

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Winter-Spring 2014



Steve Lambert Quintet Will Be at The Wishing Well on March 9

Steve Lambert (top) stars for Swingtime Jazz Society. From left: Adam Siegel, Bob Halek, Bobby Kendall, George Muscatello, See Pages 8 and 9 for details.

The Night Owl

Ye Newe Puzzler



His first band was in the early 1930s, idled, and was successfully launched in 1939 in New York City. He had been with Smith Ballew, Joe Venuti, Vincent Lopez and Artie Shaw.

His sidemen included Buddy Morrow, Lou McGarity, Hank Freeman, Max Kaminsky, and Al Quaglieri, singers Kay Little and Rosemary Clooney. He was a tenor saxophonist and singer whose "Indian Love Call" on Bluebird label became a hit. His big band continued its success throughout the 1950s.

What was the name of this star? First answer to C. Robie Booth wins a lifetime subscription to **Swingtime**.

Half-Notes

Jean Gordon was a sultry singer for sweet band maestro Ray Pearl. He gained fame for blasting union president James Petrillo for ruining the music business. . . Art Hickman is more and more credited with having the first organized dance band. It was 1913 in San Francisco.

Rocco Coluccio, a marvelous pianist from Rome, NY, was Patti Page's conductor and accompanist. As **Rocky Cole**, he did a trio album, "Smooth and Rocky" that is a gas. He and the versatile organist-pianist-cellestist **Milt Munn** often jammed at the Savoy in

Rome and Grimaldi's in Utica (there with the late **Lou Palmer**).

Dorothy Lamour sang for Herbie Kay (to whom she was married from 1935-39) from 1934 to 1936, when Hollywood beckoned. . . Horace Heidt's band vocalist (not necessarily talent show winners) included Frank De Vol, Art Carney, the King Sisters, Gordon MacRae. . . Phil Harris was an accomplished drummer but wanted to be a trombonist.

Andre Watts was stunning in Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2, Opus 83 with the ASO Jan. 11 at the Palace Theatre in Albany. The soloist used no sheet music during the 48-minute piece. I greatly enjoyed the orchestra traipsing through Emperor Waltz and the merry Pleasure Train Polka in which ASO conductor David Allen Miller played the train conductor complete with tooter.

Dave Bournazian, educator, band-leader and artist on all reeds, is in improved health. He played for Neal Hefti.

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In Memoriam: Ronnie Partch

Ronald H. Partch, 87, of Burnt Hills, died Jan. 8, at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady.

Ronnie was a bassist, trombonist and bandleader who touched many lives. I knew him first as half of the John Park-Ronnie Partch Duo in the late 1960s. One of their regular venues was the Shadow Box, a night club featuring good music on Route 20 in Guilderland. They were named Duo of the Year in *The Knickerbocker News* Night Owl column. (John was a marvelous pianist who introduced me to Denny Zeitlin.)

Ron and Lew Petteys formed The Mellowtone big band, a swinging herd featuring the young vocalist Colleen Pratt. He performed with the Bob Whitman Trio, Charlie Doyle Quintet, Jody Bolden Duo, Bill Pearson Headliners big band, Sophisticated Jazz with singer Jan Eisen, and the Shenendehowa Big Swing Band.

He played for Tony Bennett at Saratoga Kool Jazz Festival and several times for the Lake George cruise ships.

He had been vice president of the Saratoga Musicians Union and arranged for national musicians to appear at SPAC. He leaves his wife of 59 years, June L. (Anderson) Partch, a bassoonist who could have played for any major symphony orchestra but chose to stay home, where she was principal chair at the Albany Symphony Orchestra and widely recognized as one of the finest classicists ever.

Partch received the Asiatic Pacific Victory Medal from the Navy in World War II. He earned his teaching degree from Potsdam State College, where he played with the Varsity big band. He taught middle school math and science at Scotia-

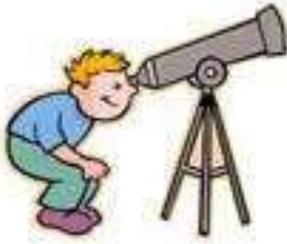


Glenville until retiring in 1981. He was a regular artist on the early television Earle Pudney Show on WRGB. Lew Petteys, highly regarded saxophonist, met Ron when both were freshmen at Potsdam State College. "We've been friends ever since," he told me. "My best friend. He had a hell of an ear, the best I ever heard. Many things I did would not have been, without him - like booking for SPAC and forming our own band.

"When we were young and broke, we'd pool our money so we could eat. Our children called each of us their uncle."

