



IN THE MOOD

The Olney Big Band
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

Volume 7, Number 1

Dear Readers:

In 2002, the (then) Olney Community Band had a tuba player named Tom Harwick. He had a big idea: forming a band that would play the music of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, and all of the great Big Band music of the 1930s and 1940s.

This year, 2012, is our 10th anniversary. Throughout this special year, this newsletter will include features that will share scenes and highlights from the past decade. And we'll even be asking you to help!

- ITM Editor



www.olneybigband.org

Quarter Notes A DECADE OF SWING

Dr. Robert Tennyson - Music Director, Olney Big Band

It is my pleasure to be the guest columnist for this year's first issue of *In the Mood*. This year, 2012, is the 10th anniversary of the Olney Big Band, and I would like to invite you to be a part of our year-long celebration.

The Olney Jazz Troupe came into being in 2002. Dr. Rip Rice became our Band Leader the following year, and in 2006, we became known as the Olney Big Band. It has been a remarkable decade to reflect upon and to celebrate.

During 2012, you will read about our past, our present, and our future. We want you to know that you – our readers, friends, and fans, as well as band members past and present – are the reason that we take such joy in playing swing music. So the Olney Big Band is asking you to participate in this year's anniversary activities: on page 7, you'll see a new feature, for this year only, called "Fan's Corner." It will tell you more about how you can help us remember our first 10 years!

I would also like to tell you about a very special performance that will be happening in July. For the first time, Musikkapelle Prutz (Prutz Town Band), from the western state of Tirol in Austria, will be coming to perform in the United States. Musikkapelle Prutz is an outstanding concert band which regularly performs throughout Austria and central Europe. The band was formed in 1694 (!) and today has about 55 performers. They will perform twice in Maryland during their visit, playing traditional Austrian band music, light classical works, and a variety of modern fun pieces. They will also be doing a lot of sight-seeing, visiting Washington, DC and the Baltimore Inner Harbor.

We would like you to join us on Saturday, July 14, at 3pm, at the Olney Theatre Center, to hear a performance by Musikkapelle Prutz, an Oktoberfest in July! More details about this performance as well as ticket information will be sent to you.

Thank you for being our fans and friends! We hope to see you many times throughout this special 10th anniversary year.



Rip Rice



Bob Tennyson

The Olney Big Band

Highlights from the Past Ten Years

2002 Tom Harwick forms the Olney Jazz Troupe (OJT).



2003 Dr. Rip Rice takes over as the band's director. One of the Olney Jazz Troupe's first gigs was the Rockville Antique Auto Show.

2004 The band gets its real start at the Second Sunday brunches held at the Sandy Spring Firehouse Ballroom. Barry Schwartz's B.J. Pumpnickel staff provides the buffet while the community chats, eats, and dances to our music.



2005 The new Olney Theatre Center's grand opening is sold out with a long waiting list -- they need the band on *two* successive August evenings. The band swings in the Theatre's new courtyard for state and local dignitaries.



2006 A momentous year -- OJT changes its name to the Olney Big Band (OBB); the first issue of *In The Mood* is published; and our first CD, *Generations*, is produced.



2007 The OBB is awarded Certification as Ambassadors of Big Band Music by The Sally Bennett Big Band Hall of Fame, because they judged that we “perpetuate, promote, and perform with integrity” the sounds of the big band era.



2008 The OBB travels to Switzerland to play in the Montreux Jazz Festival.



2009 The first “Swing, Swing, Swing” concert is performed at the Olney Theatre Center.



2010 The Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) chooses OBB as the winner of that year’s “Contribution to Community” (group) award.



2011 Dr. Bob Tennyson joins the band as Music Director.



A Visit from the Prutz Town Band

by DR. ROBERT TENNYSON

For the first time, the Prutz Town Band (Musikkapelle Prutz) from western Austria will be coming to visit America.

Musikkapelle Prutz is an outstanding, award-winning band which has performed throughout Austria and central Europe. Austrians love music, and music competitions are held constantly. Die Prutzer are consistently judged in the top tier by the Blasmusikverband (National Society of Wind Bands).

