

# Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

Volume 64,  
Number 3

January/February 2020

Denver Jazz Club in operation for 64 continuous years

Established 1954



## Happy 2020 from the Denver Jazz Club!

We hope you'll join us throughout 2020 for our monthly jazz sessions at the Westminster Elks! Remember – most months, the UCD Claim Jumpers open our sessions at 1:00 PM, and the Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars usually play during the second intermission.

### Crystal Swing Band

Sunday, January 19



The music of the Crystal Swing Band recalls the heyday of the swing era when couples danced cheek to cheek or jitterbugged on ballroom floors all over the country to the

music of the big bands: Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Harry James and others. Pleasing audiences since 1988, the band has been featured at the Avalon Ballroom, Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Louisville Fourth of July, Boulder County Fair and the Longmont Jazz Festival, as well as numerous private events.

Current band members include **Kristin Anderson-Bohan**, drums, leader; **Jenny Schulte**, bass; **Eric Leonard**, piano; **Dawn Kramer**, trumpet; **Rex Spease**, alto sax; and **Roger Topliff**, tenor sax.

#### Where, when, how much:

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- Denver Jazz Club, 1:00–5:00 PM Sunday, January 19
- 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.
- Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars perform

### Mardi Gras with the Queen City Jazz Band

Sunday, February 16



Mardi Gras is Tuesday, February 25, 2020, but you can get an early start on the celebration with **Bill Clark**, tuba; **Kevin Bollinger**,

trumpet; **John Bredenberg**, clarinet, **Eric Staffeldt**, trombone; **Hank Troy**, piano; **Rory Thomas**, banjo; **Tony Pantelis**, drums, and vocalist **Wende Harston** at the February Denver Jazz Club session!

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#### Amenities:

- Cabaret-style seating, dance floor, cash bar.
- Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars perform

# The Denver Jazz Club turns 65!

We will be celebrating all year, with a special band featured at our March club session. You'll want to be on hand as we listen to the "Hot Queens Mustache Band." It's sure to be a "once-in-a-lifetime" aggregation of players!

## Remembering Tommie Johnson

As the Denver Jazz Club celebrates its 65th anniversary this year, we will try to include some memories of the early days in the club's history. Many of the founding members are no longer with us, but some are still very active, and we will try to tap into their memories of the early years.



Many jazz club members will remember Pauline "Tommie" Johnson, who passed away on November 14, 2019, at the age of 89. (Her nickname – "Tommie" – was derived from her maiden name, Thompson.) She was in memory care for the last 4 years of her life. Her

husband Tom, now 96, is in an assisted living home in Lakewood. They were two very active members of the club for a number of years. Dick Downs wrote a nice profile of them for this newsletter in 1992:

*I remember them as two of the small group of the faithful that kept the embryonic Denver Jazz Club going in the early days. I mean the days when Harney Peterson's Saturday jazz show was running on KFML and the QCJB held forth every Friday and Saturday night at the old Mon Vue Village. At that time there were about 20 of us who met occasionally in some member's living room to listen to jazz records on a*

*Sunday afternoon. The same bunch were regularly to be found at the Mon Vue as well. Tommie was one of the people who worked the door, collecting the admission charge of 50 cents with a cigar box as a cash drawer ...*

*Tom thinks his first jazz club meeting was at Peterson's in 1958. A few meetings later, someone suggested that the club needed a secretary and that Tom should take the job. Tom declined, saying that Tommie (home with the kids and unable to defend herself) would be a much better candidate. Thus she became an officer before attending her first meeting.*

*Over the years, both Johnsons have been board members various times and Tom had a term as president in 1972. This was in the era when the club, now incorporated, was getting more and more into producing live music events. "We about lost our shirt a couple of times," Tom recalls. He also remembers being picked once for the job of treasurer not because of his skill with figures, but because of having a fast car!*



The club is lucky to have had such interesting, enthusiastic and fun-loving people involved with the organization from the beginning. Thanks to Tom and Tommie's daughter Carole Johnson-Wolff for contributing this nice tribute to her late mother and to her father.

## 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!

## 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 happenings in the jazz world occurred on our club dates in January and February.

Bassist Israel Crosby was born January 19, 1919, in Chicago. He is regarded as one of the finest bassists to emerge during the 1930s, but he is best known as a member of



the Ahmad Jamal trio from 1957 to 1962. He is credited with taking the first recorded bass solo on his 1935 recording of "Blues of Israel," with drummer Gene Krupa, when he was only 16. Prior to his tenure with Jamal, he worked with pianist Teddy Wilson, and one of Wilson's most celebrated instrumentals, "Blues In C Sharp Minor" from May 14, 1936 featured Crosby's prominent slap bass. Crosby died of a heart attack in 1962 at the age of forty-three.