Ron Partch was wonderful man, a warm friend and a superb musician.

—C. ROBIE BOOTH



LOOKING FORWARD

Trombone, ASO and Song

We'll be running a pleasant gamut from classical to pop during the end of winter and the entrance of spring.

The Albany Symphony Orchestra directed by David Alan Miller programs Wagner, Rouse and Ravel for 7:30 Feb. 8 at the Palace Theatre.

The prelude and liedestod from "Tristan and Isolde" (1865) is short and emotional.

Christopher Rouse, last year's artist in residence for ASO, composed Trombone Concerto for the New York Philharmonic in memory of Leonard Bernstein. It won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in Music. Soloist will be ASO's own principal trombonist **Greg Spiridopoulos**. He has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra under five major conductors and has recorded frequently with the Handel and Haydn Society and other prestigious groups.

Maurice Ravel, who has influenced many jazz musicians, and was in turn influenced by early jazz, wrote the "Mother Goose Suite" in 1908 for dual pianos.

It debuted in 1910. It is exotic and happily tuneful. "Bolero" will conclude the program. I loved it the first time I heard it in fourth grade. Today, after about 900 hearings, I don't want to ever hear it again.

Stravinsky, Joan Tower, Conor Brown and Beethoven are on the March 1 (7:30) and March 2 (3 p.m.) program at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Blair McMillen will be guest pianist.

Clarice Assad's "Scattered," Concerto for Piano and Scat Singing, will be a highlight of the May 17 (7:30) ASO concert at EMPAC, Troy. The composer is also an acclaimed pianist and jazz singer. Also on the program is Dame Evelyn Glennie, called the world's greatest percussionist.

Lincoln Mayorga, pianist, and **Sheri Bauer-Mayorga**, vocalist, will present "American Snapshots" at 7:30 May 1 at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady. They'll perform works by Stephen Foster, Randy Newman, John Fogerty and "the people's American



Clarice Assad

songbook." Now, that's mixing it up! They are fine musicians; should be a great show.

Pat Metheny Unity Group plays Proctor's March 20 at 8. The player of the year (Down Beat) has, for the first time in 30 years according to the blurb, a horn in front.

Capital Repertory Theatre presents "Mountaintop" until February 9 and "Gypsy" from March 18-April 13.

Frank Loscavo, a fine saxophonist, and pianist **Jon LeRoy** will be playing Feb. 7 at the Nanola on Route 9 in Malta. Music is from 7 to 10.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

January 16th - 18th, 7:30 p.m.

St. Clement's Church, Saratoga Springs

January 23rd -25th, 7:30 p.m.

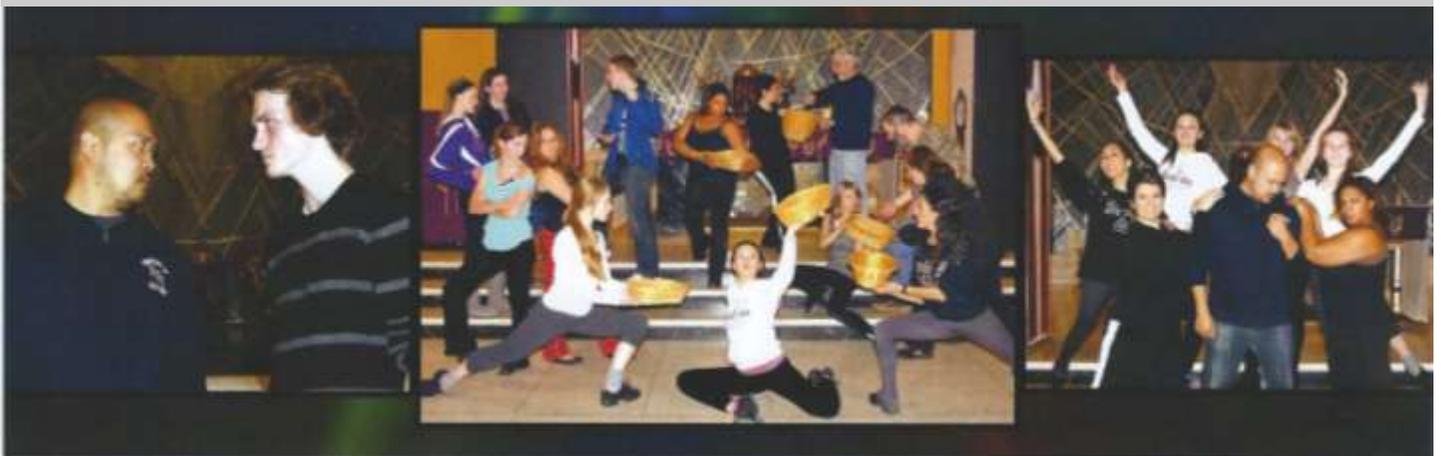
Corpus Christi Church, Ushers

Tickets \$10 General Admission

For more information, call 518-584-6122

Proceeds from these performances will go to St. Clement's partnership with Water to Thrive to help build water wells in Ethiopia.

