

NVDJSNEWS

November 2024



www.napatradjazz.org

The Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society PRESENTS



The Fog City Stompers

Sunday, November 10
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
American Legion Hall, 1240 Pearl Street, Napa

Corner of Pearl Street & Franklin Street, 2 blocks Southwest of Main Street, downtown Napa. Parking lot at the American Legion Hall, free parking on street, plus free public parking structure across from this Hall, on Pearl Street.

FOG CITY STOMPERS

The Fog City Stompers were established in 1985. In addition to the great old standards of the 1920s & 1930s, which include arrangements and transcriptions of the Bix Beiderbecke recordings, they offer original compositions and new arrangements performed in the traditional Dixieland jazz style. They play currently at various establishments, jazz clubs, and festivals around the San Francisco bay area, and at private affairs. Please come up and say hello to them.

Tom Belmessieri - Cornet (*Leader*)

Tom began playing trumpet when he was 9 years old and has been involved with music ever since. He grew up with an appreciation for the music of the '20s, '30s, & '40s because his dad was always playing those records, particularly Bing Crosby, the early jazz of Bix Beiderbecke and Paul Whiteman, and the big swing bands. In high school Tom sang in the music department's barbershop quartet. In 1985 he organized a group of musicians to play dixieland and that was the birth of the *Fog City Stompers*. Tom has composed a number of the band's original tunes.

Mike Young - Clarinet/Sax

Mike has been performing on clarinet and saxophone since 1977. He was a member of the Aptos High Jazz Ensemble, an award-winning band that performed at the Monterey, Montreux (Switzerland) and Northsea (The Hague Holland) Jazz Festivals. Since graduating from UC Berkeley, he has kept busy in a variety of musical settings. Mike was a member of "Beach Blanket Babylon" pit orchestra for five years. He leads and performs with the Moodswing Jazz Trio and Orchestra, and also plays regularly with the Royal Society Jazz Orchestra, the Continental Breakfast Club, Ray Brown's Great Big Band, and the Jambalaya Swing Band. His main musical influences are Fletcher Henderson, Zoot Sims, Benny Goodman, and Duke Ellington.

Rich Newcomb - Trombone

Rich has been playing music since he was 6. His mother was a piano teacher and started him on that instrument but he switched to the trombone at age nine because he "liked the slidey thing". A plethora of trombonists in his junior high school caused his transition to baritone and he began doubling on tuba in high school. He acquired his interest in traditional jazz after discovering the Firehouse Five Plus Two, and he had the honor of opening for Turk Murphy during Murphy's 1986 performance on the California Maritime Academy campus. He has been performing traditional jazz since 1987 when he began playing with the Dew Drop Inn Jazz Band in Fresno. After some years playing overseas, where he performed mainly big band swing and bop, and where he also taught himself to play trumpet, he returned to his first love of traditional jazz and has performed with many jazz ensembles in the Bay Area. His primary instrument is trombone but he also plays cornet, euphonium, and tuba, as well as occasionally inflicting vocals on his audiences.

Mike Hart - Tuba

A native San Francisco boy, Mike grew up to all the musical sounds of the City. He enjoys hearing and playing all kinds of music. He has played regularly with Vintage Music Theatre, the San Francisco Banjo Band, Deutscher Musikverein, and Half Moon Bay Community Orchestra. For over thirty years he has played tuba with the Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra. He plays occasionally with popular bay area traditional jazz bands and still wants to be a rock and roll star.

Gary Neuman - Piano

Gary has a classical background from Pease Conservatory in Sacramento, studying under the master, Dilworth Simmons. He entered into the world of commercial performance in 1980 in Saratoga CA, playing 5 nights a week at Shakey's Pizza Parlor on Hwy 9. A partnership was forged with Banjo Bill, and they moved on to

Clancy's in Jack London Square. After many years of saloon entertaining in this smoky environment, Gary played at the Overland House and, later, the Fat Lady. The early 80s ushered in a 15-year run of Sunday afternoon entertainment in Tiburon and Corte Madera at 39 Main, the Dock and Marin Joe's, where Gary and several other musicians played for loyal fans. San Francisco piano bars stole Gary away from Oakland clubs and he drew fans to the Gold Dust and Lefty O'Douls on Union Square. Other San Francisco venues included Hornblower Yachts, Cityscape, and the Holiday Inn at the Wharf. During this same timeframe Gary was the piano player for Don Neely's Royal Society Jazz Orchestra.

