

# Denver JAZZ Club NEWS



Volume 64,  
Number 3

March/April 2020

Denver Jazz Club in operation for 65 continuous years

Established 1954

## Queen's Hot Mustache

Sunday, March 15

It's a special occasion when an organization notes its 65th anniversary, and we've put together a band that should kick-start the celebration in high style – the Queen's Hot Mustache Band!

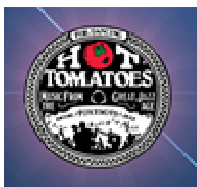
This band is comprised of members of the Queen City Jazz Band, the Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra, and Your Father's Mustache band: **Kevin Bollinger**, trumpet, QCJB & Hot Tomatoes; **John Bredenberg**, reeds, QCJB, formerly Hot Tomatoes; **Eric Staffeldt**, trombone, QCJB; **Wende Harston**, vocal, QCJB; **Ray Leake**, piano, Your Father's Mustache, formerly Hot Tomatoes; **Joe Petrucelli**, banjo, Your Father's Mustache; **Bill Clark**, tuba, QCJB; and **Tony Pantelis**, drums, QCJB, formerly Hot Tomatoes.

No artwork or logo could be found to promote the band. (The closest match your editor could find online was a picture of the late Freddie Mercury, the singer in the rock band Queen, sporting a mustache!)

## Annual Ron Cope Rent Party Fundraiser

with the Hot Tomatoes, the DJC Youth All-Stars and the UCD Claim Jumpers

Sunday, April 19



An annual event, this concert and raffle raises money for the Ron Cope Scholarship Fund, which benefits a deserving young player to further his or her jazz aspirations. Named for the late pianist and founder of the Hot

Tomatoes, Ron Cope (who also led the UCD Claim Jumpers), the Denver Jazz Club is happy to continue this tradition each year with one of Denver's most popular bands and two of the country's best student bands – ALL DONATING THEIR PERFORMANCE! Thank you very much!

### ***We need your help!***

Many of the funds raised at this Rent Party are through raffle ticket sales, and we are looking for more raffle items. Please ask a merchant you do business with to contribute something – a gift certificate, a car detail, a

Nevertheless, DJC members are familiar with these musicians and their work, and this should be a really memorable afternoon of great music!

### Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:00–5:00 PM Sunday, March 15
- 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

perm or haircut, theatre tickets, or what-have-you. All proceeds go to an outstanding young jazz player. Please help make this a big success!

### Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:00–5:00 PM Sunday, April 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

# The Denver Jazz Club turns 65!

*We will be celebrating all year! We plan to present some historical material about the club's early years in each newsletter during 2020. In this issue, we offer excerpts from a story written for The Denver Post by staff writer Arlynn Nellhaus, which appeared in the Contemporary Section on May 30, 1971.*

## Devotees of Early Jazz

The Dixie Hot Six was getting in its licks on "Basin Street Blues," some of the members of the Denver Jazz Club (DJC). Listeners were tapping their feet as they made themselves comfortable in the Fred Moldenhauer's living room, and others were dancing in the dining room when the doorbell rang and two long-haired, T-shirted teenagers came in to listen.

Who were they? Mrs. Moldenhauer didn't know, but she welcomed them anyway. They'd heard the music as they walked along the 2200 block of Forest St., and they wanted to see and hear better.

That was fine with Jazz Club members. In fact, club president Nelson Cox noted, "That's the audience we want to reach."

What he meant is that jazz exists in a variety of styles – bop, cool, third stream, avant-garde, free flow and so on. The DJC concentrates on one jazz period – the earlier days of the only original American art form. What members prefer is traditional jazz of the early '20s, out of which stems Dixieland. As John Heinz, whose membership goes back to the beginning of the club some 13 years ago, said, "We look backward, not forward."

It's not the names of Miles Davis, John Coltrane or Roland Kirk that turn DJC members on. But mention Art Hodes, Turk Murphy or the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and members run to listen or proudly pull out lists of their record collections to show off.

"We're not opposed to other forms of jazz," Cox stated, "but this is what we like, and we want to preserve and perpetuate traditional jazz and blues."