Also born on January 19, 1919: vocalist Ray Eberle, in Mechanicville, NY. He's best remembered as the singer for the Glenn Miller Orchestra. His elder brother, Bob Eberly (who had changed the spelling of his last name), sang with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra.

In 1938, Glenn Miller, who was looking for a male vocalist for his big band, asked Bob Eberly if he had any siblings at home who could sing. Bob said "yes", and Ray was hired on the spot.

Eberle was stuck in traffic one day during a Chicago engagement, and was late for a rehearsal. Miller fired him on the spot, and replaced him in June 1942 with Skip Nelson. After his departure from Miller, Eberle briefly joined Gene Krupa's band before launching a solo career. He later joined former Miller bandmate Tex Beneke's orchestra in 1970 for a national tour, and reformed his own orchestra later in the decade.

He appeared in two movies with Miller and his orchestra: "Sun Valley Serenade" (1941) and "Orchestra Wives" (1942), and, after leaving Miller, made several other films, including "Mister Big," making a cameo appearance as himself. Eberle mostly sang ballads. He led his own orchestra called The Ray Eberle Orchestra, as well as the Serenade In Blue Orchestra from 1943 and maintained his band until his death in 1979. From 1940-43 he did well on Billboard magazine's College Poll for male vocalist. He also appeared on numerous television variety shows in the 1950s and 1960s. Eberle died in 1979.

Bebopper Charlie Parker had recorded with a string orchestra in 1950, which seems to have set the stage for Jack Teagarden to do so in 1962. "Think Well of Me" is



the album, with Teagarden performing songs written by Willard Robison, and accompanied by an orchestra arranged and conducted by Bob Brookmeyer or Russ Case, that was released by the Verve label.

In JazzTimes, Doug Ramsey wrote "This is a Teagarden album like nothing else in his 40-year discography. Made in 1962, precisely two years before his death, it reflects much that was important about the man and musician; the uncanny precision and languorous passion of his trombone playing, the intimacy of his singing, his blues core, the quality that never declined even in the weariness of his final years."

And on February 16, 1933, Bessie Smith made her first recording, "Downhearted Blues." The song was composed by singer Alberta Hunter and pianist Lovie Austin, and Hunter recorded it in 1922. But it was Smith's recording with piano accompaniment by Clarence Williams that became a best seller: 780,000 copies were sold in the first six months, and eventually 2 million copies were sold.







**YOUTH ALL-STARS**

## ***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 CDs! Our most recent CD, "Swingin' Through the Decade," is now available for purchase!

You can make donations or buy CDs by mail at:

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



At the November 17th Denver Jazz Club Session, the DJC Youth All-Stars performed in honor of Dave Husted, Abby's Dad, who sadly passed away on November 13th.

THE 2019-20 DJC YOUTH ALL-STARS:

**Ivan Martin**, Clarinet, Senior, Chatfield High School - **Nathan Bailey**, Tenor Sax, Senior, Chatfield High School  
**Abby Husted**, Trumpet, Sophomore, Chatfield High School - **Thomas Neal**, Trombone, Senior, Douglas County High School  
**Ben Jablonski**, Banjo, Senior, Chatfield High School - **Owen Metz**, Piano, Sophomore, Mountain Vista High School  
**Carl Enger**, Tuba, Junior, Lakewood High School - **Isaiah Kim**, Drums, Sophomore, Grandview High School



Flesher-Hinton Music and Metropolitan State University present the 56th Annual Mile High Jazz Festival, February 12, 13 and 14 in the King Center on the MSU Campus. Performances are daily from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Admission is free. Faculty and students from MSU Jazz Studies will perform at noon daily and the 3 day event will close with a special jazz performance by the MSU Jazz Studies department on Friday evening. Come hear more than 50 of the state's top middle and high school jazz groups perform. For information go to [www.flesherhinton.com](http://www.flesherhinton.com), and click on MHJF.

# The Syncopated Times

## Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing

Do you crave up-to-date information on the world of Hot Jazz served with a touch of Jazz Age levity? Each monthly issue of *The Syncopated Times* brings you profiles on favorite (and soon-to-be favorite) musicians, in-depth articles about historical jazz and early jazz styles kept alive in performance CD and book reviews, and current festival listings, with engaging commentary throughout. *The Syncopated Times* is determined to be a source of surprise and delight to anyone who turns its pages, reflecting the spontaneous joy of the music it celebrates.

The Print Edition is available in the US for \$40 a year. An Online Edition is available for \$30 a year or \$3 a month. The website contains all of the content from the print publication, access to our archive, and some extras.

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<http://syncopatedtimes.com>

# 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.*

## Crystal Swing Band

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

Sunday, January 19 2:00 PM - Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr.

## Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars

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

Thursday, January 2 6:00 – The Vi Retirement Community, 2850 Classic Dr., Highlands Ranch

Sunday, January 19 3:50 – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr.

