

Al Santoro (518)506-5960 & (518)456-0099

✉ alsantoro2@gmail.com

Now Scheduling 2023-2025 Weddings

# The TTS ENSEMBLE

**MUSIC ...**

**TO TAKE YOU THERE**

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**We know that you have many options when it comes to choosing a band that is right for you. Please take the time to review this entire packet and ask as many questions as you need.**

**We're excited for the opportunity to work with you and want to make this experience as effortless as possible!**

**The TS Ensemble is a high energy, eight piece musical group performing at weddings, corporate functions, galas, parties, special events and clubs for over 42 years!**

**We feature male and female vocalists, trumpet, sax, guitar, bass, drums and keyboards, catering to music from Sinatra to today's dance hits!  
We're excited for the opportunity to create a time to remember...**

## M U S I C A L   O F F E R I N G S

**Live musical performance:**

**Song selections from the Sinatra era to today's dance hits**

**Cocktail hour & Ceremony:**

**String Ensemble, Piano, Acoustic Guitar, Jazz Trio, Harp**

**Intermission:**

**Unlimited Spotify and DJ music**



# Meet the band

## Al Santoro (Vocals, Percussion)



Al Santoro was born in Schenectady, N.Y. and has been playing professionally for over 36 years. Al started his musical career as a principal percussionist with The Empire State Youth Orchestra, appearing with The Philadelphia Orchestra and performing for President Reagan as well as at national shows throughout the country. He studied with Don Bush, Principal Percussionist with The Pittsburgh Symphony and later had the opportunity to study with singer Al Jarreau, one of his early heroes. Al has played and sung with many of the top players in the area, including Leo Russo, Sal Maida, John Menegon, Ian Macdonald and Rick Delaratta and also had the opportunity to play with Liberty DeVitto, Eddie Gomez and The Drifters. A cofounder of the TS Ensemble in 1980, Al is an accomplished entertainer. Whether it's from behind the drums or out in front of the band, his energy and unique vocal stylings help make The TS Ensemble one of the most sought after acts in the Northeast.



## Carmen Lookshire (Vocals)

Carmen Lookshire is a singer/songwriter and actress from Albany, NY. She performs an eclectic mix of jazz standards, soul, and pop. Carmen is best known for her pure vocals and captivating stage presence. She performs and writes music by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Norah Jones, and Linda Ronstadt.

# Meet the band



## Vito Speranza (Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Keyboard)

Vito Speranza was born in Amsterdam, NY and has been performing professionally for over 36 years. Vito started taking music lessons at the age of 5 years old and pursued his music career while studying at the Berkley School of Music in Boston, Conservatory of Music – Salerno Italy, and Potsdam Crane School of Music. He's performed with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Carnival Cruise lines, Discovery Cruise Lines and numerous Broadway productions at the Palace and Proctors Theater in Upstate, NY. He has also performed overseas in the RAI Television Network Studio Orchestra in Rome Italy. In 1996, Vito joined the United States Air Force Band making 1st Trumpet for the Jazz Knights at the United States Military Academy in WestPoint, NY. While there, he performed for numerous figures such as Jon Faddis, Lew Soloff, Jimmy Heath, Claudio Roditti, Wycliff Gordon, Lady Gaga, and Terrel Stafford, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Vito has always been a TSE favorite since he played with the band in 1991.



## Chad Lenig (Drums, Percussion)

Primarily a percussionist, Chad Lenig began playing guitar and singing in his high school years and continued his passion as he studied music education (percussion) with Dr. Kay Stonefelt and composition with Dr. Donald Bohlen at SUNY Fredonia. He later completed a masters degree in music technology from the college of St. Rose in Albany. In 2002, Lenig became a music teacher and the 7-12 Band Director at Fonda-Fultonville Central School district. Since then, he and his colleague, Mr. Greg Kowalczyk founded the Fonda-Fultonville Jazz Festival which is a large academic Jazz Festival for Middle School and High School Jazz Ensembles. Lenig also is an active recording engineer with a fairly large client list. Lenig's musical interests range from Stravinsky, Stockhausen and Varase to Jewel, Coltrane and Chick Corea. Lenig's compositions and electric energy energy brings a signature twist to the TSE band!

