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September, 2014

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The ATJS Jazz Messenger is circulated mostly by e-mail, and is published as we have an important message or gather enough material to assemble a new issue. The 2014-15 season is upon us, as good an occasion as any to crank out a new issue.

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## President's Message



The 2014-15 ATJS season is about to begin. It looks like a good one, with a strong run of good area traditional jazz bands leading up to an exciting special concert in May and our usual rousing ATJS All-Star concert in June. As always, we want everyone with an interest in traditional jazz to come to Cap City Comedy Club, have a good time, and help keep the wonderful music that is traditional jazz alive and well in the Greater Austin Area.

The 2013-14 season had some highs and lows. The highs included the music. We had a very good selection of bands, highlighted by a fine show by the Jim Cullum Jazz Band. New bands included the Thrift Set Orchestra and the Oxblood Melodians, the latter group backing up an interesting concert by Alice Spencer, for years one of the leading jazz vocalists in Austin. The ATJS Jam Session drew over 200 onlookers and players, and was greatly enhanced by the appearance of two fine professional musicians from New York City, Gordon Webster on piano and Dan Levinson on clarinet. The ATJS All-Stars featured the Washington-area trombonist David Sager and drew a standing ovation from an enthusiastic crowd.

Attendance at ATJS events continued to be erratic, a continuing concern for an organization holding concerts in a venue which will comfortably hold 300 patrons. One of the other Austin jazz organizations recently had to leave its venue because of its inability to fill it. Cap City Comedy Club has been a good home for ATJS for eight seasons, and we want to stay put. The ATJS Board of Directors greatly values its working relationship with Cap City, and goes through anxious moments when a good jazz band fails to draw much of a crowd. We try to schedule around important events and holidays, but it is sometimes hard to say when a good crowd will show up on Sunday afternoon.

This year, we have one new band to present. La Grosse Tete was started by banjoist Johnny Serrano as a an outgrowth of jazz jam sessions he was holding in his home. The purpose of the band was to play a 2013 Mardi Gras gig, but it was such a success there that more gigs followed, and now La Grosse Tete is working regularly around the Austin area. Johnny and his fiancée Sally Matsumae are swing dance instructors, and La Grosse Tete has become a favorite of the Austin swing dance crowd.

Our special concert on May 17 will be very special indeed. It will feature Banu Gibson and her New Orleans Hot Jazz Orchestra. Banu Gibson has been a leading jazz entertainer for many years and this is the first time she has been scheduled to play a concert for the Austin Traditional jazz Society. She will be joined by a fine cast of supporting players, including her music director David Boeddinghaus on piano, Hal Smith on drums, David Sager on trombone, Austin favorite David Jellema on cornet, and Dan Levinson on clarinet. All five have played for the Society before and should be right at home. Bassist Kerry Lewis plays all over and should do fine.

The Society needs to attract concert attendees and new members. The first should lead to the second, because we have great music played by fine musicians. The quest continues for people who might enjoy an afternoon of traditional jazz. This is an area where everyone can help. In a metropolitan area with a million people, there ought to be two hundred of them who would like to hear an afternoon of hot traditional jazz. We're doing our best to reach out to them, and occasionally we do, one or two at a time. Every concert or so, people show up who love the music, have lived in Austin for years and had never previously heard of us. The Board of Directors is always looking for new channels of outreach, but satisfied members may be our best advertising.

We need volunteers to help us with outreach. We put up posters, print informational materials, offer jazz lectures and occasionally send out jazz ensembles to play. Can you help any of this stuff land in the right places? If so, we need you. Please see the people at the desk at your next concert.

Traditional jazz is wonderful music, but it doesn't have much public exposure. You are hard-pressed to find it on the radio, and there are no TV channels like *MTV* or TV shows such as Austin City Limits featuring traditional jazz. We must go out and find our new fans a couple of people at a time. It's a worthwhile search, but we need to find new people at a faster rate. Bring them in and the music should keep them. Our concerts remain good entertainment values for members and guests alike.

