

# Swingtime

*The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!*

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Summer 2013



## Swingtime Presents We B3 + Lee

Saxophonist Lee Russo is the addition to the Michael Lamkin Trio being presented by Swingtime Jazz Society June 9 at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady. Cliff Brucker (left) and Joe Finn (center) complete the group. See Pages 8 and 9 for more information.

# The Night Owl



## Ye New Puzzler

Dee Keating was a beautiful and talented straight big band singer. For many years she was a highlight of the Al Donahue Orchestra's annual New Year's Eve celebration at the Hotel Astor. They also starred often at the Rainbow Room. She recorded a number of big sellers including "Java Jive," "The Wise Old Owl" and "Fifth Avenue" with Al. Later she soloed in her husband-to-be's swinging big band partly built on a Glenn Miller foundation.

Dee quit the band business to become a housewife in 1947. Her husband's band included drummer Mel Lewis, and an earlier colleague was fellow trumpeter Ralph Marterie ("Trumpeter's Lullaby"). Husband had been with Glenn Miller and Jimmy Dorsey, and with Dee in Al Donahue's band

Who was the husband?

First correct answer, whether by mail, telephone (428-7618) or e-mail (jerrygordon@juno.com) wins a lifetime subscription.

## Florida Redux

Every March it gets worse in the Daytona Beach area. Knowing this is far afield, I'll keep it brief. Three more jazz venues have dropped, two having no music at all, the other switching to folk and rock. Conversely, the wonderful big bands at **Spruce Creek High School** are feted at festivals from Ponce Inlet to Dublin, Ireland.

The best development in the club music scene is the emergence of **Eddie Wolford** (see photo at centerfold). After 30 years as a power company lineman, he's now happy as a lark performing full time. He is the best banjoist I've ever



Dee Keating

heard, from Johnny St. Cyr to Bela Fleck. He also plays great violin, guitar, electric bass, mandolin and sings well. He covers country, pop, the rawest blues and a smattering of jazz. We became friends when I requested Django Reinhardt and he smilingly obliged with two beautiful versions.

He features his own "Stuart's Blues" and J. D. Crowe's "Train 45," calling it "the fastest tune I know." He also plays both parts of "Dueling Banjos" at once!

**Straight ahead, little friend.**



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## In Memoriam: Ray Warner, Music Lover and Activist

This issue is respectfully dedicated to **Ray Warner**, an expert on the Swing Era and progressive jazz. He mentored 19-year-old cub reporter Chuck Robie Booth at the Utica Daily Press in the early 1950s.

Ray was a union leader in the American Newspaper Guild, AFL-CIO, and inspired young Booth to do the same. He went on to better and bigger things as a writer and editor for the *New York World-Telegram* and *The New York Times*. He traveled with the Stan Kenton Orchestra and wrote excellent stories of those experiences. He was an Artie Shaw-styled clarinetist. He was an activist in many organizations, civic, labor, academic, political and even Colonie Senior Citizen billiards.



Photo by C. Robie Booth

**Dr. R. David Kissinger (left) and Ray Warner**

Mr. Warner had a profound sense of justice and fairness, leaning left. He was never at a loss for an intellectual debate, which he managed to spark at the drop of a comma. He was seldom seen without a cap or jacket advertising his beloved Jets, Phillies and Mets. He departed in March at age 89 after a long and distinguished life.



Starting with the this issue, as announced in the last issue, we will be delivering this magazine electronically to all subscribers that we have e-mail addresses for. If you received a hard copy but you're willing to get it electronically, please send an e-mail to [jerrygordon@juno.com](mailto:jerrygordon@juno.com), saying you'd like the e-mag. We will continue to use the U.S. Postal Service for those subscribers who don't have e-mail or those who insist on a hard copy.

