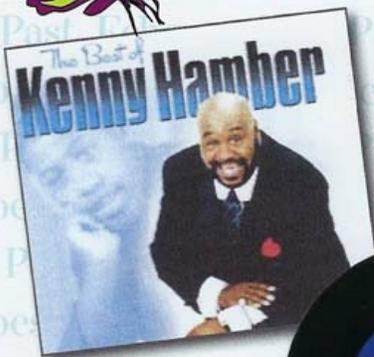


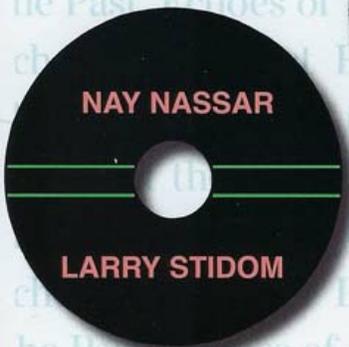
Issue No. 127
Still \$5.49



ECHOES OF THE PAST



Left to right: Joel Katz, Paul Simon, Eugene Pitt, Dickie Harmon, Don Was
Courtesy of Joel Katz



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The Joel Katz Story, Part 4: The Music Continues

By Charlie Horner
With Contributions from Pamela Horner

End of an Era: The Passing of Ronnie I

The year was 2008, a year that tore the heart out of many of us. It was the year Ronnie I died. Joel Katz and Ronnie I had been working closely together for almost 30 years. There were times when Ronnie would be over Joel's Broadway South constantly, recording groups. All told, Ronnie recorded and released approximately 1500 songs with Joel, over the years. They came out on Ronnie's *Clifton*, *UGHA* and *Ronnie* label 45's LP's and CD's. And those were just the songs that were released. There are probably just as many recorded songs still unreleased. But Ronnie I and Joel Katz were more than just business partners. They were close friends and Joel took Ronnie's passing very hard. Joel and the Cliftonaires visited Ronnie the day before he died.

"We just said goodbye to him," Joel recalled. "That was one of the toughest things I ever did. Ronnie said, 'Joel, we did some great things together.' Oh man, I didn't even want to think about it. That drained everything out of me because he remembered all the records we did. I mean, at one point, he was in the studio three times a week. It was like making donuts. We used to joke about it."

Ronnie I passed away on March 3, 2008 and the United in Group Harmony Association (UGHA) died with him.

"I found out later from Jack Scandura that Ronnie was planning a 'Joel & the Cliftonaires' CD with me doing all the leads," said Joel. "They were going to surprise me. I'd already cut the leads, but they needed to do the backgrounds. They were starting to work on it without telling me. It was Ronnie's idea. When Ronnie died, that was the end of the project. I guess I could have pursued it but Ronnie's death took a lot out of me."



Ronnie I in Clifton Music.
Photo by Charlie Horner



Joan and Joel Katz in Sean Lennon's Studio
Photo courtesy of Joel Katz

Shortly after Ronnie I's passing, Joel got into a dispute with a major concert promoter that resulted in his being banned from singing in that promoter's concerts. Joel was falsely accused of disloyalty for performing in a competing concert. In actuality, Joel not only did not appear in that concert, but he never agreed to sing in it in the first place. It seems Joel's photo was placed on an advertising flyer, without his consent. While the incident resulted in the loss of some major gigs, the ever-resilient Joel just moved his career in other directions.

Joel & the Dynamics [*The First Group*]

Never lacking in people to sing with, Joel formed the group Joel & the Dynamics in 2008. Joel's first Dynamics group consisted of Warren Tesoro, Cal Ng, Pat "The Cat" Profito and Bernard "BJ" Jones. "Warren put that group together," recalled Joel. "A super group, as you can imagine." That group appeared at the Paramus [NJ] Elks Club and elsewhere. Each of the members had considerable experience singing with other doo wop groups and Joel had high expectations. But in reality, that line up didn't last long. Though immensely talented, personally clashes between members necessitated personnel changes.