# Meet the band



## **Bruce Guerineau (Guitar, Vocals)**

Bruce has been playing professionally for 40 years. Bruce was a product of the Troy N.Y. music scene. He attended the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston Mass. He went on the road with various high level show bands. For many years Bruce worked with a talent agency known for generating the biggest book of business for the given genre of hotel/club work, Miles Bell and Limelighters out of Nashville Tenn. Bruce was fortunate enough to meet numerous talented artists while traveling on the road such as Sammy Hagar, Bob James, and the iconic Ella Fitzgerald.

After many years of travel he settled in Saratoga N.Y. Bruce taught private lessons at the Only Guitar Shop in Clifton Park N.Y. for 15 years teaching hundreds of students young and old. He recently played with Grand Central Station for the past 18 years prior to the TS Ensemble. Bruce continues to teach elementary music in Amsterdam N.Y.



## **Joe Anagnostopulos (Sax)**

Joe Anagnostopulos also known as Joe Ag, is a saxophonist from the Upstate NY region. Has been playing professionally for 17 years. As a student, Anagnostopulos received awards for the most outstanding jazz soloist at the North American Music Festival in Norfolk Virginia, and was selected to perform tenor saxophone for the NYSSMA All- State Jazz Ensemble. He later played professionally with Stage Music big band out of Utica New York. He has toured with the Pretty Things Peepshow and has shared the stage with many great bands including Storm Front, Funk Evolution, Clean Street, and the Vibratones. We're excited to have Joe be the newest member of the band. Joe's ability to improv in many musical genres has been a great addition to the band.

# Meet the band



## **Tom Spakoski (Keyboard)**

Tom Spakoski first started playing accordion and keyboard at the age of 7. Growing up, Spokoski played in a band with his brother which seasoned his love for music Spokoski is a seasoned keyboard player with a wide range of experiences from owning a recording studio, having original music in films and TV libraries to playing in over 2500 gigs. He has worked with artists across the United States and South America crossing paths with many well known artists. He is the newest member to join the TS Ensemble and his keyboard style is an amazing asset to the band.



## **Dino Ferrarese (Bass Player)**

Dino Ferrarese started playing bass at age 12. He joined a band called The Bicentennial Trio at age 13 and played with The Velvet Touch until age 17. He then decided to form his own band called Capri. Capri was one of the most popular wedding bands in the Capital Region for over 40 years. Dino and his wife Mary Anne were an integral part of the band, with Mary Anne providing vocals and Dino playing the Bass. He was also the co-founder of the original rock band – Cardiac Noose. He formed the band with some old friends in the capital region. They currently have four albums on YouTube. Dino has become one of the most valuable musicians within the band. His positive attitude and stage presence have become a great asset.

# YOUR WEDDING

## **The First Dance**

We encourage you to choose any song you wish for your first dance. If it is not in our current repertoire, the T.S. Ensemble will learn it with the lead-time mentioned below. This is a special dance for the bride and groom. If you desire, the wedding party, parents and/or guests are invited to join in. The choice is yours.

**We coordinate all formalities with the Banquet Manager,  
Photographer and Videographer**

Parent dances can be performed whenever you prefer. It is entirely up to you. We will work with you to pick a song choice that's perfect for you!

## **Parent Dances**



# YOUR WEDDING

## **The Cake Cutting**

This tradition is coordinated with the banquet manager and photographer and works best sometime in the middle of the set following dinner. We perform soft background music or, should you prefer, we can play music of your choice. The master of ceremonies will guide the Bride and Groom through this formality.

If you elect to have this formality, the timing will be coordinated with the Bride and Groom ahead of time through the planning stages of the reception.

## **Garter and Bouquet Toss**

**Please view our song list at [www.tsensemble.com](http://www.tsensemble.com) under the media or wedding page. Download the .pdf, and highlight your top picks! As we go through the booking process, include your song choices with the event information, and email to [alsantoro2@gmail.com](mailto:alsantoro2@gmail.com)**



# QUESTIONS?

We have answers!