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[APlaceForJazz.org/calendar.htm](http://APlaceForJazz.org/calendar.htm)***

# Cats and Jammers



## *Tim Coakley Honored by Journalists*

Jazz historian and WAMC radio personality **Tim Coakley** is this year's local recipient of the Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Hero award, which was presented at Robb Alley as part of the Schenectady Musical Union's Jazz Appreciation Month event on April 14, 2013. (See photo on Page 10.)

## *Little Jazz*

And I'm not referring to Roy Eldridge. Albany's Alive at Five series has **no** jazz. The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival had very **little** jazz. Empire State Plaza used to have at least one big band per summer as did the Collar City band shell in Troy. No good news on those horizons this year.

## *Half-Notes*

**Dave Kibbe's** talk and slide show on Cole Porter at the Albany Public Library Tuesday noon series was excellent. Friends of APL earn kudos. Call 427-4300 for program information.

Toni Tennile's father was musician Frank Randall and Captain was the son of noted composer-conductor Carmen Dragon.

The Proctor's production of "Les Miserables" is the best I have seen, especially its sets, costumes and ensemble singing.

Gas prices are highest here. On trip to Florida, Pennsylvania was 20 cents less; Maryland, West Virginia and North Carolina, 30 cents less; Virginia 40 cents less per gallon. That's six smackers a tankful!

## *Random Reviews*

The Albany Musicians' Association Local 14, AFL-CIO, had a notable success with its April jazz gala at Colonie Elks Lodge. **Peg Delaney** had several stunning solos on piano and **Pete Sweeney** was sensational on drums in **Jeanne O'Connor's** set. Bassist **Pete Toigo** was hip in a snazzy fedora and suit perfect for Jeanne's New York City atmosphere and superb vocalizing.

I liked **Michael Lamkin's** playing organ better than his more-than-competent pianistics. Fellow organist-pianist **Cliff Brucker** was excellent on drums. Guitarist **Joe Finn** was spectacular as usual.

**Chris Pasin**, who had been a regular with Buddy Rich and Toshiko, was impressive on trumpet and guest pianist **Bruce Barth's** pyrotechnics impressed the goodly crowd. Leader **Michael Benedict**, usually headline vibist with Bopitude, was excellent on drums. Bobby Timmons' "Moanin" was lovely classic bop.

I didn't have the pleasure of hearing Ten27, but others said it was unique. **Monica Wilson-Roach**, **Michael Roach** and **Paul Borrello** employ electric cello, electric bass, keyboards and drums.

Kudos to producers **Neil Brown**, president of the local, **Michael Benedict**, **Diane Geddes** and **Erin Upson**.

**Patty Fusco** and **Noreen Pratt** enlivened the family

*(Continued on Page 11)*

*A not-for-profit that is dedicated to presenting the very best in Jazz in a beautiful listening space.*

# A PLACE FOR JAZZ

## APFJ FALL 2013 SERIES

ALL PERFORMANCES BEGIN AT 7:30 PM

### SEPTEMBER 20

Season 27 starts swinging with an exciting quintet headed by trumpeter **Joe Magnarelli** & saxophonist **Jerry Weldon**.



### OCTOBER 4

Celebrated drummer **Jeff Hamilton** has led a globally popular trio for more than 15 years, in addition to 40 years supporting Jazz legends in combos & big bands.

### OCTOBER 18

Trombonist **Conrad Herwig's** Septet is highly acclaimed for his Grammy-nominated Latin Jazz interpretations of the work of Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock & Wayne Shorter.



### NOVEMBER 1

This year's vocalist, **Catherine Russell**, is a proven crowd-pleaser who, backed by her driving trio, joyously shows the Swing & Blues roots of her accomplished musician-parents.

### NOVEMBER 15

Dynamic guitarist **Michael-Louis Smith** is very popular lately as both creative bandleader & sideman in the Capital District & the leading NYC venues.