Directed by Karey Hall-Trimming
Music Direction by Matt Declos
Choreography by Tina Baird



Swingtime Snapshots



Photo by Jerry Gordon

Eliza Lopez and Vito Davi

Jammin' with Swingtime

'Twas a jumpin' jam at the SJS January concert at Provence in Guilderland. A surprise guest was Brian Madden, tenor sax man, retired broadcaster now teaching at SUNY Oneonta. The next SJS concert features the Steve Lambert Quintet at The Wishing Well in Wilton. Story, Page 8.



Photo by Paula McNulty

Dave Gleason, Mike Lawrence and Pete Sweeney



Photo by Jerry Gordon

Peg Delaney, Patti Melita and Brian Madden



Photo by Jerry Gordon

C. Robie Booth and Paula McNulty

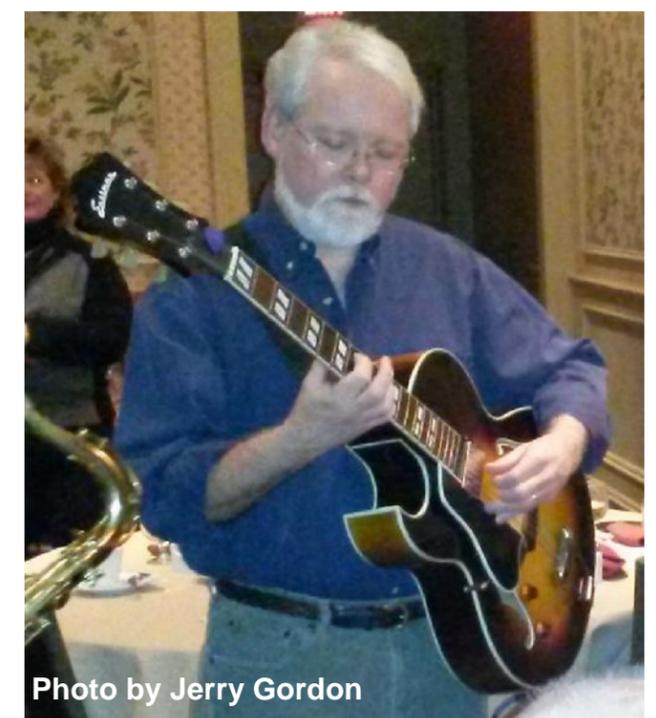


Photo by Jerry Gordon

Dave Lawrence

Swingtime Presents the Steve Lambert Quintet in Concert

On Sunday, March 9, the Swingtime Jazz Society will present the Steve Lambert Quintet at The Wishing Well Restaurant, 745 Saratoga Rd. (Route 9) in Wilton. The concert, from 4-6 p.m., will be followed by an open one-hour jam session. Space is limited, so call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548 for reservations.

Steve Lambert, born and raised in Schenectady, has been playing trumpet professionally in the Capital Region for over 15 years. Early in his career, he performed with and learned from some of the best musicians in the area, including Nick Brignola, Mike Canonico, Rennie Crain, Mike Wicks, George Muscatello, and Brian Patneaude. Steve moved to New York in 1999 to pursue a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Columbia University, after which he worked in the office of Second Floor Music for two years as assistant to world-renowned jazz trumpet player/arranger/producer Don Sickler. While on staff at Second Floor, he interacted with such legends as Jim Hall, Renee Rosnes, Charli Persip, Ray Bryant and Rudy Van Gelder, and worked on many SFM publications including "The Thelonious Monk Fake Book," "Sing Jazz!" and Charli Persip's "How Not to Play Drums." Steve also freelanced around Manhattan, working at such jazz clubs as Kavehaz, Louis, and The Garage, and honed his chops while frequenting many jazz jams around the city including those at Smoke, The Lenox Lounge, Smalls, and Cleopatra's Needle. He returned to the Capital Region in 2003.

