

Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

Volume 60,
Number 5

May/June 2015

Denver Jazz Club in operation for 62 continuous years

Established 1954

Vern Baumer and the Mile High Jazz Gathering

Sunday, May 17



Clarinetist and vocalist **Vern Baumer** has been active on the Denver jazz scene since 1970, when he formed the New Orleans Jazz Gathering. Over the years since, the band has played regular gigs at various bars, restaurants and jazz festivals. Vern himself has worked with Big Tiny

Little, the Summit Ridge Jazz band, the High Sierra Jazz Band and the Wild Bill Davidson Legacy Band, with Tom Saunders. He has even played in the famous Washboard

Concert at Monterey's Jazz Bash by the Bay. Joining Vern for the Denver Jazz Club performance will be **Kevin Bollinger**, trumpet; **Ed Stephen**, guitar; **Rory Thomas**, banjo; **Bobby Green**, piano; **Bill Blackman**, bass; and **Bill Watkins**, drums.

Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:30–5:00 PM Sunday, May 17.
- Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Drive.
- Admission is \$8 for members of any jazz club, \$10 for anyone who isn't a jazz club member, free for age 12 and younger.

Amenities:

- Cabaret-style seating, dance floor, cash bar, and food.

Poudre River Irregulars

Sunday, June 21



Fresh from the celebration of their 20th anniversary as a band, The Poudre River Irregulars will be playing New Orleans and Dixieland jazz for the DJC in June. Noted for their exuberant energy and sound musicianship, they draw much of their inspiration from Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton, but play a wide variety of traditional jazz, from ragtime through the classics of the twenties and thirties up to early swing. Whatever they play, their

music is always upbeat and joyful. Founder Bob Cooke retired in 2010, and the band's current "regular irregulars" include leader Len Kellogg, trombone; Dave Dale, bass; Oscar DeZoto, drums; Ray Leake, piano; Charlie Smith, trumpet; Rory Thomas, banjo; and Clark Burnside, clarinet.

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A little bit of this 'n' that

By Walt Hewitt

Denver Jazz Club Events
Columnist

For our April Jazz Appreciation Month, we enjoyed the DJC's Ron Cope Benefit. All the musicians donated their time and talents to honor Ron's legacy – we had no band expense. There were some good remembrances of Ron from decades ago. The Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra, which he formed, has a tiger by the tail and should never be allowed to go out of existence. Our club has a standing agreement with them to play for us at our annual Christmas bash, our most successful session of every year. The Claim Jumpers trad trio were especially great – good piano player. The DJC Youth All-Stars played like a bunch of professionals, and the Queen City Jazz Band is an institution.

We don't have any difficulty with crowd noise at our sessions because we appreciate the music. Kenny Davern's reaction to drunks was "Eat, drink, and be merry, because we can play louder than you can talk."

In early April, Ralph Sharon passed away at 91 years of age. We were privileged to hear him several times at Dazzle – a real pro at an advanced age. As we all know, he was Tony Bennett's pianist for 45 years. He "retired" some years ago to Boulder to be near his son. When he played at Dazzle, he would ride RTD into Denver and someone would have to drive downtown and pick him up, and deliver him back to the bus station for his return to Boulder. It was a rare privilege to have someone of his stature live in our area of the world.

Our All-Stars are getting some airplay on KUVO. I happened to hear them one Saturday, and it wasn't even Ed Danielson's show.

Even the big festivals are having a hard time staying in business. The Sacramento festival had a continuing drop in attendance of about 10% a year, so they changed their name to Sacramento Music Festival from Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, eliminated some venues, and in general changed things a lot. Incidentally, our all-stars are going back there again this year.

We seldom get to the Springs for organ music, but I surely want to go this year to their weekly organ concerts at City Auditorium on their Wurlitzer Theatre pipe organ. They call it Sack Lunch Serenade, and even have a silent movie.

Nicki Parrott told a story at a party last year about when she was working with Les Paul at a New York bar owned by a gangster-type individual. A swarthy-looking guy came over to her and Les with this request: "Hey, da boss wants to hear 'Where or When.' You decide which one you want to play."

I guess I read this in the American Rag: Jim Maihack was scheduled to a party in Florida. Jim lives in Sacramento. He was quoted a \$400 fee from his airline to schlep his tuba – each way! So the great Bill Allred arranged to loan him his – Bill's – tuba for the gig.

We've all seen this before: Groucho Marx once said that he would never want to belong to a country club that would have him for a member. Or how about this, author unknown: "Wag more, bark less." Or "There's nothing paltry about poultry." Or "Even a pig will climb a tree if you sweet-talk him."

And it was W. C. Fields who once said (it was probably a lot more than once) "Anyone who hates dogs and children can't be all bad."

