



THE *Dixieland*

# JAZZ HOT SHEET

The Official Newsletter of The COHJS

A Not For Profit Corporation Dedicated to the Preservation  
of Dixieland and Traditional Jazz Music

June 2024

[www.COHJS.org](http://www.COHJS.org)

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## Whirlybirds Wrap Up COHJS Spring Season

Sunday, June 9, 2 - 5 pm ~ Clintonville Woman's Club



Hot jazz meets the twenty first century with the Whirlybirds. We are super excited to wrap up the COHJS Spring season with this highly talented local band! They are a quartet which blends their modern influences with classic jazz songs to create a sound that will make you think you're hearing the "Great American Song Book" for the first time. The band has been engaging audiences since 2016 with tight three-part vocal harmonies, virtuosic technique, and polished arrangements.

James Harker, from the Columbus Dispatch wrote, "The Whirlybirds inject a breath of fresh air into the already exciting jazz side of the Columbus music scene." The band has a popular following in Columbus, playing a regular gig at Natalie's Grandview. And they sure put on a terrific show for us at the Clintonville Woman's Club. Don't miss it!

**Band:** Joe Gilliland, vocals/guitar; Joe Brenneman, reeds/vocals; Trent Sampson, bass/vocals ; Seth Daily, drums.

## Before the show: 2 Hour Lindy Hop Workshop: Jig Walks ~ 11AM - 1PM

*Downstairs in the Ravine Room at the Clintonville Woman's Club*

Join **SwingColumbus** instructors **Shannon Varner** and **Mark Calkins** for a two hour dance workshop to help you get ready to dance to the "hot" vintage dance tunes at the show. **\$30 gets BOTH the dance workshop AND the show+dance!**

The workshop will explore Jig Walks, another dance that is a brief bridge between Charleston and Lindy Hop. The basic footwork and rhythm, plus some variations in moves + patterns will be covered. The Jig Walk is a great way to transition between different styles of the dances we do + smoothly bridges into Lindy Hop and Charleston.

**Please note: This is an open level class.**

**For more info + to register for the workshop:** <https://linktr.ee/SwingColumbus>



Photo by Sioriomi Joy

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024 AT THE SHOW!**



**SHOW ADMISSION**



General Admission **\$20**, COHJS Members + SwingColumbus dancers **\$15**,

Music educators + music students **ALWAYS FREE!** All other students **\$10**

**For as little as \$20 for a membership you can help keep Hot Jazz Live & Local! (+ get the discount at shows)**

## FALL SEASON DATES - GET 'EM ON YOUR CALENDAR!

September 22 + October 20 - at the Woman's Club

November 10 - Fall Harvest Jazz Party - Valley Dale Ballroom

See inside for photos from April's Ragtime Rick show, PLUS Photos from Bob Butters' Memorial Jam ➡



## Ragtime Rick & the Chefs of Dixieland Entertain with Excellence

A good crowd turned out for the April show and were not disappointed! Ragtime Rick was in fine form as band leader (piano player extraordinaire) and MC, regaling the audience between numbers with his gregarious anecdotes, humor, and his vast knowledge of the musical history of the early ragtime and jazz era. Rick brought two new musicians to this year's show: trombone player Kevin Shope, who actually played with the band often before Ben Herrick, and young drummer AJ Cechner who has been playing frequently with the band recently. It was a wonderful show! Here are a few pics from the afternoon.



**The Chefs - L to R:** Front Row: Kevin Shope, John Grafig, Betsy Grafig, Ray Heitger, Rick Grafig. Back Row: AJ Cechner, Wes Linenkugel.



Ragtime Rick "holding forth" as MC.

⤴ Photos: Jim Loeffler ⤵



Kevin Shope thrilled the crowd with a trombone solo at the start of "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" - starting soulful and slow, then shifting into New Orleans street mode as the band kicked up the tempo.



Banjo Betsy and Wes



John Grafig has truly come into his own as a superb trumpet player.



