

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Swingtime Presents the Union College Jazz Ensemble

On Sunday, March 8, the Swingtime Jazz Society will present the Union College Jazz Ensemble. The concert is from 4-6 p.m. and will be followed by an open, one-hour jam session. It will be at Panza's Restaurant on Saratoga Lake. Details are on Page 9. (Don't forget to turn your clock ahead so you're not late.)

The **Union College Jazz Ensemble** is made up of Union College students as well as members of the Capital District music community and performs in a variety of situations throughout New York and New England. The Jazz Ensemble's repertoire is drawn from the entire literature of jazz—from ragtime and early New Orleans style to bebop, funk, and fusion—and often features original compositions and arrangements. The ensemble regularly brings in guests who perform with the students and also give workshops in jazz styles and improvisation.

Composer, pianist, and trumpeter **Tim Olsen** joined the Union faculty in 1994 and is currently associate professor of music. Olsen is also director of music at St. George's Episcopal Church in Clifton Park. Olsen leads his own group and recently released "Creature of Habit", an album of original compositions performed by the Tim Olsen Band, on the Planet Arts label. See review on Page 8.



Tim Olsen is the leader of the Jazz Ensemble.

In Memoriam

This issue is respectfully dedicated to **David Bournazian**, long-time head of the music department at Mohonasen school district, who passed away in January. He was a master educator, a master of reed instruments and a friend of the myriad musicians with whom he worked. He was leader of the Big Band of the Northeast in its heyday. He will not be forgotten.

The Night Owl



Fred Randall's Book *Is a Joy to Read*

KEEPING TIME: The Life and Loves of Drummer Fred Randall. By Fred Randall with Angela Cave. The Troy Book Makers. 2014. 168 pp. \$16.99. At most area bookstores.

This is foremost the story of a lifetime maturing in the music business, from his youth in Schenectady and Glens Falls, through the Army with the Big Red One in WWII and success on many professional levels.

It is a happy story, immensely readable and of special historic interest to those who remember the gone-forever years when there was a live band on every corner.

There are many appearances of the famous - gigs with Bunny Berigan, Kate Smith and Bob Hope - and a horrible domestic tragedy. We hear of his local celebrity musicians like Lew Petteys, Helen Pratt, Bobby Pratt, Norm Pratt (Colleen's family and cousins of Fred). Some of the photos are by the author,

who is also a professional photographer.

Fred received an ovation when he was introduced at the most recent Swingtime Jazz Society concert in Schenectady, where he's been residing several decades. He's still drumming. He'll be 100 on Jan. 1, 2016. (See photo, Page 11.)

Half-notes

Methinks I discovered an unidentified **Mel Tormé** playing drums with Benny Goodman and Teddy Wilson on Page 155 of Fred Randall's new book.

The original piece I liked best at the **Mark Kleinhaut** concert was "Three Measures from the End," based on the Jazztet's "Blues March." It was a wow.

A very nice feature on **Bob Cudmore's** retirement by **Paul Grondahl** in the *Times Union*.

The **Café Lafayette Train** in Lincoln, N. H., is well worth the trip. You are seated at a luxurious table and fed and served with the elegance of the classic railroad dining car. White

linens, sterling silver and superb fare.

Jammin' January

'Twas a jumpin' January jam session at the most recent Swingtime event at Stockade Inn. Pianist **Peg Delaney** and drummer (and event chairman) **Tim Coakley** led the sitters-in: vocalist **Patti Melita** was in fine form, as were regular guest artists Jack Speraw on 'bone, **Bill Delaney** on bass and **Steve Horowitz** on trumpet. **Alex Slomka** offered some trombone licks.

Paula McNulty sang a dynamite rendition of "Summertime" accompanied by noted organist Ned Spain on the 88.

Jeanne O'Connor climaxed the session with another stunning vocal, "Lullaby of Birdland." See photos on the featured band and jammers on Pages 10 and 11.

Straight ahead, little friend. —CRB

Scots Society Hears Famed Soloist

Two past presidents of the St. Andrews Society of Albany heard a most extraordinary singer opening the military tattoo in New York City with the West Point Hellcats. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get her for our St. Andrew's Nicht dinner, mused one. "No way!" snapped the other.

But the wonderful happened. **Lesley Craigie** said she would be honored to sing for the lads and lassies at the annual formal banquet at the Fort Orange Club.

Born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, acclaimed soprano Lesley Craigie was introduced to Scots Song at a young age by Cecilia Cavaye at George Watson's College and she subsequently won the Burns Club of Edinburgh's Scots Song competition at age 12. This led to her passion for singing and she continued to earn degrees in classical voice and opera from The Royal College of Music in London and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where she was a scholarship holder. She has won numerous competitions, both in Scots Song and classical singing, including the Linn Choir Prize at the National Scots Singing Competition and The Incorporated Society of Musicians. She has held scholarships from The St. Andrews Society of Washington DC, Sir James Caird Travelling Scholarship and an Ian McGlashan Scholarship, amongst others.