**Denver JAZZ Club
NEWS**

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Ed Danielson, Editor	Phone 303-777-5170
Walt Hewitt, Events Columnist	Phone 303-366-1107

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Half page (7.5" width x 4.75" depth)	\$50.00
Quarter page (3.625" width x 4.75" depth)	\$25.00



Peter's Place

By Peter Robinson
Denver Jazz Club Guest Columnist

PROGRESS of the 88

I grew up having a piano around, music being an essential part of family life – weekend family get-togethers in a ‘front room’ for a musical evening. Consequently, after taking lessons from the age of seven (and incidentally trying to play popular tunes instead of practicing) I eventually became interested in the various styles of jazz piano. This progress has been difficult to analyse due to styles overlapping. I’ve therefore drawn up a few categories through to the advent of bop and the more modern approach in the 1940’s. I only quote some of the main musicians.

RAGTIME and PIANO ROLLS.

We may imagine the early solo pianist either accompanying silent movies or hammering away in a make-believe Western bar full of smoke. In reality the late 1890s would have had a pianist playing ragtime music, an ideal style to be interpreted by the piano, with its march-like clipped syncopated sound. Many of these tunes were translated onto paper piano rolls for specially adapted pianos – the pianola. Pianist Scott Joplin recorded “Maple Leaf Rag” onto a roll in 1916. By the turn of the century New Orleans became a hive of progress towards the world of jazz. Ironically, the first jazz band to use a pianist on record was recorded in New York, the Original Dixieland Jazz Band in 1917. The next well-known band, Kid Ory’s Sunshine Orchestra, played “Ory’s Creole Trombone in 1923. Pianist Jelly Roll Morton introduced arrangements and solos into his Red Hot Peppers in 1926. Morton is purported to have invented jazz, a bold statement!

STRIDE PIANO and BOOGIE WOOGIE.

The stride style developed from ragtime and produced some great performers – Willie the Lion Smith, Lucky Roberts, James P. Johnson and Fats Waller, and

interestingly Duke Ellington and Count Basie. The style involved vamping in the left hand to keep up the rhythm. Later exponents included Ralph Sutton, Dick Wellstood and let’s include the versatile Dick Hyman. Fats Waller aficionado Jeff Barnhart, a frequent visitor to the Summit weekend in September, plays a mean version of stride piano. Boogie Woogie developed from an early blues style with a simple 12 bar blues progression and various patterns in the left hand. Meade Lux Lewis, Albert Ammons, Jimmy Yancey and Pinetop Smith stand out as early masters, copied by many succeeding pianists.

PIONEER PIANISTS.

Earl Hines was associated with Louis Armstrong and produced a duet masterpiece in 1928 – “Weatherbird”. Hines later came out with his ‘trumpet style’ by improvising octaves in his right hand.

Mary Lou Williams became a pianist with Andy Kirk’s 12 Clouds of Joy in 1930. The band’s fame was due to her distinctive arrangements, compositions and solo performances. She could also produce an original melody with a boogie woogie theme – “Roll ‘em”, also performed by Benny Goodman.

Fletcher Henderson, the bandleader, arranger and pianist, led the most important of the pioneering big bands which helped to set the pattern of the later big bands playing arranged music.

Pianist Art Hodes is selected as he did more to encourage a new public awareness of earlier jazz styles and musicians – a weekly jazz radio programme, his own record label and he edited a jazz magazine as well as recorded with Sydney Bechet and Wingy Manone.

The other Art (Tatum) requires a paragraph with all the other ‘swing’ pianists – next time!



A special thanks to all of you in the Denver Jazz Club for your unending support! Thanks to the 17 individuals who participate in the King Soopers gift card fundraiser – this program continuously helps our youth all-stars (approximately \$150/month in fundraising dollars!)

Just imagine if we could double or triple the number of gift card participants! Please purchase a \$25 King Soopers gift card at the next monthly DJC session. There's no additional cost to you!

Although the DJC Youth All-Stars and their families are paying for most of their upcoming performance tours to California and Europe, your contributions greatly assist our youth band in meeting its goals. The 2014-15 DJC Youth All-Stars will be performing at the Sacramento Jazz Festival and Jubilee over Memorial Day weekend, and the Montreux, Switzerland Jazz Festival, from July 3rd through 4th, 2015. Performances will also take place at the 2015 Brienz Meets Montreux Jazz Festival on July 5th & 6th. They will also perform in the Milan, Italy 2015 expo in Citta on July 8th!

Please go to: <http://youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com/donate/> to make a donation or purchase any of our 5 CD's!!