All Concerts: Friday 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Ave. Tickets: \$15. One child under 12 admitted for free when accompanied by an adult. Series ticket: \$60 until September 13. To purchase tickets or become a member: [aplaceforjazz.org](http://aplaceforjazz.org) | 518.393.4011 | [coakjazz@aol.com](mailto:coakjazz@aol.com)

[WWW.APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG](http://WWW.APLACEFORJAZZ.ORG)



# Swingtime Snapshots



**Brian Patneau** at Athos  
in Westmere



**Eddie Wolford** in Ormond  
(see story on Page 5)



**Mark Capon** (left) and **Tony DiGregorio** at Athos

All photos by  
C. Robie Booth



Beach, Florida  
(page 2)



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# We B3 + Lee: Who's Who for Swingtime Concert

Organist, pianist & composer **Michael Lamkin** is from the Boston area via Miami. During his time in Miami, he studied with Red Norvo's pianist, Walter Cirillo, and led a number of trios and quintets. He has performed with multi-horn man Ira Sullivan and saxophonist Jay Corre of the Buddy Rich band. He relocated to Los Angeles for various studio sessions before returning to the northeast and settling in the Capital area.

Michael has appeared on WAMC radio's "Dancing on the Air" and WGY radio's Don Weeks program. Recorded airplay has included WHRL-FM, WABY, WGY and WRPI, as well as several other stations nationally. He has performed on Alan Chartock's "See, Hear" television program on WNYT Channel 13 as a solo pianist and with his jazz organ trio. Recording credits include LA studio work and a CD with Caribe Mambo that received a favorable review in Jazz Times magazine for his composition "Tarqui's Tune."

Guitarist-composer **Joe Finn** was heralded as "... a bold new voice on jazz guitar" by Cadence Magazine in 1991 and has gone on to record a series of five critically acclaimed albums as a leader. He was the recipient of the BET Network's Jazz Discovery Showcase award in the jazz instrumental category in 1998. He was featured at The Great American Guitar Show in 2005 along with artists including Jimmy Bruno, Jack Wilkins, and John Pizzarelli. Joe has played throughout the United States and Canada in a variety of settings from solo guitar to big band.

**Cliff Brucker** is a drummer-percussionist, pianist, composer, arranger and educator. Cliff has a B.M. in music from The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and an M.S. in music from The College of Saint Rose in Albany.

Cliff has been performing as a professional musician for over 40 years. As a well-respected musician by his peers, Cliff has worked with some of the Capital District's finest talent including the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Capital Region Wind Ensemble and the Empire Jazz Orchestra. Cliff has also performed with a variety of internationally known jazz and pop artists including Aretha Franklin, Buddy Greco and Stephen

Pollock.

He is an award-winning composer and producer of advertising jingles and multimedia production. His credits include Avis and National Hobby, and his work is the music behind New York State's "C.S.E.A. We're Your Work Force!"

Cliff is a member of the music faculty at The College of Saint Rose and Schenectady County Community College. He is an experienced lecturer in the fields of classical, jazz and rock music in addition to teaching theory, history, methods and ensemble classes.

**Lee Russo** is a freelance saxophonist. He was inspired by his father, Leo Russo, who is also a saxophonist and a longtime Albany legend. Immediately following high school, Lee started his undergraduate studies at The College of Saint Rose. It was there that he began studying saxophone from Paul Evoskevich and later began improvisation lessons from guitarist Jack Fragomeni. He later transferred to The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.

He teaches at Guilderland High School, where he currently directs two jazz ensembles and concert band. He also teaches woodwind lessons and music technology.



