

# Denver JAZZ Club NEWS



Volume 62,  
Number 2

September/October 2017

Denver Jazz Club in operation for 62 continuous years

Established 1954

## Summit Hot Seven

Sunday, September 17



Previously known as Alan's Orphans (and, before that, the Alan Frederickson Jazz Ensemble), the band is rededicated to traditional jazz.

## Bob Schulz, cornet, with The Queen City Jazz Band

Sunday, October 15



**Bob Schulz** has been described by a young hip fan, as "stone cold great!" He plays crisp, clean, swinging cornet, and he's a spirited singer and top-notch bandleader with a dedicated fan base. Bob has "played all over the place", and was voted #1 jazz cornetist in Mississippi Rag polls for 10 years, 1990-2000, and also #3 jazz vocalist over the same period. One of

the last active players to have worked with Turk Murphy, Bob's playing career spans three decades, and his teaching career goes back all the way to 1961.

Dr. **Chaz Bowles**, trumpet, leads the band on house calls to cure what ails you. With **Marti Henry**, trombone; **Bill Pontarelli**, clarinet; **Scott Grove** on piano; **Rory Thomas**, banjo; **Roger Johns**, bass, and **Don Grove**, drums.

You can get happy with them on the first Sunday of every month at the Bull and Bush Tavern, a regular gig for this band for the past 22 years.

### Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:30–5:00 PM Sunday, September 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.

Bob will be joined by the **Queen City Jazz Band**, with **Kevin Bollinger**, trumpet, **Eric Staffeldt**, trombone; **John Bredenberg**, clarinet; **Hank Troy**, piano, **Rory Thomas**, banjo; leader **Bill Clark**, tuba; **Tony Pantelis**, drums, and **Wende Harston**, vocals.

### Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:30–5:00 PM Sunday, October 15
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- 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.
- Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars and UC Denver Claim Jumpers perform abbreviated sets that afternoon

# A little bit of this 'n' that

By Walt Hewitt  
Denver Jazz Club Events  
Columnist

We recently attended our friend Katherine Hartz's 97th birthday party. It's become an annual happening at the Pegasus Restaurant in Castle Rock. They shut the doors at 2:00 PM, leaving the entire restaurant devoted to this event. Chaz Bowles and the Summit Hot Seven furnished the entertainment outside on the patio under trees and umbrellas. The Grove brothers were great (Scott on piano, Don on drums), Roger Johns on bass, Bill Pontarelli, clarinet, and Marti Henry on trombone. Marti is recuperating from a very serious illness, and Scott Grove from a fall from a ladder. Chaz was, as always, great on trumpet, flugelhorn and vocals. We sat at our "usual" table with Pontarelli's mother Fifi and the Groves' mother Betty. Poached salmon, open bar and great music outside just can't be beat.

Several weeks ago, we went to the new Dazzle location in the old Baur's restaurant – remember when that was one of three or four decent restaurants in the Denver metro area, and expensive enough that you only went there once a year for a special birthday? They've remodeled extensively and now have enough room for concert-type music. Neil Bridge and his trio were the music – Ron Bland on bass and Todd Reid on drums, plus Steve Denny for some great dual-piano numbers. Denny is a Denver native who may have been a student of Neil; he resides in the New York City area, but always gets together with Neil for good, good piano duets.

Next time we go to Dazzle we'll take Uber, because

parking is not the best due to downtown construction. Karen Lee insisted upon accompanying me on the walk from a two story underground parking area. On the long walk back to the car, we were only accosted once by a young man who insisted upon high-fiving me. But we were too busy walking to worry about street people or riots – I never really gave those things a thought. Dazzle should have a very good future in the new locale.

I enjoyed the eclipse – should that be capitalized? [Editor's note: "probably not"] – because if you're old enough it may be your last.

Remember the band Soprano Summit, with Bob Wilber and Kenny Davern? Bob Wilber became a student of Sidney Bechet once when Sidney was between gigs. I think I was at the Broadmoor for the birth of Soprano Summit, but at my advanced age I'm allowed to forget some things, or even to fib a little.

And an obscure observation: Billy Crystal was quoted once as having said that there is a big difference between "mostly dead" and "all dead."

If any reader of this column knows the nickname of Bob Cummings' wife, please call. Her given name was Avalon, like on Catalina.

And how many steps does Vanna White take at the beginning of Pat Sajak's show before the camera pans away?

Our club dates in September and October coincide with the births of two early big band bandleaders this year.