In conclusion, we have work to do, but we have some wonderful assets to work with. I am looking forward to the new season, and seeing you at the concerts.

Sincerely yours,  
Dave Stoddard

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## ATJS Attends AISD Arts Event

On Wednesday, August 6 the Austin Independent School District held its third annual Connect It! Linking Schools to Community Partnerships Fair for the arts at Bowie High School in South Austin. Arts organizations had the opportunity to meet administrators and teachers connected with arts programs from all over AISD, about 400 people in all. The Society was very ably represented by Recording Secretary Martha Stoddard. She gave out several hundred flyers and sheets of Frequently Asked Questions, and told anyone who would listen about ATJS and how it can further the arts in schools. There was also a 2014-15 ATJS Schedule and a page of Central Texas Jazz on the Internet.

The handouts were accompanied by recordings of ATJS ensembles played on a portable stereo. Martha also had copies of articles describing research showing the benefits of improvisation on brain development and positive effects of music on learning in general.

This was a good moment for the Society's outreach efforts. One hopes that some schools will want to schedule traditional jazz concerts (apparently additional money is available for arts programs), and that some administrators, teachers and students will attend some of the ATJS concerts.

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NOTE: If you would like to pay your membership dues at the September 7 concert, please print and fill out the following membership application and bring it with you.



**JOIN NOW...**

**To enjoy and preserve traditional jazz in Austin and Central Texas!**

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 The Austin Traditional Jazz Society's year runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Dues are: \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. Student memberships are \$25. Membership entitles you to free admission to seven regular concerts, discounted admission to the May 17 special concert, and e-mail notifications about traditional jazz events of interest in Central Texas. Please include your e-mail address to receive announcements. Voluntary contributions to the Society for educational outreach are tax-deductible.

*Please print legibly*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Musician? If so, what instrument(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES**

Individual, \$50: \_\_\_\_\_ Couple, \$90: \_\_\_\_\_ Student, \$25: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax-deductible contributions to ATJS Education Outreach Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** (please make checks payable to ATJS) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For a CREDIT CARD transaction at Cap City, please add \$2.

Cash or Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Online Payment (PayPal): \_\_\_\_\_

Please present this application at the September 7 concert or mail it with a check to:  
 Austin Traditional Jazz Society, P.O. Box 27694, Austin, TX 78755-7694

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**AUSTIN TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY**  
 Retain for your records.

Membership in the Austin Traditional Jazz Society for 2014-15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Education Outreach Contribution (tax-deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

*ATJS is a 501©(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to the preservation and performance of traditional jazz in Austin and Central Texas.*



## 2014-15 Schedule

September 7	Silver Creek Jazz Band
October 12	La Grosse Tete
November 16	Mission City Hot Rhythm Cats
January 11	ATJS Jam Session
February 8	Thrift Set Orchestra
March 8	Second Line Jazz Band
April 12	Band Aid Jazz Band
May 17	SPECIAL: Banu Gibson and her New Orleans Hot Jazz Orchestra
June 14	ATJS All-Stars

All concerts will be from 2 to 5 p.m. at Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research Boulevard, Austin, TX (US 183 at Anderson Square)

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As part of Jazz Appreciation Month, the Austin Jazz Alliance hosted a jazz appreciation event on April 30th, 2014 at the Brass House in Austin. This event was in conjunction with other jazz events that happened all over the world that day. The Austin Traditional Jazz Society received an award from Fito Kahn, president of the Austin Jazz Alliance, for keeping the music of traditional jazz music alive in Austin. "Your support and the support of your organization has helped bring the wonderful sounds of Dixieland and traditional jazz to hundreds of jazz aficionados to Austin."

President Emeritus Tom Straus stated in his acceptance speech:

"I would like to thank the Austin Jazz Alliance, on behalf of the Austin Traditional Jazz Society, for presenting us with this award. It is a great privilege to be so honored.

