

Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

Volume 62,
Number 3

January/February 2018

Denver Jazz Club in operation for 62 continuous years

Established 1954



Happy 2018 from the Denver Jazz Club!

We hope you'll join us throughout 2018 for our monthly jazz sessions at the Westminster Elks! We're looking forward to another great year, and we're hoping for better attendance! Our membership dues have not increased in many years, and they remain unchanged in 2018. Remember – most months, the UCD Claim Jumpers open our sessions at 1:30 PM (often earlier!), and the Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars usually play during the second intermission. As the Pres always "sez," "Bring a friend!"

Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles Jazz Band

Sunday, January 21



Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles Jazz Band are dedicated to revitalizing swing music and dance. This small group packs a punch of

power, personality, and wit into each show, engaging generations new and old with the charm of big band swing from the late 30s and early 40s.

Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:30–5:00 PM Sunday, January 21
- 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.
- Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars perform

Queen City Jazz Band with Eddie Erickson

Sunday, February 18



Celebrating their 60th year in 2018, The Queen City Jazz Band has become a Denver legend. Who knew, back in 1958, that the band would have such staying power? What better way to celebrate than by teaming up with banjoist, guitarist, singer and entertainer **Eddie Erickson**? Eddie began his banjo/guitar career in California in the mid '60s, and has been featured at Disney World, Disneyland, at banjo shows, conventions, private parties, and jazz concerts all over the world. Eddie is a respected

and loved member of the jazz fraternity, and one of the funniest performers on the scene.

Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:30–5:00 PM Sunday, February 18
- 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 **gumbo!**
- Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars perform

A little bit of this 'n' that

By Walt Hewitt
Denver Jazz Club Events
Columnist

People are always being so nice to Jo and me. The day before the Colorado Springs Jazz Party, Donna Fry called and offered to send a van to Littleton for us, or she or her husband Don would drive up to pick us up. We really appreciated the offer, but were able to pilot our own car to the Springs. Such generosity!

The party started Friday, October 27, with a first live broadcast of Radio KCME-Jazz, a full-time jazz radio station for southern Colorado. We were on live for at least a half hour before they switched back to their station. This was followed by a gypsy violin band, principals being a good violinist and a rhythm guitar. Good local musicians.

Then came a great variety of the best jazz one could ever expect to hear – especially so close to home. Rossanno Sportiello played great boogie, which we seldom hear. Johnny Varro, age 86, played “Echoes of Spring,” which was a mandatory play by Ralph Sutton – and maybe a little better by Ralph. Dan Barrett and Ken Peplowski did “Vignette,” a beautiful number by two guys who are the best in the U.S. on their respective instruments.

Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles led off Saturday. They are local, well-rehearsed, and great crowd-pleasers with an especially good rhythm section.

After Nicki Parrott did “I’ve Got a Crush on You,” I could’ve just driven back to Littleton. Ed Polcer was fine on cornet on this piece. Chuck Redd on vibes was as entertaining as Peter Appleyard. There was lots of stage talk re: musicians being so old. “Peps” says that Varro is so old that rather than have an annual physical, they do carbon dating.

Hot Jazz, Pop Jazz, Hokum, Hilarity and History

By Ed Danielson

On our club dates in January and February, two important recordings were made:

January 21, 1937, was the date of the first record made by Count Basie and his Orchestra. The tune was “Honeysuckle Rose.”

February 18, 1958, was the date of Billie Holiday’s last studio recording, *Lady in Satin*. Lady Day, as she was known, died the following year.

The full band ended Saturday night with “My Blue Heaven,” this being the first song I ever recognized probably some 80 years ago. Sunday, they made sure to have Ed and Ben Polcer play duets on cornet and trumpet – and how neat it is to see such a talented father-son duo. Ben is able to play with the best. I had a nice talk with Wayne Wilkinson, who lives in the Springs, and for years was in the Falconaires band at the Air Force Academy, and other big time G.I. bands.

A mellow solo on “I Thought About You” by Dan Barrett was a highlight, just one of many that leave one with a good feeling. The whole weekend, including a hot shower on my back, made for a great experience. I highly recommend this party for next year.