September 17, 1895, is the birthday of William McKinney. As a young man, McKinney played the drums in a circus band, then served in World War I. After mustering out of the Army, McKinney settled in Ohio, where he became leader of the Synco Jazz Band. The band was eventually heard by music promoter Jean Goldkette; he took over the management of the band and renamed them McKinney's Cotton Pickers. That band was the launching pad for a number of great jazz players, including Coleman Hawkins and Benny Carter. McKinney retired to his hometown, Cynthiana, KY, where he died in 1969.

And pianist, vocalist and bandleader Joe Sanders was born on October 15, 1896, in Thayer, KS. While based in Kansas City, he met drummer Carleton Coon, and together they led the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks, beginning in 1919. They were the first band to broadcast nationally over the radio, and had a teletype set up on the bandstand to take requests from listeners during broadcasts. In later years, Sanders worked in Hollywood film studios, and sang for the Kansas City Opera in the 1950s. Sanders died in 1965.

## Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

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# Peter's Place

By Peter Robinson  
Denver Jazz Club Guest Columnist

## SOLOISTS -- BIG BANDS and SMALL GROUPS, PART TWO

In my enjoyment of what I call 'real' jazz I have listened to years of recordings and heard live bands containing expert soloists that distinguish one group from another. The names of these soloists are famous now and familiar, thus entering the so-called 'Hall of Fame'. Their style or phrasing gave them renown in the field of jazz. The names here will, I hope, be familiar to readers. So, here goes to give you a few more of the orchestras within which these musicians have made their mark.

The **Fletcher Henderson Orchestra**: Fletcher produced a historic crowd of musicians in his band playing excellent arrangements. From a period 1931-34, solos were undertaken by Coleman Hawkins (tenor sax), Rex Stewart, Red Allen (trumpets), Buster Bailey (clarinet), Claude Jones, Benny Morton (trombones) and young Louis Armstrong joined them. What a talented band! All of these musicians continued to be heard by the public when joining other bands.

The **Paul Whiteman Orchestra**: Contained expert soloists in the 1930s revered now by students perusing the History of Jazz due to one trumpeter, Bix Beiderbecke. The recordings by Whiteman -- and by Bix' own bands -- became classics. He also had trombonist Jack Teagarden alongside, another legend and a musician who joined many groups including the Louis Armstrong All Stars.

A mainly New Orleans group, the **Luis Russell Orchestra** contained some choice soloists within the band who continued to be interesting and creative. One favourite was J. C. (Higgy) Higginbotham (trombone), and the orchestra also had altoist Charlie Holmes and Albert Nicholas (clarinet) sitting alongside. All these men continued to create excellent jazz in various classic groups.

Drummer **Chick Webb** ran an orchestra in the 1930s that supplied us with an all-round favourite-- teenager Ella Fitzgerald. Eventually she ran the band after Chick died prematurely. Two soloists who continued to give

pleasure were Taft Jordan (trumpet) and Sandy Williams (trombone).

Trombonist **Tommy Dorsey** made his early mark playing in mixed groups before forming his famous orchestra. Apart from his own wonderful solos he had some expert soloists in the form of Buddy Rich (drums), Ziggy Elman and Charlie Shavers (trumpet), and Johnny Mince (clarinet). Tommy also formed his "band-within-a-band," the Clambake 7, an excellent Dixieland group. Jo Stafford happened to hold the vocalist chair for many excellent recordings with the orchestra...

The **Artie Shaw Orchestra** became a firm favourite distinguished by the sound of that saxophone section, obviously with Artie's clarinet riding high. Tenor player Tony Pastor often took the vocal spot giving added character to the band. Billy Butterfield (trumpet) produced a recording of "Stardust" of exceptional quality, also containing a short trombone solo by relatively unknown Denny Dennis, thought to be a classic by trombonists. Buddy Rich also appeared again in the 40s to swing the band.

The **Claude Hopkins Orchestra**: From this band young clarinetist Edmund Hall progressed into various groups - Louis Armstrong's All Stars, Eddie Condon's Gangs and his own groups. He also found himself in demand for recording sessions, for example with Jack Teagarden and Jimmy McPartland in the 1950s.

**Andy Kirk and his Clouds of Joy**: This group had many changes within its personnel although one woman stood out amongst the men -- pianist Mary Lou Williams who brought arranging skills to the band as well as brilliant piano solos.

**Teddy Wilson's bands**: Teddy was a classic soloist in Benny Goodman's small groups as well as the Billie Holiday bands in the 1930s. Alongside him were a cross-section of star players including Buck Clayton (trumpet), Artie Shaw (clarinet) and of course Lester Young (tenor). Classic stuff.

