

# The Lovestruck Balladeers

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **Website:**

[lovestruckballadeers.com](http://lovestruckballadeers.com)

### **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/lovestruckballadeers/>

### **Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/lovestruckballadeers/>

## **VIDEO**

The Harlem Strut & El Poder Del Amor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HRuZRLqPyk>

### **Supplemental Video/Live Performance:**

The Black and White Rag

<https://youtu.be/fbqLgW7TiFk>

Waltz for Camila (original composition by Dennis Lichman)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUiESvb9Jig>

## **UPCOMING DATES**

November 9th, G.A.R. Hall. Peninsula, OH

November 13th, The Brink Lounge. Madison, WI

November 14th, The Focal Point. St. Louis, MO

November 16th, The Honky Tonk BBQ. Chicago, IL

### **2020**

February 14. Caffe Lena. Saratoga Springs, NY

February 15-16. Flurry Festival. Saratoga Springs, NY

April 18. The Brooklyn Folk Festival. Brooklyn, NY

August 15. The Ark/The Ann Arbor Ragtime Festival. Ann Arbor, MI

## **PAST DATES**

3/22/18. St. Mazie Super Club. Brooklyn, NY  
3/23/18. The Owl Music Parlor. Brooklyn, NY  
10/10/18. Winter's Jazz Club. Chicago, IL  
10/11/18. The Focal Point. St. Louis, MO  
10/12/18. Temple Theater. Des Moines, IA  
10/20/18. G.A.R. Hall. Peninsula, OH

## **SHORT BIO**

**The Lovestruck Balladeers** enchant audiences with their masterful performances and inspired repertoire of ragtime, jazz and beautiful songs from around the world. They might whip out a lost melody from a forgotten mandolin folio or they might play a Mexican waltz. They might push into a renegade rearrangement of a swing standard or get down with a country rag. They are the five scorpion sons of a West Virginia dance hall, a Little Italy tourist attraction and a Oaxacan birthday party. Together or on their own paths, this stellar band of traveling musicians has traversed the country and the globe, carrying traditional styles into modern times. The versatile quintet features twin fiddles, clarinet, guitars, a mandolin trio, upright bass, banjo, piano and vocal harmonies. Their repertoire is a rare repository of American and international music seldom heard beyond the walls of low-lit dance halls at the edge of the known world. The past never sounded so palpable.

The Lovestruck Balladeers are **Jake Sanders, Aaron Jonah Lewis, Dennis Lichtman, Sean Cronin and Dalton Ridenhour.**

## **LONG BIO**

**The Lovestruck Balladeers** enchant audiences with their masterful performances and inspired repertoire of ragtime, jazz and beautiful songs from around the world. They might whip out a lost melody from a forgotten mandolin folio or they might play a Mexican waltz. They might push into a renegade rearrangement of a swing standard or get down with a country rag.

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Having played together in various configurations and all varieties of musical enterprise, The Lovestruck Balladeers came together as a band throughout a series of recording sessions for Jalopy Records' 2018 release, *Estrellas de Radio*. Once formed, The Lovestruck Balladeers quickly made a name for themselves as an exciting new act highlighting musical excellence and a tightly crafted stage show. With featured performances in New York City, a Midwest tour in the fall of 2018 and an electric performance at the 2019 Brooklyn Folk Festival, the band has turned heads and won over audiences every step of the way. Featuring **Jake Sanders** on guitar, **Aaron Jonah Lewis** on violin and banjo, **Dennis Lichtman** on clarinet and a variety of string instruments, **Dalton Ridenhour** on piano and **Sean Cronin** on bass, the novel ensemble creates a rich blend of five distinct musical personalities.

Sanders' specialization in early Italian-American string music and 20s style guitar has brought him acclaim in both America and Italy. A talented arranger and swing guitarist, he has performed everywhere from Stockholm to Seoul, from The Chicago Jazz Festival to the dance halls of Mexico City. In addition to his solo work heard on Jalopy Records, **Jake Sanders** has recorded with artists such as Pokey Lafarge and The Fat Babies of Chicago, whose last release with Sanders made DownBeat Magazine's "Best of 2017" list - a rare feat for a traditional jazz outfit in this day and age.

**Aaron Jonah Lewis** is a multi-instrumentalist, educator, and cult-hero of the American old time circuit. He is known in music circles as the guy who plays fiddle like "Bach hopped up on speed" (*No Depression*). He has recorded on dozens of albums, ranging in style from modern experimental bluegrass to Turkish classical music. He is the winner of many fiddle and banjo contests in Appalachia including the prestigious first place prize in the Neo-Traditional band category at the 2015 Clifftop Festival in West Virginia. Lewis is a two-time Bluegrass Fiddle Blue Ribbon Winner at the Galax Old Fiddler's Convention.

If Charlie Poole ever learned how to slack-line while playing banjo, clarinet, *and* violin, **Dennis Lichtman** might have some competition. A cornerstone of New York City's early jazz scene, Dennis commands melody on both reed and stringed instruments while composing and improvising with humor and grace. He leads the band on Tuesday nights at Mona's famous jam session and holds a longstanding residency at Barbès in Brooklyn with his western swing band, Brain Cloud. Lichtman has played music at Carnegie Hall, New Orleans Jazz Fest and on countless festival stages stateside and abroad. With a grant from the Queens Council on the Arts, Dennis composed and arranged music for his most recent album, *Just Cross the River* (2018), which pays tribute to the legacy of jazz in the borough of Queens.

A native of Missouri, **Dalton Ridenhour** has studied and performed ragtime and stride piano since he was 10 years old. One of the most celebrated pianists of his tradition, he has performed at ragtime and jazz festivals, acting as musical conduit between the present and the past. Whether playing a classic Scott Joplin rag or reinterpreting the blues for his own compositions, Ridenhour approaches the piano with the swagger and ease of a riverboat gambler. His album, *Eccentricity* (2012, Rivermont Records), displays his capacity to improvise upon and perfectly render piano traditions from America's deep and eclectic musical past. He holds degrees from Berklee College and The Eastman School of Music.

**Sean Cronin** hails from the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, where he received a Canada Council Grant to live in New York City and study the double bass. Since moving in 2012, he has nurtured his own musical project, *Sean Cronin is Very Good*, while becoming immersed in the traditional jazz, country, and rock n' roll communities of New York. Whether playing in residency at the Ace Hotel, or composing scores for the musical plays *The Lost Tardy* and *Kill Me Like You Mean It*, Sean combines 50s rock n' roll aesthetics with traditional American forms for theatrical consumption. Through the work of an exacting bass, he has formed the backbone of musical entities as varied as the Bria Skonberg band and The Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra.

With their first full length studio album recorded and slated for release in the fall of 2019, **The Lovestruck Balladeers** will soon be back on the road proving the adage that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The past never sounded so palpable.

## QUOTES

**“Pretty soon, this combo will be making their mark on the NYC scene, and way beyond”** - Maritn Longley - *All About Jazz* / [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)

The Lovestruck Balladeers possess a **“refined smoothness”** with a **“classicist sophistication at play”** - Maritn Longley - *All About Jazz* / [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)

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**WWW.LOVESTRUCKBALLADEERS.COM**