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Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks
May 17, 2026 • Valley Regional High School



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THE 2026 STU INGERSOLL JAZZ CONCERT

"Hot & Sweet Music of the 1920s and '30s"

Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks

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

Andy Stein, *violin, baritone saxophone*

Andrew Stephens, *trumpet*

Joe Boga, *trumpet*

Sam Chess, *trombone*

Evan Arntzen, *alto saxophone, clarinet, soprano saxophone*

Mark Lopeman, *tenor saxophone, clarinet, soprano saxophone*

Dan Pearson, *alto saxophone, clarinet, soprano saxophone*

Peter Yarin, *piano*

Devan Kortan, *guitar, banjo*

Paul Wells, *percussion, drums*

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

*Tower Laboratories is
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VINCE GIORDANO & THE NIGHTHAWKS

Our Jazz Advisor Jeff Barnhart was thrilled this season to announce the return of EWS favorite Vince Giordano, leading the amazing Nighthawks to perform hot and swinging 1920s and '30s jazz! Vince told Jeff that our audiences are among the most rewarding he's performed in front of, averring "It's like returning to visit old friends!" Indeed, this concert marks the fifth time the group has graced our stage, making it the most requested jazz ensemble in the history of the series! Revel in this increasingly rare opportunity to experience this incredible 11-piece jazz orchestra outside of their NYC home.



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

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*, *Café Society*, HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* and for concerts at the Town Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Newport Jazz Festival and the 92nd St Y for nearly five decades.

Recording projects include soundtracks for the Scranton Sirens for Chiaroscuro at WVIA, the

award-winning *Boardwalk Empire* with vocalists Elvis Costello, Patti Smith, St. Vincent, Regina Spektor, Neko Case, Leon Redbone, Liza Minnelli, Catherine Russell, Rufus Wainwright and David Johansen. Vince and his Nighthawks 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*, and many times with Garrison Keillor on *A Prairie Home Companion*. 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; and the Maggie Greenwald film *Sophie and the Rising Sun*, plus season one and two of the Emmy-winning series, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*; Woody Allen's *Café Society*, starring Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart; a Barry Levinson film for HBO called *The Wizard of Lies*, starring Robert De Niro and Michelle Pfeiffer; a historical drama called *The Promise*, directed by Terry George, starring Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac and Warner Brothers' blockbuster film, *The Joker*. Vince also had a vocal in Martin Scorsese's film, *The Irishman*. In the fall of 2020, the band released a CD recording with Loudon Wainwright III called *I'd Rather Lead a Band*. In 2022, they recorded music for the film *Don't Worry Darlings* starring Harry Styles. Vince and the augmented Nighthawks are on the soundtrack and are on-screen in the Martin Scorsese film (2023), *Killers of the Flower Moon*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro and Lily Gladstone.

Hudson West Productions feature documentary, *Vince Giordano — There's a Future in the Past*, opened in theaters in 2017. This is a brilliant documentary, which captures the triumphs and disasters involved in leading a band, plus the sheer amount of work involved and can be seen on Apple TV.

Giordano's passion for music from the 1920s and 30s and the people that made it began at age 5. He has amassed an amazing collection of over 60,000 band arrangements and 45,000 pieces of 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 almost 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.

Most recently the band can be seen every Monday and Tuesday at Birdland Jazz, 315 W 44th St, NYC, playing two shows a night. They also do a free livestream broadcast on YouTube's Radio Free Birdland on Tuesday's at their 5:30pm show.

vincegiordano.com



Andy Stein (violin, phono-fiddle, baritone saxophone)

Two-time Grammy winner Andy Stein has been called “a musician with a checkered past” by the NY Times. Mel Brooks once exclaimed, “Andy, that was surprisingly good!” after a solo on baritone sax. But he is probably best known as the “Powdermilk Biscuit Fiddler,” for 22 years on public radio’s *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor.

As a jazz violinist he has recorded with Wynton Marsalis, Phil Woods, and others; while he has also

worked with pop stars Sir Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan, and Lady Gaga; country legends Emmylou Harris and Willie Nelson; and classical icons Plácido Domingo and Joshua Bell. His orchestra music has been performed by ballet companies worldwide from Stockholm to Sydney and from Toronto to Tel Aviv, and by most Big City symphony orchestras in the U.S. As a composer and arranger, he also created an opera with a libretto by Mr. Keillor, and scored films for Roger Corman and National Lampoon. Andy has played violin and sax in The Nighthawks since 1979 and is the oldest surviving member ... so far.