## Program notes from Carnegie Hall

Courtesy of Ned Spain; author unknown

Tonight's page turner, **Ruth Spelke**, studied under Ivan Schmertnacoff at the Boris Nitsky School of Page Turning in Philadelphia. She has been turning pages for many years for several of the world's leading pianists, both here and in Europe. In 1983, Ms. Spelke won the Wilson Page Turning Scholarship, which sent her to Israel to study page turning from left to right. She was the winner of the 1984 Rimsky-Korsakov "Flight of the Bumblebee" Prestissimo Medal, having turned 47 pages in an unprecedented 32 seconds. She was also a 1988 Silver Medalist at the Klutz Musical Page Pickup Competition, where contestants are required to retrieve and rearrange a musical score dropped from a Steinway piano. Ms. Spelke excelled in "grace, swiftness, and especially poise." Constantly experimenting with special techniques, Ms. Spelke performs both the finger-licking and the bent-page-corner methods. She works from the standard left-bench position and is the originator of the dipped-elbow page snatch, a style now much used to avoid obscuring the performer's view of the music. She is Artist-in-Residence at the Fairfield Page Turning Institute in Stamford, Connecticut, where she occupies the coveted Fritz Reiner Chair.

# SWINGTIME

**Jazz Society**

swingtimejazz.org



*Proudly Presents*

## We B3 + Lee

with Michael Lamkin (organ), Joe Finn (guitar),  
Cliff Brucker (drums) and special guest Lee Russo (sax)



**4-6 p.m. Sunday, June 9, 2013**

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



**Stockade Inn**

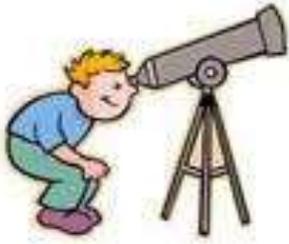
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***For reservations, call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548***

***by Saturday, June 8***



## LOOKING FORWARD

# Summertime Is Swingtime

Summer swings in the Capital District. One of the tastiest offerings comes to Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady July 9-14.

The effervescent Rachel York stars in Cole Porter's happiest romp, "Anything Goes," with its stunning portfolio of witty and beautiful songs.

Pianist-vocalist **Noreen Pratt** performs her delightful blend of standards and cabaret Fridays at Lake George Club in June and Fridays and Saturdays in July and August at the Algonquin in Lake George.

Grappa '72 has a delightful menu (to match its delightful food); Tom Buckley's palace of joy is at 818 Central Avenue just east of Westgate Shopping Center. Music is from 6:30 to 9:30 Fridays.

The **Lee Shaw Trio** entertains June 7; **Peg Delaney Trio** on June 14 with **Bill Delaney** on bass, **Earl Davis** on drums and vocals and Peg on piano; June 21, A3; June 28, **Franklin Micare**.

July 5, **Jeanne O'Connor Trio**; July 12, the **Borrello-Roach Duet**; July 19, **Jazz4U** with **Ed Munger** and **Jimmy Burton**; July 26, **'Azzaam Hameed** (piano) and **Annette Harris** (vocals).

August 2, **Peg Delaney Trio**; Aug. 9, **Esprit Lounge** celebrating Peg's birthday; Aug. 16, TBA; Aug. 23, Lee Shaw; Aug. 30, TBA.

The Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Aug. 2-4 in Hillsdale, N. Y., will have a double dip of **Patti O and the Hip Hooligans** jazz dance band and **Patti O'Brien Melita**,

