

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

Volume 22, Number 1 Published by C. Robie Booth, Ltd.

Spring 2011



Dynamic Duo a Pair of Aces

Keyboard artist/arranger **Sonny Daye** and **Perley Rousseau**, aka **Sonny & Perley**, light up the April scene with several Capital District gigs. They're shining in Florida for the month of March. See story and schedule on Pages 4 and 9.

Empire State Youth Orchestra Jazz Ensemble Stars
for SJS March 13. Story, photo, centerfold.

The Night Owl



Ye Neue Puzzlers

This is a two-parter. Get both and get two lifetime subscriptions to **Swingtime**. You can designate a second subscriber or get two copies each quarter. Answer the first and much easier puzzle only, and get one lifetime subscription.

Who was the handsome bandleader and radio comedian who married one of the most popular actresses of his day? His sidemen included Nappy Lamere and Nick Fatool; vocalists, Judy Janis and Ruth Robin. He was one of the most popular in his field, with many national broadcasts and best-selling records. His closing theme song was "Rose Room." No clues on his associates; it would make this too easy.

Our second mystery guest formed his band in 1951 after working as trumpeter and arranger with Charlie Barnet, Charlie Spivak, Woody Herman and Charlie Ventura. His wife was a famed singer. After two years of leading a band, he scored shows for Kate Smith and Arthur Godfrey before composing many major songs including Count Basie standards.

Ye Olde Puzzler

The question was which bandleader-saxophonist had a Glenn Miller sound and was a breeding ground for talented newcomers including Capital District musicians Al Quaglieri, Al Mastren and Rennie Crain. Others were John La Porta, Bill Harris and Herbie Steward.

Our three winners who said **Bob Chester** won't cost the Owl anything this time because all are previous lifetime subscriber winners: **Bob Baldes**, **Chris Martin** and **Ray Lamere**.

Swing, Swing, Dance, Dance

Nostalgia hangs huge and swinging sounds of yesteryear, plus new offerings, have their day when the **Georgie Wonders Orchestra** takes the stage.

The big band plays a benefit dance for St. Mary's Academy of Glens Falls March 19 at the always fashionable Queensbury Hotel in downtown Glens Falls. Music begins at 7 p.m.

Half Notes

As one long involved in creative arts at Siena College, it is heartwarming to witness the recent bonding with Cohoes Music Hall. **Tony Rivera** of C-R Productions directed Siena's Stage 3 mystery "The Mousetrap" and Siena Graduate **Paul Mayer** is the master carpenter and assistant TD (technical director) at CMH. At Siena he directed and designed. Cohoes will stage "Cabaret" April 7--17 and "Crazy for You" May 12--22.

Australian **Joan Sutherland**, "voice of the century" (so said Pavarotti) and "the greatest coloratura of all time" (saith Marilyn Horne), has died at age 83 in her home in Switzerland.

Susannah York, a wonderful English lady ("The Maids," "The Killing of Sister George," "Tom Jones") who won the Cannes Film Festival best actress award in 1972, died at 72 in London.

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Peg's Circle a Beacon of Success

It's always a pleasure to see truly worthy talent, taste and tenacity rewarded.

Subject in point is the nucleus of musicality named **Peg Delaney, Jeanne O'Connor, Bill Delaney, Colleen Pratt, Jody Shayne** and their troupe of artists. It is indeed heartening to see this resurgence of jazz in our region. Look at this schedule:

March 3, Peg, solo, Provence at Stuyvesant Plaza, Guilderland, 7 p.m.; March 4, Peg, vocalist **Jody Shayne** and bassist **Russ Brooks**, Provence, 7 p.m.; 5th, Peg and vocalist Jeanne O'Connor at Panza's on Route 9P, Saratoga Lake, 7:30 p.m.; 12, Peg, Jeanne and Bill Delaney on bass, Panza's, 7:30 p.m.;