Dr. Bob Tennyson, the Olney Big Band's Music Director, has a close relationship with the Prutz Band. While living in Austria from 1994 through 2010, Bob often coached the group before contests, and on several occasions served as guest conductor. The conductor and the assistant conductor both studied conducting under Bob, and many of the adults in the band are his former students.

The band is over 300 years old! It can trace its origin back to 1694...

The band has about 55 players, with regular international band instrumentation as well as separate sections of flugelhorn and tenorhorns.

The band is over 300 years old! It can trace its origin back to 1694, during the era when small groups of wind and string musicians were often formed to play in towns - - mostly for ceremonial functions -- and in the church.



Prutz Town Band (photo provided by Dr. Rudi Pascher).

Musikkapelle Prutz follows a vigorous schedule: they play two or three formal concerts each year, along with the same number for the church. Also, throughout the summers there is a concert every two weeks for tourists, given in the band's own outdoor pavilion. This pavilion stage connects to their rehearsal space, making it very easy to just move the equipment out to the pavilion when concert time comes.

In addition to these concerts, the band plays "ständchens" – these are short appearances in honor of individuals during special events; for example, the mayor's birthday. The band arrives at the home of the person being honored and plays until the person comes out; the honoree is then given the baton and conducts a march. Afterward, the honoree thanks the band, and there is a toast.

During the band's visit to America, they will perform twice, under the baton of Dr. Rudolf Pascher. Their repertoire includes traditional Austrian band music and internationally known entertainment pieces. Some of their programs from

past years are on the "Programme" page of their web site (<http://www.musikkapelle-prutz.at>; the most recent programs are listed toward the bottom of the page). As you can see, among the classical pieces, marches, and hymns are George Gershwin's "They Can't Take That Away from Me," music from West Side Story, Henry Mancini's "The Pink Panther", and even "Pennsylvania 6-5000," arranged by Conductor Rudi Pascher himself!

Schedule:

- Saturday, July 14, Olney Theatre Center, 3PM
- Sunday, July 15, "Oktoberfest in July" Indian Head Village Green, Indian Head, MD

Ticket information and more details will be sent to everyone on the OBB's newsletter list.

The Prutz Town Band can be found at <http://www.musikkapelle-prutz.at>. And you can "like" their Facebook page at <http://de-de.facebook.com/musikkapelleprutz>



This Date in OBB History

Where Were You When?

by DR. SUE VAZAKAS

February 2006

We played at the Valentine Swing Hop, to benefit Hospice Caring, at the firehouse ballroom on Sunday, February 19. Nancy Ochsenreiter's wonderful thank-you note reported that "The Swing Dance was a HUGE success! We had about 130 people and everyone had a great time. Everyone LOVED the band... The dance lessons were very popular and the dance floor was packed the entire evening..."

February 2007

Perhaps you heard our old-time radio show, at either the February 11 Second Sunday brunch or the February 17 dance at Leisure World!

Vocalists Brad Bawek and Jill Sandler were the "announcers." In addition to music (of course), they provided sound effects and very funny "words from our sponsor."

In one of his warm, joyful notes to the band, OBB Director Rip Rice gave some personal background to the golden age of radio: "Momma would make me go to bed early on school nights, but I would put my alarm clock under my pillow set to wake me when [Glenn] Miller's show came on." For our readers who still love those marvelous radio shows, there is a web site called Old Time Radio (www.otr.com) that plays most of them as well as the complete Glenn Miller Chesterfield radio show broadcasts. And don't miss the weekly Sunday Big Broadcast on 88.5 FM, where you can hear original episodes of Gunsmoke, Johnny Dollar, and more!

January 2008

The Woodfin Suites Hotel in Rockville was under new management, and they wanted to try something new. Their "Mimosa Brunch & Dance" featured a fabulous menu which included "domestic and imported cheeses," "tender London broil," and "personally prepared omelets and waffles," among other lovely items. Also featured, of course, was the OBB. Despite some glitches during that first performance, February 2008 brought the news that we were invited back!

January 2010

The third annual Big Band Bash at Blake High School in Silver Spring featured the Albert Einstein High School Jazz Ensemble, the Eubie Blake Jazz Ensemble, and the OBB. All three bands were privileged to play two songs each with the special guest artist, saxophonist Chris Vadala, Director of Jazz Studies at UMD. The Big Band Bash event introduced the fans of each band to the other bands, and gave all the musicians the thrill of playing together on "Sing, Sing Sing"!

