

Barnhart/Fryer International All-Star Jazz Band

February 16, 2020 • Valley Regional High School

This afternoon's concert is co-sponsored by THE CLARK GROUP and TOWER LABORATORIES, LTD.

THE 2020 STU INGERSOLL JAZZ CONCERT

"Old Friends and New Discoveries"

Jeff Barnhart – Jim Fryer International All-Star Jazz Band

Simon Wettenhall, trumpet
Evan Arntzen, reeds
Jim Fryer, trombone
Jeff Barnhart, leader/piano
Arnt Arntzen, banjo/guitar
Vince Giordano, string bass/tuba/bass sax/vocals
Bill Reynolds, drums

In keeping with the spontaneous nature of Jazz, selections will be announced and described from the stage: things can (and will) change at the drop of a hat, or clarinet, or anything, really!!

The Barnhart-Fryer International All-Star Jazz Band will live up to its rather lengthy title and bold claim! The countries represented include Canada, Australia and the US and these musicians are indeed All-Stars! Concentrating on the Hot Jazz styles and titles of the 1920's and 1930's, this band of merry men will combine virtuosity, wit and charm to breathe new life into the music of Early Jazz artists such as Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Jelly Roll Morton and more. Veteran jazzman/band leader Vince Giordano will join fellow New Yorkers trombonist Jim Fryer, trumpeter Simon Wettenhall and the dynamic youthful Arntzen brothers: Evan on reeds and Arnt on banjo and guitar. Representing New England will be the celebrated Boston-based percussionist Bill Reynolds and our own Jeff Barnhart on piano. In the true spirit of Jazz, this septet is appearing for the first time EVER on our stage, so the music will be on-the-edge-of your-seat, spontaneous and created just for us--never heard before and never to be heard again!



Jeff Barnhart is an internationally renowned pianist, vocalist, arranger, bandleader, recording artist, ASCAP composer, educator and entertainer. His mastery of the classic swing, jazz and ragtime repertoire of the early to mid-20th century has found Jeff constantly appearing as a soloist, band pianist, and with smaller groups—most notably Ivory & Gold® with his talented wife, flutist/vocalist Anne Barnhart—at parties, festivals, clubs and cruises throughout the world. His unsurpassed knowledge of the history of America's early pop styles and its best current practitioners, combined with his superior "people skills" has awarded him the position

of Musical Director for several acclaimed annual events, including the Eagles & Ivories and Templeton Ragtime and Jazz festivals, the Monterey Jazz Bash by the Bay (as co-Director), and the Essex Winter Series Jazz Concert.

Jeff has played dual piano with such jazz luminaries as Ralph Sutton, Neville Dickie, Louis Mazetier, John Sheridan, Brian Holland and Carl Sonny Leyland. He has recorded over 120 full-length albums on, in addition to his own label, Jazz Alive Records, celebrated labels including Arbors, GHB, Lake Records (UK) and Music Minus One. Reviewer Jack Rummel recently summed up the reason for Jeff's popularity, averring, "When it comes to talent, speed, versatility, creativity, mastery of multiple genres and just plain entertaining zaniness, Jeff Barnhart stands alone."



Jim Fryer began his professional career playing traditional jazz trombone in the Boston area during the 1970's. He has played gigs in many disparate genres, including Broadway, salsa, big band, classical, and many others. He has performed at festivals the world over, including the Newport Jazz Festival, the Edinburgh Jazz Festival, and the Turner Classic Film Festival in Hollywood. As a longstanding member of Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, Fryer recorded on the Grammy-winning sound track compilation for the HBO series "Boardwalk Empire."

Mr. Fryer is active in a variety of educational settings, continuing 35 years of school performances and workshops (currently on the roster of Connecticut Arts For Learning), recent work at PS228 in Queens via the Louis Armstrong House Museum, and the Hot Jazz Camp NYC.

Fryer is a resident of the Inwood neighborhood in Northern Manhattan.



