

# Swingtime

*The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!*

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## **Teresa Broadwell Sextet to Swing for Swingtime on January 13**



**Clockwise from Teresa: Leo Russo, Cliff Brucker, Mike Lamkin, Pete Toigo, Mike Novakowski. See pages 6 and 7 for details.**

# The Night Owl



By C. ROBIE BOOTH

*I'm not sure how long this old owl can continue to produce Swingtime magazine. It seems like a good time to thank our old friend Jerry Gordon. He has been the power behind the throne for the last eight years and has earned my undying thanks. Likewise our stalwart proofreaders, who have corrected many of my mistakes over those years, Tim Coakley and Patti Melita. All of them are fine musicians and members of Swingtime Jazz Society's executive committee.*

## Twice Told Tales

### Margaret Kennedy

**Robie** was personnel director of Parker Appliance, a war plant in Euclid, Ohio, in 1943. One day she was directed to escort a lovely lady around the plant, introduce her to the workers, and maybe sell a few war bonds. My mother always said she was the classiest woman she ever met: Greer Garson. (She holds the record for consecutive years nominated for an Academy Award: seven.)

On one of her rare nights out – she was a widowed mother rearing a fifth grader -- she visited a Cleveland night club (I believe it was The Alpine Village) and heard an unknown singer who happened to be one of her co-workers in the war plant. He was Frankie Laine.

Years later, as arts editor of the late lamented *Knickerbocker News*, I had lunch with the now famous singer. He had married the actress Nan Gray after making a small name as a marathon dancer. He was impressed that I knew his earlier arranger, Carl Fisher, and that he (Laine) had been a jazz singer. (Listen to his record of "Stars Fell on Alabama" with the Buck Clayton All-Stars, *Jazz Spectacular*, Columbia.) He had made his fame with Western songs, "Mule Train" and "Ghost Riders in the Sky," but had debuted with the jazz-inflected "That's My Desire." He was one of

the nicest cats I met during a career spanning 70 years so far (from 15 to 85).

George Shearing was once asked if he had been blind all his life. His reply: "Not yet."

**Straight ahead, little friend.**



# Cats and Fammers



## *Beginning of the Big Bands*

We've often contended Art Hickman had the first big band. That was in 1913.

Earl Dabney and Wilbur Sweatman had West Coast bands in 1911, but they were not organized, travelling dance bands. Paul Specht, a huge attraction at the Kenmore Hotel ballroom in Albany, began in 1916, as did King Oliver and Ted Lewis.

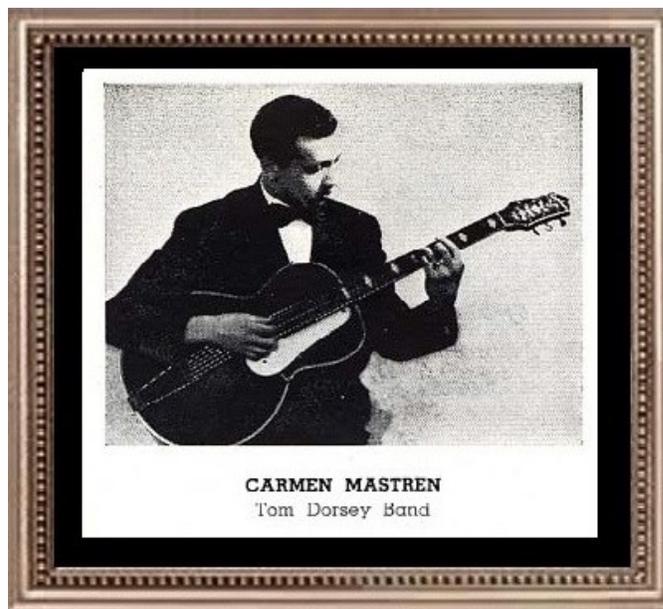
Jan Garber, Meyer Davis, Paul Whiteman and George Olsen were in business by 1918.

The 1920s bore the beginnings of the great swing bands. Ben Pollack and Whiteman were breeding grounds for Jimmy Dorsey, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Gene Krupa, Glen Gray and a host of others.

The first **really** big **jazz** band was the 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment band conducted by James Reese Europe during World War I. Leonard Feather, whose *Encyclopedia of Jazz* is a constant reference of ours, claims that leader Europe "had no direct relationship to jazz."

Local musicians brightened the big bands. Helen Pratt, mother of singer Colleen and pianist Noreen, headlined with Tommy Reynolds. Rennie Crain played piano and arranged for Glen Gray and Bob Chester. Al Quaglieri played trumpet and arranged for Chester. Mickey Folus played saxophone for Woody Herman, Artie Shaw and Claude Thornhill.

The Mastren Brothers of Cohoes really made their mark. Al played trombone



**Rennie Crain (photo by C. Robie Booth)**

with Glenn Miller (he's on 41 recordings), Red Norvo and Woody Herman.

Carmen Mastren won three *Metronome* magazine guitarist of the year awards in the 1940s when he was with Jimmy Dorsey. He also played with Woody Herman, Wingy Manone-Joe Marsala Band, Mel Powell and other top-flight groups.

