

To: media
From: Kathy Ryan, Tiverton Library Gala Publicity Coordinator
with Lou Viola, jazz coordinator,
Date: 4/13/15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOT JAZZ FIRES UP TIVERTON LIBRARY DOWNTON Pre-OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT

Call it the Million Pound Sterling Quartet.

With Ted Casher (sax and reeds), Steve Deconti (guitar), Marty Ballou (bass) and Gary Johnson (drums), four of Rhode Island's premiere jazzmen will swing the music of the Roaring Twenties on Saturday, May 2, 2105, 7pm to 10pm as the Tiverton Public Library enjoys *Downton Comes to Tiverton*, a Gala fundraiser to benefit Tiverton's newest library, and an opportunity to see the new building before it opens formally at the Bliss Corners intersection of Bulgarmarsh and Roosevelt Dr. *Reservations should be made by April 23, to allow time for the caterers to prepare.* Reservations are \$50 per person, payable by check to Tiverton Library Foundation, 238 Highland Rd., Tiverton, or call the Library at 401-625-6796 to reserve by phone. Order online at <http://tivertonlibrary.org/new-library>.

In addition, Tiverton High School students will be in period dress to assist with serving. Tiverton High School culinary arts students will provide desserts of the 1920's. A raffle will include a stay at a Bed and Breakfast in Jamestown, original art and jewelry donated by the artists, concert tickets, Red Sox memento, lobsters fresh from the boat, wine baskets, a professional photography session for your family, restaurant gift cards, Trinity Rep ticket packages, and a centerpiece from Peckham's greenhouse.

Ted Casher has played with the Harry James Orchestra, the Benny Goodman Tribute Orchestra, the Artie Shaw Orchestra, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, the Ray MacKinley All-Stars, the Duke Belaire Orchestra, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and in pit many orchestras. Casher has also accompanied Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Michael LeGrand, Tony Orlando, Lou Rawls, Jerry Lewis, Sergio Franchi, and Al Martino. He's backed such seminal figures as Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie, and has had the honor of playing with former President Bill Clinton, as well as being invited to play at President Clinton's Presidential Inauguration. Ted Casher remains an active performer and is currently playing with The Swing Legacy, the Jazz Tuber Trio, the Bessarabian Breakdown, and the John Badessa Orchestra.

Steve Deconti has played with world renowned jazz trombonist George Masso, Paul Nagel, (Boz Scaggs and Bobby McFerrin pianist), Dan Morretti, Greg Abate, Dave Zinno, Mike Metheny, Mike Renzi, Marty Ballou, Marty Richards, Ron Murray, Kent Hewitt, Dino Govoni, Steve Langone, and many more fine local musicians. He has opened for jazz guitarist Stanley Jordan, and Jazz pianist Makoto Ozone. He had the opportunity to perform with the great Cab

Calloway, Jack Jones, Vanessa Williams, crooner Eddie Fischer, the Temptations, and Jay Leno.

Marty Ballou is one of the Northeast's first call bass players, having performed and recorded with legendary blues artists Roomful of Blues, Otis Reed, John Hammond Jr. and Jerry Portnoy, in addition to acclaimed Rhode Island jazz stars Dan Moretti and Al Basile.

Drummer, **Gary Johnson**, has been keeping time for 37 years with, among others Scott Hamilton, Dave McKenna, Ken Peplowski, Keely Smith and the Nelson Riddle Orchestra. For four years, he traveled extensively with the Artie Shaw Orchestra under the direction of Dick Johnson. While touring, he accompanied artists such as Buddy DeFranco, Dizzy Gillespie, Rosemary Clooney, Frankie Laine, Helen Forest, Connie Haines and Ruby Braff. Currently, Johnson freelances in the New England area, including playing every month with The Ray Santisi Trio at Ryles Jazz Club. Johnson studied with Bill Flanagan, Fred Buda of the Boston Pops and Alan Dawson. He attended the Berklee College of Music.
[<http://musicians.allaboutjazz.com/garyjohnson>]

Together, they are four very talented sidemen who are well schooled in the music of the era and were "contracted" specifically for us by Providence bass player royalty, Joe Potenza.

Come to **celebrate!** Come for the **jazz!** Come for the **dancing!** Come to be among the first to **see the library** the community has been working toward for over 30 years, to provide state of the art library services to Tiverton, in a new building designed to be warm and inviting, as well as energy efficient and a model for future municipal buildings.

The Tiverton Library Foundation is a 501(c) (3) not for profit organization whose mission is to secure funds to help support the operational and capital needs of the Tiverton Public Library.

www.tivertonlibrary.org

401-625-6796