Born in Albany, saxophonist **Adam Siegel** began his music career in high school. He graduated from The University of the Arts, where he was instructed by Philadelphia-based tenor saxophonists Ben Schachter and Chris Farr. Adam has shared the stage with such greats as Dick Oatts, Jon Gordon, Joe Magnarelli, Grant Stewart, Jeff Coffin and many more. Adam is currently a member of the band Sketches of Influence, led by composer/drummer Joe Barna. As a bandleader, Adam has opened for the Sun Ra Arkestra.

Bassist **Bobby Kendall** obtained a bachelor's

degree in music at Skidmore College and studied under Rich Syracuse. Later, he earned a master's degree in jazz studies at the Purchase College Graduate Program. While at Purchase, he studied double bass with Todd Coolman and Doug Weiss. In the jazz idiom, Bobby has been fortunate enough to share the stage with greats such as Jimmy Cobb, Louis Hayes, Ray Anderson, Mark Vinci, Ralph LaLama, Cyrille-Aimee, Matt Simons, Giacomo Smith, Glen Zaleski, Spike Wilner, Keith Pray, Elizabeth Woodbury-Kasius, Zorkie Nelson, George Muscatello, Bob Halek, Brian Mellick, and Jon Greene.

A Troy native, guitarist **George Muscatello** studied at Schenectady County Community College and the Manhattan School of Music. While at Manhattan, he honed his skills with Wayne Krantz and Rodney Jones while immersing himself in the music of modern classical composers such as Bela Bartok and Leo Brouwer. Well-known in the Capital Region music scene, Muscatello is a member of the Brian Patneaude Quartet and has performed with Nick Brignola, Dave Calarco, and Mike Bisio, among others. His longstanding weekly jazz series at Savannah's, the Lionheart Café, and QE2 have further made him a mainstay in the region. A respected lecturer, Muscatello has been teaching at Skidmore College since 2007.

Teacher and percussionist **Bob Halek** is a native of upstate New York. As a musician, his versatility keeps him very active, recording and performing with artists from many different disciplines: Big Band, Jazz, Latin, Funk, Country, Classical and R&B. He has performed on the Food Network and at the Newport Jazz Festival, as well as concerts, festivals and clubs throughout the Northeast. His current schedule includes performances with The Empire Jazz Orchestra, Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble, The Capitol Region Wind Ensemble, City Rhythm and various club bands. Halek was named the 2012 district-wide teacher of the year in the East Greenbush School District, where he teaches instrumental music. He also has appeared as a clinician and guest conductor for various concert bands, jazz bands and percussion ensembles.

SWINGTIME

Jazz Society

swingtimejazz.org



Proudly Presents

The Steve Lambert Quintet

with Adam Siegel (sax), Bobby Kendall (bass),
George Muscatello (guitar) and Bob Halek (drums)



Sunday, March 9, 2014, 4-6 p.m.

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



The Wishing Well Restaurant
745 Saratoga Rd. (Route 9)
Wilton, NY

Pub menu and beverages available for purchase

\$15/person (\$5 for students)

*Seating is limited. To make a reservation,
call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548*

Cats and Jammers



The Swingtime Jazz Society jam session in January, at Provence in Guilderland, resembled a Sea of Reeds. **David Bullard** (also a fine flutist), **Lew Petteys**, **Frank Loscavo**, **Brian Madden** and **Vito Davi**. Drummers were **Tim Coakley** and **Eric Binder**; pianist, the inimitable **Peg Delaney**; bassist, **Bill Delaney**; trombonist, **Jack Speraw**; guitarist, **Dave Lawrence** (father of featured bassist Mike Lawrence); trumpeter, **Jack Rosenbach**; vocalists **Paula McNulty**, **Eliza Lopez** and **Patti Melita**. It was one of the liveliest sessions we've ever had, and probably the biggest except when half The College of Saint Rose jazz orchestra sat in.



Eileen Ivers hot-fiddle Christmas at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall was a whirlwind of rousing Irish music. The violinist's vitality, energy and personality have no peer. She was simply marvelous. Talk about a hot fiddle. Three of her four sidemen were excellent musicians, especially the bassist, accordionist and the guitarist, all of whom had many hot riffs. That leaves us with Tommy McDonald, dressed in dungarees and a lumberjack shirt, who screamed through "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" which could have been done more appropriately by the chorale composed of Schenectady songsters. Unfortunately, the choir was reduced to back-up, like the Raelettes or Dawn, on all three of its numbers. I found McDonald quite obnoxious, but many found him entertaining.