December 2011

Every year, the Washington, D.C. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds its Festival of Lights. This is something to see: outside, the trees are decorated with 500,000 colorful lights and there is a life-sized nativity scene. Inside the Visitor's Center are beautiful Christmas trees and an exhibit of crèches from all over the world, made of materials native to each country who donated one.

The Festival of Lights also includes free nightly musical performances, and this year, the Olney Big Band made its first appearance as one of those acts. On December 23, our group peered up from the stage at the massive and packed 650-seat auditorium. After being introduced, we launched into an all-Christmas program, playing favorites such as "Jingle Bells," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." During both of our shows, children danced in the aisles, and we received standing ovations from both audiences, which totaled over 1,200 people. □



Olney Big Band at the 2011 Festival of Lights (photo provided by Sister Marion Pack).

Frank Sinatra in New York

Invention of the Concept Album

by WILL FRIEDWALD

This article appeared in the Wall Street Journal on December 28, 2009.

Frank Sinatra almost single-handedly invented the concept album (his first was “The Voice” in 1945), and he perfected the idea of a pop singer doing a formal concert. At a time when the music of Gershwin and of Rodgers & Hart was performed only in Broadway shows or saloons, Sinatra was among the first to bring their songs into concert halls; he was singing in classical-music venues, including the Hollywood Bowl, as early as 1943. The singer’s mastery of the concert format is the subject of “Sinatra: New York,” a five-disc boxed set of previously unissued live performances recently released by Reprise Records and Sinatra Enterprises.

Sinatra (1915-1998) was the unchallenged virtuoso of both the recording studio and the concert hall, and he had a brilliant sense of what worked in each medium.

Sinatra (1915-1998) was the unchallenged virtuoso of both the recording studio and the concert hall, and he had a brilliant sense of what worked in each medium. What he discovered was often surprising: “Learnin’ the Blues” was his biggest hit single of the 1950s, while “You’re Sensational” and “Mind If I Make Love To You” were two superb songs in the 1956 film “High Society” that had been written for him by Cole Porter, yet he rarely if ever included any of them in his personal appearances.

Through years of trial and error, Sinatra figured out that a better bet were the classic songs he had sung on his great canon of albums from the 1950s

and ‘60s. Songs like “Fly Me to the Moon” and “Come Rain or Come Shine” were never hit singles, but Sinatra’s concerts would have seemed incomplete without them. The concert staple “Luck Be a Lady” was from one of his own films, “Guys and Dolls,” but someone else had sung it there. Nearly every time Sinatra performed it before a live audience, he lamented that a great tune had been wasted on the non-singing Marlon Brando.

If there’s anyone in the world qualified to compile packages of live Sinatra tapes for commercial release, its set producer Charles Pignone. One of the Chairman’s most dedicated fans, Mr. Pignone attended some 500 Sinatra concerts between the early ‘80s and the final concert in 1995. He worked for Sinatra Enterprises during the singer’s last years on the road and has done fellow fans a solid by drawing from hundreds of concert recordings held by the Sinatras to create two major packages (so far) of previously unreleased live material. Like its predecessor, “Sinatra: Vegas,” the new boxed set consists of four audio CDs and one DVD (plus a booklet containing brief essays by such notables as Journal contributor Nat Hentoff).

“Sinatra: New York” spans 35 years in the singer’s career, beginning with a pair of curiosities that will delight serious Frankophiles: The first item is a three-song 1955 reunion with bandleader and trombonist Tommy Dorsey in which the singer is in great shape, particularly on a beautiful reading of “This Love of Mine” that presages his classic recording on “In the Wee Small Hours” taped two weeks later; here, his affection for his former employer and mentor is clear. The next selection is a 1963 semiprivate performance for employees of the United Nations in which Skitch Henderson is Sinatra’s only accompanist. Saddled with Henderson—who had briefly subbed as pianist with Dorsey 20 years earlier

but left because, as Henderson told me around 1991, “I couldn’t swing a Mack truck, you know”—Sinatra finds it impossible to get a groove going on the fast numbers in the six-song recital.