In the effort to preserve traditional jazz, the club was instrumental in getting the Queen City Jazz Band (QCJB) organized in 1958. Club members Ed Moldenhauer (Fred's father) and Ron Hanscom, play in it.

And from time to time, DJC sponsors concerts by traditional jazz performers. The most recent was Chicago pianist Art Hodes' appearance this month.

Listening to traditional jazz – live or on tapes or records – is the prime club activity. Few of the more than 100 members play themselves (all the performers are men), but as Dave Tracy commented, "Behind every jazz fan is a frustrated musician."

Cox explained that being in the club isn't only a matter of listening to music. "There are many avenues you could go down."

For instance, he continued, a person could become intensely interested in one particular artist and specialize in his music.

Or, in reading books on jazz and jazz musicians, "you learn about things like what segregation was about and economic conditions at certain times. Or you become interested in certain places that have figured in jazz history."

But the prime attraction of club membership, Cox observed, was the chance to learn more about the music and to meet a lot of interesting people who share your interests – and sometimes you get to know the musicians."

**Denver JAZZ Club**  
**NEWS**



**Published in January, March, May, July,  
September, and November**

*Deadline for next issue: April 15, 2020*

Ed Danielson, Editor Phone 720-683-1256

**Advertising rates:**

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

# Remembering Sterling Nelson

From *legacy.com*, and from the Denver Jazz Club archives



Sterling Eugene Nelson was born in Sterling, Colorado, on February 24, 1929, and passed away at Lakewood Reserve Assisted Living Center on February 22, 2020. He was born into a large family, headed by parents Anton and Dessie Zigler Nelson. Raised on a farm in Peetz, Colorado, he

graduated from Peetz High School and Northeastern Junior College (1948). He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He graduated with a degree in business from the University of Denver.

Although he worked for Lockheed Martin, United Air Lines and Wells Fargo Bank, his varied interests found no focus until March, 1958, when he first heard the Queen City Jazz Band at a bar known as the Mon-Vue Village, in Lakewood. From then on he turned up wherever they played for the next two or three years. In fact, when offered an employment opportunity in Chicago, the prospect of leaving his jazz club friends was an important factor in his decision to remain in Denver. In 1961 he became president of the Denver Jazz Club, although at that time could not devote himself to it completely.

He married Shirley Dimitroff in April 1962, and became affiliated with the Denver U. S. Bank in October of the same year. After settling into his marriage and job, he was able to turn his full attention to the jazz scene in Denver and realized that not enough people were being properly exposed to this music. An avid collector of records, his greatest joy was sharing his enjoyment of them with others. A proponent of ensemble jazz, as fostered by Jelly Roll Morton, and with a great love for

the good jazzmen of the past, he nevertheless realized the future of jazz depended on the young bands of the present day, and felt they must be encouraged to the utmost.

No biography of Sterling would be complete without including his first wife, Shirley, a second generation Denverite. After graduation from North High School, she worked for Martin Company for five years, meanwhile attending C.U. Extension (now U.C.D.), studying history and English. In 1959 while on vacation, an automobile accident resulted in a spinal cord injury which left her confined to a wheelchair. After therapy at Craig Rehabilitation Center she was able to resume her work at Martin Company. Her interest in jazz was really fostered by Sterling, although she too had visited Mon-Vue in 1958 and liked what she heard. She and Sterling lived for several years in a house on a mountaintop in Evergreen – designed for them by Alan Frederickson of the Queen City Jazz Band.

After Shirley's death, he married Barbara Broce; she too preceded him in death, along with four brothers and one sister. He is survived by one brother, Melvin Nelson, of Sterling, Colorado.

Although not musically inclined himself, Sterling was very active in jazz circles, and was a longtime fan and friend of the Queen City Jazz Band and the Sterling Ensemble (an organization he organized to play theatre music, another love). His crowning achievement was the founding of the Evergreen Jazz Festival, in 2001. He was known as a progressive, visionary thinker and a Renaissance Man. A spring memorial is being scheduled for early April 2020.

Donations can be sent to the Evergreen Jazz Festival, P.O. Box 3775, Evergreen, CO 80437.