17, Stockade Inn, Schenectady, Peg Delaney Trio with drummer-vocalist Earl Davis and Bill Delaney, St. Patrick's Day party at Stockade Inn, 7 p.m.; 19, same trio, Provence, 7 p.m.; 23, Peg with singer **Patti Melita** and bassist **Linda Brown**, Bethlehem Town Library, Delmar, 6 p.m.; 24, Peg, Bill and Jeanne, Lanie's, Albany-Shaker Rd at Osborne, Loudonville, 5:30 p.m.; 26, Peg, Bill and vocalist **Colleen Pratt**, Panza's, 7:30 p.m.; 31, Peg and Bill Duo, The Point, 1100 Madison Avenue, Albany, 6:30 p.m.;

April 2, Peg, Bill and owner-vocalist **Michael Panza**, a long-time friend of good music, Panza's, 7:30 p.m.; 9, Peg, Jeanne and bassist **Pete Toigo**, Panza's, 7:30 p.m.; 14, Peg and Bill, The Point, 6:30 p.m.; 16, Peg, Bill and Colleen,



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Jody Shayne

Panza's, 7:30; 17, Palm Sunday Jazz Vespers with Peg, Bill, and drummer **Tom D'Andrea**, First Reformed Church, Schenectady, 5 p.m. (this is a wonderful program that deserves our support).

Lanie's in Loudonville is commended for booking jazz on many Thursday nights. It would be encouraging if more of the jazz audience boosted the already warm reception good music is getting at this popular restaurant with one of the liveliest bars in town. Kudos also to The Ruddys, a good rock-pop-folk duo (sometimes trio) and a Lanie's favorite, for recommending a touch of jazz to the genial owner.

All-Stars Set for June 12 Concert

They are billed as the **Ultimate All-Stars** and they'll head the bill for Swingtime Jazz Society on June 12 at Appletini's in West Albany.

Stars will be the world-class pianist **Lee Shaw**; **Mike Canonico** on trumpet, **Ken Olsen** on trombone, **Lew Petteys** on woodwind instruments, **Bill Delaney** on bass and **Pete Sweeney** on drums. All are top players on the jazz scene.

The concert is from 4 to 6 p.m. with open jam session from 6 to 7. All instrumentalists and singers are invited to sit in. Full menu or snacks are available.

The food is good, and prices are reasonable. Likewise cocktails, wine and beer. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call Doc Salvatore at 584-3548.

Appletini's is on Central Avenue at the intersection with Osborne Road. There is parking aplenty.

Event chairman is C. Robie Booth assisted by Peg Delaney who will chair the October 9 concert at a place to be announced.

Sonny & Perley Busy Bees

Sonny Daye, keyboard artist and arranger, and his wife singer Perley Rousseau (see cover), prove what might be called our theme for this issue: Jazz is back locally. (Related story, Page 3.)

They have a full month of March dates in Florida. In April, they play concerts and clubs hereabouts and as far away as New Hampshire and Great Neck. The schedule: April 3, concert, Amherst, N.H., Amherst Town Library, 4 p.m.; 8th, Grappa 72 Restaurant, 818 Central Avenue, Albany, 6-9 p.m.; 10, Newburgh Public Library, 3 p.m.; 15, concert "A Tribute to Johnny Mercer," Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, 1 p.m.; 17, concert, the Great Neck House, Great Neck,



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Mike Canonico: Time-Tested All-Star

Long Island, 3 p.m.; 20, Quintessence, Albany, 8-11 p.m.; 22, dinner and cabaret, 50 South Restaurant, 2128 Route 50, Ballston Spa, 7-9 p.m.; 29, Holiday Inn lounge, Wolf Road, Colonie, trio with bassist Lou Pappas, concert, 8-10 p.m..

Lou Pappas was a member of the Jazz Knights at West Point and performed in jazz festivals across the country, playing with Michael Brecker, Steve Turre and other stars. He has played with many orchestras (Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Oklahoma City) and conducts high-level workshops, some on the international level. He retired from the U. S. Military Academy Band in 2006. He is principal bass with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Need a tax break?

The SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY is a 501(c)(3) organization, which means that your donations are tax-deductible. If you'd like to make a contribution, please send it to

**Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer
PO Box 232
Troy, NY 12181-0232**

JANET MURPHY

Rockette Tutors Timeless Tappers

By C. ROBIE BOOTH

Janet Murphy loves dancing and loves teaching the Timeless Tappers who perform not only at many local events but have hit the big time at N.Y. State Fair and international conventions.

"My ladies know I'd do anything for them," says the former Radio City Rockette, who still has the figure and form of those fine performers of international renown. She not only teaches the Timeless Tappers, but has the Shen Showstoppers in Clifton Park, Guilderland Ballet, and continuing education classes in Colonie, Niskayuna and Schenectady.

The Timeless Tappers are centered at the Colonie Senior Service Center at Beltrone Living Center off Wolf Road in Colonie. There is no age (or sex) restriction to join. They practice in the Fran Guiliano Studio, named after their founder and benefactor.

"We're all like a family," Janet says. "I try to make my classes close to each other (in time and place) so we help each other in difficult times.

"It's a dance family. It's as much a social association as a dance group."

For the Tappers, Janet has four classes, 25 dancers on three levels, and jazz dance ("more for balance and motions") with some crossover.

Janet will direct the Miss Empire Rose/Miss Albany Pageant in March. One past winner was Elisabeth Baldan who was Miss New York in 2007 and Miss America in 2008.

On the schedule this season have been a TV Christmas show, the Victorian Stroll in Troy, a show at the Center for the Disabled and Stratton Veterans Administration Hospital.

"Sometime I'd like to get all my groups together and do a big show with the all of proceeds going to charity."

A recent highlight was dancing with an alumni group of the Rockettes at the Hotel Pierre which



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Janet Murphy

raised \$1 million for Alzheimer's research.

Even beginners are welcome to her classes. Rehearsals are at 9 a.m. every Tuesday and those interested can visit at that time, or call Beltrone and ask to talk to her.

Kathy Englehardt handles booking for events and can be reached at 438-4599 or the Timeless Tappers website, www.timelesstappers.com.

The dancers don't charge a fee, but always welcome donations for the costume fund.



Looking Forward ...

ESYO Jazz Ensemble Will Sparkle for Swingtime Jazz Society

This is the Empire State Jazz Ensemble which will play for the Swingtime Jazz Society March 13 concert and jam session at Panza's Restaurant. From left: Sam Lehrman, piano; David Vandervoort, guitar; Michael Roninson, bass; Sean Lowery (also Matt Niedbalski), drums; (back row) Adin Kovacic, Emily Bobrick, Greg Hickey, David Herbstritt, trumpets; Albert Brewer, Jonathan Bintz, Anthony DeMarte, Kate Brady, trombones; Nick Schneider, Jake Benninger, tenor saxophones; Bobby Dai, Halli Travers, alto saxes; Benjamin Van Alstyne, baritone.

The Empire State Youth Jazz Ensemble directed by Paul Evoskevich will star at the Sunday March 13 concert and jam session at Panza's Restaurant on Route 9P, Saratoga Lake.

Composed of outstanding high school jazz

musicians, the ensemble was founded in 1985 by James Corigliano and has been directed by Evoskevich since 1986. The members are chosen by audition. They rehearse at The College of Saint Rose every week in the school year.

Evoskevich is professor of saxophone and jazz studies at Saint Rose. The graduate of Hartt School and Eastman School of Music has performed with numerous orchestras and luminaries: Louis Bellson, Sarah Vaughan, Teresa Brewer, Bob Mintzer, Bill

Cunliffe, Paul Anka, Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey, Johnny Mathis, the Four Tops, the Temptations and Ben Vereen. He has extensive experience recording for television and radio jingles and is an active performer of classical repertoire and jazz.

