



Keeping Classic R&B Alive

Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society

Affiliate Member of the National Blues Foundation

www.bluespreservationsociety.org | 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401.461.0012

RHYTHM AND BLUES NEWS of NOTE

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Whiting

April - June 2016

Volume 12 No. 2

From the President's Desk



President Cleveland Kurtz

It Was a Very Good Year.

Our Instruments for Children Program is very important to us, and we put a great deal of effort into making this program a success. However, by definition, most of our efforts here are behind the scenes. The impact of our labor is often gradual and subtle. Last year, however, we had a chance to see the fruit of our labor, and it was most gratifying. Our collaboration with the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts culminated in a wonderful performance that showcased their young musicians. This offered a chance to show us their wares, and they did a fine job of it, too. The show received rave reviews and deserved every single one of the accolades.

Our Instruments for Children collaboration was further highlighted when Dr. Max Whiting, our Music Director, and Randy Ashe sat in with band members of the Warwick school department for their 'End of the Year' concert. Similar rave reviews came from that union. Once again, we saw them and they saw us and it was a wonderful connection.

Our collaboration with the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame produced another great Rhythm & Blues event. Our own band members backed the award-winning, *Dave Keller* and created a sensational performance. Much of our partnership with the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame is behind-the-scenes; focusing on making sure that Rhode Island music history is maintained and in the history books. This year we will enhance our Instruments for Children Program by adding a Master-Musician component. This program will not only be an enjoyable musical event, but it will greatly enrich the musical experiences of the young musicians involved. We are open to collaborating with other community groups. So far, our collaborations have not only benefitted the two groups involved but have benefitted the community as a whole. I invite you to contact us if you think we can help your group, or we may contact you if we think you can help us. Stay tuned. Some good things

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Cleveland Kurtz
Vice President: Max Whiting
Sec/Treasurer: Sylvia Whiting

Board Members

Sandra Ginsberg
Barbara Bardsley
Tom Colantonio
Wayne Manning
Del Padgett

Instruments Program Director

Tom Colantonio

Honorary Board Members

Richard & Donna Pena
Lynn & Elizabeth Pegg
Sylvia Ann Soares

are on the way. Don't miss them.

Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Skills Needed

Facebook/twitter Assistance

Accounting/Finance Support



After a quiet winter the Board is planning our spring/summer/fall programming and membership events. Highlights of the up-coming season will be the Annual R&B Heritage Month Festival in August and our Annual Meeting concert/event to be scheduled for November. RIRBPS continues to promote live music venues featuring R&B artists as a way of promoting R&B.

We are actively exploring the possibility of a concert highlighting the talent of local women performers. The brainchild of our Secretary/Treasurer Sylvia Whiting, this event would showcase female vocalists from the Rhode Island community who continue to keep the R&B and jazz legacy alive through their performances. We are excited about the challenge of bringing these performers together for the first time in a concert format. As our plans become more concrete we will inform our members and friends through the summer newsletter.

In order to continue our programming broad support is needed. We continue to seek volunteers to assist with website interface (Facebook/Twitter/Website) and support with financial oversight. Accounting expertise would be helpful. Please consider a Membership and/or donation. (**Membership Application** Page 6.) Donations may be sent to RIRBPS or made on our website. All donations are tax deductible. Our website www.bluespreservationsociety.org is updated periodically. For information, volunteer opportunities, musician listings, programming and donations please visit us at

OUR PROGRAMS

INSTRUMENTS FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM - Tom Colantonio

Find us on the Web
www.bluespreservationsociety.org

Trinity Academy Students



The first three months of 2016 saw about 14 band instruments placed in the Warwick and Woonsocket School Systems, and Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts. These included a French Horn, two 3/4 Size Violins, two Alto Saxophones, two Trombones, an Electric Bass, two Flutes, a Clarinet and three Keyboards. Also distributed to the RI Autism Project were 8 Hand Instruments (Shakers, Rhythm Sticks, Triangle, Band Claves, etc).

