

# Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

Volume 59,  
Number 3

March/April 2014

Denver Jazz Club in operation for 59 continuous years

Established 1954



Remember -- our start time is now 1:30 PM! The UCD Claim Jumpers play at 1:30, and the featured band starts at 2:00. Plan to stay for the rest of the afternoon!

## Poudre River Irregulars

Sunday, March 16



The Poudre River Irregulars are a colorful New Orleans and Dixieland jazz ensemble noted for their exuberant energy and sound musicianship. Drawing much of their inspiration from Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton, they play a wide variety of traditional jazz, from ragtime through the classics of the twenties and thirties up to early swing. Whatever they play, their music is always upbeat and joyful. Based in Fort Collins, Colorado, this popular band plays for concerts, dances, and private

engagements all over the Northern Colorado region. Founder Bob Cooke retired in 2010, and the band's current "regular irregulars" include leader **Len Kellogg**, trombone; **Dave Dale**, bass; **Oscar DeZoto**, drums; **Ray Leake**, piano; **Charlie Smith**, trumpet; **Rory Thomas**, banjo; and **Clark Burnside**, clarinet.

### Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:30-5:00 PM Sunday, March 16.
- Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Drive.
- \$6 for members of any jazz club, \$8 for non-members, free for age 12 and younger.

### Amenities:

- Cabaret-style seating, dance floor, cash bar.
- Performance by Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars during the second break (approximately 4:00 PM)

## Hear ye! Hear ye! The third Sunday in April is Easter Sunday!

This town crier may not look like the Easter Bunny. But he's here to tell you that this year, Easter Sunday is the third Sunday in April. It hasn't happened since 2006, and won't happen again until 2017.

**So our April Denver Jazz Club event will be held on April 27. Full details on page 2.**

April 2014			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedne
		1	2
6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23
Easter Sunday			
27	28	29	30

# Annual Ron Cope Rent Party Fundraiser

With

*The Hot Tomatoes*



*Queen City Jazz Band*



*CU-Denver Claim Jumpers and  
Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars*

**Sunday, April 27**

*Note the date – in order to enable our members and friends – and the musicians – to spend the Easter holiday with their families, the April Denver Jazz Club event will be held on the fourth Sunday, April 27.*

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 two 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 perm or haircut, theatre tickets, or what-have-you. All proceeds go to an outstanding young jazz player. Plan to attend – and to bid on the raffle items.

Please help make this a big success!

**Where, when, how much:**

- Denver Jazz Club, 1:30-5:00 Sunday, April 27.
- Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Drive.
- Admission is \$10.00 per person.

**Amenities:**

Cabaret-style seating, dance floor, cash bar, and food.

## Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

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Walt Hewitt, Events Columnist	Phone 303-366-1107
Lynnette Thompson, Bands Editor	Phone 303-674-6482

**Advertising rates:**

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

### ***Earl needs a ride!!***

Anyone coming from the south metro area who would be able to pick up Earl Bennett and bring him to our monthly sessions at the Elks would qualify as an Angel. If you know Earl you know how much fun he has at the DJC, and how much pleasure he brings to the rest of us.

His new home is: The Granville Assisted Living Center, 1325 Vance St. (just east of Wadsworth), Lakewood, CO 80214. His phone number is 303-895-1083. If you have trouble reaching Earl call Paul at 303-237-4619.