Joel Katz & Louis Lymon's Teenchords

In 2009, Philadelphia radio personality, Jerry Blavat, wanted to book Louis Lymon for a big concert at the Kimmel Center in Philly. The only problem was they didn't have a Teenchords group to back him. Someone suggested using Joel & the Dynamics, but Joel didn't think that would be authentic. He instead suggested using some of the current Teenagers. Thus, the group



The Teenchords, 2009, Philadelphia
 Bobby Jay, Louis Lymon, Joel Katz, Dickie Harmon
 Photo courtesy of Joel Katz

that Joel got to back Louis Lymon on stage was Joel Katz, Bobby Jay and Dickie Harmon. “They were laughing because I couldn’t dance,” recalled Joel. “They were trying to teach me how to dance with them.”

The Passing of Johnny Maestro: Joel Katz & the Brooklyn Bridge

After the Joel & the Dymensions “Digital Doo Wop” CD’s [see *Echoes of the Past* #125], Johnny Maestro had moved to Florida. “Johnny and I would always talk on the phone,” recalled Joel. “He wanted Joan and me to move down to Florida with him. In fact, when we did the ‘Harmony Treasures’ CD’s, Johnny wanted to be a part of those, but it would have involved a lot of flying back and forth and it wouldn’t have worked out.”

At a Ronnie I Tribute concert after Ronnie had passed, Phil Granito passed on a encrypted message to Joel from Johnny Maestro. Word was getting around that Johnny Maestro was ill, but no one knew how serious it was. “Phil was one of the early ones to know how sick Johnny was but he and Johnny kept it from me,” said Joel. “I was very close to Johnny and he didn’t know how I’d handle the whole thing.”

“I later learned that Johnny Maestro had told Phil Granito, ‘Tell Joel to start learning Brooklyn Bridge songs.’ Phil had asked why and Johnny had said, ‘I don’t know how long [I have].’ So Phil came up to me at that concert and said, ‘Joel, I think you should start doing Brooklyn Bridge songs as well as the Crests songs you are already doing.’ At the time I was singing with a couple groups. I didn’t quite understand the request and so I poo-poo’ed it. I just blew the request off.”

“I remember around the latter part of 2009, Johnny called me up,” said Joel. “Johnny would always call to talk, but this time he sounded a little weak. Johnny said, ‘Joel, I need you to do me a favor. I need you to help me out with the Brooklyn Bridge.’ I asked him what he meant but he just said ‘We always do each other favors and I really need your help.’ I thought he needed me for one of the Brooklyn Bridge background parts, so I said,

‘John, you know I’m a good background man. I can learn any of the parts.’ But Johnny said, ‘No, I need you to take my place.’ My exact words were, ‘What are you out of your skull? Wait a minute. Whoa, whoa, whoa.’ I went nuts. Johnny said, ‘I need you to take over my part for a while.’ I said, ‘John, I’ll do anything for you. That’s a tough call you’re asking me to do.’ He said, ‘Please.’

“I hung up. I still didn’t know what was going on,” said Joel. “I knew Johnny Maestro was a little sick. Then Les Cauchi of Brooklyn Bridge called me up the next day and said, ‘Joel, we need a favor.’ He didn’t know John had called. So, I told him I’d do it, of course. I said, ‘When’s the next show?’ and he said, ‘One week.’ One week???? Anyway, they brought me to a rehearsal over on Long Island. I had the lyric sheets in front of me but we had to change the keys. The concert was supposed to be in West Point, NY. Even they knew it was impossible. So they canceled that show. But the next one was only two weeks away.

The first show I did with the Brooklyn Bridge was a sold-out dinner theater in South Jersey,” recalled Joel. “It was a big, big, place and it was packed with people who paid a lot of money to see Johnny Maestro. Now, the owner of the restaurant got very nervous because there was no Johnny Maestro. But [my wife] Joan calmed down the owner and I went on and did the show. And the people accepted me. I got a standing ovation. From there we did a couple shows on Long Island and a few shows elsewhere and it was the same thing. They accepted me.”