April begins another donation campaign with Press Releases for donation requests from regional weekly newspapers in Bristol, Warren, South County, Scituate, Cumberland, Smithfield, etc. There are still instruments in our inventory and response to the donation requests will hopefully increase this

inventory. We're off to a good start already for 2016. Anyone interested in learning more about the Instruments Program or to donate a usable musical instrument please contact me at 401.793.1281 or Cleveland at 401.461.0012. We will arrange to pick up the instruments, if necessary.

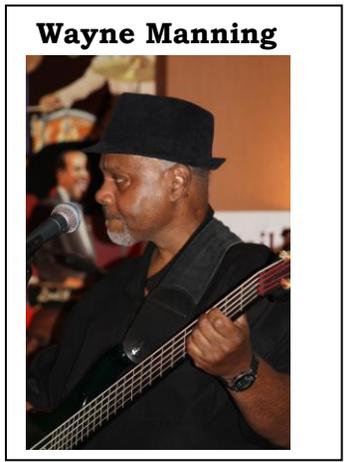
May is Membership Renewal Month
Look for Details on page 6 or on our Website

www.bluespreservationsociety.org

♪♪♪ OF INTEREST

It may interest you that our Board of Directors now has 3 bass players; Wayne Manning, Tom Colantonio and Max Whiting. With a board of eight members this is highly unusual. However, we are not your 'typical' organization. With a musical mandate and focus on the historical musical form of R&B it makes sense that musicians would constitute the majority of our Board membership; but three bass players, now that is different.

Wayne Manning, born in the Fox Point area of Providence, began his interest in music by taking accordion lessons at age 6 at Dipipo's Music in Federal Hill. Ten years later he switched to piano but in 1971, due to health issues, gravitated to the bass guitar. Wayne's musical philosophy is unique among many. "I've been playing bass since 1973 I consider myself a meat and potatoes type player with very little flare and lots of pocket . . . what you don't hear in music is just as important as what you hear. Just as in social situations where the art of communication is important, in music you must be a good facilitator as well as a good listener. It's what you call good music etiquette." Wayne grew up listening to old Broadway and show tunes, eclectic collection of old records and, of course, radio. "I was a sponge where I listened to everything from African roots, Cabo Verde, Country, Blues, Rock & Roll, Jazz and R&B". He boasts that everyone has had some type of influence on him with local heroes Paul Gonsalves, sax player for Duke Ellington, Tavares, Jeffrey Osborne, Ecstasy, Bob Petteruti, Philip Pegg and Mibbit Threats, to name a few.



One year after picking up his first Fender bass Wayne was touring locally and on the road with 'Smoke Shop' his first band. They played a little bit of everything but mostly Soul and R&B. His current band 'Soul Unit' out of New Bedford, MA features soul and R&B. Featured regularly at the Cove Restaurant & Marina on the Fall River waterfront, the full schedule for 'Soul Unit' can be found at www.thesoulunit.com.

"I've been blessed to come from an area so rich in music and culture. If I could give one word of advice it would be leave your attitude at home and be humble. What you put out is what you get back and never burn your bridges for you never know when you will have to cross it." Wayne is a truly unique breed of musician and a true asset to RIRBPS. Thank you.

MUSICIANS CORNER

Tish Adams Jazz Trio

Every Thursday Nite, 6PM – 9PM, Live Jazz @ Simone's, 275 Child Street, Warren, RI. 401.247.1200. April is **Jazz Appreciation Month**. Featuring vocalist **Tish Adams** with special guest artists; April 7, Joe Barbato, Keys & Dave Ladoni, Acoustic Bass; April 14, John Funkhouser, Keys & Bryan Frank Rizzuto, Acoustic Bass; April 21, Andy Solberg, Guitar & Bryan Frank Rizzuto, Acoustic Bass; April 28, Chris Taylor, Keys & Dave Zinno, Acoustic Bass. No Cover, Amazing Food, off-street free parking.