*Walt Hewitt's column will return in our next issue.*

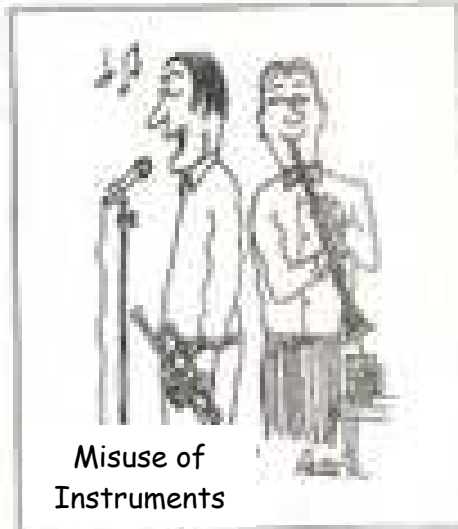


# Peter's Place

By Peter Robinson

Denver Jazz Club Guest Columnist

## INTRINSIC PIANISTS TO THE FORE!



I sat thinking the other day – one of my daily breaks from the norm – about the all-embracing word ‘jazz’. So much has been analysed and written by the experts over the years as the music transformed from the

classic and traditional to a more modern approach. I feel that I have absorbed this wonderful, complex world of jazz over several decades as the music progressed, plus taking an active part in it as a hobby and usually only for gas money! My personal touch concerned playing in a variety of groups – from traditional to gypsy style, from swing and dance bands to small groups. Along the way I heard some of the professional pianists that visited England. This keenness was mainly due to two aspects – I was a frustrated pianist whilst playing the drums and secondly I loved rhythm sections of any ilk. My early introduction to the modern style came as I heard the intriguing recording of “Anthropology” by the Dizzy Gillespie Sextet of 1945 – how could I forget that title! I believe the pianist on that disc was Al Haig. This 78 record was added to my early collection of Louis, Bechet, Herman, Spanier and Bob Crosby.

I list below five pianists who I met on their separate UK tours in the 1980s. All were born at the start of the 20th century to become an intrinsic part of early jazz history. These are only thumb nail sketches as their backgrounds are very detailed.

**SAMMY PRICE (1908 -1992).** Seen at Lincoln UK Theatre Royal. He was primarily a boogie-woogie/blues player. He started off as a singer/dancer in the late 1930’s and in 1938 was house pianist for Decca accompanying singers

Trixie Smith and Sister Rosetta Tharpe. He sextet known as the Bluesians recorded in 1944. He played with Henry Red Allen, Sidney Bechet and Doc Cheatham. Try Sammy with Doc on “Black Beauty”, a series of duets on the Sackville label in 1979.

**‘HOOTIE’ JAY McSHANN (1909 –2006).** We spoke to him before his concert at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival with Bob Wilber and Kenny Davern. His credentials always mention the fact that young Charlie Parker was in Hootie’s early band of the 1940’s. Hootie’s playing and singing are very distinctive. An excellent introduction to his style is “Man from Muskogee” recorded in 1972 for the Sackville label.

**LITTLE BROTHER MONTGOMERY (1906-1985).** A personal touch here as I accompanied him for three numbers when he visited the Boston Jazz Club (UK) with British drummer Barry Martyn. Barry was urgently called to the phone and there was a cry “Is there a drummer in the house?”. He first recorded as a vocalist in the mid 1930’s in the Chicago area. My brush with fame(!) encouraged me to buy a DVD entitled “After Hours at Art’s Place” (1979 sessions, GHB New Orleans)– first Wingy Manone with Art Hodes followed by Little Brother playing and singing accompanied by bass and drums.

**ALTON PURNELL (1911-1987).** Another guest who visited the Boston club several times to play with the local Pilgrim Stompers. Alton was a singer first followed by fame as pianist with the Bunk Johnson Band in 1946 that a few years later transformed into the classic George Lewis Band with Kid Howard (trumpet), Jim Robinson (trombone), George on clarinet, Lawrence Marrero (banjo), Slow Drag Pavageau (bass) and Joe Watkins (drums). A session of this band at the Beverly Cavern in 1953 (Good Time Jazz) is worth finding.

**ART HODES (1904-1993).** He grew up in Chicago to witness jazz during its prime years in the 1920’s. His recording debut happened in 1928 with trumpeter Wingy Manone. He played with Mezz Mezzrow, Joe Marsala and formed his own band in 1941. He recorded frequently during the ‘70’s and 80’s. I saw him in Cambridge UK in a small intimate room playing solo and also in duet with his wife.

