ANDY FARBER and his ORCHESTRA

with special guests

Catherine Russell, Adrian Cunningham & Warren Vaché

Sunday, April 7 | Hyatt Regency Morristown
Fifty years ago, when NJJS co-founder Jack Stine organized the first Pee Wee Russell Memorial Stomp to honor his clarinetist friend a year after his death, he had modest goals. “I learned that Pee Wee wished he could have helped some kid get a start in music education,” Stine said, “so I decided to organize a memorial concert to raise funds for a scholarship.”

Now, nearly a half century of Pee Wee Russell Stomps, “some kid” has run to scores of young people who’ve been helped along in their music education by an NJJS scholarship, many going on to become educators themselves, and working professional musicians. Pee Wee would have approved, and Stine could be justifiably proud of his accomplishments.

The event now raises money for partial scholarships at, in addition to Rutgers, Montclair State University, New Jersey City University, Rowan University and William Paterson University — and the 2019 Stomp has been dedicated in memory of Stine, the Jazz Society’s visionary founder who died last year on June 15.

To celebrate the Stomp’s 50th year, organizers have dubbed it “The Pee Wee Jubilee” and made some changes, including a new venue — the Hyatt Regency in Morristown. The 2019 Stomp has also been moved from early March to early April, eliminating even the remotest threat of snow. (The very first Stomp on February 15, 1970 was almost snowed out but the early morning blizzard gave way to clear skies before the start time; more recently a late winter snowstorm cut the 2015 Stomp short.)

It’s all planned for April 7 from noon to 5 pm in the Plaza Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency hotel in Morristown. Validated free parking is available in the garage under the hotel and the venue is just minutes away from the Morristown NJ Transit train station. Doors open at 11:30 am.

The afternoon’s music begins with youth ensembles featuring musicians from the New Jersey Youth Symphony Jazz Program under the direction of Newark Academy’s Julius Tolentino and players from Jazz House Kids led by NJJS advisor Don Braden.

The 1:15 set features a “Battle of the Saxes” (Don Braden, Adrian Cunningham, Andy Farber and Julius Tolentino) and that musical dustup is followed by the Arbors Records All-Stars, co-led by multi-reedist Adrian Cunningham and cornetist/trumpeter Warren Vaché and featuring guitarist James Chirillo.

After a 3:30 awards ceremony honoring Distinguished Musician of the Year Roseanna Vitro and 2019 Jazz Advocates, radio station WBGO and Amy Niles, Stomp headliners Andy Farber and Orchestra perform at 4 pm featuring special guest vocalist Catherine Russell.

**Bandleader Andy Farber**

A versatile bandleader and educator, Andy Farber has been called a “consummate musician,” by Ellington authority David Berger, and “a sophisticated arranger/composer and sax player with a firm grasp of jazz and blues who swings elegantly,” by Wynton Marsalis. Farber glides effortlessly between the bandstand, the recording studio, the classroom, and the piano in his home studio. He studied composition at the Manhattan School of Music and was awarded the Manny Albam prize for jazz composition. He formed Andy Farber & his Orchestra, a 15-piece band that had a regular gig at the West End Gate in NYC for a year and a half. Later the band reformed for a two-year run at Birdland.

In 1993, Farber met jazz vocalese legend Jon Hendricks who tapped him to write arrangements for his CD Boppin’ at the Blue Note. Hendricks invited Farber to join The Jon Hendricks Explosion as saxophonist and arranger, and they toured for a few years in the early/mid 1990s.

Following his tenure with Hendricks, he toured and recorded with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra marking the beginning of an expansive musical relationship that includes guest conducting gigs and a variety of projects, including commissions for the Orchestra, and assembling the Jazz at Lincoln Center All-Stars featured onstage in the Broadway show After Midnight.

Farber continues to lead that band backing Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga for their PBS special Cheek to Cheek Live, appearing at the Rainbow Room, the Jazz Standard, and at the Players Club as part of New York’s Hot Jazz Festival. As an educator, Farber teaches jazz composition and arranging at Juilliard.