When Gary moved to Contra Costa in the late 90s he began developing a local presence, accompanying singers and playing at the San Franciscan, Slates, Marcello's, and Bing Crosby's. Currently, Gary appears at various Rossmoor venues. He also accompanies the John Muir Health System Chorale in Walnut Creek and The Role Players Ensemble in Danville.

Ron Galen - Banjo/Guitar

Ron has been playing music all his life except for the first five years which he just wasted. Starting on the piano, on which he majored at Northern Illinois University for two years, he picked up the electric guitar during Beatlemania and played in rock 'n' roll bands throughout HS and college. After migrating to California in 1970 to play western swing, he returned to school at CSU Hayward, earning BA and MA degrees in classical guitar. He has performed as classical guitar soloist and ensemble member, and in musical theater productions on electric guitar and banjo. These days he is pursuing his longtime love of Brazilian music playing cavaquinho, and 7-string guitar in his Brazilian choro band, Choro Sem Nome. He teaches music at Laney College in Oakland, and Solano College in Fairfield.

Scott Wild - Drums

Scott has been playing drums and percussion since the age of 7. Originally from NJ, his father played Dixieland music in the house as long as he can remember. He began studying the drums in 1st grade and eventually studied classical and jazz with Tom Sicola. He co-founded Marblehead Records, a small independent record label, with his long-term musical partner, Ken Barsky, and has co-produced other artists as well as his own groups, "Ton of Bricks" and "The Agave Ensemble". Besides his work with the Fog City Stompers, he can also be heard recording and performing in the San Francisco Bay Area with The Lovelight Blues Band, The Jazz Mavericks, The Barrelhouse Jazz Band, Music Masters Jazz Quartet, and Al Lazard & the World Street Players.



Presidents' Message

Linda Stevens & Marilee Jensen, Co-Presidents

Recently, we haven't been seeing any contributions to our Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society. In the October '24 newsletter, I requested more contributions. In the past, such as in February 2024, we had a significant response to that same request from our supporters and members, voluntarily, so we had enough resources to keep going. But lately the financial resources are dwindling. The \$10 to \$15, which we charge as admission at the door, doesn't cover the combined monthly costs of \$300 room rent and the band, which generally runs from \$600 to \$1,100. In the month of October 2024, the only way we had enough in the bank to pay for the cost of the October band was with the one contribution of \$500 from one of our supporters. At the same time, we do still have a little over \$3,000 in the Credit Union, which will just cover the rent & band costs for November, December & January 2025. But then what?

Another change in our operations is to include a "**tip jar**" each month, which is donations from individuals in the audience, turned over completely to the musicians each month. They really do enjoy a little extra unexpected cash, as voluntarily and independently donated by individuals in the audience, who are showing their special appreciation for the music being played; an extra bonus from the audience which results in the musicians receiving more money than anticipated!

We haven't made any firm financial commitments beyond January 2025, except for the \$300 pm rent at the American Legion Hall, which has turned out to be an excellent "dance hall". Will we have to stop scheduling the fun TRAD JASS bands, after January 2025 or can we find additional support to make it through 2025? Please send what you can to help up pay these expenses, for your own membership and/or as a contribution, to 145 Merner Drive, Windsor, CA, 95492. It will gain you free admission for the next show, as well as continuing our **"Traditional Jazz Performances, 2nd Sunday of each month, 1:00 to 4:00pm, at the American Legion Hall, downtown Napa, with music, dancing & a good time for all!"** **THANKS SO MUCH!**