Meanwhile, on the radio... Join Tish for her "VOCALISTS & LOCALISTS" show, Thursday mornings, 8-10Am, 90.3 FM, WRIU Kingston...a COMMERCIAL-FREE broadcast service from the University of Rhode Island, staffed by VOLUNTEERS!!!

THURSDAYS IN APRIL, Tish will celebrate **JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH & NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK (APRIL 10 - 16)**. Join her for great Jazz all found in RI's WONDERFUL LIBRARIES!!!!

Tom Colantonio & CHANDLER STREET

SATURDAY, April 9th, CHANDLER STREET BAND, featuring Tom on Bass, **Bailey's Pub**, 1910 Smith Street, N. Providence, 8PM – Midnite. Rock & Roll to the tunes of the day.

Wayne Manning & Soul Unit

FRIDAY, May 20th, 6th Bristol, 736 Ashley Blvd, New Bedford, 9PM

SATURDAY, May 28th, **Gridiron Sports Bar**, 2416 Gar Highway, Swansea, MA. 9:30PM – 12:30PM. www.thesoulunit.com.

Richard "Dick" Willner

EVERY WEDNESDAY – Lou's Café, 47 Summer St. Manville, RI, 8:00 PM, **Dick Willner and the Blues Deville**, Open Blues Jam, Sign-up begins @ 7:30PM. Cost - No Cover or drink minimum, free buffet, All musicians, singers, entertainers, audience and all blues fans welcome.

WHERE IT'S AT - - - Where music lovers may go to satisfy a healthy R&B craving !!!

Boundary Brewhouse (Formerly Corrinne's), 60 Garrity Street, Pawtucket, RI, 401.725.4260. Sunday night at 6 o'clock. Featuring Wolf and the Jam Daddies, no cover.

Cady's Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, 401.568.0267. Blues Jam, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

<http://www.cadystavern.com/#!ricks-roadhouse-blues>, no cover.

Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard, 162 W. Main Rd, Little Compton, RI, 6:00PM, \$10 cash per car load and \$10 voucher to be used on estate wine selections, 401-635-8486, www.sakonnetwine.com.

Knickerbocker Café, 35 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI. 401.315.5070. **Events featured every night**. Open Mike every Thursday, 8-11PM, classic blues, R&B, Rock, Oldies, Pop. <http://www.theknickerbockercafe.com>. No cover.

Lou's Café, 47 Summer St. Manville, RI, 8:00 PM every Wednesday, **Dick Willner and the Bluesdeville**, Open Blues Jam, Cost - No Cover or drink minimum, free buffet, musicians, singers, entertainers, audience and blues fans welcome.

Murphy's Law, 2 George Street, Pawtucket, RI. 401.724.5522. Blues jam Sunday night at 8:30 o'clock. No Cover.

<http://murphyslawri.com/events>.

The Parlour, 1119 N. Main Street, Providence, RI. Wednesday night at 10 o'clock. Featuring 'Funky Autocrats'. \$5 Cover. <http://theparlourri.com/events/eric-bloom-the-funky-autocrats> or www.facebook.com/FunkyAutocrats.

The Revolution, 2190 Broad Street, Cranston, RI, 401.780.8700. "Excellent Food + Good Music = Fun", Check their schedule for Blues Greats.

Simone's, 275 Child Street, Warren, RI. 401.247.1200. Great food, Thursday nite Jazz featuring Tish Adams.