Four comely young Irish dancers from the **Boland School** added color to the spectacle. Eileen is a founding member of Cherish the Ladies and an original Riverdance star who has won rave reviews all over the world. Put her on your must-see list.

Down Memory Lane with Bob Hope

This photo was taken in March 1955 at Depot Theater, San Diego Marine Base. In front center is Ned Spain, then a Marine PFC, now the organist on Goldie the giant Wurlitzer at Proctor's Theatre. Ned played organ before movies and thus had backstage access. Here he took his buddies to meet Bob Hope and Jerry Colonna (standing behind Ned) who were there for their weekly broadcast which also featured Vera Vague (nee Barbara Jo Allen).

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

Drum Battle at The Egg Feb. 1

Michael Benedict & Bopitude present a "Drum Battle at The Egg" at 7:30 Feb. 1 at Empire State Plaza in Albany.

Drummers will be **Michael Benedict, Pete Sweeney, Mark Foster, Bob Halek** and percussionist **Brian Melick**. The event is modeled after Gretsch Drum Nights at Birdland in the 1950s and '60s, like the one featuring Art Blakey, Philly Joe Jones, Charli Persip and Elvin Jones.

Bopitude includes Chris Pasin, trumpet; Brian Pateneau, saxophone; David Gleason, piano, and Mike Lawrence, bass.

Admission is \$20.

Michael studied percussion at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and later earned a master's degree in jazz studies from Rutgers University. Michael has performed with Gary Smulyan, Ralph Lalama, Bruce Barth, Steve Nelson, Renée Fleming, Marian McPartland, Frank Foster, Milt Hinton, J.R. Monterose and Nick Brignola. He was a member of the Planet Arts Trio, the Spike Jones Orchestra and the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra. He has toured the United States extensively and has performed in Europe and Africa. His most recent album, "Five and One," was listed as one of the top jazz albums of 2013 by Downbeat magazine.

Pete is a drummer, author, and educator. He has performed with Pat Metheny, Larry Coryell, Lee Ritenour, John Abercrombie, Robben Ford, Andy Summers, Ronnie Earl, Duke Robillard, Ed Mann (Frank Zappa), and Frank Gambale. He has written 20 instructional books for the Alfred publishing company.

Pete currently teaches at the Berkshire Music School, Bard College at Simon's Rock, Troy Music Academy and Union College. The Troy drummer is a member of the Latin jazz group Sensemaya.

Mark is a graduate of the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester. He is a long-time member of the Albany Symphony Orchestra. Mark is also a member of the Empire Jazz Orchestra and has accompanied major jazz artists

including Rufus Reed, Lew Soloff, David Newman and Lee Konitz. He is a member of the Percussive Arts Society, Hudson Music Teacher program and the Vic Firth Education Team. Mark has been involved in numerous freelance activities, the New York State Theatre Institute and Williamstown Theatre Festival. He is on the music faculty of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs.

Bob has been playing professionally since the age of 13. He keeps a very active schedule with many recording and performing credits in all disciplines. He has performed on the Food Network, Newport Jazz Festival, Albany's Tulip Festival, Lark Festival and A Place for Jazz. His current schedule includes performances with The Empire Jazz Orchestra, Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble, Colleen Pratt Band, The Capitol Region Wind Ensemble, City Rhythm and various club bands. Bob is on the teaching faculty at Skidmore College Summer Jazz Program and Proctors Summer Jazz Program.

Percussionist Brian is a featured recording artist on over 360 commercially released recordings highlighted by his seven solo projects. Brian teaches participatory workshops, master classes and individual lessons focusing on the world of percussion and Udu drums. He has written and produced two books and instructional DVDs. Brian performs around the US and Canada with Cathie Ryan, Kevin McKrell, Elizabeth Woodbury-Kasius & Heard, Maria Zeman-tauski, Globetrotting, Joy Adler, Bernstein Bard Quintet, Sonny & Perley, Seth & the Moodymelix, Soul Session, New York Players and Martha Gallagher. His ongoing concert series "Acoustic Doorways" highlight diverse artists and music from all over the world.



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 1, 8 and 9 for our March 9 attraction, **the Steve Lambert Quintet**.

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

Name _____

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The Index

Cats & Jammers	Page 10
Drum Battle	Page 11
Jesus Christ Superstar	Page 5
Looking Forward	Page 4
Night Owl	Page 2
Ron Partch	Page 3
Snapshots	Pages 6, 7
Steve Lambert	Pages 1, 8, 9
Swingtime Jazz Society	Pages 8, 9, 12
Swingtime Subscription Form	Page 3