You can also mail donations to: Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars, Ed Cannava, Director, 6388 S. Dexter St, Centennial, CO 80121.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY SELECTED 2015-16 DENVER JAZZ CLUB YOUTH ALL-STARS!

Ellington Jenkins, Clarinet, Freshman at Denver School of the Arts

Jack Wilkinson, Tenor Sax, Freshman at Fairview High School

Brent Ingle, Trumpet, Junior at Arvada High School

Gabby Aragon, Trombone, Junior at Mead High School

Mika Smith, Banjo/Vocals, Sophomore at Chaparral High School

Leilani Osmundson, Piano, Junior at Horizon High School

Paige Langley, Bass, Junior at Englewood High School

Jon Hunt, Drums, Junior at Englewood High School

This will be another fantastic band!

12th Annual Tribute to Honor Military Veterans



D-Day Remembered

Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 1:00 PM

**Adams County Historical Society Museum
9601 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601**

The Adams County Historical Society's 12th annual tribute to our military veterans takes place at 1:00 PM Saturday, June 6, at the Adams County Museum, 9601 Henderson Road in Brighton. Free admission and free parking. A light lunch will be served.

This year, the **Broomfield Jammers**, led by **John Sobott**, performs the warm-up entertainment. The group features a 92-year-old trumpet player who is a D-Day veteran. Afterward, the **Golden Eagle Concert Band** performs the stirring music of George M. Cohan and John Phillip Sousa, along with popular music of the era.

The museum has a large collection of patriotic posters supporting War Bond drives and encouraging enlistment

in the Armed Forces on display, along with a collection of flags located in the Hoffman Hall.

The museum buildings will be opened, including the 1887 Victorian House, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, Conoco station, firehouse and Culture Center. Be sure to bring your vintage car or military vehicle and dress in your uniform!

All veterans and the public are welcomed – let's honor this greatest generation.

For more information, please call the Adams County Museum at 303-659-7103.

This event is made possible by a grant from the Adams County Scientific and Cultural Council.

Evergreen Jazz Festival



July 24, 25, 26

For the latest information and to order badges, visit www.evergreenjazz.org, e-mail info@evergreenjazz.org, or call 303-697-5467.

The 2015 Lineup:

- New Black Eagle Jazz Band
- After Midnight
- Carl Sonny Leyland Trio
- Queen City Jazz Band with Wende Harston
- Felonius Smith Trio
- Lost Weekend Western Swing Band
- Bogalusa Strutters
- Nicki Parrott with Danny Coots, Brian Holland, Andy Reiss
- Gypsy Swing Revue
- Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra
- Big Little Ragtime Band



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Local band appearances

After Midnight aftermidnightjazzband.com

Saturday, May 16	2:00 PM - Broomfield Auditorium, 3 Community Park Road, Broomfield
Saturday, May 16	7:00 PM - West Side Live, Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W 32 nd , Golden
Friday, June 5	6:00 PM - Cherry Creek Country Club, 2405 South Yosemite Street, Denver

Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com

Friday, May 15	5:00 PM - Boulder's Pearl St. Mall in the breezeway, on the 1200 block
Sunday, May 17	3:50 PM - DJC May Session, Westminster Elks Lodge
Friday, June 5	3:00 PM - With The Poudre River Irregulars, Avogadro's Number, 605 S. Mason St, Ft. Collins,
Monday, June 8	7:00 PM - Dazzle Jazz Club, 930 Lincoln St, Denver w/The Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra
Tuesday, June 9	7:00 PM - Broadcast live on jazz89 KUVU, 2900 Welton St, Denver
Thursday, June 18	1:00 PM - Wheat Ridge Active Adult Center, 6363 W. 35th Ave, Wheat Ridge
Saturday, June 20	5:00 PM - Private Graduation Party in Broomfield
Sunday, June 21	3:50 PM - DJC June Session, Westminster Elks Lodge
Saturday, June 27	4:00 PM - 16th St Mall between Stout & California Streets, Denver

Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra www.hottomatoes.com

Saturday, June 13	6:00 PM - 1940s Summer Ball
Wednesday, June 17	6:00 PM - COS Summer Concert Series, Colorado Springs

Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles Jazz Band

Saturday, May 16	1:00 PM - Five Points Jazz Festival, 2400 - 2900 blocks Welton St. - Main Stage
Sunday, May 24	8:00 PM - The Mercury Café, 2199 California St., Denver
Saturday, May 30	8:00 PM - The Avalon Ballroom, 6185 Arapahoe, Boulder
Saturday, June 13	1940's Ball at Boulder Airfield (The 13-piece Joe Smith Orchestra)

Joni Janak and Centerpiece Jazz

Wednesdays, May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24	5:30 PM -- Luke's, A Steak Place, 4990 Kipling
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Poudre River Irregulars www.prijb.com