They did another show in Pitman, NJ. During the Pitman show, the engineer signaled Joel through the ear monitor that Johnny Maestro was listening to Joel sing by phone, while lying in bed in Florida. He gave Joel a thumbs up. “I called Johnny right after the Pitman show and asked how he was doing. I knew he was sick but didn’t know he was dying. He told me he was hanging in there. I said, ‘Johnny, I’m just keeping this thing with the Bridge going temporarily. You’ve got to come back.’ Johnny just said, ‘Joel, you’re doing a great job.’”

“Well, Les Cauchi called me up a couple days later and said, ‘He’s gone. Johnny’s gone.’ I said, ‘Gone where?’ Les said, ‘He died.’ I almost collapsed. I remem-



Joan and Joel Katz, Grace and Johnny Maestro,
 Rich Hourihan, NYC before seeing “Jersey Boys”,
 2009. Photo courtesy of Joel Katz

ber I was by the phone and I buckled. I almost went down like a rock. The group was told to keep it from me. They didn't want me to know I was now the permanent lead."

Joel and Joan went to Johnny Maestro's funeral on Long Island. First there was the funeral parlor, then the second day the church and then the third day, a memorial service at Queens College. "I barely got through the first two days," recalled Joel. "Then we got to Queens College and I was sitting next to Larry Chance. They showed videos of Johnny and everything. Finally, they had the original members of the Brooklyn Bridge on stage and they called for current members of the group. I said, 'They're not going to get me up there.' It was too emotional. But they said, 'We'd like to bring up Mr. Joel Katz.' I turned white. But they brought me on stage and said, 'Now we're going to sing 'Sixteen Candles' with an acoustic guitar and Joel's going to sing lead.' I had the members of Brooklyn Bridge all around me and they were hugging me. I got through that song but it was emotionally all over for me. Everybody on the stage broke down. It was one of the hardest things I ever did in my life."

"Right after the funeral we did a big show at the Trenton War Memorial Theater in NJ," said Joel. "I had promised Nicky Addeo a year earlier that I would fill in as first tenor for the Nite Owls on that show, because Danny Ugarte couldn't make it. I guess I didn't mention that I was in and out of Nicky Addeo's Nite Owls. Well, I called Nicky and he said, 'Joel, you can't do this to me!' Then I called Les Cauchi and he said, 'Joel, you made a commitment to the Bridge and you've got to do it'. So I figured I had an hour between the Nite Owls and when the Brooklyn Bridge closed the show and I could change uniforms. I asked Nicky not to introduce me to the crowd but he forgot and told the audience, 'And this is my good friend, Joel Katz...' Well, I went on later with the Brooklyn Bridge and it worked out anyway."

"I went up to Canada with the Brooklyn Bridge and did a few other gigs with them but things weren't quite the same after that," said Joel. "What happened was I reminded the group too much of Johnny. Les came to me and said, 'Joel, it's not working out.' I bowed out. I didn't make waves."



Joel Katz leading the Brooklyn Bridge, London, Ontario Canada, June 5, 2010
Les Cauchi, Joel Katz, Freddie Ferrara
Photo courtesy of Joel Katz



Joel & the Dynamics, ca. 2013
Warren Tesoro, Joel Katz, Cal Ng,
Beverly Warren, Bernard BJ Jones
Courtesy of Joel Katz