Charismatic drummer, AJ, entertained with his very expressive face (and his amazing 8 minute solo!)

Photo: Jim Loeffler ⤴



Jim "Doc Jazz" Loeffler celebrated his 93rd birthday at the show. The band played "Dr Jazz" in his honor!



## Next Jazz Jam & Dance Plus Short Dance Lesson - June 12, 8:15 - 11

Every 2nd Wednesday at the Rambling House, 310 E Hudson St., Columbus  
**DANCE LESSON** starts at 8:15 ~ **OPEN JAZZ JAM** starts on the bandstand about 8:30

**All levels of experience are welcomed** on the bandstand and the dance floor. It's a fun and informal evening sharing this music and dance we all love! **MUSICIANS:** visit the "Learn it + Play it" page on [www.COHJS.org](http://www.COHJS.org) for Jam tips and learning resources. **So dust off that instrument, or come sing a song. Bring your dancing shoes!**



*The more the merrier! Whirlybirds band folks having way too much fun on the piano!*



*Shannon Varner from SwingColumbus teaching another short solo jazz dance routine. Come learn a new short and fun routine each month!*

## We Say Farewell to Bob Butters In Style

On Saturday afternoon, May 18, Bob Butters' family hosted a Celebration of Life and Memorial Jam Session at the Valley Dale Ballroom in Columbus, generously making an open invitation to all of Bob's friends, fellow musicians, and the wider community to join them in celebrating Bob's life, as Bob had wanted. And a celebration it was! Thanks to so many who were able to attend, and to those who made donations to COHJS in Bob's memory. The stage was filled with musicians from many parts of Bob's musical life, from bands he played in, or musicians who Bob worked with as longtime president of COHJS, as well as several musicians who regularly attend the local monthly Hot Jazz Jams that Bob rarely ever missed, and two of Bob's grandsons who joined in the jam as well. The family had Bob's silver trombone front and center on the stage. Charlie Butters, Bob's oldest son, gave an opening welcome and brief remarks, then turned things over to the musicians. Sally Lukasik, leader of the Buffalo Ridge Jazz Band (that Bob was a member of since 1966) acted as MC and bandstand organizer, with graciousness and warmth, making sure all the musicians had a chance to play. The final song of the afternoon was the traditional "When the Saints Go



Marching In." COHJS president, Chris Skudder, started it off with a slow and soulful solo on trombone, and then the drum rolled off, and the music kicked into high gear in fine New Orleans style. At the start of the final chorus the entire front line of musicians stood up and a joyful wall of sound rolled out across the room. It was a truly fitting send off for a great musician and friend!



COJHS is grateful for the generous support of:  
**Columbus Foundation** and the  
**Greater Columbus Arts Council**



### ***The Dixieland Jazz Hot Sheet***

The official newsletter of the  
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## ***Support Hot Jazz Live + Local***

***If you haven't yet... PLEASE RENEW for 2024***

and ***PLEASE JOIN*** if you're not yet a member!

Your membership support is ***critical to***  
***booking bands AND getting grants.***

Thanks so much for pitching in.

➔ **NOW ONLINE TOO** ⬅

**Debit + Credit cards ~ PayPal ~ Venmo**

**COHJS.org + click Admit•Join•Renew**

( find it at the end of the red menu bar )

Or fill this out, add a check and mail to:

Larry Nusser, 720 Lincoln Ave, Lancaster OH 43130

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual \$20 ☐ Family \$30 ☐ Sustaining \$50 ☐

Sponsor \$125 ☐ ... get 2 free admissions to all events!

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### ***The Central Ohio Hot Jazz Society***

***Listen ~ Dance ~ Play ~ Live + Local***

3307 County Road 172

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***Sunday, June 9***

***The Whirlybirds***

***+ 2-hour Dance***

***Workshop before the show***

***First Class Music***

→ via ←

***First Class Mail***