Stein grew up surrounded by classical music, with several prominent professionals in the family, notably his aunt, the violist Lillian Fuchs. He played and studied theory with his pianist father, and played chamber music with family and friends on a regular basis. He attributes a large part of his success in many different genres to his chamber music background.

andysteinmusic.com



Andrew Stephens (trumpet)

Andrew Stephens is a musician, bandleader, and educator from Sacramento, California, based in New York City since 2021. He is the head instructor for the Louis Armstrong House Museum’s trumpet program, leads an ongoing project celebrating the centennial of Armstrong’s Hot 5 and 7 recordings, and has performed with Vince Giordano and The Nighthawks, Taylor Eigsti, Roy McCurdy, Gabrielle Cavassa, Kenny Wollesen, Evan Christopher, Ben

Goldberg, and many others.

He completed a Masters of Music at The Juilliard School in 2023 and a BA in Pure Mathematics at UC Berkeley in 2018. Andrew placed 2nd in the 2025 and 2019 Carmine Caruso Competitions and is the winner of the 2021 Ryan Anthony Memorial Trumpet Competition.

CREDIT: KATHY FALLON PHOTOGRAPHY



Joe Boga (trumpet)

This New York City-based trumpeter, comfortable with both classical and jazz genres, has performed professionally in a variety of venues, from Carnegie Hall to Birdland, across the U.S. and abroad. Boga is a member of the legendary Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks and leads his own small ensemble, The Scranton Ramblers. In addition, he performs regularly with highly acclaimed artists and ensembles including Stephane Wrembel, Gordon Webster and his Band, the

Kyle Athayde Dance Party, the Nate Sparks Big Band, Wycliffe Gordon, David Ostwald and the Louis Armstrong Eternity Band, and many others. As a teenager, he had the privilege of appearing many times with The Wynton Marsalis Quartet.

An avid educator, Boga has offered masterclasses and clinics nationally and internationally. He recently served as the guest conductor for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association 2023 All-State Jazz Band. Joe was a student of Wynton Marsalis and is a graduate of The Juilliard School. He also plays bass, alto clarinet, piano, and sings.

josephboga.com



Sam Chess (trombone)

A deep passion for the power of music struck a six-year-old Sam Chess during his first piano lesson. Now in his 20s, Sam is a pioneering trombonist and composer who plays in New York City and has traveled the world recording with jazz legends such as the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, among others. Sam has just released his first project as a band leader – an album of original arrangements and songs titled *Hot Cereal*.

Sam is a recent addition to Vince Giordano’s legendary Nighthawks and has had the great fortune to bring his unique sound to the stage with a variety of artists. He’s played venues large and small – from the Sydney Opera House and the Montreux Jazz Festival all the way down to backyard barbecues in Appalachia and parties on decommissioned ferries in Brooklyn. Sam is a native of Tucson, Arizona, where he attended the illustrious Tucson Jazz Institute. He is also a graduate of The Juilliard School.

Sam grew up surrounded by blues and jazz ... he is the grandson and great-nephew of Phil and Leonard Chess of Chess Records, a Chicago-based pillar of American culture via Jazz, Blues, Soul and Rock.



Evan Arntzen (*alto saxophone, clarinet, soprano saxophone*)

Born into the third generation of a family of musicians, Evan Arntzen was given a clarinet at age seven and began learning timeless blues melodies by the likes of Sidney Bechet and Louis Armstrong from his grandfather, Lloyd Arntzen. He has since developed his own expressive voice as a clarinetist, saxophonist and vocalist, which Grammy Award- winning jazz writer Ricky Riccardi calls “the very definition of timeless.”

Originally from Vancouver, Evan moved to New York City in 2014 and quickly became a dynamic force on the jazz scene. He has performed at legendary venues like The Jazz At Lincoln Center and Birdland, lit up major festivals worldwide, and led the saxophone section for Grammy-winning Vince Giordano’s Nighthawks. A core member of Catherine Russell’s Grammy-nominated band and a frequent collaborator with Downbeat Rising Star Bria Skonberg, Evan swings with effortless authenticity, delivering electrifying improvisations and a profound connection to jazz’s rich history. As a bandleader, his critically acclaimed albums – including *Counter melody* (2021) honor the deep traditions of jazz while infusing them with fresh energy and compelling storytelling.

Evan earned his MM in Jazz Performance from Manhattan School of Music, studying privately with Jaleel Shaw and David Krakauer. A passionately engaged educator, he is the Artist Associate in Saxophone at Williams College, in-demand as a clinician on high school and college campuses, and teaches at Dorot’s University Without Walls and the New Horizons International Music Association.

evanarntzen.com



Mark Lopeman (*tenor saxophone, clarinet, soprano saxophone*)

Like several other Nighthawks members, reedman Mark Lopeman started with the band several decades ago. He has worked with dozens of other diverse big and small jazz bands, including those led by Buddy Rich, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Gerry Mulligan, Loren Schoenberg, Chris Byars, Buck Clayton, Bill Kirchner, Catherine Russell, Mel Lewis, Woody Herman, Gil Evans and John Lewis.