## GENERAL INFO

### Who is the TS Ensemble?

The T.S. Ensemble is an eight-piece group consisting of male and female vocalists, trumpet, flugelhorn, sax, keyboards/synthesizers, guitar, bass and percussion. We have been catering to parties as "musical hosts" for over 42 years. We have cultivated a wonderful reputation over the years with banquet facility personnel and other wedding professionals. Along with our vast experience as "Masters of Ceremonies", we create an atmosphere that is energized and upbeat throughout your event with all of the guests engaged and entertained throughout all the formalities. A list of professional references is available upon request.

### Can we come see the band?

Hear us at a local club (see our website event page for details), or we will arrange for you to see/hear us at an event similar to your own.

Check out our social media also for daily updates on where you can see us next! See our video link pasted below to get a taste of TSE!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knFAsv\\_6om0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knFAsv_6om0)

### How do I get more information about the band?

Visit our website [tsensemble.com](http://tsensemble.com) or a simple phone call to Al Santoro @ (518)506-5960 or (518)456-0099. We are also available by email ([info@tsensemble.com](mailto:info@tsensemble.com)). We will be happy to discuss date availability and forward you our promotional packet via email. Make sure to keep up to date on our social media platforms!





# QUESTIONS?

We have answers!

## BOOKING AND PRICING

### What items determine the price I pay for my event?

The base price the T.S. Ensemble charges varies for different types of events (Weddings, Corporate Parties, etc.) Our basic package for cocktail hour/reception is 5 hours. There is an additional fee for ceremonial music.

### Is the TS Ensemble email packet information the same musicians that will perform at your Wedding or event?

The TS Ensemble members listed within this packet, will be the same musicians that will perform at your event.

### Last-minute details

The week of your wedding reception/ function, we will contact you to review the information you have given us on your information sheet. At this time we can discuss any last-minute details or changes. However, we encourage you to contact us at any time prior to this regarding any thoughts, ideas or questions you have for your special event.

### How do I find out if the band is available for my event?

Check out our event calendar on our website to see our availability. For a fast response, call Al Santoro @ 518-506-5960 or (518)456-0099, We are also available by email (alsantoro2@gmail.com) to inquire about date availability.

### Will the band that you hire learn additional songs that you request?

The TS Ensemble will learn special songs requested by you. We would appreciate 3 months notice. All new songs to be learned must have sheet music emailed to us.

### How do I guarantee my date?

We book all of our engagements on a first come, first serve basis. A signed contract and deposit returned to us is your guarantee.



# QUESTIONS?

We have answers!

## Optional Musical Offerings

The musicians of the T.S. Ensemble are versatile and experienced from ceremony to cocktail hour, and from classical music to Jazz. We offer something for everyone.

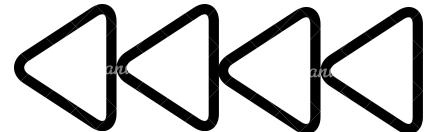
## Optional Overtime

The duration of playtime normally equates to around 5 hours. Overtime for your event/reception may be available depending on the availability of the banquet facility. Please feel free to check with us should this be a consideration.



## What if I need to change the time of my reception/event?

Small changes usually present no problem, and we can in most cases accommodate requests. However, a major time or date change may not be possible due to another booking later that day. To avoid potential conflicts, we suggest that you confirm the starting times of all aspects of your event with all parties involved before returning your signed contract to us. Please remember once your contract has been signed, ANY CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT MUST BE IN WRITING.



## What time does the band arrive for setup at the function?

The T.S Ensemble is always in place before your guests are admitted to the room. Setup begins 1.5 hours prior to the event, unless alternate arrangements have been made.



# QUESTIONS?

We have answers!

## AT YOUR EVENT

### How many breaks does the band take?

We take great pride and make every effort to take our breaks at the “right time” during your event. Typically, the first break occurs when the main entrée begins. Generally, we take one additional short break unless your event dictates otherwise. (i.e. Presentation of Viennese table, guest speakers, etc...)



### Do we DJ through intermissions?

YES! The TS Ensemble will have Spotify streaming on stage. We like to keep our crowd up and moving on our break with unlimited tunes.

