

# Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

Volume 64,  
Number 2

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

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November/December 2019    Denver Jazz Club in operation for 64 continuous years    Established 1954

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## Your Father's Mustache

Sunday, November 17



From 1965 to 1976, there was a chain of night clubs known as Your Father's Mustache. The clubs were famous for their sing-along bands, crazy waiters and bartenders, Schlitz Beer, and antique fire trucks.

In 1965, the Denver Your Father's Mustache night club opened in Larimer Square, and a band was formed. The Denver club closed its doors in 1975, but the band was re-organized and began playing in Colorado, and they continue to perform today. Band members have come and gone and come back again, and when bandleader **Joe Petrucelli's** sons joined the band, their music had transcended the generations.

Current band members include the **Petrucellis** -- **Joe** on banjo, **Jason** on trombone, and **Nick** on drums (alternating with **Jim Moore**); and **Andrew Vogt** on reeds,

**Roger Johns** on bass, **Ray Leake** on piano, **Charlie Smith** on trumpet, and **Mike Johnson** on washboard.

### Where, when, how much:

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- Denver Jazz Club, 1:00-5:00 PM Sunday, November 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:

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- Cabaret-style seating, dance floor, cash bar.
- UCD Claim Jumpers perform beginning at 1:00 PM.
- Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars perform between the first and second sets.

## Annual Holiday Potluck with the Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra

Sunday, December 15



This is the club's annual holiday potluck, so everyone is invited to provide a dish: an entrée, salad, appetizer or dessert to share while we all enjoy the music of the **Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra**.

Formed in 1982 by the late pianist Ron Cope, it's a nine piece band that specializes in swing and dance music, at home with music for dancers and listeners, playing everything from R&B to Sinatra.

**There are plenty of good cooks in the Denver Jazz Club, so please bring an entrée, salad, appetizer or dessert to share –along with your appetite!**

### Where, when, how much:

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- Denver Jazz Club, 1:00-5:00 PM Sunday, December 15
- Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Drive
- Admission is \$10 per person.

### Amenities:

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- Cabaret-style seating, dance floor, cash bar.
- UCD Claim Jumpers perform beginning at 1:00 PM.
- Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars perform between the first and second sets.

## A reminder about the King Soopers SooperCard fundraising program!



You no longer need to buy King Soopers Gift Cards to support the Denver Jazz Club. You now simply need to enroll in the

SooperCard rewards program, using this link:

<http://www.kingsoopers.com>.

For those who shop at City Market Stores – go to <http://www.citymarket.com>.

Once logged into your King Soopers or City Market account, search for Denver Jazz Club either by name or WM129, and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. Customers must have a registered King Soopers or City Market rewards card account to link to the Denver Jazz Club.

The beauty of this change will be that you can now use your own credit card or cash at the check-out counter. As long as you also swipe your rewards card, or enter your registered phone number, before paying, we will be credited a profit. If you don't have a King Soopers or City Market rewards card, please realize that they are available for free at the customer service desk at any King Soopers or City Market. That means you can also earn points on your personal SooperCard, while helping our organization profit from your purchases!

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for the Denver Jazz Club until after you register your rewards card. You just swipe your registered King Soopers or City Market Rewards card or use the phone number that is related to your registered King Soopers or City Market Rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

The gift cards can still be used to use up your available balances.



## Visit the club website: [denverjazzclub.com](http://denverjazzclub.com)

Our updated website now has information about upcoming monthly sessions at the Westminster Elks, a list of our board members, a club blog, links to other jazz organizations, and plenty of other information.



Best of all, donations and membership renewals can now be made online using PayPal!

For those members not familiar with

PayPal, it is an American company operating a worldwide online payments system that supports online money transfers and serves as an electronic alternative to traditional paper methods like checks and money orders. PayPal's payment system, also called PayPal, is a fast, safe way to send money, make an online payment, receive money or conduct other financial transactions.

**Denver JAZZ Club  
NEWS**

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Ed Danielson, Editor Phone 720-683-1256

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

## Hot Jazz, Pop Jazz, Hokum, Hilarity and History

By Ed Danielson

Some interesting people were born on our two meeting dates in November and December, some famous, others not so well-known.