**YOUTH ALL-STARS**

**Welcome to Ralston Valley High School Sophomore trumpet player, Morgen Andersen, for being selected to the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars!**

*Clarinet, tenor sax, trombone, banjo or guitar, piano, and bass or tuba auditions will be taking place for the 2020-21 DJC Youth All-Star band on March 8th & 15th (possibly additional Sundays after March 22nd). Please go to: [www.bandresourcesunlimited.com](http://www.bandresourcesunlimited.com) for further information and to download the audition materials. Please contact Ed at: [ecan11@msn.com](mailto:ecan11@msn.com) to schedule an audition date and time.*

**The 2019-20 DJC Youth All-Stars will perform in New Orleans this July at the Maison, Buffa's, Creole Queen, Steamboat Natchez, The Spotted Cat, Café Beignet, Preservation Hall, and more to still be confirmed. Congrats!**

*The DJC Youth All-Stars continue to need your financial 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 donation or purchase any of our 10 CD's! Our most recent CD, "Swingin' Through the Decade," is now available for purchase!*

**A special thanks to all of you in the Denver Jazz Club for your unending support! Thanks to all of you who participate in the King Soopers rewards card fundraiser – this program continuously helps our youth all-stars!!! You can also mail donations to:**

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

**2019-20 Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars**

**Clarinet: Ivan Martin**

**Tenor Sax: Nathan Bailey**

**Trumpet: Morgen Andersen**

**Trombone: Thomas Neal**

**Banjo: Ben Jablonski**

**Piano: Owen Metz**

**Tuba: Carl Enger**

**Drums: Isaiah Kim**

**Director: Dr. Ed Cannava**

*Special thanks to our clinicians over the past 11 years: Bill Clark, Hank Troy, Wende Harston, Lance Acker, John Mumford, Kevin Bollinger, Mike McCullough, Dave Wiske, Todd Reid, Jack LaForte, Andrew Vogt, Chuck Schneider, Charlie Smith, Tony Pantelis, Mike Johnson, Chris Calabrese, Eric Staffeldt, Rory Thomas, Ron Bland and Shelley McMillion! We appreciate your time and dedication!*

***A very loud "THANK YOU!" to everyone who has supported our  
Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars over the past 11 years.***

**Premier Plus (\$1750+)**

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**Premier (\$750-\$1749)**

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Poudre River Irregulars  
Decker Westerberg  
Jerry Armstrong  
Pete Hellyer  
Sharon Littlefield  
Eddie Erickson  
John Mumford

# 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.*

## Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars

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

Saturday, March 7	10:00 AM - Lakewood Estates, 8585 W. Dakota Ave, Lakewood
Sunday, March 8	7:00 PM - Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek South Dr., Denver – with Your Father's Mustache
Sunday, March 15	3:50 PM (second intermission) – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Dr.
Sunday, April 19	Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Dr.

## Gypsy Swing Revue

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

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

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

Every Tuesday	7:00 PM – Union Station, 1701 Wynkoop
Friday, March 27	7:00 PM – Swallow Hill Music, 71 East Yale, Denver

## Marti Henry's Jazz Over Easy

*The Bent Noodle, where Jazz Over Easy had been playing on the third Wednesday, has closed. The band is looking for a new venue.*

## Neil Bridge

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

Every third Sunday	6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Brewpub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Glendale (Neil Bridge 7 with Karen Lee)
Friday, March 27	7:00 PM – La Cour ArtBar, 1643 S. Broadway (Neil Bridge Jazz Quartet featuring vocalist Karen Lee)
Friday, April 3	Time TBD – A Maestro and his Muse! "Mrs. 64" – Karen Lee birthday celebration at Dazzle, 1512 Curtis (Neil Bridge 7+)

## 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
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## 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
Sunday, March 29	6:00 PM – Bull and Bush Brewpub, 4700 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Glendale
Sunday, April 12	10:15 AM – Easter Celebration, Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 N Williams

## Summit Hot Seven

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

Every fourth Saturday	9:30 PM – Mercury Café Jungle Room, 2199 California St., Denver
Sunday, April 19	Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Dr.