This is only a sample analysis of identifiable soloists still being enjoyed today due to their expert improvisations and sense of swing -- essential ingredients for 'true' jazz.



### YOUTH ALL-STARS

## WHAT A TERRIFIC 2017 EUROPEAN CONCERT TOUR! THANKS TO ALL OF YOU IN THE DENVER JAZZ CLUB FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars flew to Chicago, and then on to London on an overnight flight, starting on June 28th. We then flew to Geneva, Switzerland on the 29th. The day of our arrival, we took a couple of ferries across Lake Geneva, over to France, for a delicious evening meal at Evian-les-Bains. We opened up the Montreux Jazz Festival on the Music in the Parks Stage on June 30th and July 1st. There were good crowds and the band played extremely well. On July 2nd, we performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival Meets Brienz Jazz Festival. It was a small, but very appreciative audience. July 3rd was a travel day to Pisa, Italy. Everyone got to climb the steps to the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. On July 4th we battled the crowds in Florence, and toured the Accademia Museum. Then we performed at the Assisi, Italy Music Festival that evening. On July 5th, we had our 2nd evening concert in Assisi. The audiences were incredibly enthusiastic! Then we toured Rome on July 6th, including the Vatican and the Colosseum. A very entertaining celebration dinner was served at a family owned restaurant that evening. On July 7th, we flew back home. Thank you again, Denver Jazz Club, for a wonderful concert tour!



*DJC Youth All-Stars performing at the Assisi Music Festival*

### A FIRST FOR THE DENVER JAZZ CLUB YOUTH ALL-STARS

*The Music Director of the Assisi, Italy Music Festival was so impressed with our band that he has contracted the DJC Youth All-Stars to perform at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, on March 20th, 2018! This is an all-expense paid trip for our youth band!*

**THE DJC YOUTH ALL-STARS STILL NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT - THE KING SOOPERS GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER CERTAINLY HELPS, BUT ONLY COVERS A SMALL PORTION OF OUR FINANCIAL NEEDS.**

**Please go to: <http://youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com/donate/> to order CDs or make a donation to our band!!**

*The 2017-2018 Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars:*

**Charles Gamble**, Tenor Sax, Junior, East High School; **Kiyah Vizzi**, Trumpet, Junior, Thornton High School; **Benj Wilkin**, Trombone, Senior, Kennedy High School; **Steve Pitchford**, Banjo, Sophomore, Bear Creek High School; **Antonio Giovanetti**, Piano, Sophomore, Bear Creek High School; **Benji Robinson**, Drums, Junior, Centaurus High School **Ellington Jenkins**, Clarinet, Senior, DPS Online High School **Ben Husted**, Bass, Junior, Chatfield High School

# Angry

By Casey Hayes

Almost everyone is familiar with the chorus to this song.

Tiny Hill, who billed himself as a heavyweight among band leaders (he weighed 365 pounds!) used the song *Angry* as his theme song in 1939. *Angry* was also recorded by Ted Lewis in 1925, Bob Crosby in 1939, Kay Starr in 1951, Perry Como in 1957, and Rosemary Clooney in 1961.



Tiny was a drummer, and used sanding blocks to create a shuffling sound to encourage couples to dance. Born in poverty, his first job was driving a team of mules for a canning company in Illinois. He performed in Midwestern ballrooms, recording such songs for the Mercury and OKeh record labels as *Sioux City Sue*, *Heartaches*, *Mickey*, *Who's Sorry Now*, *Darktown Stutters' Ball*, *Five-Foot-Two*, *Four-Leaf Clover*, *Mocking Bird Hill*, *If You Knew Susie* and *Slow Poke*. In 1954 his band was the summer replacement for the Lucky Strike Your Hit Parade radio show.

Tiny Hill loved Packards and used them extensively, transporting band members to various gigs. He had a hit with *Hot Rod Race*, which introduced a talking-type vocal that became popular with Country-Western performers:

Now me and my wife and brother Joe,  
Took off in my Ford from San Pedro

We hadn't much gas and the tires were low,  
But that Ford could really go.

The best example of this type of music is *Sixteen Tons* by Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Tiny kept his band playing at the Rainbow in Denver, and one-nighters in Nebraska and Kansas. As the big band era began to fade, he became interested in business endeavors. In 1950 he moved to Colorado and bought a 140-acre dairy farm at Ft. Lupton named Mountain View.

