Seth Kibel kicks off the spring series:

2/21: Count Basie and the Kansas City Sound- William "Bill" Basie, better known as Count Basie, was one of the giants of the swing era. Yet the music his Kansas City-based band produced was markedly different than that produced by any of his competitors in the 1930's and 1940's. Swinging hard, with an emphasis on collective arrangement and improvisation, the "Kansas City Sound," would be a breath of fresh air, right in the middle of the heyday of the big bands.

2/28: Bessie Smith-Empress of the Blues- During the blues craze of the 1920's, no figure loomed larger than Bessie Smith, the Empress of the Blues. A dynamic blues belter, who's personality was as loud as her voice, Bessie would define blues music in American society for a generation. This presentation will trace her unlikely rise to fame, her tumultuous life and career, and her untimely and tragic death.

Audio, video, and live performances from the instructor will make this presentation as lively as the music itself!

Seth Kibel is one of the Mid-Atlantic’s premier woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in jazz, klezmer, swing, and more. Performing on saxophone, clarinet, and flute, Seth has made a name for himself in the Greater Washington/Baltimore region and beyond.