The centerpiece of the new box is a pair of complete concerts from 1974, his first year back on the road after an 18-month retirement. Sinatra is in marvelous voice on both, but during the April Carnegie Hall show he gets lost in “Come Fly with Me” and “I Get a Kick Out of You,” two arrangements he surely knew. The mystery of the Saturday, Oct. 12, 1974, show from Madison Square Garden is why this concert stayed in the can while the following night’s show - a lesser performance - was televised as “The Main Event” TV special. (“The Main Event” album was cobbled together from five different concerts, and sounds it.) Sinatra is at his dynamic best throughout the Saturday night set. His attention to detail on “What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life” and “Send in the Clowns” makes these renditions substantially more moving than any other performances of those songs, and even “Bad, Bad Leroy Brown,” which was an embarrassment to Sinatra fans at the time, sounds much better now than it did then.

Sinatra is also in good fighting trim in the 1980 Carnegie concert included on DVD; the early ‘80s were a particularly strong period for Sinatra. The singer delivers the best songs from his recently released album “Trilogy,” including the amazing “Summer Me, Winter Me,” an intimate epic that was in his concert book for only a short time.

The last CD includes excerpts from two shows in 1984 and 1990, and his chops were in better shape when he was pushing 75 than I remembered.

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He concludes as he did in those years—especially in that city—with “Theme from ‘New York, New York.’” In all the concerts, the singer remarks on how he receives a more encouraging response from New Yorkers than any other audiences in the world, and it shows.

Sinatra was never more passionate than when he sang in New York...

Sinatra was never more passionate than when he sang in New York: His ballads, like “When Your Lover Has Gone,” are more tender; his swingers, like “I’ve Got You Under My Skin,” are more irresistibly upbeat; his saloon songs, like “Guess I’ll Hang My Tears Out to Dry” and “Angel Eyes,” are sadder; his rabble rousers, like “New York, New York,” are more manic; and his rambling monologues, in which

he attacks gossip columnists and other “parasites,” are more vitriolic. At the 1974 Garden show, Sinatra stands on a stage set up for boxing matches and tells the crowd: “I like New York—I’ve had some of my best fights here in town!” He meant it both literally and metaphorically.

.....

Will Friedwald has been writing about jazz for 30 years, and is the author of several books, including *Stardust Melodies: A Biography of 12 of America’s Most Popular Songs*; and *Jazz Singing: America’s Great Voices from Bessie Smith to Bebop and Beyond*. He has written for newspapers and magazines, and was the New York Sun’s jazz critic for seven years. In 1996, his book *Sinatra! The Song is You: A Singer’s Art* won the Deems Taylor Award from ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers).

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Fan’s Corner

Where Your Voice Counts

What Are Your Favorite Memories of the Olney Big Band?

Great music goes hand-in-hand with great memories. As part of our 10-year anniversary, the Olney Big Band is asking our fans to share in the celebration. We would love to know what you remember about us, so we can share those memories with all of our readers. Where did you first hear the band play? Who were you with? What else was going on around you? Did you dance? What was your favorite song? Did you share a special moment at an OBB gig? Did you take pictures of that momentous occasion? Is the OBB forever stitched into the fabric of your life?

Please send your comments or your pictures to: theolneybigband@gmail.com.

We look forward to including your comments and pictures in future *ITM* issues, so please tell us whether it’s okay to publish your name along with your story.