We were able to sit at a table composed of front range people – Echo and Don Owens, Karen Maddock and her sister, and Katherine Hartz and her aide, Katherine being in her nineties as am I. I’ve known Katherine for many, many years, having first met her at a Gibson party at the Broadmoor, when I let her buck a long line waiting for the doors to open. Apparently, we wore her out at this recent weekend, since she cancelled out on her annual Christmas tree decoration party the following Saturday. And it took until Wednesday for me to recover.

We went to Dazzle for an “RTD” luncheon. The music was provided by Neil Bridge Trio plus Karen Lee. They played a good selection of numbers suitable for the advanced ages of the audience, who were individually from several retirement homes. The house count was just over 100 as a result of the efforts of Dazzle and RTD. Makes one think that jazz is not dead, maybe just resting.

Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

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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

GIG VENUES AND TRENDS

My friend clarinetist Bill Ponterelli asks me two questions related to British jazz band activity and the seemingly ever-increasing closure of that British institution, the public house -- the pub often being the venue for a free-wheeling jazz session. When in a new area in England, I often bought a local newspaper to search for any jazz. The local radio station always read a weekly gig list, providing you had time to search for the station! The closure of pubs relates to several factors -- the buying of cheaper supermarket drink to consume at home, the ban on smoking, and also that the pub may have changed into a gastro-pub/restaurant. General figures over a five year period in U.K., 2009-2014, indicated a closing of 4,000 pubs out of 52,000.

An excellent case in point relates to my cousin Ray, who not long ago bought an 18th century cottage in the beautiful little village of Yarwell in Northamptonshire. Close to his house is one of the two pubs in the village. Unbeknown to him, he finds that a group of like-minded residents formed a jazz band to play in the pub. A pint of 52F ale and jazz within walking distance of your house! Heaven, and great community spirit! Ray incidentally has always referred to me as his mentor as far as jazz is concerned due to me first taking him along to the De Montfort Hall in Leicester to hear the Count Basie Orchestra in the early 1960's. We both came away overjoyed with the band's overall attack and swing plus those excellent soloists - all powered by that famous rhythm section of Basie on piano, guitarist Freddie Greene, bassist Eddie Jones and of course the fascinating drummer Sonny Payne.

I just hope that the U.K. pub closures have no effect on the need to find other premises to play in. Usually it's a bonus for a pub to have a regular band gig bringing in extra trade for drinks and food. If the band has to find another suitable venue, then that is a real problem.

There are several factors essential: a sociable landlord for a start, the right sized acoustic room so the band isn't huddled in a corner and hopefully enough people in the area to support the gig. Publicity for the new event is also important. Then it's a case of crossing fingers and waiting to see. Playing is not always for a pile of money: experience has shown that it is a matter of keenness to play, camaraderie, and the rapport between musician and audience, hopefully with money for your gas and a bit left over.

I entered into local gig playing in the East Midlands, England mainly for fun and a hobby. This led to some interesting venues and occasionally playing with some well-known professional musicians. Memories are vivid of some extreme locations and for the wont of description, bizarre occurrences. Standing out would be a really large potato warehouse in the Lincolnshire Fens, thankfully for a one-off gig -- draughty, uncomfortable, and with poor acoustics. The opposite to that would be a remote pub in the wilds of those Fens where small domestic sized rooms provided a throw-your-clothes-in cloakroom and a similar one for the band to play in. When we finished, way past closing time, the landlady appeared with a tray of drinks for the band. Of course there were the surprises of the British weather -- a guest appearance of the talented trombonist Roy Williams in a small pub, snow falling outside and only just a few more people than the band. A successful evening, other than Roy who didn't get home to near London until 4 a.m. in his brand new Audi. Other than our regular gigs we did have some interesting weddings and parties in large tents or hotel ballrooms. One in particular went from the word 'go'. Whilst crouching down adjusting my drum kit a pair of elegant high heels and fishnet stockings strode by, followed by a large dog wearing a bow tie! The elegant heels was the male bride! This would be the mid- 1990's. What a totally relaxing session that turned out to be!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR --- ENJOY LIVE JAZZ!