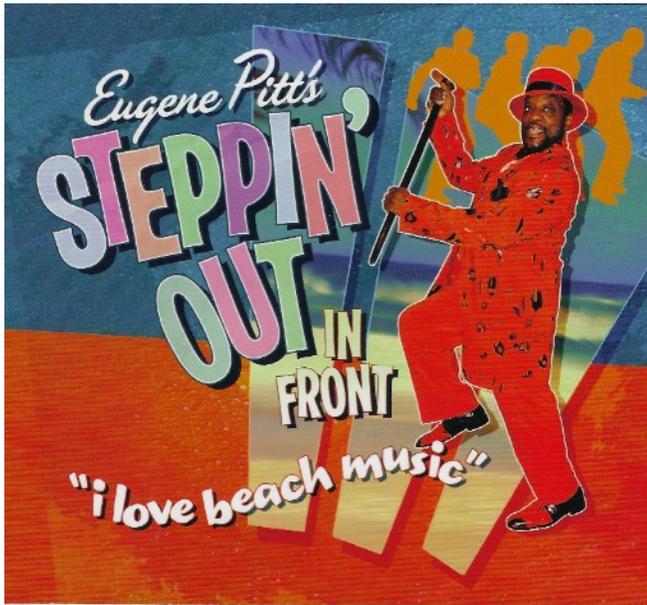
Joel & the Dynamics [The Second and Third Groups]

By 2011, Pat Profito had left the Dynamics. He was replaced by Danny Ugarte (formerly of the Plazas and later of the Cameos) for one concert. Then he was replaced briefly by former Cliftonaires' Jack Scandura. "Jack came over to me and said, 'Joel, I want to start singing again with you.' We were all excited. Jack started writing charts. Then the next thing I know is, I get a call from Jack's wife, telling me Jack's gone. I remember I went over the house and Jack's wife said, 'Jack has all these charts that he wrote out for your group. I want you to have them.'"

Jack Scandura's death in 2011 was the third major loss in less than four years. But now with Jack's music charts, Joel & the Dynamics kept going. "Warren suggested we bring in Beverly Warren to sing first tenor," remembered Joel. In addition to her career as a soloist, Beverly had sung with a number of vocal groups, including the Blendaires (with Jack Scandura). "I recorded Beverly with the Cliftonaires," said Joel. "She was wonderful to work with. So the new Joel and Dynamics were me, Warren Tesoro, Cal Ng, BJ Jones and Beverly Warren. That group was together quite a while."

With UGHA gone, gigs for area doo wop groups were getting scarce. Nick Galletta (Nick at Nite)'s New Jersey Doo Wop and A Cappella Society was still doing shows at the Paramus Elks Club and down in the Philadelphia/South Jersey area, "Mr. Lee" Jolles was producing regular Philadelphia Group Harmony Association (PGHA) concerts. One PGHA concert took place at the Theater of Living Arts (TLA) on South Street in Philly. This particular concert features the acappella group, the Encounters along with Joel & the Dynamics and others. Only this concert had the backing of a band.

"It was a big show and it was going to be the first time the Encounters sang with a band," Joel recalled. "Pete Milazzo of the Encounters called me up and told me he'd thrown his back out. He said, 'Joel, I don't want to lose this thing for the group. Would you sing lead for the



Eugene Pitt's "Steppin' Out" CD
From the Classic Urban Harmony Archives

Encounters?' So, I ended up singing lead for the Dynamics and the Encounters. I sang background for them too. But it was wild." [Lee Jolles died in July, 2012.]

Some of the most memorable gigs for Joel & the Dynamics were big Bristol "Doo Wop in the Park" concerts. Sponsored by the Bristol Borough Council, the outdoor concerts are held annually at the Riverfront Park in Bristol, PA. Joel and the first Dynamics group did the 3rd annual "Doo Wop In The Park" in September 2008. Also on the bill were Eugene Pitt & the Jive Five, the New Rascals and Nostalgia.

"I'll never forget the first time we did Bristol," said Joel. "They treated us royally. They brought us to the stage in a limo. The crowd was fantastic. We ended up doing Bristol three times."