## 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
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### **Christie Macfarlane, the 2020 Ron Cope Scholarship Recipient**

Already an accomplished musician, Christie joined the Claim Jumpers Ensemble at the University of Colorado Denver Fall Semester 2019. Originally from South Africa, Christie graduated from Highlands Ranch High School and is currently a Music Performance major at Metropolitan State University of Denver studying piano. Christie was very involved in the music program at Highlands Ranch High School, as well as pianist with the Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars, directed by Dr. Ed Cannava. Equally comfortable playing and singing both classical and jazz repertoire, Christie has been a concerto competition winner, marching band percussionist, choir vocalist, and a jazz pianist. With the Denver Jazz Club Youth All-stars, she has performed at numerous jazz festivals including the Evergreen Jazz Festival, the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, the Montreux Jazz Festival, and the Kongsberg Jazz Festival.



# Banjo Mania, or the Story of Alice Blue Gown

By Casey Hayes

Back in the day of John Elway, we were fascinated by Bronco Mania. This article deals with Banjo Mania.



My first memory is of a picture of Eddy Peabody, a naval officer, playing his banjo on the fender of a 1932 Lincoln V-12, with Sally Rand standing on the hood with her fans. Only recently did I get to hear Eddy playing "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise" on RFD-TV.

One story about Eddy is of an announcer introducing him as "Eddy Playbody will now 'pee' for you." So much for good intentions

We, in Denver, are fortunate to have two excellent banjo players: Joe Petrucelli, who plays tenor banjo with Your Father's Mustache Band, and Rory Thomas, who plays Plectrum banjo with the Queen City Jazz Band, the Summit Hot Seven, and the Poudre River Irregulars. The plectrum banjo has a longer neck and gives a softer and mellower tone.

Clancy Hayes was another banjo player, who played with the Firehouse Five plus Two. Quite often he would sing the lyrics to "Alice Blue Gown." This song has an appealing and cute verse and was published in 1919. The title refers to Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of President Teddy Roosevelt. The press corps treated her as an embarrassment due to her love for smoking in public, gambling, and staying out at late-night parties. The song title reflects her love for a clear tint of blue in her dresses, and inspired



the name of Alice Blue, which became a fashion fad:

I once had a gown, it was almost new,  
Oh! The daintiest thing, it was almost new  
It was sweet Alice Blue!

The song was the hit of the musical "Irene," which was the longest running musical up to that time, holding the record for 28 years. Many musicians have recorded the song, including Ed Polcer on cornet in 1994.

Several years ago while on vacation, Marianne and I were at the Bucket of Blood in Virginia City, Nevada, and were listening to an elderly man casually playing the banjo. Gradually, a trombone player and other musicians set in for a jam concert. "Red" Watson, the banjo player, was the leader and decided to play "Stars and Stripes." You are familiar with the trio part just played by the piccolo. The strings on the banjo from the bridge to the tailpiece are open. Red picked those strings for the part of the Stars and Stripes trio. It was phenomenal. I had never seen it done.

At about 7:00 PM, we entered a club in Carson City only to find it SRO. Al Hirt and Pete Fountain were sitting in with the regular group. We stood for three hours before getting a seat. It was an evening to remember, complete with sore feet.

A few years later we were at the Dixieland Festival on Memorial Day Weekend in Sacramento. I wandered over to the California Railroad Museum and heard a large number of banjos. Checking further, there were 35 men and women playing banjo. The music was a little "muddy," but a couple of horns made for a gig improvement. They had an old megaphone mounted on a tripod with a singer belting out "Ma, She's Makin' Eyes at Me." It was enjoyable, and nice to hear a group of people dressed in Roaring Twenties clothes playing music and having fun. I with "Banjo Mania" could come here.

Good friend John Sobott tells me there is a ukulele group getting together at Swallow Hill. Let's dig out the old Arthur Godfrey records and hear "Too Fat Polka" again.

**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
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**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, March 1: Leader to be determined  
Sunday, April 5: 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, March 6 and April 3:

**Poudre River Irregulars**

**Pikes Peak Jazz & Swing Society**

(phone 1-719-685-9451, website [www.ppjazz.org](http://www.ppjazz.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, March 8: **Nelson Rangell Quartet**  
Sunday, April 12: **Double McGuffin Quartet**