



Essex Winter Series
presents
The 2014 Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert
Celebrating "Fats" Waller

With Jeff Barnhart and His Hot Rhythm

Jeff Barnhart and His Hot Rhythm will celebrate the rollicking jazz style of one of America's greatest musicians and entertainers, the legendary **Thomas "Fats" Waller**, on the Essex Winter Series on **Sunday, March 2 at 3 pm**. Waller is known not only for his timeless compositions such as "Honeysuckle Rose," "Ain't Misbehavin'," and "Twelfth Street Rag," but also for his exuberant and

Sunday, March 2, 2014
at 3:00 pm
John Winthrop Middle
School

often irreverent style. The charismatic Jeff Barnhart, on piano and vocals, captures Waller's spirit in live performance with his band of top-flight musicians, including Gordon Au on trumpet; Dan Levinson on clarinet and sax; Bob Barta on guitar, banjo, and vocals; Vince Giordano on bass, tuba, bass sax, and vocals; and Kevin Dorn on drums.

"I am very excited to be bringing the music of Fats Waller to the series this winter," says Jeff Barnhart. "Part of my enthusiasm derives from the inclusion of brilliant musicians whose virtuosity and dedication have led them to a deep understanding of Waller's ebullient small-group swing. Fats was everyone's musician; even people who claim not to like jazz find themselves with smiles on their faces and a beat in their feet when they encounter his approachable, joyous music."

The Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert, the third of the EWS 2014 season, will take place at John Winthrop Middle School in Deep River, Connecticut. Tickets, all general admission, are \$30 (\$12 for students) and may be purchased online at www.essexwinterseries.com or by phone at 860-272-4572. The Concert is sponsored by the Clark Group and Tower Laboratories.

About Fats Waller

Thomas "Fats" Waller (1904-1943) occupies a unique place in America's musical history. He was a wildly inventive, completely undisciplined man whose natural gifts as a pianist and entertainer joined forces with the burgeoning media of radio to make him a national star by the early 1930s. Larger than life in every way imaginable, Fats was rarely given his due as a serious virtuoso of the piano. His onstage and offstage shenanigans and irreverent recordings stood in the way of his composing longer, more serious works. Only in his rare dark moments did Fats lament this situation; he loved being the entertaining musical cut-up and his legion audiences demanded him just that way. His hundreds of recordings and

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Information & Tickets

compositions are treasured to this day and his music will forever be sought out by those craving hot jazz, swing and plenty of melody.

About the performers

Jeff Barnhart, piano, vocals, leader, and EWS Jazz Impresario

Jeff Barnhart is an internationally renowned pianist, vocalist, arranger, bandleader, recording artist, composer, educator and entertainer. Jeff began his professional career at age fourteen playing and entertaining four nights a week in a restaurant in his home state of Connecticut. Here he began to learn the classic swing, jazz and ragtime repertoire of the early twentieth century. The twenty-first century has found Jeff constantly appearing as a soloist and band pianist at parties, festivals, clubs and cruises throughout the world. In addition, he leads two bands in the UK: the Fryer-Barnhart International Jazz Band, which concentrates on hot music of the 1920s, and Jeff Barnhart's British Band, which performs small group swing of the 30's. Because of his versatility, vast repertoire and vibrant energy, Jeff is in increasing demand as a participant in international jazz events as either a soloist or as pianist in All-Star Jazz ensembles. In addition to his widely acclaimed solo and band appearances, Jeff is enjoying great success performing with smaller groups, most notably Ivory&Gold®, a group he co-leads with his talented wife, flutist Anne Barnhart. Ivory&Gold® has become a mainstay at many jazz and ragtime festivals throughout the US and the UK.

Jeff enjoys playing dual piano and has done so with such jazz luminaries as Ralph Sutton, Neville Dickie, Louis Mazetier, John Sheridan and Brian Holland. In addition to his own label, Jazz Alive Records, Jeff plays piano and sings on the international labels GHB, Summit-World Jazz Records, Music Minus One, and the two largest jazz labels in the UK, Lake Records and P.E.K. Sound. In 2006, Jeff joined the roster of artists featured on the Arbors Records label, with 4 recordings currently available: the most recent featuring jazz legends Bob Wilber and Bucky Pizzarelli. Jeff has recorded as both pianist and vocalist on over one hundred full-length albums. He averages forty weeks a year on the road, bringing his music to all corners of the globe.