Clarence "Shorty" Sherock was born November 17, 1915,



in Minneapolis. After attending a military school in Illinois, Sherock somehow managed to become a trumpet soloist in Jimmy Dorsey's orchestra, beginning in 1937. He was later featured in the orchestras of Benny Goodman, Gene Krupa and Nelson Riddle. With Riddle, Sherock played on several Ella

Fitzgerald albums, including the Gershwin Songbook release. He was a featured soloist at the very first Jazz at the Philharmonic concert, produced by Norman Granz, in 1944. He finished his career as a studio musician in Los Angeles, and passed away in 1980.



Also born on November 17, in 1926, was trombonist George Masso. Hailing from Cranston, Rhode Island, Masso was also a member of Jimmy Dorsey's band, some ten years after Sherock was a member. In addition to trombone, Masso plays vibes, composes music and has led various bands.

At one point he decided that being a full-time musician didn't provide enough steady income to support a family, so he worked as a teacher for a number of years. He always found time to play jazz, on a part-time basis, and once he retired from his teaching career he began playing

the jazz party circuit. He also toured with Benny Goodman in 1973, and worked with Bobby Hackett, Scott Hamilton, Warren Vaché, and the "World's Worst-Named Jazz Band" with Yank Lawson and Bob Haggart.

December 15 finds us celebrating the birthdays of John Hammond (1910) and Stan Kenton (1911).

Hammond, a New York native, was a prolific record producer and talent scout (and a civil rights activist). Some of the musicians he either discovered or promoted include Count Basie, Charlie



Christian, Benny Goodman, Billie Holiday, Harry James, Big Joe Turner and Teddy Wilson. In more recent years, he was associated with the likes of Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, Babatunde Olatunji, Pete Seeger, Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Ray Vaughan. He has also been credited with reviving public interest in the blues musician Robert Johnson. He was married to Benny Goodman's sister, and his son is the blues-rock musician John Hammond, Jr. Hammond died in 1987.



Kenton hailed from the somewhat unlikely jazz mecca, Wichita, Kansas. He led an orchestra for some 40 years, and cultivated a stable of stellar soloists – at least 150 noteworthy names, from Pepper Adams to

Kai Winding. Some of his sidemen are still active, including Mike Vax, Carl Saunders and Jack Sheldon. His bands were considered "progressive" for their day, and at times controversial. At one time Kenton and Nat "King" Cole were the biggest selling recording artists for Capitol records. Kenton told the story of how he once called the record company and asked to speak to one of the executives. "Who's calling?" the switchboard operator asked. "It's Stan," Kenton replied. "Stan who?" came the response. Kenton had been supplanted by the Beatles. Kenton passed away in 1979.



## YOUTH ALL-STARS

### The 2019 Sacramento Hot Jazz Jubilee was an incredible experience!

#### *Thanks for all of your support!*

We performed 7 sets on ballroom stages and in a couple of performance rooms throughout the Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton Hotel. Our band was selected to open up for the Hot Jazz Jubilee's Closing Ceremony, which was quite an honor!

In addition, we joined the following musicians on their sets over the 4-day Labor Day Weekend jazz festival: The Danny Coots and Brian Holland Quintet; Crescent Katz; Fog City Stompers; Sierra Seven (formerly High Sierra Jazz Band); Bay City Swing; and Bob Draga. What a great jazz festival!

*Thank you Denver Jazz Club for a wonderful concert tour to Sacramento!*



*DJC Youth All-Stars performing with Bob Draga in the 2019 Sacramento Hot Jazz Jubilee*

#### **THE 2019-20 DJC YOUTH ALL-STARS:**

**Ivan Martin**, Clarinet; **Nathan Bailey**, Tenor Sax; **Abby Husted**, Trumpet; **Thomas Neal**, Trombone; **Ben Jablonski**, Banjo; **Owen Metz**, Piano; **Carl Enger**, Tuba; **Isaiah Kim**, Drums

#### ***New Orleans – here we come! The next concert tour for the DJC Youth All-Stars will be a week-long performance experience in New Orleans during July of 2020!***

A special thanks to all of you in the Denver Jazz Club for your unending support! The King Soopers Rewards Card fundraiser certainly helps, but only covers a portion of our financial needs. Please go to:

<http://youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com/donate/>

to make a single or recurring donation, or to purchase any of our 10 CD's!! Our most recent CD, "Swingin' Through the Decade," is now available for purchase!!! You can mail donations/cd purchases to:

Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars, Ed Cannava, Director, 6388 S. Dexter St, Centennial, CO 80121.