**--C. ROBIE BOOTH**

# Swingtime Snapshots

Photos by Jerry Gordon



At Swingtime's October concert at the Wishing Well in Wilton, the jam session included Howard Lester, Scott Bassinson and Tim Coakley accompanying a bevy of singers: Maggie MacDougall, Jeanne O'Connor and Patti Melita



**Louis Armstrong's first cornet  
Champion Silver Piston  
Lyons and Healy, Chicago, ca. 1913  
Gift of the New Orleans Jazz Club  
Louisiana State Museum 1978.**

**Armstrong played this cornet as an adolescent at the Colored Waif's Home. In 1962, Manuella Jones, widow of the home's superintendent, donated the horn to the New Orleans Jazz Club's museum. During Armstrong's 1965 visit, he identified the cornet by the grooves he had cut into the mouthpiece.**



Anna Ray and Ned Spain watch C. Robie Booth blowin' up a storm to celebrate his 85th this past September at Swifty's.



Veronica Swift backed by the Berkshires Jazz All-star Trio. And all-stars they are: Benny Kohn, piano; Mary Ann McSweeney, bass; Conor Meehan, drums.

# Teresa Broadwell Band on Jan. 13

Vocalist and jazz violinist **Teresa Broadwell** is formally trained, holding a bachelor's in music from the Crane School of Music, and a master's in jazz studies from the College of St. Rose. Her vocal influences include: Lambert, Hendricks and Ross; Eddie Jefferson; King Pleasure; Sarah Vaughan; Betty Carter; Ella Fitzgerald; and Anita O'Day. On fiddle, she draws from Stuff Smith, Joe Venuti, Matt Glaser and Stephan Grappelli.

She has recently released a recording, "Just We," with her jazz group on CD and online that features music inspired by Nat King Cole. Cole's repertoire included many of the most popular standards of his day, but Broadwell and her group have focused on Cole's jazz repertoire with some of his rarely heard songs.

Other recordings include: "Sunny Side of the Street" with the New Moon Swing Band (a group that performed on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show) and "Everything's Jake," featuring her swing band Thrivin' on A Riff.

Broadwell moved to the Capital Region in the early '80s, where she formed her own groups, performing at concerts, festivals, radio and television shows and jazz clubs in the greater northeast. Teresa's groups have performed with and/or opened concerts for musical luminaries such as Stan Getz, Jon Hendricks, Marc O'Connor, Asleep at the Wheel, Leon Redbone and baritone sax great Nick Brignola. Broadwell has performed at musical hotspots including Jazzmania in New York City, the Cellar Door in Washington DC, Ryles in Cambridge MA, Sandy's Jazz Revival Bar in Beverly MA, the Van Dyck in Schenectady and Red Creek in Rochester, NY.

Guitarist **Mike Novakowski** plays in the post-bebop jazz style made popular by Wes Montgomery, Pat Martino and Jim Hall. Mike provides tasteful support for the group's improvisations and adds his own warm and swinging solos to the powerful front line. He has performed regularly in the capital region with many groups, including Cliff Brucker's Full Circle, the Jon Leroy Trio and the We B3 organ trio. As the guitarist with the Empire Jazz Orchestra, a 19-piece big band, he has backed many jazz luminaries including Rufus Reid, Randy Brecker, Ray Vega, Lee Konitz and John Fedchock.

**Leo Russo**, local jazz saxophone master, has been a mainstay and inspiration of the capital district jazz scene for many decades. With his buttery tone and formidable improvisational mastery, he captivates listeners and makes each song a unique treasure. In his long career, he has performed with

Paul Whiteman, Major Bowes, Woody Herman, Bobby Sherwood and many other top names. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music and, in addition to his performing, has taught instrumental music in public schools and at the college level.

**Pete Toigo**, a versatile and masterful bassist, propels Teresa's groups with a relentlessly swinging energy. His bass lines are the rhythmic and harmonic foundation for the ensembles and his bowed (arco) solos delight audiences wherever he performs. He has played and/or toured with NRBQ, The Lustre Kings, Jay Unger and Molly Mason, and contributed his bass playing to many artists' recordings.

Jazz pianist and organist **Michael Lamkin** is from the Boston area via Miami, where he attended Miami Dade College and studied with the late pianist Wally Cirillo of Red Norvo and Joe Diorio fame. He also led a number of trios and quintets. In Miami he has performed with multi-horn man Ira Sullivan and altoist Jay Corre of the Buddy Rich band. He relocated to Los Angeles for various studio sessions before returning to the northeast. Michael has performed extensively throughout the northeast region. Groups he has performed with, among others, are his jazz organ trio We B3, the Latin jazz group Caribe Mambo, Groove Nouveau, One-Eyed Cat, saxophonist Charles Neville and swing band Nitro Jive.

Drummer **Cliff Brucker** is an incredibly versatile musician who, in addition to being a world-class drummer-percussionist, is a pianist, keyboardist, composer, producer, arranger and educator. Cliff has a bachelor's in music from The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and a master's in music from The College of Saint Rose in Albany and has taught extensively on the college level. He's been performing as a professional musician for over 40 years and has worked with some of the finest talent in the capital district, including the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Capital Region Wind Ensemble and the Empire Jazz Orchestra. He has also performed with a variety of internationally known jazz and pop artists including Aretha Franklin, Buddy Greco, Rex Richardson, Bob Mintzer and Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack. His latest project, Full Circle, (featuring Leo Russo and Mike Novakowski) recently released their second CD entitled "Cliff Brucker & Full Circle Vol. 2." Both recordings have been getting much national attention and airplay, most notably on PRI's Jazz After Hours with Jeff Hanley.



*Proudly Presents*

## **Teresa Broadwell Band**



**Sunday, January 13, 2019, 4-7 p.m.**

**Including an open jam session**



**Stockade Inn  
1 N. Church St.  
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](mailto:rosenthalralph@verizon.net)**

# Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 92. 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, 6 & 7 for our Jan. 13 attraction, **Teresa Broadwell Band**.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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