

Jersey Jazz

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By Tony Mottola
Editor *Jersey Jazz*

Kevin Dorn's Traditional Jazz
Collective. Photo courtesy of artist.

Time to Stomp!

41st Pee Wee Russell Memorial Stomp set for March 7

The NJJS's longest-running event, the Pee Wee Russell Memorial Stomp, roars into its fifth decade March 7 with a powerful lineup of hot jazz players, a swinging crowd of vintage clad dancers, and a full bar and buffet to round out the festive scene. It's time to stomp!

The annual trad jazz jamboree once again is hosted at the Birchwood Manor in Whippany where Stomp faithful regularly fill the spacious Grand Ballroom

resplendent with its elaborate chandeliers, large stage and even larger dance floor.

This year's returning headliner is Vince Giordano fronting his roaring Nighthawks. That's a hat trick three NJJS events in a row for Vince, since he also appeared at Jazzfest last June; but if you think you've heard it all, think again. *The New York Times* recently reported that Giordano has an archive of 30,000 big band arrangements and regularly hauls

3,000 selections to his gigs. Expect the unexpected...and hot vintage jazz of the 1930s to '40s played by some of the finest practitioners of the art.

You can also expect to see some of the enthusiastic swing dance revivalists who flock to Nighthawks performances to display their Lindy Hop, Balboa and Charleston chops and, at recent Pee Wee Stomps, the skillful hoofers have become something of a floor show.

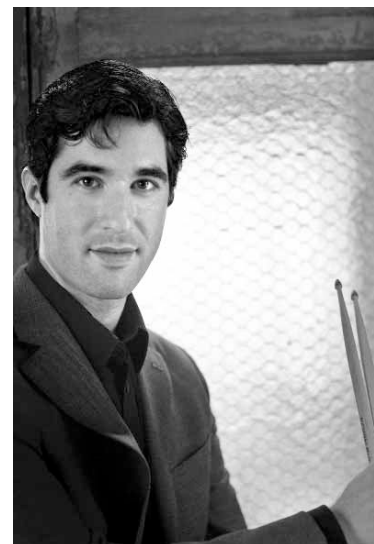
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2010
Pee Wee Russell Memorial Stomp
SUNDAY, MARCH 7
Birchwood Manor, Whippany
ACT NOW!
see ad page 7

THE 41ST ANNUAL
**PeeWee
 Russell
 Memorial
 STOMP**
 SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010

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Jon-Erik Kellso, who moved to New York to join the Nighthawks in 1989, is also back on the Stomp bill, this time with his EarRegulars, a hipster crew of trad players who've been holding forth on Sunday nights at the Ear Inn on Spring Street in NYC for some time now. Kellso co-leads the group with guitarist Matt Munisteri with a rotating group of bassists and horn players so it'll interesting to see who they bring along to Whippany.



The Detroit native has an affinity for Ruby Braff, with whom he recorded two CDs for Arbors Records and pays tribute to on his most recent Arbors disc, *Remembering Ruby*. One of the most active players on the scene, Kellso has performed and recorded with Ralph Sutton, Dick Hyman, Linda Ronstadt, Leon Redbone and many others. In addition to the Nighthawks, Kellso holds down the cornet chair in the Manhattan Ragtime Orchestra and David Ostwald's Gully Low Jazz Band.



Kevin Dorn's Traditional Jazz Collective's new CD is titled *The TJC Returns*, and return they do to Stomp 41. Last seen here in 2007, the dapper Mr. Dorn and crew specialize in small group 1930s swing music and they play it with passion, imagination and authenticity. "Close your eyes and conjure up the smell of smoldering tobacco and spilled bourbon drying on the tablecloth, you might imagine yourself back at the Famous Door hearing Benny Morton and Walter Page swap solos," says usually staid *Smithsonian Magazine* of the TJC in performance.

Dorn, one of the best and busiest drummers in traditional jazz, cites Gene Krupa, George Wettling and Dave Tough as his main influences. He's played with the Nighthawks, the Manhattan Rhythm Kings, the New Orleans Hot Jazz and has appeared everywhere from Carnegie Hall to Birdland, where he currently plays weekly with the Low Gully Jazz Band. He did a three-year stint in the Jim Cullum band, performing on the nationally broadcast Riverwalk radio program, and has appeared at jazz festival around the country as well as in Japan, Scotland and Austria.

Dorn's first-rate TJC cohorts include: J. Walter Hawkes, trombone and vocals; Doug Largent, bass; Michael Hashim, alto and soprano saxophones; Jesse Gelber, piano and Pete Martinez, clarinet.



Rounding out this year's Stomp lineup is the Mark Shane Trio featuring Terry Blaine. Blaine is a classically trained musician who traded her flute for a microphone after graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Buffalo and embarked on a multi-faceted musical career, ultimately finding a niche as one of the few contemporary jazz singers performing the hot small band swing of the 1930s. She draws her repertoire, and inspiration, from Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, Ethel Waters in a style of singing she describes as "a gentle, swinging reminder of who we were and where we came from."

Her collaboration with pianist Mark Shane began with a three-and-a-half year engagement at Café Society in Greenwich Village that led to the CD *Whose Honey Are You*, a Jazz Journal International Record of the Year. A pair of sold-out performances launched the duo into the larger world of concert appearances and touring. A second CD, *Terry Blaine in Concert* followed and the duo have since performed at prestigious venues like Michael's Pub,

Fat Tuesday's, the Plaza Hotel, and at festivals around the country.

Mark Shane began his career as a pianist in dance bands in the metropolitan New York area. During an extended tenure as house pianist in New York's Eddie Condon's jazz club, Mark added a distinctive new voice to the Condon tradition of hot ensemble playing and, at the same time, developed his solo jazz piano style through exposure to the masterworks of James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, Earl Hines, Teddy Wilson and Art Tatum. He has worked with Benny Goodman and with many all-star alumni from the great bands of Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller.

The music begins at noon with the presentation of the NJJS's 2010 Jazz Studies Scholarship winners and continues nearly non-stop until 5 PM. The Society will also present 2010 awards for Musician of the Year and Non-musician of the Year at the Stomp.

For tickets and more information please visit www.njjs.org.



page 26, clockwise from top left: Terry Blaine, Kevin Dorn, Mark Shane. Photos courtesy of the artists.

this page, above: Jon-Erik Kellso; dancers; bottom right: Vince Giordano at last year's Stomp. Photos by Tony Mottola.



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VINCE GIORDANO AND THE NIGHTHAWKS
 MARK SHANE TRIO WITH TERRY BLAINE
 JON-ERIK KELLSO'S EARREGULARS PLUS
 KEVIN DORN'S TRADITIONAL JAZZ COLLECTIVE