ATJS, as we are known, is dedicated to the performance, preservation and promotion of traditional jazz music in Austin and Central Texas. The Society, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed back in 1977 and has provided a stage for many leading national and local traditional jazz musicians and bands. We welcome to our events and membership anyone who enjoys this fine American art form. We hold our concerts on eight Sunday afternoons a year, from September through June, at the Capitol City Comedy Club in North Austin.

The support of our members and concert attendees has helped bring the wonderful sounds of Dixieland and traditional jazz to hundreds of jazz aficionados. We would love to spread the word about our jazz efforts much farther. I want to encourage you to tell your friends and acquaintances who enjoy this type of music about ATJS. You can visit our web site at [www.atjs.org](http://www.atjs.org) to learn more about our events, membership in the Society and other jazz events being held in the area. Thank you so much."

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**2014-15 ATJS Board of Directors**

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| Dave Stoddard   | President           |
| Tom Straus      | President Emeritus  |
| Wes Lokken      | Treasurer           |
| Martha Stoddard | Recording Secretary |
| Ron Snell       | Financial Secretary |
| Becky Maddox    | Director            |
| Tutty Maixner   | Director            |
| Bill Troiano    | Director            |

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**GOOD-BYE**

For many years, San Antonio's Alamo City Jazz Band was a staple at Austin Traditional Jazz Society events. We have recently learned of the August 31 death of ACJB soprano saxophonist John Page. John was a very lyrical player (not an easy feat on soprano sax) and was also a fine singer. He played many ATJS events as well as jazz festivals around the United States.

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**OUTREACH**

On August 21, a traditional jazz quartet representing the Austin Traditional Jazz Society played a publicity set for a meeting of AARP, a retiree organization. The outreach set was organized by Director Tutty Maixner. The quartet was led by Tommy Griffith on banjo, Larmon Maddox on cornet, Lyon Graulty on clarinet and Bill Troiano on tuba. The Society owes its thanks to these five individuals for their efforts to spread the traditional jazz message in Austin.

## Listening to Central Texas Traditional Jazz on the Internet

Once upon a time, listening to a favorite jazz band either meant buying a record or listening to cassette recordings made at concerts. Many local bands never made records, and the concert recordings were often made on small recorders which didn't have great fidelity, and often picked up crowd noise.

Then we entered into the compact digital disk age. Many of the best CDs are recorded in studios, and local bands may or may not offer them. Portable recording devices are much better these days, and informally-recorded CDs may or may not be floating around. Jazz fans often did not get to listen to recordings of their favorite local bands.

The rise of the Internet has placed huge numbers of traditional jazz recordings within reach of all Internet subscribers. In the December, 2013 Jazz Messenger, we explored many historical jazz recordings available to Internet jazz fans. This month, we have a generous sampling of Central Texas traditional jazz recordings. Most of these are on YouTube, while an additional two cuts are on another website called Vimeo. Try these recordings out, especially if you have heard of a local band and would like to try them out before going to a live performance.

YouTube (Put the addresses below in the YouTube address bar)

Thrift Set Orchestra - Crazy Kapers (Take 2)

Thrift Set Orchestra - The Mooche (Take 2)

Silver Creek Jazz Band Plays "At a Georgia Camp Meeting"

Silver Creek Jazz Band Play "Dallas Blues"

Slide Frog Slide - Old Waterloo Jazz Band

Oxblood Melodians "Deed I Do"

The East Side Dandies performing at Central Market Westgate

Swinging Strings Tiffany Bristow

ATJS - Swinging Strings - Balboa - Collegiate Shag

Mission City Hot Rhythm Cats - Avalon

ATJS 2012 Jam - Big Butter and Egg Man

ATJS 2012 Jam - Si Tu Vois Ma Mere

Albanie Falletta & Her Fellas - "Django Swing 39"

TCMF 2014 -- La Grosse Tete -- Besame Mucho

All My Life - Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies

Thrift Set Orchestra at Central Market North

<http://vimeo.com/84349200>

<http://vimeo.com/84347483>

Mama's Gone Goodbye

Snowbound in a Cabin