Saxman Frank Loscavo Making Mark

Frank Loscavo is no stranger to audiences at Swingtime Jazz Society events. The saxophonist frequently sits in, and fits in, with the best players.

He has impressive credentials. Professionally, he has worked with **Nat Phipps, Cliff Brucker, Otto Gardner, John Menegon** and **Pete Toigo**. In the Syracuse area, he has worked with Mike Solazzo, bass, and Dave Solazzo, his pianist son.

Among his inspirations were some he heard at the Dinkler, a hotel known for good music (especially pianists) in Syracuse: Earl "Fatha" Hines, Teddy Wilson and Marian McPartland, with Frank's friend the drummer **George Reed** backing them. Frank sat in with them

Early influences were Blood, Sweat and Tears, alto saxophonist Arnie Lawrence, Phil Woods and Fred Lipsius.

He studied with the great Phil Woods, delving into major, minor, diminished and augmented; with saxophonists Gerry Santy and Sal Nistico; with Joe Raposo, alto, composer and arranger. He still studies and practices four hours a day.

A friend and colleague is **Frank Stagnitta**, a Syracuse pianist well known to Capital District listeners from his many dates here in the salad days of live jazz.

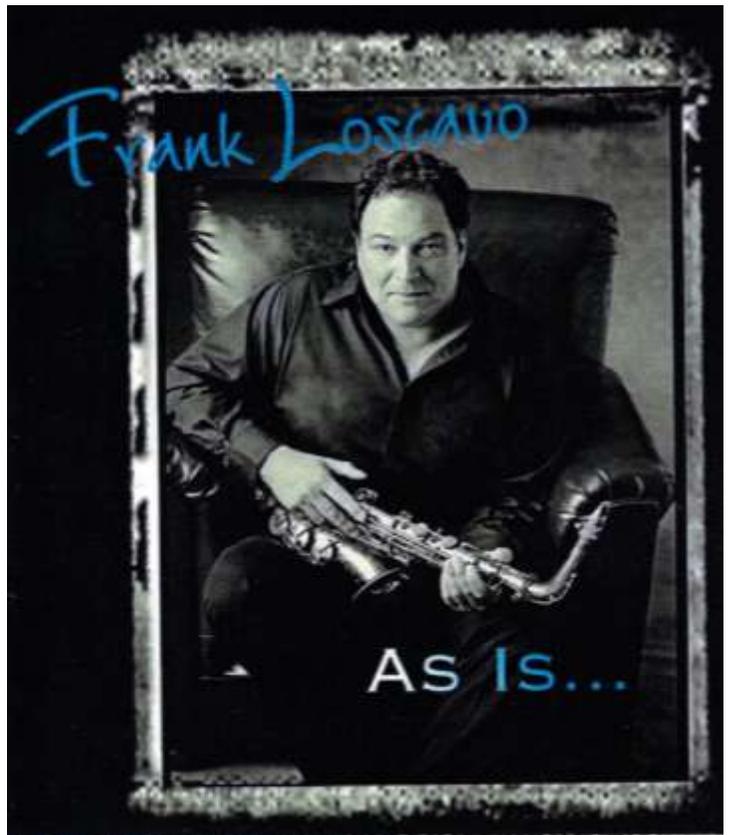
Frank swings in Loscavo's fine album "As Is," with friends Stagnitta, Reed and bassist Dave Arenius (the group Hi Fly), a fine quartet indeed. The tunes are "Diane," a Stagnitta original; "Stolen Moments," "Willow Weep for Me," "Naima" (Coltrane) and "Fungi Mama." (This is not the "Diane" by Diane Steinberg, a vastly underrated singer.)

You can pick up his album at the SJS concerts March 13 and June 12.



Photo by C. Robie

Frank Loscavo (left) jams with trumpeter George Ehrmann and singer Patti Melita at a recent Swingtime presentation.