Friday, March 6 and April 3	4:00 PM - Avogadro's Number, 605 S. Mason St., Fort Collins.
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Queen City Jazz Band www.queencityjazzband.com

Sundays, May 10 & June 14	8:00 PM - The Mercury Café, 2199 California St., Denver
Sundays, May 17 & 31, June 21	6:00 PM - Bull & Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale
Saturday, May 23	7:00 PM - Crown Hill Memorial Park, 7777 W. 29 th Ave., Wheat Ridge
Sunday, May 24	7:00 PM - Resthaven Memory Gardens, 8426 S. Highway 287, Ft. Collins
Friday, June 26	7:30 PM - YMCA of the Rockies, 2515 Tunnel Rd., Estes Park
Saturday, June 27	7:30 PM - Rialto Theatre, 228 E. 4 th St., Loveland
Sunday, June 28	7:00 PM - Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church, 9180 W 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge

Summit Hot Seven

Sundays, May 3 & June 7	6:00 PM - Bull & Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale
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Your Father's Mustache Band www.mustacheband.com

Sundays, May 10 & 24, June 14 & 28	6:00 PM - Bull & Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale (Mary Kelly is scheduled to sing with the band in June.)
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To include your band's scheduled performances, please e-mail the editor at mcvouty78@yahoo.com.

The /rez sez ...

By John Sobott
Denver Jazz Club President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the musicians that participated in April's Ron Cope benefit concert. There was a lot of support by the DJC members and we thank all of you for that. The Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra played many of the arrangements that Ron Cope wrote in years past and they were performed to a "T" by the members of the band. The CU Denver Claim Jumpers did a marvelous job on the second set with several new tunes and some vocals. The Queen City Jazz Band concluded the day in the third set and they were great. Keeping in mind that all musicians donated their

time for the day all for the cause of music education for aspiring young musicians. One of the missions of the Denver Jazz Club is to promote our kind of music and support young musicians during their music education. That is why we take one Sunday afternoon a year to host this kind of concert performance. And again, thanks to all of the members of the Denver Jazz Club for your support.

I'm sorry to say that we have no new members to welcome in this issue. We'd love to see our club grow, so we'll see you at the jam in May, and **bring a friend!!**

Remember that our Denver Jazz Club events begin at 1:30 PM on the third Sunday of the month. Each session begins with the UCD Claim Jumpers performing.

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Denver Jazz Club

**Denver Jazz Club News, published every two months by the Denver Jazz Club
7898 Applewood Lane, Denver CO 80221-3204**

Denver Jazz Club officers and board members

Officers:

- **President:** John Sobott (2015), 303-430-5606
- **Vice President:** Bill Clark (2015), 303-726-4101
- **Secretary:** Dottie Sobott (2015), 303-430-5606
- **Treasurer:** Walt Hewitt (2015), 303-791-3337
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Kristi Flesher (2015), 303-429-2307

Board members:

- Casey Hayes (2015), 303-288-5869
 - Paul Chamberlin (2015), 303-237-4619
 - Ed Cannava (2015), 303-328-7277
 - Eric Staffeldt (2015), 303-394-4552
- (Parentheses indicate year term ends.)

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Are you a musician? Yes No

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Patron \$80/year (get 2 free jam session passes!)

Denver Jazz Club Membership Application

Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

P.O. Box 9942 • Denver, CO 80209-0924

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Boulder Friends of Jazz

(phone 303-449-1888, website www.boulderfriendsofjazz.org)

1:00-4:00 PM, first Sunday of every month at Boulder Elks Lodge, 3975 28th St., Boulder.

\$6 for members of any jazz club, \$8 for non-members, \$2 for students, free for musicians who wish to play in jam session.

Sunday, May 3 – **Derek Lucas**, trumpet
Sunday, June 7 – to be determined

Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society

(phone 1-970-498-8616, email tradjazz@fortnet.org)

4:00-7:00 PM, first Friday of every month at Avogadro's Number, 605 S. Mason St., Fort Collins.

\$7 for members of Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society, \$10 for non-members, \$3 for students, free for ages 18 and younger.

Fridays, May 1 and June 5 – **Poudre River Irregulars**

Pikes Peak Jazz & Swing Society

(phone 1-719-685-9451, website www.ppjass.org)

1:00-4:00 PM, second Sunday of every month at the Olympian Event Center, 975 S. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs.

\$5 for members of any jazz club, \$10 for non-members, \$3.50 for students, free for children age 12 or younger.

Sunday, May 10 – **JORICA + 1**
Sunday, June 14 - **Pippa's Fling** with **Christi & Mark Bovee**