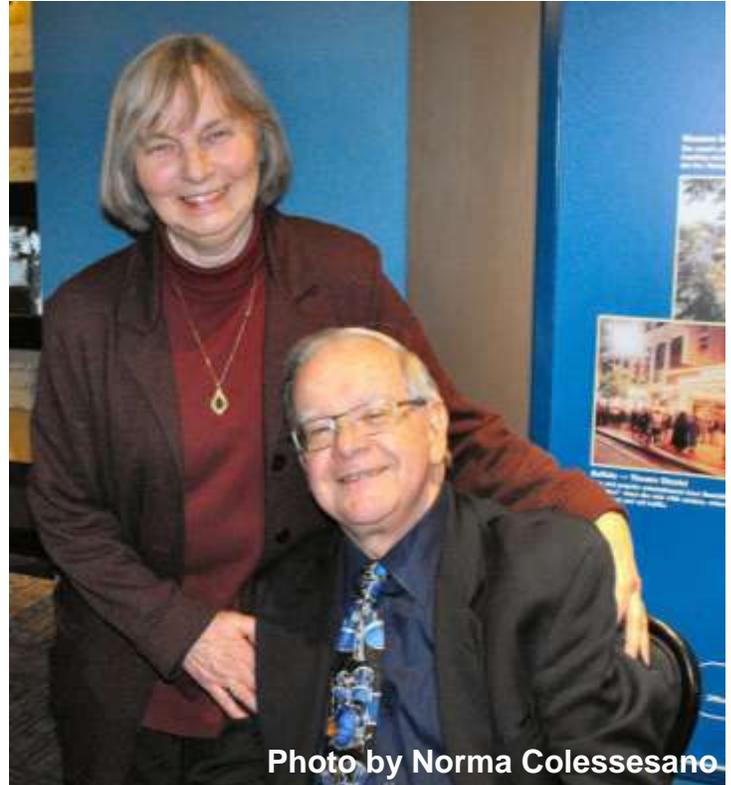


Photo by Norma Colessesano

**Singer Patti Melita with friend-drummer -broadcaster-impresario Tim Coakley.**

along with **Paul Rosenberg, Red Molly, Eliza Gilkyson, Dar Williams** and a host of other acts. Eliza is the daughter of Terry Gilkyson, who was the starred singer with the Weavers. It was he, not Pete Seeger, who had the lead on "Good Night Irene," "Tzena Tzena Tzena" and other chartbusters. Call 866-325-2744.

Albany Symphony Orchestra will present **Andre Watts** Jan. 11, 2014, playing Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2. Next May 17 features percussionist **Dame Evelyn Glennie** and a symphony by **John Harbison**.

## Cats and Jammers

(Continued from Page 4)

and fans party at Provence as singer and sister **Colleen** held forth. A nice performance.

### *A SO Shines Brightly*

Perhaps the best program I've experienced at the Albany Symphony Orchestra was April 27. **John Harbison**, resident composer, was cheered for his suite from "The Great Gatsby" which was full of wonderful colors, ragtime and jazz. **Kevin Cole**, the great interpreter of Gershwin, exhilarated the audience with the Second Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra and with an encore medley of Gershwin standards. And I loved the four-movement Symphony No. 3 by Morton Gould, a favorite of the splendid conductor **David Alan Miller**. The program was reprised at **Carnegie Hall** where 500 lo-

cal fans, symphony groupies if you will, traveled to cheer them on. It was our fine orchestra's second invitation to Carnegie in three years.

The stunning, statuesque redheaded violinist **Aislinn Nosky** bounded and bowed over a goodly portion of the stage while performing Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" May 19 at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. The six-foot British Columbian now headquartered in Boston is a show in herself and a brilliant violinist. I liked Miller's programming, splitting the seasons with John Adams' Son of Chamber Symphony, the intermission and Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks." John Adams' piece with 17 musicians had a fast movement. . . I had no idea what they were doing; a slow second movement, melodic and pretty; and a presto third, a romp choo-choo-chooing along nicely, incorporating bits from the earlier parts.

### *Ten Broeck Presents Sonny & Perley*

The Sonny & Perley Trio performs at 4 p.m. July 14 in the Ten Broeck Mansion gardens.

Perley Rousseau is a superb jazz and cabaret singer whose introductions and insights are always a precious part of the program. She also has a beautiful and wide-ranging voice. Sonny Daye is a fine keyboard player and arranger who began his career as a drummer with the Ted Weems band.

Bassist Otto Gardner,

whose superb playing has enhanced many local groups, rounds out the trio.

Admission is \$15; students, \$5. Refreshments and snacks will be available. It is a perfect setting to bring your own picnic with wine, soda or other beverage. Tables are available. Groups larger than four would be wise to arrange for a table by calling 436-9826. The concert is partially underwritten by C. Robie Booth, Ltd.



# Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 60. 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 June 9 attraction, **We B3 + Lee**.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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