Eugene Pitt's Beach Music CD

While still performing, Joel Katz was also very busy in his Broadway South Studio. In 2009, Joel arranged, sang on, engineered and mixed Eugene Pitt's "Steppin Out in Front" Beach Music CD.

"This came out after we finished "Harmony Treasures," said Joel. "Richard Hourihan said, 'I'd like to produce Gene, but by himself, not with the Jive Five.' What better group to put together but Bobby Jay and myself? [Joel, Gene and Bobby had been together on Joel and the Dymensions' "Harmony Treasures" CD's.] Dickie Harmon was working with Bobby Jay with the Teenagers and Bobby brought Dickie in. Dickie Harmon and I had been friends since we worked with the Connotations, so I thought it was a grand idea."

The CD was aimed at getting Gene Pitt more gigs in the Carolinas where Beach Music is still popular. Selections included Beach Music classics like "I Love Beach Music" (Embers), "Too Much Foolin' Around"

(Tams), and "Carolina Girls" (Chairmen Of The Board). Unfortunately it didn't generate that many jobs for Gene.

Aaron Neville: My True Story CD

Space does not allow us to cover all of Joel's studio projects but one stands out above all others - the 2013 Aaron Neville "My True Story" CD. "That came about from Gabe Roth of *Daptone Records*," said Joel. *Daptone* is the Brooklyn-based independent record label specializing in Soul, Funk, Gospel and Afrobeat music. They are best known for their Grammy nominated artist Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings.

"It was 2012 and I had just finished doing some background for Sharon Jones on a couple of her cuts," recalled Joel. "Gabe and I had become friends. I started working with *Daptone*, fixing their equipment in the studio. Gabe heard that I sang, and the next thing I knew, I was backing up Sharon Jones on a couple of cuts. What a singer she was." [Sharon Jones died of pancreatic cancer in 2016.] "So Gabe called me one day and said, 'I'm going to produce Aaron Neville and I want you to put the back-up group together.' I called Bobby Jay and he said, 'Oh, Joel. They're going to use the Neville Brothers!' I said, 'Bobby, I'm in charge of this thing. They're going to use us!'"

"Well Gabe didn't have time to produce the songs and at one point they were going to have me produce," said Joel. "But then Gabe started working with Don Was." Was is the musician, record producer and record executive who rose to popularity as lead of the 1980s funk-rock band Was (Not Was). He later produced songs and albums for a large number of popular recording artists. In 2012, he became president of jazz music label *Blue Note Records*. Don Was had worked with Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones and the two wanted to produce the album. Being fans of Eugene Pitt and the



Bobby Jay, Aaron Neville, Joel Katz, Keith Richards.
Eugene Pitt, recording of the Aaron Neville CD.
2012 Photo courtesy of Joel Katz



RUBY BABY

Aaron Neville “My True Story” PBS Special at the Brooklyn Bowl.
 Left to right: Charles Neville, (sax), David Johnson, Dickie Harmon,
 Earl Smith Jr., Aaron Neville, Eugene Pitt, Joel Katz

Jive Five, the decided to bring in Gene and call the CD “My True Story”.

“So they called Gene Pitt and Gene called Bobby Jay. Bobby Jay brought in Dickie Harmon. I did quite a bit of the CD background.” The CD was done at Electric Lady Studios in New York. It featured Aaron Neville singing R&B group harmony hits from the 50’s and 60’s

including “Money Honey,” “My True Story,” “Ting A Ling,” “Tears On My Pillow” and several more.

The “My True Story” PBS-TV Special

After that, a PBS-TV special was taped on “My True Story” with Joel having a prominent on-screen role. The special was made into a DVD.

“We were on the road in Scranton,” recalled Joel, “when Dickie Harmon called me and said, ‘You’ve got to come back. Don Was is trying to reach you. They’re going to do this PBS special.’ We rushed back and found out they wanted me, Dickie Harmon and Eugene Pitt to back Aaron Neville in a TV special recreating the songs on the CD. Dickie and Gene met at my house and they picked us up in a limo to take us to rehearsal.