A fund was set up to support the Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars in celebration of Jim Hurlbut's life. Jim loved the DJC Youth All-Stars, and played his bass clarinet with them, at times, at the Bull and Bush Pub, while he was with Your Father's Mustache Band. He also performed in a 2013 fundraising concert which helped the DJC Youth All-Stars go on a concert tour to Europe.

THANK YOU TO THE CONTRIBUTORS (IN MEMORY OF JIM HURLBUT):
David Speights, Amber Brenzikofer, Bradley Gaylord and Paul & Nona Chamberlin.
THANKS A MILLION FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

Congratulations to our drummer **Benji Robinson** for being selected as the All State Jazz Drummer! Also congratulations to our pianist **Antonio Giovanetti** for being selected as the Jefferson County Jazz Drummer, and our bassist **Ben Husted** for being selected as the Jazz Bass Player!



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

Our band will be going on performance tours to New Jersey's Seton Hall University Jazz Concert Series (March 18-21), and New York City (July 16-22)!

The DJC Youth All-Stars continue to need your financial support.

A special thanks to all of you in the Denver Jazz Club who participate in the King Soopers Gift Card fundraiser – that certainly helps, but only covers a small portion of our financial needs.

Please go to: <http://youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com/donate/> to make a donation or purchase any of our 8 CDs, or you can mail donations to: **Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars, Ed Cannava, Director, 6388 S. Dexter St, Centennial, CO 80121**. Our new CD, 'A Ticket to Mardi Gras,' is now available for purchase, and will be available at the Club sessions.

Thanks to all who came to the December Holiday Potluck session with the Hot Tomatoes! And thanks to the volunteers who made it happen! Thanks to Susie Reisser for the pictures!



Local band appearances

After Midnight

aftermidnightjazzband.com

Saturday, February 10 7:00 PM – Caffè Sole, 637R S Broadway, Boulder

Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars

www.youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com

Sunday, January 21 3:50 PM – Denver Jazz Club Monthly Session, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr.

Sunday, January 28 6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Pub, with Your Father's Mustache, 4700 Cherry Creek South Drive

Friday, February 9 6:30 PM – ACCESS Housing Mardi Gras Gala Fundraiser, Balistreri Vineyards, 1946 E. 66th Ave

Tuesday, February 13 7:00 PM – Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Performance, St. Andrew's Village, 13801 E. Yale, Aurora

Sunday, February 18 3:50 PM – Denver Jazz Club Monthly Session, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr.

Gypsy Swing Revue

gypsyswingrevue.com

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

Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles Jazz Band

joesmithandthespicypickles.com

Sunday, January 21 1:30 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr.

La Pompe Jazz

www.lapompejazz.com

Saturday, January 20 7:30 PM – The Hangar at Stanley, 2501 N. Dallas Street

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

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

Thursday, January 18 7:30 PM – Neil Bridge "Quintessence," with **Karen Lee, Wayne Wilkinson, Ron Bland** and **Todd Reid**, Dazzle at Baur's, 1512 Curtis, Denver

Poudre River Irregulars

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

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

Every **fourth** Sunday

Note new day

2:00 PM – El Rancho Brewing Co, 29260 US Hwy 40 Evergreen (I-70 & Evergreen Parkway)

Friday, February 16 6:30 PM – Peakview Jazz Society, Greeley Country Club, 4500 W 10th St, Greeley
(with **Eddie Erickson**)

Saturday, February 17 Time and location to be determined – with **Eddie Erickson**; check band website for details

Sunday, February 18 1:30 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr. (with **Eddie Erickson**)

Summit Hot Seven

Sunday, January 7 6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Glendale

NOTE: Sunday, February 4, is Super Bowl Sunday – no music at the Bull and Bush.

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

Every 2nd and 4th

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

Note: Musicians often lead complicated lives. It's best to check with the venue or the band website before making plans.

The /rez sez ...