Monday, January 20 6:00 – Q's Pub & Grille, 10133 W. Chatfield Ave, Littleton

Sunday, February 16 3:50 – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr.

Tuesday, February 25 6:30 – Mardi Gras Celebration Performance, Parkside Village Retirement Resort, 14501 E. Crestline Dr.

## Gypsy Swing Revue

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

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

## La Pompe Jazz

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

Every Tuesday 7:00 PM – Union Station, 1701 Wynkoop

## 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, January 31 7:00 PM – La Cour ArtBar, 1643 S. Broadway, Denver (Neil Bridge Quartet with Karen Lee)

Friday, February 28 Time TBD – “Mrs. 64” – Karen Lee birthday celebration at Dazzle, 1512 Curtis (Neil Bridge Quintessence)

## 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

Friday, January 17 7:30 PM – Peak View Jazz Club, University of Northern Colorado Student Center, 501 20th St, Greeley

## 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, 29260 US Hwy 40, Evergreen

Friday, January 17 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM – Windcrest Senior Living Community, 3235 Mill Vista Rd, Highlands Ranch

Saturday, February 1 7:30 PM – Center Stage, 27608 Fireweed Dr., Evergreen

Sunday, February 16 2:00 PM – Mardi Gras at Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr.

## Summit Hot Seven

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

**NOTE: Sunday, February 2, 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](http://www.mustacheband.com)

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



## The Singing Rage, Miss Patti Page

By Casey Hayes

Everyone is familiar with “See the USA in your Chevrolet – America’s most beautiful car.” It was the banner introduction by Dinah Shore. But Patti Page was also sponsored by an automobile, the 1958 Dynamic



Oldsmobile. This was their budget-priced line.

Oldsmobile was GM’s car to introduce new prototype features – automatic transmission in 1949 and overhead valve V-8 engines in 1950.

Born Clara Ann Fowler in November 8, 1927, in Claremore, Oklahoma, Patti Page was one of eleven children of a part-time farmer and railroader for the Missouri-Texas Railroad, while her mother and sisters picked cotton. She started her career as a singer with Al Clauser and his Oklahoma Outlaws, becoming a featured performer on a 15-minute radio program on KTUL, Tulsa, Oklahoma, at age 18. The program was sponsored by the Page Milk Company, from which she took her stage name.

Page toured the country with the Jimmy Joy Band in 1946. The band eventually ended up in Chicago, Illinois, where in 1947, Page sang with a small group led by popular orchestra leader, Benny Goodman. This led to Page signing her first recording contract with Mercury Records. She became Mercury’s “girl singer.” Because of a strike, the background singers were unavailable to provide vocals for the song. It was decided to overdub her own voice, thus harmonizing her own vocals. Les Paul and Mary Ford were later to do the same with their guitars.

“Tennessee Waltz” was her second #1 hit, and sold 10 million copies:

I was dancin’ with my darling to the Tennessee Waltz  
When an old friend I happened to see.  
I introduced her to my loved one, and while they were  
dancin’  
My friend stole my sweetheart from me.

In 1952, she recorded a novelty number that contained barking sounds. You know it as “Doggie in the Window.” It sold over 2 million copies. I had a friend who had a miss-match patch on the back of his shirt. We used to sing “How much is the Window in Eddy’s Shirt.”



Patti hosted her own television shows on three different networks in the 1950s. She also had a brief movie career with Burt Lancaster in “Elmer Gantry” and “Boys Night Out” with James Garner and Tony Randall. She is credited with 100 hit songs, four gold albums, and 15 gold records, each selling over a

million copies. Over her career she sold 100 million records. People watched her on countless television shows over a period of seven decades. Critics assailed her style as plastic, placid, bland and antiseptic.

She recorded an album of children’s music, and a Christmas album; and she was one of the few singers who maintained success during the rock and roll era. She recorded “Alleghany Moon,” “Old Cape Cod,” “You Can’t be True Dear,” “Hush Hush Sweet Charlotte,” “Gentle on My Mind,” “Little Green Apples,” “Mockingbird Hill” and “I Went to Your Wedding.” Spike Jones did a humorous parody. She appeared in Las Vegas and in concert at Carnegie Hall, and she performed on cruise ships.



If you’re fond of sand dunes and salty air,  
Quaint little villages here and there  
You’re sure to fall in love with old Cape Cod.

Patti Page passed away at age 85 on January 1, 2013, suffering from heart and lung disease. She is buried in San Diego, California.

**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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 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, January 6: Leader to be determined  
Sunday, February 3: Leader to be determined

**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, January 3 and February 7:

**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, January 12: 35th Anniversary party with the **PPJASS All-Stars**  
Sunday, February 9: To be determined