The TV special was taped at the Brooklyn Bowl in November, 2012. The Brooklyn Bowl is a 600-seat music venue, bowling alley and restaurant in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. The taped concert featured an all-star band, including Charles Neville on sax, and guest appearances by Paul Simon and Joan Osbourne. Besides Joel, Dickie and Gene, Aaron had two of his own background singers.

“I thought I’d be in the background,” said Joel, “but when the show started, they pushed me up front with Aaron and his two singers. That’s how I wound up in the front in the video.

Both the CD and the DVD were released in March, 2013.



Left to right: Joel Katz, Paul Simon,
 Eugene Pitt, Dickie Harmon, Don Was
 Courtesy of Joel Katz

Battling Cancer

“I thought I had an impacted tooth,” said Joel. “So, I went to the dentist and they said it was not a tooth but a tumor. They sent me to a specialist who biopsied it and said it was cancer, but a rare single-celled sarcoma that they’d never seen in the United States before. They sent me to Sloan Kettering. The tumor was growing and they couldn’t do chemo because chemo makes this tumor grow faster. They wanted to do radiation but they said I’d probably never talk again. I’d be on a feeding tube. I said, ‘It ain’t happening. Singing is my life’ They told Joan that if I didn’t do something immediately, I’ll be gone in two months. So, then they wanted to operate. I said I’d go through that under three conditions. Number one, there was to be no radiation. Number two, there was going to be a hole there, so I wanted a skin graft. And number three, when they put a breathing tube down my throat, it would sit on my vocal chords. I wanted a professional who works with singers to handle the breathing tube. They said they’d get someone who works with the Met singers when they get polyps. They said, ‘If we do that you’ll be able to talk but we can’t guarantee how you’ll talk.’ So, finally I said, I’ll take a shot at this.

Joan and Beverly Warren were in the waiting room when they came for me. They were going to put me on a gurney but I said, ‘I’m walking in this room.’ And I walked into this big room with all kinds of specialists there from John Hopkins University. And I said, ‘I want to do something. I want to sing to you. I want to let you hear what I want you to save.’ And I belted out ‘I Believe’ in this operating room. The place looked like a gymnasium with pictures of my tumor all over the place. And I sang this song straight out, acappella. Never dropped a note. I looked straight at doctor and said, ‘Save this voice. Please. I beg you.’ The nurses and doctors broke down. That’s when I laid down. I woke up and saw Joan. And I didn’t know what to expect. And they said the tumor came out in one piece. They took out my sinus where the tumor was.

It took a while for Joel to regain his singing voice. There were addition complications with scar tissue that still bother Joel today. It was Joel’s friend, Hal Keshner, who took the initiative to get Joel back to singing. Hal organized a big benefit concert for Joel. The benefit drew a couple hundred people including many of Joel’s singer friends. Emceed by Don K. Reed, King Arthur, Alan David Stein and the Golden Gup, the concert featured performances by the Solitaires, the Super Girls Group, the Fireflies, the Devotions, the Dubs, the Encounters, the Duprees, Little Isidore & the Inquisitors, Barbara Harris of the Toys and the Willows. Kid Kyle & the Kool Kats performed last, inviting Joel to sing harmony on one song.

As his voice grew stronger, Joel Katz gradually returned to singing.

Hurray For The Riff Raff

In 2017, Joel Katz was on Hurray For The Riff Raff’s “Navigator” LP that reached the Top 10 of *Billboard Magazine’s* US Independent Albums Chart. The

record also scored high overseas. Hurray For The Riff Raff is the highly acclaimed New Orleans band featuring singer songwriter Alynda Segarra, that is getting a lot of recognition worldwide.

