

GINGER and THE SCHNAPPES

Biography

Ginger and The Schnappes is a six piece jazz band that swings the great jazz standards. Their broad repertoire covers the great songs from 1920 to 2020 and includes jazz, pop, latin, country and blues. Their music is inviting, listenable and danceable.

Ginger's vocals and the band's interpretation of ballads and torch songs make them an ideal cabaret-style/listening room band as well. Their stage presence embodies the songs and creates a mood of relaxed elegance.

You'll hear tunes made famous by the great standards singers, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, and the great composers Count Basie and Glenn Miller. Mixed in with the standards are vibrant original songs by Mixon Brew Music and contemporary tunes from the likes of The Beatles, Johnny Cash, and The Eurythmics all played in a fun, poppy-jazz style with unique rhythms and melodic features.

Ginger and The Schnappes downsizes to a quartet, trio or duo when the situation calls for a smaller band yet still delivers on the promise of great tunes, expertly played.

The band performs at many public and private events. They are the go-to band for several non-profits' fundraising galas (JAACF.org, America On Wheels, Lehigh County Humane Society) and are seen regularly at ArtsQuest - a premier arts center in the Lehigh Valley. In 2020, they were one of the few local bands featured at the virtual version of Musikfest in Bethlehem, PA - USA Today's #1 music festival in the U.S. for 2019 and 2020. Among their local Lehigh Valley gigs, they have performed at The Dime in Allentown, The Bookstore in Bethlehem, The Gas House Dance Hall in Catasauqua and are regularly seen at The Artisan in Bethlehem.

GINGER BREW: A stylish chanteuse with an amazing vocal range and sophisticated taste in vocal interpretation and personal style, Ginger has trained professionally since her teens. She has sung in multiple settings including The Sweet Adelines a capella group, church choirs, and even a short stint doing singing telegrams as Mae West (but that's a story for another day). In real life, Ginger is a retired family physician. While in medical training, Ginger was a member of the Little Lyric Opera Theater Company of Philadelphia. Her Irish roots led her to compete in Irish singing contests up and down the east coast, and she took third place in the

prestigious Mid-Atlantic Fleagh Cheoil in 2010. Ginger is also the lyricist for Mixon Brew Music, LLC, collaborating with Joe Mixon. Together they composed the songs of the first Ginger and The Schnappes album. The influence of Ginger's dad and his love of big band jazz combined with Ginger's own wry sense of humor and love of vintage clothes have created a stunning and engaging singer.

JOE MIXON: Joe is the guitarist and musical director for Ginger and The Schnappes. He has a master's degree in Music from Combs College of Music in Philadelphia and provides the musical backbone to the band as well as elaborate solos for most of the tunes. An expert multi-instrumentalist, Joe has taught music theory and musical performance at several colleges in the Lehigh Valley including Northampton Community College, Lebanon Valley College and Moravian College. Joe is the vocalist and steel drum player for the Big Wahu Caribbean band and can be heard playing steel drums on the world wide collaboration album by Infinity Group. Joe is also the guitarist for The Blues Professors and, together with Ginger, composes licensable songs for Mixon Brew Music, LLC. Joe is responsible for the beautiful tunes that range from swing to blues to country. Joe also has a private music practice coaching vocal and instrumental performance.

DAN TWADDELL: Dan plays alto sax, soprano sax and flute and is a featured soloist in the band. He holds a degree in Jazz Studies and Performance from Ohio State University, where he became proficient in styles from swing to latin to bebop. During that time, he toured Europe with the OSU Jazz Ensemble and performed in famous festivals such as the Umbria Jazz Festival and Jazz à Vienne. To relax from his day job as a senior design and development engineer, Dan likes to study the jazz greats, transcribing fast, complex horn solos by ear and then playing them along with the original recordings. With an aptitude for engineering and craftsmanship, Dan enjoys restoring vintage instruments, including a 1979 Rhodes piano. Dan recently completed several recording projects, including The 60's Project by Chris Ott, and a live recording at Miller Symphony Hall, 3Trios, led by legendary bassist Gene Perla (Elvin Jones) and world-renowned drummer Adam Nussbaum (Michael Brecker).

VERNON MOBLEY: Vernon has been playing for nearly three decades. During that time, he has worked tirelessly to craft an unmistakable drumming style, often playing multiple rhythmic patterns and instruments simultaneously, giving the illusion of more than one percussionist playing. Vern's musical roots are Gospel where he cultivated his drumming, singing and skills on the organ. Since childhood, Vern has been a respected member of the greater Philadelphia Gospel community playing in venues as varied as local churches to the Philadelphia Academy of Music. In 2002 Vern organized

the award winning Fusion Jazz Trio. FJT is know throughout the Lehigh Valley and has played such prestigious venues as Allentown Symphony Hall and the Levitt Pavilion at ArtsQuest, Bethlehem, PA. Though Vernon's primary focus is Fusion, he still finds time to play with many local artists such as Barry Sames, Will Brock (Gerald Veasley), Gene Perla (Miles Davis/NinaSimone), Ian Holmes (American Idol), Moe Betta (Wyclf Jean), Richard Cummings (Harry Belafonte), and Robbi & Bakithi Kumalo (Paul Simon).

PATRICK KERSSSEN: Patrick Kerssen is originally from West Milford, NJ and has performed as a jazz pianist throughout the North Jersey, Pocono, and Lehigh Valley regions. In addition to playing with some of the top musicians in the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos, Patrick has had the opportunity to play and record internationally in the Czech Republic, recording on the Prague based ARTA label in 2016. As a writer of big band music, Patrick's original compositions have been performed and recorded by the Moravian College BIG Band, the 4 O' Clock Big Band at the Karel Velebny Summer Jazz Workshop in Frydlant, Czech Republic, and by the SteelStacks High School All Star Big Band at Musikfest. More recently, he has started the publication process on his first book of transcriptions by his favorite pianist, Bobby Timmons. Beyond performing with Ginger and The Schnappes, Patrick runs his own trio (the Hot Takes Trio), directs music at Heidelberg Union Church in Slatington, PA, and maintains an active teaching studio.

BRIAN BORTZ: Throughout a music career spanning over four decades, Brian Jon Bortz – Bassist, has continually found great joy in playing music at a very high level and always with great musicians. Highly regarded as one of the premier bassists in the region, Brian has performed across the US, to Canada, the Caribbean, and Europe. He has backed major show-business stars, played for the President and Vice President of the U.S., annually plays for the Freddy Awards, and is deeply involved in his church music ministry. He is a founder of The Last Thursday Band, a member of Fusion Jazz Trio and Ginger & The Schnappes and is a first-call sub with several great bands. Brian also has extensive recording credits. He calls the recording studio his "happy place" and has worn the producer hat for several projects as well. Brian's influences are wide ranging and include everything from Big Band to R&B and everything in between. Brian's breadth of musical expertise combined with exceptional skill and a positive attitude are the attributes that have sustained his career and keep him in high demand.