Back in my skiing days, on a Sunday, we would leave Loveland ski area and hear polka music from KHIL in Brighton. The reception was clear, and Tiny would feature local polka bands from the area. His final dance was to a standing room only audience in Emden, Illinois, on July 17, 1971. He died in Denver at age 65 in 1971. As you drive to Brighton on highway 85, there is a small cemetery where he is interred. The inscription on his tombstone reads: "Forgotten quickly by many, remembered forever by a few."

Dearie, please don't be angry  
'Cause I was only teasing you  
I wouldn't even let you think of leavin'  
Don't you know I love you true

Just because I took a look at somebody else  
That's no reason you should put poor me on the shelf  
Dearie, please don't be angry  
'Cause I was only teasing you.

Don't believe a thing you hear, just wait till you see  
Then you'll find no cause to show that you're jealous of me  
Oh! Angry, please don't be angry,  
'Cause I was only teasing you.

## Remembering Jon Wiegardt

Jon J. Wiegardt, professional trombonist, arranger, music director and beloved teacher, passed away in Sonoma, CA, on July 9. He was 79.

Jon dedicated his life to music, to other musicians, and to his students. He was known for his remarkable talent on the "bone," playing at a variety of classical, band, and jazz gigs all over the Denver area and beyond. Fellow musicians said he brought out the best in everyone with his great sense of humor.

Jon earned his B.A. and Master's degrees from UNC in Greeley, and completed his Ph.D. work at CU Boulder. In 1959 he began teaching, and directed bands at Englewood High School; and in 1961 he originated the Englewood Jazz Band Festival, which grew into the Mile High Jazz Festival. He taught at CU Boulder, Metro State College, and Cherry Creek High School. Jon directed the Denver Broncos Band from 1972-75. He performed with over 35 bands and orchestras, including the Queen City Jazz Band, Hot Tomatoes, Brown Palace Orchestra, and Rumble Seat. He backed artists like Debbie Reynolds, Bob Hope, Dizzy Gillespie, Isaac Hayes, the Pointer Sisters, Mel Tormé and many more.

A memorial service for Jon will be held in September.



# Local band appearances

## After Midnight

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

Saturday, October 21 7:00 PM – Caffe Sole, 637R S. Broadway, Boulder

## Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars

[www.youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com](http://www.youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com)

Sunday, September 17 4:00 PM – Covered outdoor bandshell, on the Auraria Campus (Denver Jazz Festival).

Sunday, September 24 6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr South (with Your Father's Mustache)

Sunday, October 15 1:30 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks, 3850 Elk Drive, Westminster (with Bob Schulz)

## Gypsy Swing Revue

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

Every Wednesday 8:00 PM – The Irish Snug, 1201 East Colfax Avenue, Denver

Friday, September 22 4:00 PM – Daniels Hall, 71 East Yale, Denver

## Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra

Saturday, October 7 8:00 PM -- Molly Brown Summer House, 2690 S Wadsworth (Doors open 7:00 PM)

## Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles Jazz Band

[www.joesmithandthespicypickles.com](http://www.joesmithandthespicypickles.com)

Tuesday, September 14 8:30 PM – Mercury Café, 2199 California, Denver

Friday, September 15 8:30 PM – CD Release Party, Denver Jazz Festival, St. Cajetan's, 101 Lawrence Way (Auraria)

Saturday, October 28 12:30 PM – Colorado Springs Jazz Party, Antlers Hotel, 4 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs

## Joni Janak and Centerpiece Jazz

Every second and fourth Wednesday 5:30 PM – Luke's, A Steak Place, 4990 Kipling St. Lakewood

## Marti Henry's Jazz Over Easy

Every third Wednesday 6:00 PM – Bent Noodle, 3055 S. Parker Rd.

## Neil Bridge 7 with Karen Lee

[www.neilbridgemusic.com](http://www.neilbridgemusic.com)

Every third Sunday 6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Glendale

Sunday, September 24 7:00 PM – Nissi's, 2675 North Park Drive, Lafayette (Neil and Karen's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary), with Papi Ray Pacheco

## Poudre River Irregulars

[www.prijb.com](http://www.prijb.com)

Every first Friday 4:00 PM - Avogadro's Number, 605 S. Mason St., Fort Collins

## Queen City Jazz Band

[www.queencityjazzband.com](http://www.queencityjazzband.com)

Every first Sunday 2:00 PM – El Rancho Brewery and Restaurant, I-70 & Evergreen Parkway

Every second Sunday 8:00 PM – Mercury Care, 2199 California, Denver

Saturday, October 14 Queen City Jazz Band with Bob Schulz – time and venue to be determined – check band website

Sunday, October 15 1:30 PM – Denver Jazz Club with Bob Schulz, Westminster Elks, 3850 Elk Drive, Westminster

## Summit Hot Seven

Every first Sunday 6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr South, Glendale

## UCD Claim Jumpers

Every fourth Saturday 9:30 PM – Mercury Café Jungle Room, 2199 California St., Denver.