“I got a phone call from Electric Lady Studios saying they were doing an album with a new artist and they wanted me to put together a vocal group to back her up,” said Joel. “They remembered me from the Aaron Neville session. They wanted me to do the first cut acappella! I got Phil Granito and Mthakathi Ema to do vocals with me. They needed a bass, so I overdubbed the bass. The song was recorded in the New York subway. You can hear us with the echo and the train going by and the whole thing. It was outrageous! The next thing I knew, the song was charting big in several countries.”

The Return of Joel & the Dynamics

In 2017, we [Pamela and Charlie Horner] met Joel and Joan Katz at the newly opened Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center in West Chester, PA, to discuss doing doo wop concerts there. Joel assembled a new Joel & the Dynamics group that included a full band. The vocals were handled by Joel Katz, Mthakathi Ema, Elmo Maisonet and Louis Milgram.

On November 4, 2017, Joel and the Dynamics took the stage at the Uptown! Knauer PAC along with Philly’s legendary acappella group, Frankie & the Fashions. Pam and I emceed the concert. It was the beginning of a number of events we were involved with at the Uptown! Knauer.

At a prior appearance at Roxy & Dukes Roadhouse in Dunellen, NJ, Les Levine filled in at bass in order for the group to sing acappella.

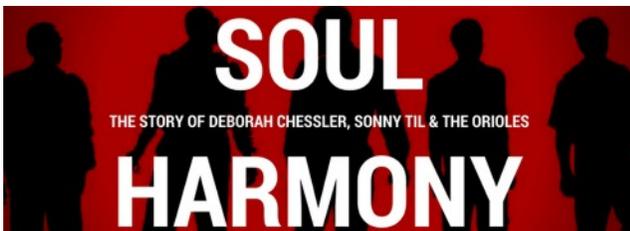


Joel & the Dynamics at Roxy & Dukes in Dunellen, NJ. October 15, 2017.
Left to right: Charlie & Pamela Horner, Joel Katz, Elmo Maisonet, Mthakathi Ema, Louis Milgram, Les Levine.

Soul Harmony: The Musical

Early in 2018, Pam and I helped connect the producers of the musical, “Soul Harmony: The Story of Deborah Chessler, Sonny Til & the Orioles,” with the Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. We’d seen the musical a couple years earlier when it ran in Portland, OR, and knew it was based in part on my interviews with Orioles lead sonny Til and manager Deborah Chessler. To my surprise, producers Alan Berg and Michael Harrison offered me a role in the musical, playing myself interviewing Sonny Til and Deborah Chessler. As the call went out for other cast members, Pam and I suggested Joel Katz play the role of *Jubilee* records proxy Jerry Blaine and radio personality Ray Carroll. Joel and Joan, Pam and I, all checked into the West Chester Microtel Hotel for a month of intense rehearsals. Joel and I had never acted before and didn’t know what to expect. At the first script read through, Joel’s animated read of his parts was so dramatic it drew applause from the cast members. Joel was immediately given the additional role of Arthur Godfrey in the musical. As rehearsals progressed, Joan Katz and Pamela Horner were added to the dance scenes. The one downer was the morning Joel awoke to a phone call that his close friend, Eugene Pitt, had died.

“Soul Harmony” ran for 10 performances in June of 2018. On stage, the Joel Katz (playing Ray Carroll) interactions with local celebrity Ali Hackett (playing dee jay Willie Bryant), were magical. Joel Katz can act as well as he sings. Who knew?



Joel Katz (Ray Carroll) and Ali Hackett (Willie Bryant) converse while the Orioles look on. A scene from the musical, “Soul Harmony”
Photo by Paul Fardig.
Courtesy of Harrison-Berg Productions.