Mark is also a noted arranger and transcriber of classic jazz recordings. He has contributed, often working with Giordano and other Nighthawks, to soundtracks for *Finding Forrester*, *Ghost World*, *The Aviator*, *Boardwalk Empire*,

Kill Your Darlings, *Carol*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Bessie*, HBO’s *The Wizard of Lies*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Fosse/Verdon*, *The Joker* and *The Irishman*.

markelopeman.com



Dan Pearson (*alto saxophone, clarinet, soprano saxophone*)

“I wanted to play trumpet but Mr Albano, my 4th grade band teacher, said I have to play saxophone. So here I am years later still having a go at it”

Between the fourth grade in NYC public school and now, Dan studied music at The Hartt School and The Manhattan School of Music, then went on to performing all over the country and globe. Whether it’s playing *West Side Story* in the Far East or at Birdland in NYC with the finest cats in town, Dan is happy

to make sounds. Dan is one of NYC’s busiest freelance jazz musicians. He can be seen at Arthur’s Tavern playing with the Grove Street Stompers or Terry Waldo’s Jazz Band. And for many years played at Swing 46 with the Stan Rubin Orchestra. He also leads a band at another NYC nightspot, Winnie’s Jazz Bar.



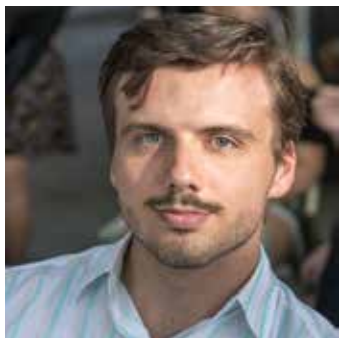
Peter Yarin (*piano*)

Peter Yarin has been playing piano with Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks since 2004, leads his own trio, and performs with Toombs Dixon (American roots/early rock ‘n’ roll). Included among artists he has performed or recorded with are Regina Spektor, Elvis Costello, Liza Minnelli, St. Vincent, Rufus Wainwright, Michael Feinstein, and Garrison Keillor.

A pianist and composer who immerses himself in both jazz and classical music, Peter has performed and recorded solo piano for many film/tv projects (recently: *The Pale Blue Eye*, *Queen’s Gambit*; *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*) as well as many recording projects with The Nighthawks (*Boardwalk Empire*, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, and others). In other productions, like HBO’s *Succession*, he himself has appeared on-screen as a musician. Peter is a SAG-AFTRA member.

Peter is also involved in musical theater projects. He composed original music for the musical *Sempro* at Tokyo’s New National Theatre and has composed two full-length musicals, *The Age of Innocence* and *The Masked Zinfandel*.

Peter is a graduate of NYU and on the faculty at the Diller-Quaile School of Music.
peteryarin.com



Devan Kortan (*guitar, banjo*)

Devan is the newest (and youngest) member of The Nighthawks orchestra. He grew up in the rich traditional jazz scene of Sacramento and the Bay Area of California, where he played and studied with the many top musicians of the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and Teagarden Jazz camp, where he now teaches. He entertains audiences worldwide, on a cruise ship or the radio, with his silky voice and sharp plectrum banjo playing.



Paul Wells (*percussion*)

Paul Wells began playing drums at the age of ten in his hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. He moved to the New York area, where he is now based, to attend the renowned jazz studies program at William Paterson University, and has studied privately with John Riley, Kenny Washington, and Bill Stewart. Now, as an educator, he is Professor of Jazz Drums at The Juilliard School.

Paul is currently touring internationally with Curtis Stigers and is a member of Vince Giordano’s Nighthawks. He has also performed and/or recorded with Deborah Harry, Joe Williams, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, The Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra, Wynton Marsalis, Bill Charlap, Elvis Costello, Diana Krall, Randy Brecker, Mark Murphy, Nellie McKay, Marion Raven, Kristin Chenoweth, Ann Hampton Callaway, Norman Simmons, and Houston Person. He was also featured on the soundtracks of *The Irishman*, *The Joker*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, and many others. You can also see Paul featured in a pivotal scene alongside Robert DeNiro in the 2017 HBO film *The Wizard of Lies*. In addition, he is a contributing writer for *Modern Drummer* magazine.

paulwellsdrums.com

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