription Form	Page 7