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Jeff Barnhart's Essex Eight

February 23, 2025 • Old Saybrook High School

*Essex
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Series*

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THE 2025 STU INGERSOLL JAZZ CONCERT

"Early Jazz of the 1920s and 1930s"

Jeff Barnhart, *piano, vocals*
Andy Schumm, *cornet, clarinet, piano*
Dan Levinson, *reeds*
Billy Novick, *reeds*
Jim Fryer, *trombone, euphonium, vocals*
Vince Giordano, *string bass, bass saxophone, tuba, vocals*
Arnt Arntzen, *guitar, banjo, vocals*
Bill Reynolds, *drums*

*In keeping with the spontaneity of the music and the performers,
selections will be announced from the stage.*

For 2025, the jazz concert is dedicated to the memory of
Sharon D. Clark.

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The 2025 Jazz concert
is dedicated to the memory of

Sharon “Sherry” D. Clark
1941-2024

Her lifetime love and the joy she found in music
so often drew her to our concerts
and brought her support of our series for decades.



Those we love don't go away.
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Unseen, unheard, but always near.
Still loved, still missed, and very dear.

Funded through the generosity of long-time EWS concert sponsors:
Her loving husband, Herb Clark, the Clark Family,
and good friends, Jacqueline Hubbard and Norman Needleman.



Jeff Barnhart's Essex Eight

Jeff Barnhart (CT), *piano, vocals*
Andy Schumm (IL), *cornet, clarinet, piano*
Dan Levinson (NY), *reeds*
Billy Novick (MA), *reeds*
Jim Fryer (NY), *trombone, euphonium, vocals*
Vince Giordano (NY), *string bass, bass saxophone, tuba, vocals*
Arnt Arntzen (NY), *banjo, guitar, vocals*
Bill Reynolds (MA), *drums*

This year our Jazz Advisor Jeff Barnhart is thrilled to present his Essex Eight! Hot music of the 1920s and 1930s will be dished up by internationally celebrated musicians who he's also proud to call friends. You'll be amazed at the virtuosity and versatility of these talented individuals. While this octet has never appeared anywhere prior to gracing our EWS stage, you'll marvel at the synergy that makes the group sound as if they've been performing together for decades! Jeff Barnhart's Essex Eight has been carefully curated to bring out the best in each of these world-class musicians. You'll be talking about this concert for years to come.



Jeff Barnhart (*piano, vocals*)

Jeff Barnhart is an internationally renowned pianist, vocalist, arranger, bandleader, recording artist, ASCAP composer, educator and entertainer. Jeff shares his mastery of the classic swing, jazz, and ragtime repertoire of the early to mid-20th century with a versatility and vibrant energy that finds him 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, several celebrated labels including Arbors, GHB, Lake Records (UK) and Music Minus One. Reviewer Jack Rummel 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."

In addition to his active performance and recording schedule, Jeff is a dedicated and enthusiastic educator. His double BA's in Music and English, combined with his MA in Education, make Jeff a formidable and entertaining force in clinic, masterclass and inspirational speaking forums and as a lecturer (with his wife) for Road Scholar with the program called, "Ragtime, Tin Pan Alley, Jazz and the Blues." In 2025, Jeff began a second program for Road Scholar called, "Silent Film Comedy: History, Music and Laughter."

www.jeffbarnhart.com • www.roadscholar/8009 • www.roadscholar/24844



Andy Schumm (*cornet, clarinet, piano*)

Andy Schumm is a Chicago-based multi-instrumentalist, composer, and arranger originally from Wisconsin. In Chicago he leads the Cellar Boys a sextet appearing every Tuesday at the world-famous Green Mill Cocktail Lounge. On a typical engagement, you can hear him on cornet, clarinet, and saxophone, but he also plays piano and drums. Now based in Chicago for more than ten years, Andy's expertise

and love for the jazz and popular music styles of the 1920s and 1930s have put him in demand for concerts and festivals all over the traditional jazz world, both domestically and internationally. He is also an avid student of the history of jazz.

CREDIT : DINO PETROCELLI



Dan Levinson (*trumpet*)

The 2017 winner of Hot House Magazine's "NYC Jazz Fans Decision" award for Best Clarinetist, Dan Levinson is equally at home as both leader and sideman, fronting his own groups as well as performing with those led by others. His roster of musical associates includes such names as Mel Tormé, Wynton Marsalis and Dick Hyman.

Originally from Los Angeles, Dan has been based in New York City since 1983, although his busy schedule often takes him across the continent and around the world. He has performed in Brazil with filmmaker Woody Allen's band, as well as in Japan, Iceland, Latvia, and 18 European countries. From 1990 to 2009 Dan toured with singer/guitarist Leon Redbone. Since 1993 he has been a member of Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, the country's preeminent 1920s-'30s hot jazz orchestra, with whom he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, and on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* radio program. Dan's successful Benny Goodman tributes have been presented both in the U.S. with James Langton's New York All-Star Big Band and in Europe with the Berlin-based Swing Dance Orchestra.