Arnt Arntzen has been involved with music from a young age, mostly learning from his immediate and extended family. He has a degree in music, majoring in Jazz and Contemporary Guitar, from Vancouver Community College, where he was the recipient of many awards and scholarships throughout his four years there. His first foray into playing live jazz was around 2012 with the Hot Foot Five, formed with a bunch of like-minded school friends.

Arnt started on guitar, but is now also known as a plectrum banjo player and singer, specializing in traditional jazz. He has participated in the Three Generations of Jazz band with his grandfather Lloyd, parents Georgina and Tom, brother Evan, and many other family members. He has also co-led a band with his brother Evan Arntzen, calling themselves the Brothers Arntzen. Since moving to New York City in 2017, he has begun playing regularly with Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, as well as the Louis Armstrong Eternity Band at Birdland.

Arnt has also worked with the Jen Hodge All-Stars, Diane Lines, Baby Soda Jazz Band, Gordon Webster Swing Band, Avalon Jazz Band, Cait and the Critters, Milkman and Sons, Reggie's Red Hot Feetwarmers, and many others in and around New York City and Vancouver.

These days, Arnt is mostly a sideman, but will occasionally lead small trios exploring obscure parts of the American lexicon of jazz from the early half of the 20th century, where a banjo can feel at home playing with cornet and trombone.



Possessing a powerful tone on both clarinet and saxophone, as well as a charismatic singing voice, **Evan Arntzen** is a natural born musician steeped in the history of jazz. Hailing from Vancouver BC and born into a family of musicians, he was instructed by his grandfather in the New Orleans tradition of clarinet playing from the age of 7. He has since developed into an expert in early styles of jazz, cultivating his own voice within these traditions.

Evan moved to New York City in 2014 and maintains a busy performing schedule with the likes of Catherine Russell, Bria Skonberg, Terry Waldo, Jon-Erik Kellso, and the Grammy

Award-winning Vince Giordano's Nighthawks. He performs at such venues as Town Hall, Birdland, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Smalls, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Evan has

also performed at the world-renowned Newport, Monterey and New Orleans jazz festivals, and has been a star soloist at festivals in Japan, Hungary, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Spain.



Grammy-winner, New York native and multi-instrumentalist **Vince Giordano** has played in New York nightclubs, appeared in films such as *The Cotton Club, The Aviator, Finding Forrester, Revolutionary Road, Cafe Society,* HBOs Boardwalk Empire and for concerts at the Town Hall, Jazz At Lincoln Center, the Newport Jazz Festival and the 92nd St Y for the past four decades. Recording projects include soundtracks for the awardwinning Boardwalk Empire with vocalist like Elvis Costello, Patti Smith, St. Vincent, Regina Spektor, Neko Case, Leon Redbone, Liza Minnelli, Catherine Russell, Rufus Wainwright and David Johansen. Vince and his band have also recorded for Terry Zwigoff's Ghost World, Tamara Jenkins' The Savages, Robert De Niro's The Good Shepherd, Sam Mendes' Away We Go, Michael

Mann's film *Public Enemies*, and John Krokidas' debut feature, *Kill Your Darlings*, along with HBO's *Grey Gardens* and the miniseries *Mildred Pierce*. The Nighthawks are also seen and heard in the USA Network series *Royal Pains* and in the PBS series *Michael Feinstein's American Songbook*. The band has also worked on Todd Haynes' Academy Award nominated film *Carol*; the Emmy-winning *Bessie* bio-pic on HBO, and Cinemax's *The Knick* starring Clive Owen. The guys have also recorded music for Maggie Greenwald's film called *Sophie and the Rising Sun* that debuted at the Sundance Film Festival.

Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks have provided musical accompaniment to several silent films at MoMA (The Museum of Modern Art) in NYC and in Los Angeles at the TCM Film Festival.

More recent projects include Woody Allen's *Café Society* starring Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart; an Amazon series called, *Z: The Beginning of Everything* about Zelda Fitzgerald and most recently Vince and the Nighthawks have recorded soundtracks for Amazon's Emmy winning series, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, and Warner Brother feature film, *The Joker*. Vince also has a bit part in Martin Scorsese's, *The Irishman*.