## Your Father's Mustache Band

[www.mustacheband.com](http://www.mustacheband.com)

Every 2nd and 4th

Sunday 6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr South, Glendale

# The /rez sez ...

By John Sobott  
Denver Jazz Club President

What is a musician?

Ever since the human race started by beating on crude drums and developing other noise making devices, a form of music has been part of our existence. Music moves our emotions and helps us to express ourselves. Some of us create music and others of us listen to music. Both are important.

In late July we attended the Evergreen Jazz Festival and heard several days of top musical performers. The folks who performed for us have spent years of preparation to perform at that level. Some of them had musical training in grade school and high school; and then went on to study music at a college level. After their training, they

then spent years of performing and honing their musical skills.

After college a person with a music degree can enter several areas: teaching, music business, audio engineering; but the most difficult of all may be to become a full time performer on the instrument of their choice. Any area of the performing arts is highly competitive so for many, music performance must be augmented with other ways to carve out a livelihood.

When we hear many of our local musicians perform for us we appreciate what they have gone through in their careers, and what pleasure they give to us. So support live music in our area and give thanks to those who entertain us. See you at the Elks club and bring a friend!



Join us for the 4th annual Denver Jazz Festival (formerly Denver Vintage Jazz Festival). Held in downtown Denver, the Denver Jazz Festival is a festival that seeks to bring together the music and dance communities!

**September 15 – 16 – 17**

**St. Cajetan's at Auraria Campus, 101 Lawrence Way, Denver**

With a focus on pre-war swing and blues, the Denver Jazz Festival is run in a Jazz Party format, featuring several All-Star artists rotating through multiple bands throughout the weekend.

***Bands playing at the Denver Jazz Festival in 2017***

**Michael Gamble & The Vanguard Serenaders (Asheville) - The Joe Smith Orchestra Featuring the All-Stars (Denver)  
Kris Tokarski Quintet (New Orleans) - Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars - Joe Smith and The Spicy Pickles (Denver)**

***All-Stars for 2017***

**Josh Duffee (Davenport, IA) - Drums - Jason Jzurak (New Orleans) – Bass  
James Isaac (Kansas City) – Reeds - Greg Ruby (Seattle) – Guitar - Joe Smith (Denver) – Trumpet  
Kris Tokarski (New Orleans) – Piano - Andrew Vogt (Ft. Collins) – Reeds**

***Information:***

**DenverJazzFestival.org or (303) 883-6691**

**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 (2017), 303-430-5606
- **Vice President:** Bill Clark (2017), 303-726-4101
- **Secretary:** Dottie Sobott (2017), 303-430-5606
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- **Corresponding Secretary:** Kristi Flesher (2017), 303-748-9498.

**Board members:**

- Casey Hayes (2017), 303-288-5869
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- Cliff Dodge (2018) 303 909-7104

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Are you a musician?  Yes  No

Individual \$20/year  Student \$10/year

Musician \$15/year  Family \$30/year

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

**Denver Jazz Club Membership Application**

# Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

7898 Applewood Lane, Denver CO 80221-3204

**Return service requested**



**Boulder Friends of Jazz**

(phone 303-449-1888, website [www.boulderfriendsofjazz.org](http://www.boulderfriendsofjazz.org))

**1:00-4:00 PM, first Sunday of every month at the Avalon Ballroom, 6185 Arapahoe Rd, Boulder.**

\$8 for members of any jazz club, \$10 for non-members, \$3 for students, free for musicians who wish to play in jam session.

Sunday, September 3 - **John Bredenberg**, clarinet, banjo  
Sunday, October 1 - **Vern Baumer**, clarinet

**Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society**

(phone 1-970-498-8616, email [tradjazz@fortnet.org](mailto: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.

Friday, September 1 and Friday, October 6  
**Poudre River Irregulars.**

**Pikes Peak Jazz & Swing Society**

(phone 1-719-685-9451, website [www.ppjass.org](http://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, September 10th - **Flute Daddy Quintet - Joseph Liberti**  
Sunday, October 8th - **Barry Fagin & Friends Quartet**