She has sung solo with the Scottish National Orchestra on several occasions, including New Year's concerts at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow and a CD recording of Samuel Butler's "A Hand of Bridge."

Ms. Craigie moved to the USA in 2003 to further pursue her career in opera and has sung with the Baltimore Opera Company, Washing-



Photo by Lisa S. Nieradka

Lesley Craigie and C. Robie Booth

ton Concert Opera, New Jersey Opera, Mercury Opera and the Center for Contemporary Opera. Roles performed include Nedda (I Pagliacci), Tosca, Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni), Violetta (La Traviatta) and Lauretta (Gianni Schicchi).

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

If They Asked Me, I Could Not Write a Book

By C. ROBIE BOOTH

A dear friend said recently that I should write a book about all the famous people I had interviewed over 66 years as a journalist. I can't write a book (I already have two unpublished novels), but I will take her advice and introduce you to those who were kind enough to give me a few minutes of their time.

Stan Kenton, Count Basie (twice), Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, Maxine Sullivan, Gene Krupa, Anita O'Day, Chris Connors, Mel Tormé, Johnny Cash, Johnny Mathis, Wild Bill Davison, Vikki Carr, Frankie Laine, Kelly Garrett, Jo Jones.

Leopold Stokowski, Eugene Ormandy, Erich Leinsdorf, Arthur Fiedler, Christopher Keene, José Serebrier, Jan Peerce, Mary Costa, Phyllis Curtin, Dorothy Shea, Angela Lansbury, Rudy Vallée, Al Gallodoro, Slam Stewart.

Louis Armstrong (twice), Liza Minnelli, Burt Reynolds, William Holden, Susan Sarandon, Stanley Dance, Roger (Ram) Ramirez (many times; a true friend), Gerry Byrd, Gene Rodgers, Erskine Hawkins, Tiny Bradshaw, Tommy Dorsey, Charlie Barnet, Tex Beneke, Teddy Wilson, Groove Holmes (many times, a friend).

Buddy Morrow, Ralph Flanagan, Ray McKinley, Jonah Jones, George Wetling, Sonny Rollins, Bobby Jaspar, Ray Eberle, Dave McKenna, Red Norvo, Ronnie Zito, Torrie Zito, Clyde McCoy, Dorothy Donegan, Lynn Roberts, Bobby Breen.

Dinah Washington, Ella Fitzgerald, Patti Page, Rocky Cole, Jerry Vale, Joe Williams, Johnny Hartman, Jackie Paris, Jerome Richardson, Johnny Hodges, Joe Rische, Warren Covington, Clark Terry, Nick Brignola, Henry Mancini, Carmen McRae, Susannah McCorkle, Mabel Mercer, Jack Rubinstein, Van Cliburn, Marcia Mason, Neil Simon, Cubby Broccoli, Roger Moore, Marty Feldman, Virgil Fox, Fred Robbins (Robbins Nest).

Aldous Huxley, Robert F. Kennedy, Saul Bellow, Susan Sontag, Sen. Kenneth Keating, Sen. Daniel Moynihan, Robert Strauss, Brent Musberger, Gov. Averell Harriman, Carl Yastrzemski, Bob Feller, Mike Tyson, Johnny Podres, Sam Huff, Jack Dempsey, Robin Roberts, Steve Lawrence, Eydie Gormé.

By telephone: Milt Bernhardt, Connie Haines, Tommy Makem, Roger Thorpe, Sammy Kaye, Mary Hart, Jerry Rubinstein.

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

My first big interview was with **Barbara Ruick,**

a starlet here in 1953. She barely made her mark in movies, when she answered her first calling: Broadway.

She went on to become a leading actress, a splendid singer, won Tonies, and made, with her co-star Jack Cassidy, one of the best show recordings ever: "Oh Kay" for Columbia Classics.



Toe Chuck
Sincerely
Barbara Ruick



Photos courtesy of Herb George

Down Memory Lane



The Young Vito Mamone Trio

In the early 1960s Dale Foster dissolved his quartet to form a larger ensemble. The remaining three formed what was to become one of the most sought-after combos of its era. From left: Stan Marsden, vibes and drums; Vito Mamone, accordion; Sid Norman, bass. All were vocalists, solo and ensemble.

Playing on Dove Street in Albany, 1961

This quartet (left) played at the Dove Street Restaurant in 1961. From left: Herbert George, bass; Mike Balch, drums; John McLean, piano; Bob Seider of Las Vegas, saxophone.



LOOKING FORWARD

New Barna Group Debuts

Here's the new line-up for **Joe Barna's** group, Sketches of Influence: **Stacy Dillard** (saxophones), **Victor Gould** (grand piano), **Ryan Berg** (acoustic bass), and Joe (drums/composer/leader). He's looking forward to their gig on Feb. 24 at the Sanctuary for Independent Media (3361 6th Ave, Troy) at 7:30 p.m. Says Joe, "This show will also act as a benefit for the Sanctuary as a means to raise funds to continue their tremendous effort of bringing the arts to the Capital Region as well as my own hometown. I could not be more excited and proud to finally bring this music to Lansingburgh, where I grew up and graduated high school."