Dan has recorded over 150 CDs, including nine under his own name. He can be heard on the soundtracks of the films *The Cat's Meow*, *Ghost World*, *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*, and Martin Scorsese's *The Aviator*, as well as on all five seasons of the Grammy Award-winning HBO television series *Boardwalk Empire* and all three seasons of the Amazon Prime Video series *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. Visit Dan on the web at www.danlevinson.com.



Billy Novick (*reeds*)

Billy Novick has had a whirlwind career in music for over 50 years as a performing artist, studio musician, arranger and composer. His soulful, lyrical jazz clarinet and sax playing with The New Black Eagle Jazz Band and guitarist Guy Van Duser has impressed audiences across the world. As a studio musician, arranger and composer he has been featured on more than 350 recordings and film and TV soundtracks. Novick's jug band adaptation of *Peter and the Wolf* premiered in

New York's Lincoln Center. and his two full-length ballet scores, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Sun Also Rises*, debuted at the Kennedy Center to sold-out houses and rave reviews.



Jim Fryer (*trombone, euphonium, vocals*)

Jim Fryer began his professional career playing traditional jazz trombone in the Boston area during the 1970s. 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, Edinburgh Jazz Festival, and the Turner Classic Film Festival in Hollywood. As a long-standing member of

Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, Fryer recorded on the Grammy-winning soundtrack compilation for the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*.

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

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



Vince Giordano (*string bass, bass saxophone, tuba, vocals*)

Grammy-winner, New York native and multi-instrumentalist Vince Giordano has played in New York nightclubs and concert halls and festivals around the world, however he is most known for leading his band, Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks. Together they have recorded and appeared in many films and TV shows including: *Finding Forrester*, *Ghost World*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Savages*, *The Good Shepherd*, *Away We Go*, *Public Enemies*, *Kill Your Darlings*,

Carol, *Bessie*, *The Knick*, *Sophie and the Rising Sun*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Café Society*, *Wizard of Lies*, *The Promise*, *The Joker*, *The Irishman*, *Don't Worry Darlings*, among others. Most recently, Vince & the Nighthawks are on the soundtrack and on-screen in the Martin Scorsese film, *Killers of The Flower Moon*. In the fall of 2020, the band released a CD recording with Loudon Wainwright III called *I'd Rather Lead a Band*. Hudson West Productions 2017 featured documentary, *Vince Giordano – There's a Future in the Past*, highlighted the triumphs and disasters involved in leading a band, plus the sheer amount of work involved. This documentary is available on AppleTV and Vince's website, VinceGiordano.com.

Giordano's passion for music from the 1920s & '30s, and the people that made it, began at age 5. He has amassed an amazing collection of over 65,000 band arrangements and sheet music, 1920s and '30s films, 78rpm 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 nearly 50 years, Vince Giordano has actively pursued studying this wonderful genre of classic American jazz and popular music from the early part of the last century and continues to play with the Nighthawks every Monday night at Birdland Jazz in NYC.



Arnt Arntzen (*banjo, guitar, vocals*)

Arnt Arntzen is one of the most in-demand plectrum banjo and guitar players in the traditional jazz scene in New York City, where he has lived since 2017. In addition to leading his own trio, called Arnie and His Rhythm, he holds the guitar chair in both the Grammy Award-winning Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks as well as The Louis Armstrong Eternity Band, which performs weekly at Birdland Jazz Club.

Arnt has performed in many of the top concert halls and venues in and around NYC, including Jazz at Lincoln Center, Symphony Space and the Ear Inn. With his hard-swinging rhythm and remarkable singing voice, Arnt has helped audiences across North America get out of their seats and dance.

He and his brother Evan co-lead The Brothers Arntzen, and are featured in *Three Generations of Jazz* with their grandfather Lloyd and parents Georgina and Tom. Arnt began learning music at a young age from his family, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jazz and Contemporary Guitar from Vancouver Community College in 2014. Visit Arnt at arntmusic.com.



Bill Reynolds (*drums*)

Bill Reynolds – performer, educator, clinician – 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 all over the world with such varied artists as The New Black Eagle Jazz Band, Jerry

Bergonzi, Vince Giordano, Spiggle Wilcox, Billy Novick's Blue Syncopators, Jaki Byard, Gene Bertoncini and many others. Performances include The Gateway Jazz Festival, The Sacramento Jazz Festival, The Smithsonian Concert Series, The Wirral International Jazz Festival in England, The Hot Steam Jazz Festival, The Washington Ballet, The International Association of Jazz Record Collectors, 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 numerous others.

Reynolds can be heard on numerous recordings by Billy Novick, The New Black Eagle Jazz Band, The Back Bay Ramblers, Keith Ingam's Manhattan Swingtet, Leon Merian, and The Brahman Bellhops to name a few.

Bill Reynolds is currently teaching jazz drum set and small ensemble at The University of Connecticut where he has been educating young jazz musicians for 22 years.



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