THE LAST CHORD

Thomas 'Tommie' Wheeler 1930-2016

Thomas W. Wheeler, Jr., age 86, of Courtney Avenue, Pawtucket, died on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at home. He was the husband of the late Fannie I. (Weeden) "Princess Precious" Wheeler. Born in Providence, a son of the late Thomas W. and Martha E. (Russell) Wheeler, he lived in Providence until moving to Pawtucket 15 years ago. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and a life-long Christian. Mr. Wheeler was a professional musician, and a former member of the RI Philharmonic Orchestra. Accomplished on several instruments, his primary instrument was the upright bass. A member of the Providence Federation of Musicians, he played at numerous venues in the area. He also tutored students learning to play a musical instrument. Mr. Wheeler was the brother of the late Gordon E. Wheeler, Sr. and Eleanor Aubry. He is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Relatives and friends celebrated the life of 'Tommie' Wheeler on Tuesday,



January 26th at Barrett & Cotter Funeral Home, Warwick, RI. Burial with military honors was in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter, RI.

Stanley C. Swann III 1960-2016

by Max Whiting

We are saddened by the untimely loss of a truly talented musician and friend, Stanley Swann. Stanley C. Swann III, of Lowell, MA died Saturday, October 31. Stanley's extraordinary life began in Chicago, where his loving parents Joann and Stanley Shareef raised him along with his brother, Tony and sister, Felicia. As a child, he learned to play the drums from his father. In his teens, Stanley began playing in nightclubs on the South Side of the city, where he developed a passion for performing that would never be extinguished. This past winter Stanley worked with me on several occasions both in Boston and Providence. In 2013 Stanley performed at Roots for the RIRBPS as we recorded "A Day in the Life of an R&B Musician" with Hakim Law on keys and Randall Ashe, Sax. In the fall of 2008 Stan was a member of my band that recorded a Jazz cd "Songs from the Heart". His artistic and creative drumming was a strong feature of the recording. At Stanley's memorial service it was difficult to determine how many musicians were in attendance along with many friends and admirers.



After high school, Stanley enlisted in the United States Air Force. As a musician in the Air Force, Stanley had the opportunity to perform for people all over the world. After living in Europe for close to a decade Stanley and his family returned stateside, to Hanscom Air Force Base. He immediately began to explore the local music scene and make connections throughout the Boston area that would last the rest of his life.

In the early 2000s Stanley dedicated himself to creating a local Jazz scene in Lowell, MA, where he resided. An alumnus of UMass Lowell, Stanley rapidly formed friendships with everyone he would cross paths with in the city. His dedication to sharing his love of jazz and inspiring a younger generation share his passion culminated in the creation of the Lowell Jazz Day Camp, his proudest achievement. The Stanley Swann Lowell Jazz Camp is a legacy to his hard work and dedication to music. A Fundraiser/Dinner to benefit the Camp is scheduled for April 16. For information and details contact Lowelljazzcamp@gmail.com, 451 School Street, #5, Lowell, MA 01851.

Membership Application

Join/Renew RIRBPS Membership Today!

Become an active member or simply enjoy the variety of events and concerts we have to offer. RIRBPS is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization committed to preserving and promoting the blues in the African American tradition. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

To Join or Renew:

Complete the Application and mail with a check or money order made out to

RI Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society to:

Sylvia Whiting, Treasurer, 125 Cliff Avenue, Winthrop, MA 02152 / 617.539.3951 / sylmax99@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Membership Categories:

New Application _____ Renewal _____

		Quantity	Fee
Student	\$ 5/year	_____	_____
Individual:	\$15/year	_____	_____
Couple:	\$25/year	_____	_____
Non Profit:	\$50/year	_____	_____
Venue/Club	\$75/year	_____	_____
Corporation	\$100/year	_____	_____

Voluntary Donation \$ _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____ \$ _____

Volunteer Information (optional):

In addition to supporting RIRBPS with my Membership, I would like to volunteer in the following way:

Membership renewal year runs from June 1 to May 31.

Applications are pro-rated quarterly for the first year.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

We have an on-going need for **volunteers** to assist with public relations, expanding our membership and programming and to help with serving on the Board, contacting organizations for support, outreach and phone calls or helping with events. Contact Cleveland at 401. 461.0012 or Max Whiting at 617.539.3951 for more information.

RIRBPS is a 501©3 non-profit, membership, organization. All donations are tax deductible.