If you can stand it, there is more to come: the 1930’s and the swing era pianists.

# local band appearances

## **After Midnight Jazz Band**

Friday - Sunday, April 25 - 27

<http://aftermidnightjazzband.com>

Capital City Jazz Festival, Madison WI.

## **Dale Bruning**

Sunday, March 9

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

6:00 PM & 8:00PM - Dazzle, 930 Lincoln St., Denver

## **Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars**

Monday, March 3  
Monday, March 10  
Sundays, March 16 and April 27

<http://youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com>

7:00 PM - Arvada Estates Retirement Community's Mardi Gras Party, 7175 Kipling St  
7:00 PM - The Vi Retirement Community, 2850 Classic Dr, Highlands Ranch  
Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Lodge

## **Hot Tomatoes**

Sunday, March 3

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

8:00 PM - Mercury Cafe, 2199 California St., Denver.

## **Joni Janak & Centerpiece Jazz**

Wednesdays, March 12 & 26; April 9 & 23  
Thursdays, March 20 and April 17

<http://www.centerpiecejazz.com>

5:30 PM - Luke's, A Steak Place, 4990 Kipling  
6:00 PM - Café del Sol, 608 Garrison

## **Marti Henry Jazz Over Easy**

Wednesdays, March 26 and April 23

[http://www.mhenryhomes.com/Live\\_Jazz.htm](http://www.mhenryhomes.com/Live_Jazz.htm)

6:00 PM - Café del Sol, 608 Garrison

## **Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra**

Sundays, March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23,  
April 6, April 13, April 27, May 4, and May 18  
Mondays, April 14, April 21, May 12, and May 19

<http://mjo-denver.org>

4:00 PM - Open Rehearsal, Community of Christ Church, 480 Marion St., Denver  
7:00 PM - Dazzle, 930 Lincoln St., Denver.

## **Neil Bridge 7 + with Karen Lee**

Sunday, March 2  
Sunday, March 30 (Neil Bridge Trio)

<http://www.neilbridgemusic.com>

9:30 & 11:00 AM - First United Methodist Church, 1200 South St., Castle Rock.  
7:30 PM - Nissi's, 2675 Northpark Drive, Lafayette.

## **Poudre River Irregulars**

Fridays, March 7 and April 4  
Sunday, March 16

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

4:00 PM - Avogadro's Number, 605 S. Mason St., Fort Collins.  
1:30 PM - Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks, 3850 Elk Drive, Westminster.

## **Queen City Jazz Band**

Tuesday, March 4  
Sunday, March 9, April 13  
Sunday, March 16, March 30, and April 20  
Sunday, April 20  
Sunday, April 20

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

7:00 PM - Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 11500 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lakewood.  
8:00 PM - Mercury Cafe, 2199 California, Denver  
6:00 PM - Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale.  
10:00 AM - First Church of Divine Science, 1400 Williams St., Denver.  
1:30 PM - Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks, 3850 Elk Drive, Westminster.

## **Summit Hot 7**

Sundays, March 2 and April 6

6:00 PM - Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale.

## **Your Father's Mustache Band**

Sundays, March 9, March 23, April 12, April 27

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

6:00 PM - Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale.

## **Zing (The Great Big Band)**

Mondays, March 24 and April 28

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

7:00 PM - The D Note, 7519 Grandview, Olde Town Arvada.

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

By Ed Danielson

Once again, there are some noteworthy events that correspond to our Denver Jazz Club meeting dates.

March 16 is the anniversary of the birth of two important figures in jazz history: Leon Roppolo, in 1902, and Ruby Braff, in 1927.