## We Turn 65 in 2020!



And we're looking for ideas for our Sunday events and memories or history about the DJC -- stories about club events, people who have been involved with the club – anything that might be interesting to our current members. Pictures welcome!

Some of our founders are still club members, and the Board of Directors would love to hear from you! Input from other members and previous members will be welcome as well! Please contact one of our club's board members – their phone numbers are on page 8.

### *Leave a little piece of your legacy to jazz.*

Take a look at the front page of this publication. The masthead reads "64 years in continuous operation."

It's pretty amazing to think of all of the volunteers that have stepped up and served and given of themselves to make this happen, all because of the love of the music. We owe a debt of thanks to those early organizers who stuck their necks out and were willing to take some risks. We are always in need of financial help to continue our programs and keep the DJC healthy.

Many of our members are "maturing" and reaching the age when you think about revising your 30 year old will (things have changed). Consider leaving a little tiny piece

of your legacy to jazz. Your kids will never miss it and it will make a big difference for your jazz club.

This is how we have been able to survive without major financial difficulties. As you have noticed some festivals have folded and some jazz clubs no longer exist. We were left approximately \$35,000 in the mid 1980s by a wonderful caring couple. This has made all the difference in the way the DJC has been able to function and support young jazz musicians.

Give it a little thought and, if it makes sense to you, let's go for another 64 years and more generations to enjoy OKOM (Our Kind of Music) as we have for the last 64.

# Local band appearances

*Musicians frequently lead complicated lives. It's always a good idea to check the band website – or the venue's website – to update scheduled appearances.*

## After Midnight

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

Friday, November 8 7:00 PM – Caffe Sole, 637 S Broadway, Boulder  
 Saturday, November 9 7:00 PM – West Side Live, Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W 32nd Avenue, Golden  
 Tuesday, December 31 10:00 PM – New Year's Eve, Avalon Ballroom, 6185 Arapahoe Road, Boulder

## Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars

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

Saturday, November 16 2:30 PM – Colorado Veterans Community Living Center, 1919 Quentin St, Aurora  
 Sunday, November 17 3:50 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3650 Elk Drive, Westminster  
 Friday, November 29 2:00 PM – The Vi Retirement Community, 2850 Classic Dr., Highlands Ranch  
 Sunday, December 8 7:00 PM – with Your Father's Mustache Band, Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 E. Cherry Creek South Dr.  
 Sunday, December 15 3:50 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3650 Elk Drive, Westminster

## Gypsy Swing Revue

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

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

## Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra

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

Saturday, December 21 7:00 PM – Avalon Ballroom, 6185 Arapahoe Road, Boulder

## La Pompe Jazz

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

Every Tuesday 7:00 PM – Union Station, 17th and Wynkoop, Denver  
 Friday, November 8 7:00 PM – Black Rose Acoustic Society, 12530 Black Forest Rd., Colorado Springs

## 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 Brewpub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Glendale  
 Friday, November 1 7:00 PM – Caffe Sole, 637 South Broadway, Boulder – Neil Bridge's Quintessence  
 Friday, November 22 7:00 PM – La Cour ArtBar, 1643 S Broadway, Denver – Neil Bridge Quartet

## 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 second Sunday 8:00 PM – Mercury Café, 2199 California, Denver  
 Every fourth Sunday 2:00 PM – El Rancho Brewing Company, 29260 US Hwy 40, Evergreen (I-70 and Evergreen Parkway)  
 Sunday, November 10 Evergreen United Methodist Church, 3757 Ponderosa Dr., Evergreen

## Summit Hot Seven

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

## UCD Claim Jumpers

Sunday, November 17 1:00 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3650 Elk Drive, Westminster  
 Monday, November 18 (Time to be determined) - MEIS Ensemble Festival, Tivoli Turnhalle, Auraria Campus, Denver  
 Saturday, November 30 9:30 PM – Jungle Room, Mercury Café, 2199 California Street, Denver  
 Friday, December 6 3:00 PM – Avogadro's Number, 605 S. Mason, St., Ft. Collins (opening for the Poudre River Irregulars)  
 Saturday, December 14 8:00 AM – CU Commencement Ceremony Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th Street, Denver  
 Sunday, December 15 1:00 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3650 Elk Drive, Westminster  
 Saturday, December 28 9:30 PM – Jungle Room, Mercury Café, 2199 California Street, Denver