By John Sobott
Denver Jazz Club President

Our Christmas potluck featuring the Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra was a complete success this year. Attendance was so good we had to set up a few extra tables and chairs to accommodate all of the attendees. There was plenty of good food and music. The CU Denver Claim Jumpers started the day off with several great tunes followed by three sets from the Tomatoes. And on the second break our Denver Jazz Club Youth All Star Band serenaded us with some well-prepared songs. All of this

was because of the support of all of our fine club members and volunteers who provide their time and money to keep traditional jazz alive. We have a great roster of bands for the coming year at the Elks Club and hope that the attendance at the potluck will be matched in the months ahead. It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon and a real bargain for your entertainment dollar. So we'll see you at the Elks Club and bring a friend!

Jazz and Lobsters – “The Gift of the Magi

By Casey Hayes

Back in the mid-1960s, Marianne and I were like many newly-married couples – in love, and broke. A switch assignment on the railroad that worked a lot of overtime became open. I worked a week of 10 and 12-hour days before getting “bumped.” When payday arrived, we decided to spend the extra money on ourselves rather than paying bills.

I had heard about a Dixieland band playing on Larimer Street. This music was fast-paced, the players were most energetic, and the commentary was spontaneous.



Craig Hugo played trombone, and regaled us with his sexy bass vocals.

Joe Petrucelli on banjo added vocal talent that was crisp and clear.



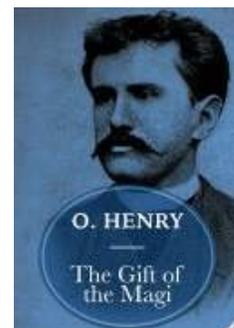
The band projected a feeling of awe and appreciation with the audience.

Later we went to Lafitte’s Seafood for a Christmas treat of lobster. As we were being seated, a well-dressed couple in their mid-50s were seated at the next table. While we checked the menu, they ordered lobsters. Then they started arguing, and when their lobsters arrived, they told the waiter to give them a check, as they wanted to leave.

We both became starry-eyed seeing the full lobster, with tentacles and claws.

Damn! We felt they should have offered the lobsters to us! It was a thoughtless indiscretion. I was critical of myself for not being assertive in suggesting an alternative. After the lobsters were returned to the kitchen, we found a listing at the bottom of the menu – lobster bisque with a hard roll that was affordable.

Driving home in the old Ford Falcon, I mused about the young married couple who made personal sacrifices for each other to have a Christmas gift. The man was to sell his pocket watch to buy his wife a set of combs for her beautiful hair. The wife, unknown, sold her hair to buy him a chain for his pocket watch. This was the basis of the story “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry. It seemed to have a bearing on our Christmas evening.



**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 (2018), 303-430-5606
- **Vice President:** Bill Clark (2018), 303-726-4101
- **Secretary:** Dottie Sobott (2018), 303-430-5606
- **Treasurer:** Walt Hewitt (2018), 303-791-3337
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Kristi Flesher (2018), 303-748-9498.

Board members:

- Casey Hayes (2018), 303-288-5869
- Paul Chamberlin (2018), 303-237-4619
- Ed Cannava (2018), 303-328-7277
- Eric Staffeldt (2018), 303-394-4552

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Are you a musician? Yes No

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

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

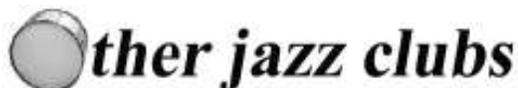
Patron \$80/year (get 2 free jam session passes!)

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)

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, January 7 – To be announced
Sunday, February 4 – To be announced

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, January 5 and February 2 –
Poudre River Irregulars.

Peak View Jazz Club

(phone 1-970-353-2267)

8:00-10:00 PM, at the Greeley Country Club, 4500 W. 10th St., Greeley. Reservations recommended! Dinner available for purchase at 6:30 PM

\$15 non-member, \$10 member, \$5 student. Check or cash.

Friday, January 12 – **Dana Landry Quartet**
Friday, February 16 – **Queen City Jazz Band / Eddie Erickson**

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, January 14 – **Mississippi Mudders**
Sunday, February 11 – To be announced