### Before Dinner

The TS Ensemble provides music from the beginning of the reception until the main course is served. Often, and with the coordination of the banquet manager, we perform a short 15 to 20 minute dance set just prior to the main entree. This creates excitement and gets the party “up.” Once the main course is served, we typically break for dinner and provide streamed music.

### How does the TS Ensemble dress?

The TS Ensemble unless directed otherwise, will always wear classic, sharp suits, with the female vocalist dressed in evening apparel

### Who selects the songs for our event?

Our extensive song list (provided with our information packet and updated online monthly) is your guide to your song selection.

We invite you to highlight songs of importance to you and to also cross out those that are not desired.



# QUESTIONS?

We have answers!

## What is our CONTINUOUS PACKAGE?

This is our newly offered optional package. Our Band and DJ are on stage throughout the evening and there are two separate setups. The Band and DJ will alternate throughout the evening playing a wide range of music for all ages. Check with us for pricing on this package.



## Is it okay for a guest to sit in?

The TS Ensemble takes great pride in creating a family atmosphere at our functions. Musicians are welcomed to sit in but we do ask you to make arrangements before the function.

## Does the band that you hire have the personality to handle the master of ceremonies at your function?

In coordination with the banquet manager, the T.S. Ensemble performs the role of "Master of Ceremonies." Beginning with the Introductions we keep the flow of your special event moving forward from one moment to the next. We ask that you fill out an Event Information Sheet. This provides us with names and details specific to your event. This enables us to customize your event to suit you.

Please return the Event Information Sheet with your contract, but no later than 8 weeks prior to your wedding reception/event.

**Still have questions? Don't hesitate to ask! Call Al Santoro (518)506-5960, or (518)456-0099: We are also available by email at [alsantoro2@gmail.com](mailto:alsantoro2@gmail.com)**

# Wedding Reception Information Sheet

Please take a few minutes to complete this form and return it with one copy of the contract.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Brides Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

Grooms Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of the Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of the Groom \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl \_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer \_\_\_\_\_

Jr. Bridesmaid (s) \_\_\_\_\_

## Bridesmaids

## Ushers

\_\_\_\_\_ Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_

( Maid / Matron ) of Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Escorted by the Best Man \_\_\_\_\_



# Continued...

**New Full Name of Bride & Groom**

Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Brides First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Music for the First Dance \_\_\_\_\_

To be joined by:  Wedding Party  Parents & Wedding Party

Who will give the Blessing? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will give the Toast? \_\_\_\_\_

**It is customary for the Bride to dance with her Father and the Groom to dance with his Mother.**

Do you wish to do these dances:

Bride with Father ? Yes  No  Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Groom with Mother ? Yes  No  Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be doing the following special events?

1) Cutting of the cake? Yes  No

2) Throwing of the Bouquet and Garter? Yes  No

**Could you please let us know the following who will be providing the following services:**

Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_ Video: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there any other special dedications such as Anniversaries, Birthdays that you would like to make note of?**

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**Other items or special notes that should be brought to our attention?**

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**Honeymoon Location and when?** \_\_\_\_\_

**TS Ensemble**  
**(Cell) (518) 506-5960/(518) 456-0099**

**Engagement Contract**

This **CONTRACT** for the personal services of the T.S. Ensemble for the engagement described below is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_ between the undersigned client and the T.S. Ensemble.

**1) Type and Place of**

**Engagement** \_\_\_\_\_

**2) Date of Engagement** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time of event:** From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

3) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ will be paid to the T.S. Ensemble for the above engagement.

A non-refundable deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ is to be forwarded within 10 days of the signing of this contract ( either as a **Money Order** or a **Personal check made out to Al Santoro** with \_\_\_\_\_ due upon completion of the above engagement in **CASH**.

**Client Information**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Client Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**T.S. Ensemble Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Any cancellation after 60 days of this signed contract by client will result in payment due in full to the TS ENSEMBLE.**

*I give permission to the TS Ensemble to use any pictures/videos taken at my event in their marketing practices*

**\*\*\*\*\* Please note that the amount due at the engagement is to be paid in CASH \*\*\*\*\***

The TS Ensemble

“ Check out the Knot and Wedding Wire for reviews and special notes. ”



**SOCIAL MEDIA**

 @tseband

 @tsensemble