Farber’s band is always stocked with star players and confirmed band participants at press time include Jennifer Vincent bass, Alvester Garnett drums, Brian Pareschi and James Zollar trumpets, Dan Block saxophone and clarinet, and James Burton and Wayne Goodman, trombones.
Catherine Russell

Catherine Russell is a native New Yorker who was born into musical royalty. Her father, the late Luis Russell, was born in Panama, emigrated to New Orleans and then to Chicago and New York City, becoming a legendary pianist/bandleader/arranger/composer and Louis Armstrong’s longtime collaborator and musical director.

Her mother, Carline Ray, was a pioneering bassist/guitarist/vocalist, a holder of advanced degrees from Juilliard and Manhattan School of Music, who performed with International Sweethearts of Rhythm, Mary Lou Williams and Ruth Brown. Not surprisingly, considering her pedigree, Catherine Russell is a one of a kind musician and vocalist.

A graduate of American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Catherine has toured the world, performing and recording with David Bowie, Steely Dan, Cyndi Lauper, Jackson Browne, Michael Feinstein, Levon Helm, Paul Simon, Rosanne Cash, Carrie Smith, Toshi Reagon, Wynton Marsalis, Dr. John, Joan Osborne, Vince Giordano and many others, appearing on over 200 albums.

In 2012, she won a Grammy Award for her appearance as a featured artist on the soundtrack album for the HBO series Boardwalk Empire. In 2013, Catherine contributed three songs to the soundtrack for the movie Kill Your Darlings, starring Daniel Radcliffe as a young Allen Ginsberg.

Since the 2006 release of her debut album, Cat, Catherine Russell has been making new fans and friends. National Public Radio’s top five jazz CDs of 2006 as chosen by WBGO’s DJs included Cat, and the album garnered rave reviews worldwide.

“She is a fresh and original voice,” wrote Frank Sinatra biographer, Will Friedwald, who picked Cat among his top 10 CDs of the year.

“It’s a delight to hear the real thing in Catherine Russell,” chimed in Nat Hentoff in The Wall Street Journal.

Five acclaimed and chart-topping albums have followed and a sixth, Alone Together, was just released in March. Five acclaimed and chart-topping albums have followed and a sixth, Alone Together, was just released this month.

Jersey Jazz’s Joe Lang calls the new disk “13 tracks of pure pleasure,” adding, “This package gives Russell opportunities to demonstrate all of the facets of her performing personality.” (See the full review on page 36.)

This will be Catherine Russell’s second NJJS performance. She appeared in the Earl May Tribute Band at Jazzfest at Drew University in 2008 in one of her earliest appearances as a solo artist.

2019 Distinguished Musician
Roseanna Vitro

Vitro was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She is the product of two distinct cultural strains: Her father, who ran the Flamingo nightclub, divided his music affinities between the pluck of Frank Sinatra and the homeland finery of Italian opera; her mother sang country and gospel songs by way of the church.

A child of the ’60s, Roseanna found her way to Houston in pursuit of the blues and rock of her idols: Lightning Hopkins, Johnny Winter, Bonnie Raitt and Tracy Nelson. This music proved foundational for her development. She was encouraged to delve deep into jazz, ultimately living the music as protégé to Texas tenor man Arnett Cobb and singer/educator Ray Sullenger.

In recent years Vitro has distinguished herself as an educator, clinician and columnist. Her work with young singers has helped launch jazz’s next generation, while her writings and interviews in Jazz Times —bannered as “Voices In Jazz” — illuminate the magic (and hard work) behind the greatest vocalists of our times. Additionally, her website-blog, JVoice, reaches a global audience of vocalists and those who support the art of singing.

In the 360 of jazz performance, recording and pedagogy, Vitro remains an undying beacon. What was once a career driven by a down-home need to sing has become a cause: Tell the truth through song. With all she does, she burns bright.

THE PEE WEE JUBILEE!

Sunday, April 7 | Noon - 5 PM
Hyatt Regency Morristown | 3 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown
Validated Self-Parking in garage under the hotel

Plaza Ballroom doors open at 11:30 AM
Cash Bar & Buffet - No outside food or beverages allowed
CDs and Books for Sale

Advance Tickets: $40 members, $45 non-members
At The Door: $45 members, $50 non-members

3 WAYS TO ORDER TICKETS
- Online: www.njjs.org
- Phone: 800-838-3006, press option 1
- Mail: Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and check payable to NJJS plus $3 handling fee to: NJJS, c/o Mike Katz, 382 Springfield Avenue, Suite 217, Summit, NJ, 07901. Please mail by March 20.