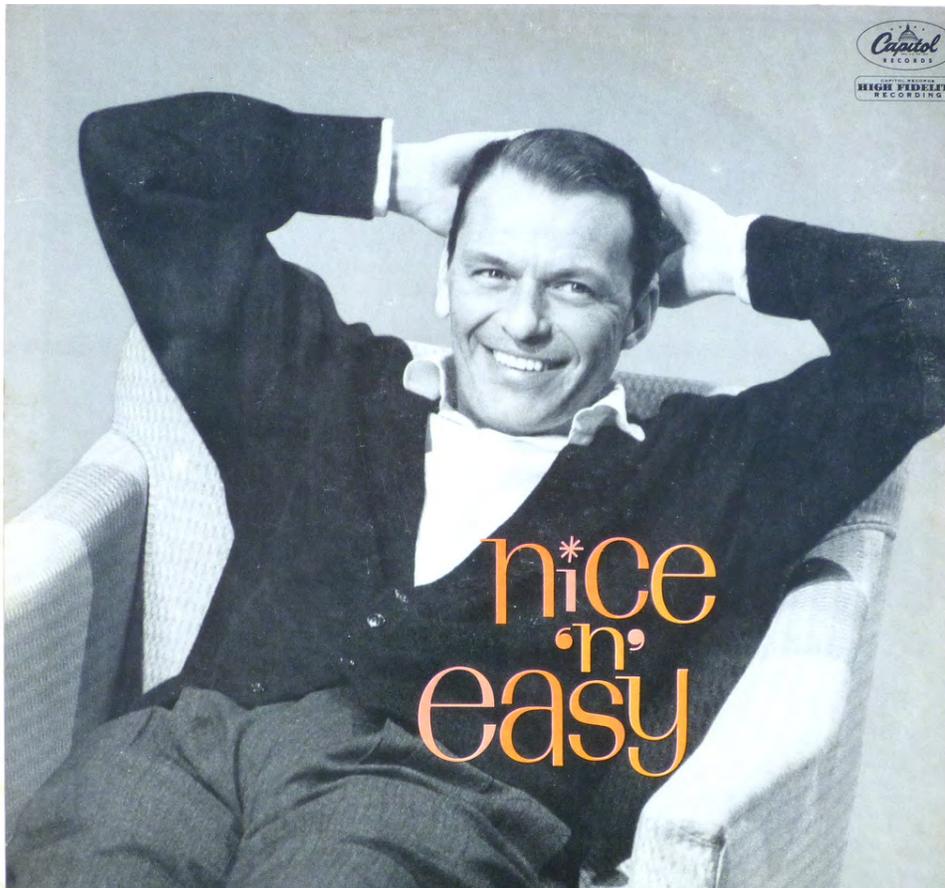


Photo by Epiclectic.



Key Personnel

Band Leader: Dr. Rip G. Rice
Music Director: Dr. Bob Tennyson
Associate Director: Brian A. Damron
Business Manager: David B. Schumer
Sound Engineer: Paul Freirich
Band Historian/Archivist: VACANT

Board of Directors

Dr. Rip G. Rice, President
Brad Bawek, Vice President, Design and Publishing
Barry Fell, Friends of OBB
Paul Freirich
Tom Harwick, Vice President (Founder)
Bruce Morris
David B. Schumer, Band Manager/Treasurer
Liz Schwendenmann, Recording Secretary
Halsey Smith
Richard Sonnenschein
Dr. Bob Tennyson

In The Mood

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Friends of the OBB

The Friends of the Olney Big Band support the efforts of the Band by encouraging volunteerism and by donating and soliciting and receiving gifts, bequests and endowments for the Band. If you are interested in becoming a *Friend of the Olney Big Band* go to the OBB website and click *Friends of the OBB* for details.

Benefactors:

- Barry and Ali Fell

Arrangers:

- Brooke Grove Retirement Village
Sandy Spring Friends School

Side Men:

- American Legion Norman Price Post 68, Roger Aldridge,
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Robert E. Traut, Dolores and Gary Wilkinson,
Charles and Elsbeth Woodward

Honorary Friends:

- Joe Karam & Robert Redding (in memoriam), Barry Schwartz

OBB Events Schedule

Sunday, March 18 - Heartlands Senior Living Village Concert and Dance, Ellicott City, MD, 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Closed to the Public.

Saturday, May 19 - Olney Days Concert and Fireworks, Olney Manor Park, Olney, MD, 7:30pm - 9:00pm. Open to the Public.

Sunday, June 24 - Jazz Concert at Columbia Lakefront Festival, 10227 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD, 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Open to the Public.

Saturday, July 14 - Party for Musikkapelle Prutz Concert Band. Closed to the Public.

Saturday, September 15 - Swing! Swing! Swing! IV, Olney Theatre Center, 1:30pm - 4:00pm. Open to the Public.

Don't forget to visit us on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/OLNEY-BIG-BAND/185013624074>

“It's the way you play that makes it . . . Play like you play. Play like you think, and then you got it, if you're going to get it. And whatever you get, that's you, so that's your story.”

- Count Basie

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