The Bridge Jazz Festival has six groups playing in two venues on two days. On Feb. 27, Heard (7:30 p.m.), Anat Cohen Quartet (8:30) and the Marcus Roberts Trio (9:30) will be at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. On Feb. 28, Gretchen Parlato/Alan Hampton Duo (6:30 p.m.), Cécile McLorin Salvant (7:30) and the Fred Hirsch Trio (8:45) will be at Massry Center for the Performing Arts at St. Rose. You can get tickets for both concerts or just Friday at the Music Hall (273-0038); tickets for Saturday only are available at Massry (337-4871).

Georgie Wonders Orchestra would have played a Valentine's Dance on Saturday at the House of Angels, 1175 Park Avenue on Van Schaick Island in Cohoes, but the weather forced a last-minute cancellation. The new venue has a large hardwood dance floor.

We understand our old friend **Paulina** would have sung solo and with the delightful vocal group the **Georgettes**.

Ned Spain Salutes Lee Shaw

Ned Spain, the noted organist, is also a prolific limerick writer. Here's his tribute to Lee:

*When Lee plays she really kicks butt
Her music comes straight from her gut
And what's best of all
She's having a ball
She enjoys herself no matter what.*

We understand Lee is doing well at St. Peter's Rehab Center after suffering a stroke and pneumonia. Our prayers are with this peerless pianist.

*Tim Olsen Band
Issues New CD*

TIM OLSEN BAND. Creature of Habit. Planet-Arts.org, iTunes, and CDbaby.com.

This is Tim's debut album and it's a honey. Nine original tunes by Olsen with seven of Upstate's best players. It opens with "Barely Blues" with great bass by **Lou Smaldone** and drumming by **Rick Rosoff**. On "I'm Tired," Rick shines on trombone and **Eric Walentowicz** on alto. My favorite is "Lock 17," called "just a fun bop tune" by Tim, but to me a reminder of the ultra-rhythmic, forceful work of the great bop combos. And it sure is fun!

Other fine solo work comes from **Pete Toigo** on bass, **Dylan Canterbury** on trumpet (the title song), **Pete Sweeney** on drums and throughout, of course, Olsen on piano.

He specially thanks fellow Union College professor, the renowned composer **Hilary Tann**, for her guidance.

SWINGTIME

Jazz Society

swingtimejazz.org



Proudly Presents

Tim Olsen and the Union College Jazz Ensemble



Sunday, March 8, 2015 4-6 p.m.

Followed by a one-hour open jam session



Panza's Restaurant
510 New York 9P
Saratoga Lake

Pub menu and beverages available for purchase
Open to the public - \$15/person (\$5 for students)

Swingtime Snapshots *from Swingtime's January* Concert at the Stockade Inn



Featured performers, L-R: Mark Kleinhaut, John Menegon, Bob Halek, Chris Pasin.



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Pete Toigo and Jeanne O'Connor at the jam session



Paula McNulty's "Summertime" opened the jam session.



Peg Delaney,
Jack Speraw,
Steve Horowitz
and Pete Toigo



99-year-old drummer Freddie Randall flogged his memoir, *Keeping Time*.

Scott Bassinson



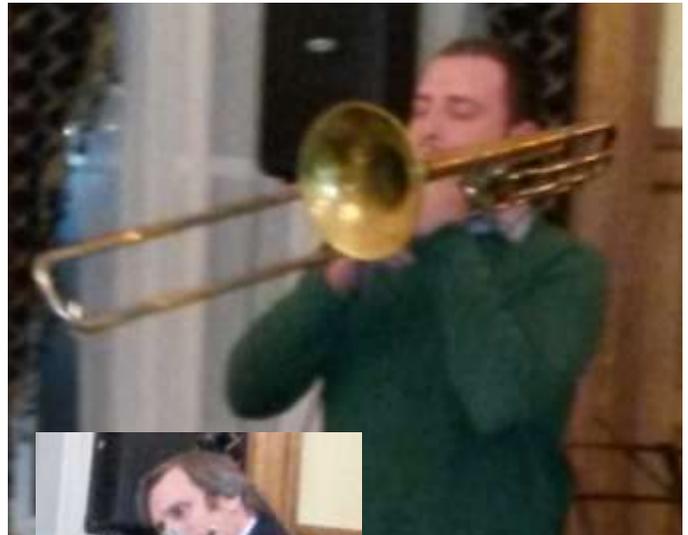
Patti Melita

Alex Slomka



Bill Delaney and Tim Coakley

*Photos by
Jerry Gordon*



Dave Bullard

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 68. 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 to join.

See Pages 1 and 9 for our March 8 attraction, **Tim Olsen and the Union College Jazz Ensemble**.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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