Joel & the Dynamics posing for photos at the pre-concert Meet & Greet reception, prior to Classic Urban Harmony’s Doo Wop Explosion 3 at Monmouth University, April 21, 2018
From the Classic Urban Harmony Archives
Ray Block, Mthakathi Ema, Joel Katz, Jean Thomas, Elmo Maisonet



Joel & the Dynamics at the pre-concert Meet & Greet reception, prior to Classic Urban Harmony’s “Extreme Doo Wop Acappella” Concert at the Uptown! Knauer PAC, W. Chester, PA, June 23, 2018
From the Classic Urban Harmony Archives
Elmo Maisonet, Ray Block, Joel Katz (at piano), Mthakathi Ema, Jean Thomas

Joel Katz, Now

2018 was an eventful year for Joel Katz. Joel and the Dynamics underwent some personnel changes. When the group appeared on Classic Urban Harmony’s all-acappella “Doo Wop Explosion 3” at Monmouth University the line-up was Joel Katz, Mthakathi Ema, Elmo Maisonet, Raymond Block and Jean Thomas. Headlining that concert was Gaynel Hodge and several acappella groups. Later that year, Joel & the Dynamics returned to West Chester, PA’s Uptown! Knauer PAC as part of Classic Urban Harmony’s “Extreme Doo Wop Acappella”



Joel & the Dynamics today. Left to right: Eric Hattenberg, John Mirabile, Joel Katz, Jim Bakay, Ray Block. Photo courtesy of Ray Black

To Book Joel & the Dynamics, either acappella or with the Dynamics Band, call Joel at **201-819-8539**.

concert. Further personnel changes resulted in a line-up of Joel Katz, Jean Thomas, Ray Block, Eric Hattenberg and Danny Ugarte at Classic Urban Harmony's "50's Come Alive Concert" in West Chester in November 2018. That concert was named after the Joel Katz & the Wizards' song of the same name. A brief attempt to reunite the Wizards for that concert didn't happen, so Pookie Hudson's Spaniels were brought in to replace them.

Also, in 2018, Joel Katz & the Dynamics released their first vinyl 45 in a long time. "Don't Say You're Sorry" b/w "No More Like Me" came out on the *Street Corner Entertainment* label in a variety of different color vinyl.

While this concludes our series of articles on Joel Katz, it by no means marks an end of Joel's music endeavors. Today Joel & the Dynamics are still going strong with members Joel Katz, Ray Block, Eric Hattenberg, Jim Bakay and John Mirabile. Classic Urban Harmony Press is now contemplating a book on Joel Katz' life in music, as our articles in *Echoes* barely scratch the surface. But, for those who once thought, "Who is Joel Katz?" Now you know!

For news, reviews, articles, events, photos and videos on R&B, Doo Wop, Gospel and Soul harmony, visit www.ClassicUrbanHarmony.net

To receive our free Classic Urban Harmony email newsletter, Email us at CUH@att.net

- Charlie & Pamela Horner

* * * * *

Classic Urban Harmony Press is thrilled to announce the publication of our first book, "**How D'Ya Like Me Now: The Story of Earl Lewis & The Channels**," by Earl Michael Lewis.

Written by one of the icons of R&B and Doo Wop harmony, Earl Lewis takes us through the journey of his life in music. From the Channels audition for Bobby Robinson to singing "The Closer You Are" on the stage of the Apollo Theatre, Earl tells the story as only someone who was there can do. And the story doesn't stop there. Songs like "The Gleam In Your Eye," "My Love Will Never Die," "The Girl Next Door" and "Now You Know" helped define the "New York Sound" in Doo Wop music. Earl's autobiography covers 65 years of singing, the recordings, the venues, the people he met along the way. Included are more than 50 rare photos and a detailed discography of all the various pressings of all of his recordings.

"How D'Ya Like Me Now: The Story of Earl Lewis & The Channels," by Earl Michael Lewis is available in paperback through Amazon.com for \$25. For more info, email us at CUH@att.net

Watch for future Classic Urban Harmony Press books including "Springwood Avenue Harmony: The Unique Musical Legacy of Asbury Park's West Side" in two volumes and a book on "The Voice of Jersey Doo Wop, Joel Katz".