Roppolo was the clarinet player in the New Orleans Rhythm Kings (N.O.R.K.), one of the great early jazz bands. Roppolo, born in Lutcher, LA (upriver from New Orleans), was a childhood friend of trumpeter Paul Mares and trombonist George Brunies, and the three of them had played around New Orleans in their teens. By 1920, they found themselves in Chicago, where they joined with local musicians to form the N.O.R.K. Many listeners considered Roppolo the "star" of the band, and his style became quite influential on younger musicians -- including Benny Goodman. The band made recordings for the Gennett record label, which also recorded Jelly Roll Morton, and Morton and the N.O.R.K. made several sides together -- among the first recordings by an integrated group of musicians. Roppolo later tried to pursue a career in New York, with limited success; he ultimately returned to New Orleans, developed both physical and mental health problems, and died at the age of 41 in 1943. He may be best remembered as the composer or co-composer of several trad jazz standards: "Farewell Blues," "Milenberg Joys" and "Tin Roof Blues."

Ruby Braff -- "Ruby" was short for "Reuben" -- was a native of Boston. Jack Teagarden once labeled him the "Ivy League Louis Armstrong." One of the first trumpeters to fuse the styles of Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke, his first big break came when he was hired by Edmond Hall at the Savoy Club in Boston. He moved to New York in the 1950s, and enjoyed considerable success. Listeners

praised his beautiful tone and the interesting melodic ideas in his soloing. Braff passed away in 2003, at the age of 75.

April 27 is the birthday of clarinetist Matty Matlock, born in 1909 in Paducah, KY, and multi-instrumentalist Scott Robinson, born in 1959 in Pequannock, NJ.

Matlock came to prominence as a member of Bob Crosby's orchestra, though he had previously played and written arrangements for Ben Pollack (where he had replaced Benny Goodman). He also played with Crosby's small group, the Bobcats. Some of the tunes he arranged for Crosby included "Little Rock Getaway," "Honky Tonk Train" and "Tea for Two." After the Crosby band's demise, Matlock moved to California, working in the studios and occasionally with a band known as the Rampart Street Paraders (with other former Crosby musicians). In the late 1950s he recorded some LPs with his band the Paducah Patrol (again, comprised of former Crosby sidemen) that received considerable acclaim. Matlock died in 1976 at the age of 71.

Scott Robinson graduated from Boston's Berklee College of Music in 1981, and became a faculty member there the following year. He plays all the saxophones (including the rare contrabass sax), flute, clarinet, sarrusophone, ophicleide and octavin. He has an extensive discography, both as a leader and as a sideman with musicians as diverse as Lionel Hampton, the avant-gardist Anthony Braxton, John Scofield, Joe Lovano, Ella Fitzgerald, Paquito D'Rivera, Sting, Maria Schneider, Elton John, Buck Clayton and the now defunct New York City Opera. Robinson was appointed a Jazz Ambassador by the U.S. Department of State in 2000, and toured Africa, playing the music of the original Jazz Ambassador, Louis Armstrong.