Hudson West Productions feature documentary *Vince Giordano – There's a Future in the Past is* complete and for sale! A special thanks to the directors Dave Davidson and Amber Edwards who found us as a worthy subject!

Giordano's passion for music from the 1920's & 30's and the people that made it began at age 5. He has amassed an amazing collection of over 60,000 band arrangements, 1920's and 30's films, 78 recordings and jazz-age memorabilia. Giordano sought out and studied with important survivors from the period; Whiteman's hot arranger Bill Challis and drummer Chauncey Morehouse, as well as bassist Joe Tarto among others. Giordano's passion, commitment to authenticity, and knowledge led him to create a sensational band of like-minded players, the Nighthawks. For over 40 years, Vince Giordano has single handedly kept alive a wonderful genre of American music that continues to spread the

joy and pathos of an era that shaped our nation. Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks can be heard every Monday and Tuesday at Iguana NYC.



Bill Reynolds is an extremely versatile and highly sought after jazz and studio drummer. He is an alumnus of the Berklee School of Music and the Navy School of Music where he served on the staff as percussion teacher and drummer with the renowned Faculty Lab Band.

He has performed and/or recorded with such varied artists as Jerry Bergonzi, Gene Bertoncini, Keith Ingham's Manhatten Swingtet, Ernie Watts, Rufus Ried, Dick Oatts, Vince Giordano, Mark Soskin, Harold Danko, Scott Robinson, The New Black Eagle Jazz Band, Billy Novick, The Washington Ballet, The New Direction Jazz Ensemble, The Back Bay Ramblers and many others.

Performances include The Gateway Jazz Festival, The Sacramento Jazz Festival, The Smithsonian Concert Series, The Wirral International Jazz Festival, The Hot Steam Jazz Festival, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Newport Jazz Festival, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, and many more.

As a studio artist, a sampling of his soundtrack and jingle credits include the following movie and television productions: Seabiscuit, The Honeydripper, Eight Men Out, This Old House, The 2006 Academy Awards, Sex In the City, Ally McBeal, and The American Experience to name a few.

Bill has enjoyed 20 plus years of teaching jazz drum set and directing small ensembles at The University of Connecticut and is currently busy as a freelance performer, clinician, and private teacher in the Boston area.



Simon Wettenhall is a professional musician, composer, arranger and lyricist residing in New York City. Born in Australia, Simon began music studies on the piano at the age of ten. After hearing a recording of Louis Armstrong, the trumpet became the center of his musical focus. Studies with two Australian masters of the orchestral trumpet soon followed, then the school military band, and at age fifteen, his first forays into the world of professional music playing the early music of New Orleans.

While attending art school in Australia, music performances in jazz and blues combos at Jazz festivals, concerts and clubs reflected Simon's growing interest in the early origins of Jazz.

After studying classical trumpet with Mervyn Simpson and Barry McKim in the late 1960s in Melbourne Australia, Simon moved to the United States and studied trumpet

with Sam Bivens. After spending a year in Minnesota playing and recording with the Whole Earth Rainbow band and receiving a positive review in *Downbeat Magazine*, Simon returned to Australia to apply some of the lessons learned in the U.S. with likeminded musicians in the group NIAGGARA. Discovering the music of Lennie Tristano and Warne Marsh led Simon to return to the U.S. to study with Warne Marsh from 1975 to 1980 during which time he moved to New York and settled.

A regular performer in established New York bands, Simon has played and recorded with The Cayenne Jazz Band, Judy Niemack, Robbie Scott's New Deal Orchestra, Terry Waldo's Gotham City Jazz Band, The Red Onion Jazz Band, The Oceanic Orchestra, Woody Allen's Jazz Band, The Constitution Jazz Band, The Lucky Dogs Jazz Band, Kevin Dorn's Big 72 and Baby Soda.

Since 1996, Simon has played and recorded with Woody Allen's New Orleans Jazz Band appearing in the films *Wild Man Blues* and *Sweet and Lowdown*. The Band performs every Monday night at the Carlyle Hotel and has toured European concert venues and festivals extensively.