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Cats and Jammers



Jerry Gordon, peerless leader of the **Swingtime Jazz Society**, was a drummer at Boston Latin School and selected on at least two occasions to play at Jordan Hall in the all-city band. He's now a formidable washboard player, but will occasionally sit in on the skins. . . Thanks to **Sharon Wesley** for her marvelous and delicious party after the quarterly meeting of Swingtime Jazz Society. . . What does **Beff's** mean? Top man at the lively Everett Road restaurant of that name tells the Owl it goes back to a one-time friend of the owner. He was Big Ed Fat Fields.

Ginger Miller, entrepreneur, singer and drummer, is promoting events at the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road, Colonie. Her recent attraction was the **Georgie Wonders Ensemble** with the following fine musicians: Leader George on vocals and saxophones; Erin Upson and Katherine Hudson-Sabens on saxophones and vocals; **Jack McGirr**, trumpet; Vito Mammone, yes, the accordionist of old, piano; Mark Lambert, bass; Arnold Johnson, drums; Dave Rhodes, trombone and vocals; Carmen Fierri, guitar and vocals; and the wonderful big band vocal stylist Linda Egan Johnson.

A real gas, as we used to say in the '50s, is their vocal quintet -- Linda, Erin, Katherine, Dave and George (the Georgettes) -- singing "Baby, Baby Don't You Go Away Mad!"

On March 25, Ginger will present **Alan Darcy**, a Florida saxophonist/vocalist, at 8 p.m. The Capital District's own world-class duo **Sonny & Perley** with a special

guest takes the spotlight at 8 p.m. Friday, April 29. Sonny Daye is a fine keyboard artist and arranger. His wife **Perley Rousseau** is a multi-talented jazz vocalist whose introductions are always an added treat. Highly recommended. See you there. Both events are just \$10. Reservations: 489-7883.

On March 4, recording artist, singer and guitarist **Maura McKinney** will be featured in a Ginger Miller dinner show at Watervliet Elks lodge, 501 Fourth Avenue. \$25 covers corned beef and cabbage dinner and the show. Reservations 489-7883.

Fond Memory: Ronnie Zito is one of the greatest drummers I have ever heard. It was a pleasure to do a three-part series on the then 15-year old phenom when I was a young columnist for the Utica Daily Press. He drummed for Woody Herman's Herd, Pete Jolly, the Terry Gibbs group and was the longest-tenured anchor in the meteoric rise of **Bobby Darin**. His cousin, **Buddy DeVito**, was the longest-tenured drummer for Frank Sinatra. Zito's brothers were the fine bassist **Artie Zito** and the famed pianist-arranger **Torrie Zito**, husband of the great singer **Helen Merrill** and music conductor for **Morgana King**.

Theater talk. Did you know that kudos is both singular and plural? You can't earn one kudo. .

Pet Peeve: I often hear otherwise educated people say "quite unique" or "somewhat unique." They mean unusual or rare. **Unique** is absolute; one of kind, period. **--CRB**

SWINGTIME

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Proudly Presents

THE EMPIRE STATE YOUTH JAZZ ENSEMBLE directed by Paul Evoskevich



Sunday, March 13, 2011 from 4-7 PM

(Concert at 4pm followed by an open jam session)

Doors open 3:30pm

Those who wish to play should bring their instruments.

Food and drink will be available.

Suggested Donation: \$15 adults \$5 students



510 Route 9P
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Reservations: (518) 584-3548



Photo by C. Robie Booth

ESYO Ensemble Stars at Ten Broeck

These young musicians presented a wonderful program of Christmas and classical music recently at Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany. Though the Empire State Youth Orchestra covers a huge area of northeastern New York and western New England, these six all happen to be from Shaker High School, North Colonie. From left: Maura Fitzgerald, violin; Grace Hartl, flute; Meghan Martel, flute; Justin Lafond, viola; Zoe Fitzgerald, cello; Owen Newell, bass. All are sophomores except Zoe and Owen, who are seniors.

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Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 50. 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 Centerfold for our March 13 attraction, the ESYO Jazz Ensemble.

I want to join the Swingtime Jazz Society.
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