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Vince Giordano and Jon-Erik Kellso make some noise. Photo by Tony Mottola.

And Away We Went!

There is a certain Jackie Gleason-like arms akimbo jaunty pose that launches the Peabody, one of the many Jazz Era dances on display by the bevy of gaily-attired dancers at this year's Pee Wee Russell Memorial Stomp. They could have danced all day, and for all practical purposes they did, putting on a show with the Shag, Balboa, Charleston and good old-fashioned swing dancing as the music continued nearly uninterrupted for four hours.

Once again hot jazz fans filled all the available chairs in the glorious Birchwood Manor Ballroom as four top bands took to the stage and dancers swirled around the large hardwood dance floor.

After a mainstream jazz performance by this year's NJJS scholarship winners, the trad music portion of the day opened with the Mark Shane *continued on page 30*

By Tony Mottola
Jersey Jazz Editor





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Trio with Shane at the keyboard, Brian Nalepka on bass, Kevin Dorn at the drums and Terry Blaine adding vocals. They got things started with “Shoe Shine Boy,” a staple of Count Basie and Lester Young followed by Fats Waller’s “Ain’t You Glad” and we were off to the races.

Jon-Erik Kellso's EarRegulars Plus were up next, with Jon on cornet, joined by Matt Munisteri (guitar), John Allred (trombone), Ehud Asherie (piano), Pat O’Leary (bass), and Marion Felder (drums). Chipping in the likes of “Some of these Days,” and “I Surrender Dear” the sextet kept the dance floor filled and Munisteri eliminated any remaining inhibitions in the crowd with his vocal on his own “Get Over Yourself.”



left, Terry Blaine, photo by Tony Mottola, with Mark Shane, photo by Lynn Redmile.

below left, J. Walter Hawkes on trombone and Simon Wettenhall, trumpet with Kevin Dorn’s Big 72. Photo by Tony Mottola.

right: Ehud Asherie, piano with the Big 72. Photo by Lynn Redmile.



Batting third was the newly renamed Kevin Dorn and the Big 72, took their turn with Kevin on drums and Michael Hashim (sax), Pete Martinez (clarinet), Simon Wettenhall (trumpet), J. Walter Hawkes (trombone), Jesse Gelber (piano) and Doug Largent (bass). “More horns that we usually have so we’ll just see how it goes,” said Dorn. It went swingingly as a matter of fact with



left, Peter Yarin, piano; Ken Salvo banjo and guitar, with Vince Giordano on the bass sax. Photo by Tony Mottola.

right: Heidi and Joe, go, go, GO! Photo by Lynn Redmile.

And on the next page, a young lad is thoroughly inspired. Photo by Tony Mottola.



THE 41ST ANNUAL PeeWee Russell Memorial STOMP

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010



left, Matt Munsteri, guitar and Pat O'Leary, bass, part of Jon-Erik Kellso's EarRegulars Plus. right: An overflow crowd listens and watches. Photos by Tony Mottola.



below: Kevin Dorn, drums, leads The Big 72; Michael Hashim, sax. Photos by Lynn Redmile.



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Bruce Gast and Al Parmet oversee the great sound. Or maybe they overHEAR it. Photo by Tony Mottola.

along with bass sax and tuba, Jon-Erik Kellso (trumpet), Mike Ponella (trumpet), Harvey Tibbs (trombone), Dan Levinson (reeds), Andy Farber (reeds), Mark Lopeman (reeds), Andy Stein (violin), Peter Yarin (piano), Ken Salvo (guitar and banjo) and Arnie Kinsella (drums).

The as-always tuxedo-clad outfit kicked off with "Radio Rhythm" and never looked back, filling the last hour with authentic vintage jazz impeccably performed as only the Nighthawks can, bringing the 41st Stomp to a satisfying close. **JJ**

Unfortunately due to unavoidable circumstances neither Musician of the Year Marty Grosz nor Non-musician of the Year Frank Driggs were able to attend the Stomp. NJJS Music Chair Joe Lang acknowledged their accomplishments from the stage and their awards will be presented at a later date.

all four horns contributing hot stuff on the likes of "As Long as I Live," "Fidgety Feet" and "How Come You Do me Like You Do," The inimitable trombonist Hawkes also stepped in for a vocal on "All By Myself."

Three hours in the dancers were still on their feet and the jazz fans glued to their seats as the main attraction, Vince Giordano and his Nighthawks, took the stage with Vince on his distinctive metal bass,



left, Jesse Gelber on piano with The Big 72. Photo by Lynn Redmile.

left to right, the reeds section: Andy Farber, Mark Lopeman, Dan Levinson, take a breather and watch the crowd enjoy the Nighthawks. Photo by Tony Mottola.





2010 Scholarship Winners

The New Jersey Jazz Society was proud to present the following scholarships to outstanding jazz students at the March 7 Pee Wee Stomp.

Jeremy Fratti, tenor saxophonist, New Jersey City University

Don Robertson Scholarship

A graduate student from Bayonne by way of West Palm Beach FL, Jeremy started music study at age 9 on alto sax and now plays all the woodwinds. His favorite musicians are Rollins, Coltrane and Shorter and Duke and Mingus are two favorite composers. Meeting and getting a nod from Mulgrew Miller at a wedding gig is among his most memorable musical experiences. Jeremy writes and arranges for his nine-piece band, the "Jazz Conceptions Orchestra," which has played the Iridium a few times. Their first CD was released last spring.

Chris Simonini, pianist, Rowan University

Bill Walters Scholarship

A freshman from Vineland NJ, Chris began studying guitar at 14. His favorite musicians are Bill Evans and Coltrane, and favorite composers are Debussy, Bach and Shorter. He draws his inspiration from the treasury of great jazz music and legendary musicians, past and present. He's been writing music and improvising from the age of 15, and his most memorable musical experience was his first paying gig. Two of his outside hobbies are snowboarding and the beach.



Adrian Mooring, bassist, William Paterson University

Jack Stine Scholarship

Adrian is a sophomore from Brooklyn following in the footsteps of his father, noted bassist and educator Bill Mooring. He has been studying and writing music from an early age and also plays, piano, drums and guitar. He counts Keith Jarrett and Elvin Jones among his favorite musicians. His current favorite tune is "In the Red" by Abbey Lincoln. When he started to improvise a few years ago, it was then that he decided on a career as a jazz musician. Possessing an intellectual bent, he is spending a lot of time lately writing music for his band.



Ark Ovrutski, bassist, Rutgers University

Pee Wee Russell Scholarship

Ark is a grad student from Kiev, Ukraine with a BA in Music and a BS in Mathematics. He began to study music at 10 years of age on the violin. Musicians Oscar Pettiford and Ray Brown and composers Golson, Mingus and Stravinski are favorites. Ark has been improvising and writing music from age 20 and his favorite tune is the next one he writes. He has a busy career freelancing with many of the top professionals in the business, and he's been involved in several CD projects including two as leader.



Drummer Jon DeFiore, a student at NJCU, took charge of the drums for the scholarship performance at the Stomp.



Photos: Tony Mottola