## John and Jane Searcy

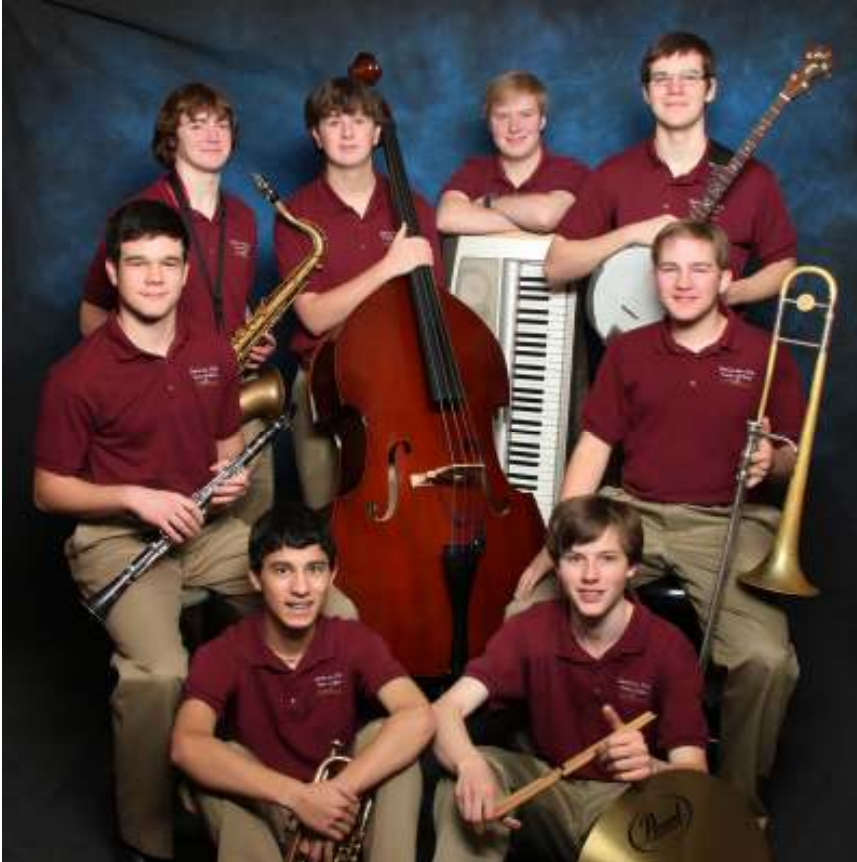
Long time DJC members and loyal jazz supporters and enthusiasts, John and Jane Searcy have passed away in the Denver area. Jane died in January, 2014 and John passed away on February, 9th 2014. The Searcys sponsored jazz events in Denver, and were responsible for bringing the High Sierra Jazz Band to the Denver area for weekends of jazz that always culminated at the Mile High Church in Lakewood. They truly loved our kind of music and will be missed. It's a big loss for the Denver jazz community. There will be a memorial service for both John and Jane on April 12, 2014 at 2:00 PM in the club room at 1650 Fillmore St, Denver. Call 303-388-4757 for more information.



### YOUTH ALL-STARS

SPECIAL THANKS TO FLESHER-HINTON MUSIC STORE FOR PROVIDING A DRUM KIT TO THE DENVER JAZZ CLUB YOUTH ALL-STARS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DENVER JAZZ CLUB YOUTH ALL-STARS FOR BEING INVITED BACK TO PERFORM, FOR A FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, AT THE 2014 SACRAMENTO MUSIC FESTIVAL!



*A New York City Performance Tour has been planned for our youth band, from July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll depart on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>; Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> - 7-8pm - Performance at Iguana Restaurant & Dance Lounge (240 W. 54th St. between 8th Ave & Broadway) New York, NY; 8-11pm Youth musicians will sit in w/Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, at their discretion; Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> - 2:30pm - Tour Louis Armstrong's home w/Bria Skonberg; 5:30-7:30pm - Attend Louis Armstrong Centennial Band Performance at Birdland; Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> - 6-10pm - Performance at the Garage Restaurant and Cafe (99 - 7th Avenue South in the heart of Greenwich Village, New York City).*

We need to raise \$16,000 in order to be able to experience these two wonderful performance opportunities.

**THE DJC YOUTH ALL-STARS 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 cd's or make a donation to our band!!

Our new cd, "A New Kind of Dixie," is now available (this is our 4<sup>th</sup> volume!).

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 GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER – THIS PROGRAM CONTINUOUSLY HELPS OUR YOUTH ALL-STARS!!! You can mail donations and CD orders to: *Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars, Ed Cannava, Director, 6388 S. Dexter St, Centennial, CO 80121*, or go to our website at: <http://www.youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com> and pay via PayPal (credit cards/bank transfers).

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW CORNET PLAYER, BEN HARRISON, A JUNIOR FROM MEAD HS! HE WILL BE TAKING JAKE WALLACE'S PLACE IN SACRAMENTO, SINCE JAKE CAN'T MAKE THAT TRIP. BEN WILL THEN BE REPLACING JAKE IN AUGUST AS OUR 2014-15 DJC YOUTH ALL-STAR CORNET PLAYER!!

**AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE FOR THE 2014-15 DENVER JAZZ CLUB Youth All-Star Band during the month of April.**

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 /rez sez ...

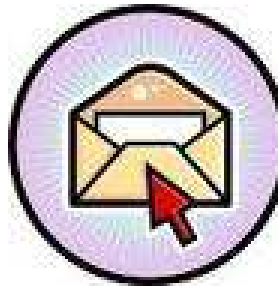
By John Sobott

Denver Jazz Club President

There is a lot of our kind of music happening in the Denver area. We recently had the Ragtime Bash in Evergreen which featured some fine ragtime artists. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band out of New Orleans performed in Boulder recently. And in July we'll be attending the Evergreen Jazz Festival again. They have a great line-up this year and we should all support the efforts that the folks in Evergreen work hard to bring us. Support our jazz artists by attending the many listings you can find on page four of our DJC newsletter. Also on the back page of the newsletter there is a listing of other jazz clubs that provide us with the music that we love to hear. So all in all we have a lot of opportunity to enjoy traditional jazz in our area and we should all support it as much as we can. We'll see you at the Westminster Elks Club and bring a friend!

## ARE YOU ON OUR LIST?

It's the Denver Jazz Club e-mail list! We use it to notify our members of special events, last minute cancellations and for sending the newsletters. We have already sent several e-mails to our members. If you have an e-mail address and haven't received any messages, please e-mail a note to:



[kristidjc@Comcast.net](mailto:kristidjc@Comcast.net) to be added to the list.

## Don't forget our King Soopers Card program!

For each \$5000.00 our card holders buy using the Denver Jazz Club Gift Card, the club receives 5%, or a check for \$250.00!! Your support for the program will make this effort a success and do a lot for our Youth All Stars. If you don't have a card yet, call Dottie Sobott, Club Secretary at (303) 430-5606.

TUNE IN

**NEW TIME!**  
**Saturdays, 8:00 AM**



Denver 89.3  
 Breckenridge 89.7  
 Vail 88.5

Listen online:  
[riverwalkjazz.stanford.edu](http://riverwalkjazz.stanford.edu)



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**Denver Jazz Club**

## Denver Jazz Club officers and board members

### Officers:

- **President:** John Sobott (2014), 303-430-5606
- **Vice President:** Bill Clark (2015), 303-726-4101
- **Secretary:** Dottie Sobott (2014), 303-430-5606
- **Treasurer:** Walt Hewitt (2014), 303-366-1107
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Kristi Flesher (2014), 303-433-8891

### Board members:

- Casey Hayes (2015), 303-288-5869
  - Paul Chamberlin (2015), 303-237-4619
  - Ed Cannava (2014), 303-328-7277
  - Eric Staffeldt (2014), 303-394-4552
- (Parentheses indicate year term ends.)

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Are you a musician?  Yes  No

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

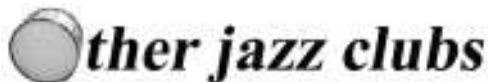
Musician \$15/year  Family \$30/year

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

**Denver Jazz Club Membership Application**

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

**Return service requested**



### **Boulder Friends of Jazz**

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

**2:00-5:00 PM, first Sunday of every month at Boulder Elks Lodge, 3975 28th Street, Boulder, located behind Sunrise of Boulder.**

\$6 for members of any jazz club, \$8 for non-members, \$2 for students, free for musicians who wish to play in jam session.

Sunday, March 2 – (Mardi Gras) **John Bredenberg**, reeds & banjo  
Sunday, April 6 – **Vern Baumer**, clarinet and vocals

### **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.

Fridays, March 7, April 4:  
**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, March 9: **Springs City Jazz Band with Laura Davis**  
Sunday, April 13: **Penrose Room Trio • Buddy Gordon Sextet**