We continue to miss all the work and ideas from Thomas Wolford, over this last year, in promoting our Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society. Here's to his enthusiasm for this wonderful Traditional Jass! Enjoy! Marilee Jensen & NVDJS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Linda Stevens & Marilee Jensen, co-President

Jazz Club Information

Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society Information

The Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society is a non-profit tax-exempt organization dedicated to the performance, promotion, preservation and perpetuation of Traditional, Dixieland, Ragtime and Swing Jazz, an integral part of Americana. Your membership and contributions are tax-deductible. As a member of and/or a contributor to the Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society, you are helping to preserve & broaden the sounds of Traditional Dixieland Jazz. Your cancelled check will be your receipt. Our Non-Profit Entity # is 1633975.

Officers

Co-Presidents - Linda Stevens & Marilee Jensen

Vice-President - Don Robertson

Treasurer - Marilee Jensen

NVDJS Newsletter Co-Editors - Marilee Jensen & Don Robertson

Secretary - Lee Campbell

NVDJS Membership & Circulation Manager - Don Robertson

Directors - Linda Stevens, Marilee Jensen, Lee Campbell, Jack Harford, Marion Mills, Charles E. Newman, Don Robertson, Joy Waite and Candy Woodworth

Bay Area Traditional Jazz Clubs Information

***1st Sunday -TRAD JASS of Santa Rosa** meets at Druids Hall, 1011 College Avenue, 1:00 to 5:00 pm, Members-\$12; Other Clubs - \$12; Public - \$15; **December 1, Barnebey's Hot Four Plus One JAN 5th, Flying Eagles Jazz Band, Feb 2nd, Creole Jazz Band**

***2nd Sunday - Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society** meets at the American Legion Hall, 1240 Pearl Street, Napa, CA, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. NVDJS Members and other jazz/dance clubs members, \$10; Public, \$15; **November 10, Fog City Stompers, Tom Belmessieri. ; December 10, Gold Coast Jazz Band. Bill Badstubner.**

***3rd Sunday New Orleans Jazz Club of Northern California, (NOJCNC)** meets at the Elks Lodge, 3931 San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante, 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Members, \$8.00; Other Clubs, \$10.00; Public, \$12. **November 17, Gold Coast Jazz Band. Bill Badstubner.**

***4th Sunday South Bay Trad Jazz Society** meets at the Elks Lodge, 375 N. Pastoria Ave., Sunnyvale. 1:00 to 5:00 pm,

The Dixieland Jazz Club of Rossmoor Tahoe Room of the Rossmoor Event Center, 1021 Stanley Dollar Way, Walnut Creek, CA, 94595. Rossmoor is a gated community so tell the guard you are going to the Event Center for a Jazz Concert. The contact person is Rob Thomas, "robthomas10@sbcglobal.net"; (510) 432-1624. Rossmoor residents, friends and family are all welcome. Bring your own libations and snacks. Cost is \$20 per person, cash, check or credit card.

Special Events:

Fresno Mardi Gras Festival. Changed to third week-end, February 13- February 16, 2025, Sounds of Mardi Gras, 2025, Online Double Tree Reservations, by Hilton with a number of excellent bands.

Dance to live Music in 4 Dance Venues All Under One Roof, DoubleTree by Hilton,
Eleven bands, plus more to be announced. FOR MORE INFO: www.fresnodixie.com or Linda 209.534-1924",

Membership

THE NAPA VALLEY DIXIELAND JAZZ SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Standard Membership: Single -- \$40.00/year Couple -- \$70.00/year

Contributing Membership: Single -- \$125.00/year Couple -- \$200.00/year

Monthly Admission

NVDJS Members and members of other

Other Jazz and Dance Clubs: \$10.00

Public: \$15.00

Contributing Members: Free

Name _____ Address _____

_____ City _____ State_ Zip_

_____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Make out check to NVDJS and mail to: NVDJS, 145 Merner Drive,
Windsor, CA 95492-9102

Please let us know your ideas.