Gordon Au, trumpet

Gordon Au, called "comfortable in any idiom and fearless" by music writer Michael Steinman, embodies a fusion of tradition and modernity that is a rarity in the traditional jazz world. During a residency with the Monk Institute in New Orleans, Gordon studied and performed modern jazz with no less than twenty-three Grammy-winners, including Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter, while at the same time absorbing the traditional music around him. In NYC, Gordon currently leads his own traditional jazz band, the Grand St. Stompers, and plays with other favorites such as Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks, Baby Soda Jazz Band, Tamar Korn, and Dandy Wellington; on the west coast, he leads the Au Brothers Jazz Band.

Dan Levinson, clarinet and saxophone

Equally at home as both leader and sideman, Dan's roster of musical associates includes such names as Mel Tormé, Wynton Marsalis, and Dick Hyman. He has performed in Brazil with filmmaker Woody Allen's band, as well as in Japan, Iceland, Latvia, and eighteen European countries. Dan toured with singer/guitarist Leon Redbone. Since 1993 he has been a member of Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, New York's preeminent 1920s orchestra, with whom he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, and on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* radio program. Dan's successful Benny

Goodman tributes have been presented both on the East Coast with James Langton's New York All-Star Big Band and throughout Germany with Andrej Hermlin's Swing Dance Orchestra. He has recorded over a hundred CDs, including the Grammy Award-winning HBO television series *Boardwalk Empire*. Visit Dan on the web at www.danlevinson.com.

Bob Barta, banjo, guitar, vocals

Bob Barta has performed at notable venues including the 21 Club, Birdland, the Gold Dust Saloon, Preservation Hall, the Delta Queen riverboat, and multiple shows at Carnegie Hall and on National Public Radio. Additionally, he has appeared at numerous jazz and banjo festivals across Canada and the US. Bob is leader of New York's Sunnyland Jazz Band, a versatile trio known for its diverse repertoire and weekly at Bonnie Jean's Cafe in Southold, where they recently celebrated their third anniversary. Bob has also performed with the New York Banjo Ensemble, the Isotope Stompers, Hot Jam, Loose Marbles of New Orleans, the Galvanized Jazz Band, the Hoodoo Loungers and the Wolverine Jazz Band of Boston - appearing on CDs with most of them in addition to his own self-produced effort, *In One Era And Out The Other*. He is president of a non-profit corporation operating Long Island's oldest historic theater, the Vail-Leavitt Music Hall, in downtown Riverhead.

Vince Giordano, bass, tuba, bass sax, vocals

Vince Giordano is a musician, arranger, and leader of the New York-based Nighthawks Orchestra. Giordano is the leading American specialist in the jazz styles of the 1920s and 1930s. Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks have performed at countless music festivals and concert dates, and have appeared in - and provided music for - dozens of television and film projects, including the award-winning HBO series *Boardwalk Empire* in addition to performing every Monday and Tuesday at Iguana Restaurant in NYC. Early appearances with Leon Redbone and *A Prairie Home Companion* and then lending his musical and acting talents to Francis Ford Coppola's film "The Cotton Club," led to working with Dick Hyman's Orchestra in half a dozen Woody Allen soundtracks, then acting as a bass player, most notably in Sean Penn's band in Woody's "Sweet And Lowdown." He and the band have been both onscreen and in the studio for Gus Van Sant's film "Finding Forrester"; in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator"; and Sam Mendes' film "Revolutionary Road." Other recording projects include soundtracks for many other films and television shows. Vince and the band have also been on-screen actors on Terence Winter's award-winning HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*, and were awarded a Grammy in the 54th Awards for Best Compilation for Visual Media for their work on "Boardwalk Empire Volume 1 - Music from the HBO Original Series" CD. More than simply a performer, Giordano is a big-band historian and collector with more than 60,000 scores in his collection. Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks are renowned on the New York scene for their commitment to preserving and authentically presenting 1920s and '30s jazz and popular music.

Kevin Dorn, drums

Kevin Dorn, though still in his thirties, has been one of the busiest drummers in traditional jazz for years. As a teenager, Kevin listened to recordings of the great Eddie Condon band of the 1950s and decided that this was the music he wanted to play. His commitment and intensity led to steady work with such stellar musicians as Dan Barrett, Ed Polcer, Dick Hyman, Allan Vache, Johnny Varro, Bob Wilber, Warren Vache, Dan Levinson, among many others. From 2002 to 2004, Kevin was the drummer for the Jim Cullum Jazz

Band, the nation's foremost traditional jazz group, appearing on their weekly public radio show, *Riverwalk: Live from the Landing*. Kevin has performed throughout Europe, Japan, the United States and South America. Kevin is a member of the Yerba Buena Stompers, the Dimestore Romeos, the Baby Soda Jazz Band, the Brain Cloud, the Grand Street Stompers and the Anderson Twins Sextet, and leads his own band, the Big 72. He has taught drumming at the United Nations International School, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Stanford Summer Jazz Workshop.

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