## Your Father's Mustache Band

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

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Brewpub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Glendale

# My Melancholy Baby

By Casey Hayes



Most jazz buffs are familiar with the old standard “My Melancholy Baby.” The song has a remarkable history, first being written in 1912 by Ernie Burnett, with the lyric by George A. Norton. Gene Austin, a popular singer of the day, had a hit with it in 1927. Along came versions by Jane Froman in 1934 and Teddy Wilson and Billie Holiday in 1936. Bing Crosby recorded it in 1938, and Harry James in 1941. Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra took turns with the song, and Bing Crosby recorded it again.

Judy Garland sang it in the film “A Star is Born” after a drunk yells out “Sing Melancholy Baby!” Even as late as 1959, in the film “Some Like it Hot,” Marilyn Monroe – as Sugar Kane --- says “all they have to do is



play eight bars of ‘(Come to Me) My Melancholy Baby’ and my spine turns to custard. I get goosepimply all over and I come to him.”



The song has historical importance, too. Composer Ernie Burnett fought in Verdun in World War I, and was wounded in battle. When found, he had lost his dog tags and

had total amnesia. No one knew who he was, and he was confined to a hospital for a long time. At one point, his name appeared on a list of soldiers killed in action. One day, a piano player, entertaining the wounded, proceeded to play “My Melancholy Baby.” Upon hearing the song, Burnett sat up and said “That’s my song!” His memory had returned.



William Frawley, who later played Fred Mertz on the I Love Lucy show, said he was the first person to sing the song publicly, in the Mozart Café at 1641 Curtis Street in Denver, in 1912. In 1958, he sang the song in the episode “Lucy Goes to Sun Valley.”

The song can be heard often throughout the 1939 Warner Brothers gangster movie “The Roaring Twenties.” In the 1942 film “Johnny Eager,” the song was played during the opening and closing credits, as background music throughout the film, and as dance music by the band at a nightclub. The song appears both incidentally and in thematic background variations in the musical score of Fritz Lang’s 1945 film Scarlet Street starring Joan Bennett and Edward G. Robinson.

In 1945, I was living in a boarding house at 1277 S. Logan Street in Denver. My roommate was a young Army Air Force member, who was allowed to live off base while being discharged at Lowry Air Base. He played saxophone in the numerous clubs along Colfax Avenue. He had received an appointment to play to the mentally ill veterans at a military hospital in La Junta. The thinking at the time was that his music might reach their inner thoughts.

Seldom does a song receive such acceptance over that long a period of time.

[Editor’s note: ‘My melancholy baby, with a head like a melon and a face like a collie.’ My apologies. I couldn’t resist that old disc jockey joke.]

**Denver Jazz Club News, published every two months by the Denver Jazz Club  
1801 W 92nd Ave, Lot 327, Federal Heights CO 80260**

*Denver Jazz Club officers and board members*

**Board Officers:**

- Dan Simons, President, 303-674-0641
- Kevin Bollinger, Vice President, 303-885-9665
- Paul Chamberlin, Secretary, 303-237-4619
- Dottie Sobott, Treasurer, 303-430-5606
- Kristi Flesher, Corresponding Secretary, 303-748-9498

**Board Members:**

- Ed Cannava, 303-328-7277
- Eric Staffeldt, 303-394-4552
- Kurt Reisser, 303-333-1922
- Casey Hayes, 303-288-5869

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- 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**

1801 W 92nd Ave, Lot 327, Federal Heights CO 80260

**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, November 3: **Derek Lucas**, trumpet  
Sunday, December 1: **Kristin Anderson-Bohan**, drums

**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.**

\$8 for members of Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society, \$12 for non-members, \$4 for students, free for ages 18 and younger.    Fridays, November 1 and December 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.**

\$10 for members of any jazz club, \$15 for non-members, \$3.50 for students, free for children age 12 or younger.    Sunday, November 10: **Brad Eastin** Quartet with vocalist **Kellie Amend**  
Sunday, December 8: **Julie Bradley** and Friends