

STRAIGHT AHEAD

{EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2005, the CJC Hall of Fame Committee presented the first Bobby Dawson Award to an outstanding student. The following profile, submitted by Stu Calhoon, sheds some light on the career of Dawson, who always finds time to encourage young musicians at the CJC jam sessions.}

Bobby Dawson: A Life In Jazz

Bobby Dawson was born in the southeastern Iowa town of Farmington on March 6, 1930, where he lived through most of his school days. He attended a one-room school where, at age six, he got the job of starting the fire each morning. It paid 25-cents a week!

People in the area created their own entertainment, and quite early Dawson participated in bands that played for barn dances and shivarees. He learned to play the guitar, banjo and fiddle before settling down to mostly guitar. The music closely resembled what we would call "bluegrass." Dawson remembers that they played a piece similar to "Dueling Banjos." These bands would get paid by passing the hat for nickels, dimes and quarters. Sometimes those coins would add up to as much as \$12, which was high pay at that time.

Having graduated from high school in Argyle, IA, in 1948, Dawson moved to the big city of Keokuk in 1949 where

he met a drummer and bass player who played more modern music. It was there that Dawson purchased his first bass, a Montgomery Ward's "Airline" bass guitar. Unlike later bass guitars, it had six strings and was intended to be played more as a guitar.

Having spent about six months in Keokuk, Dawson moved on to Des Moines where one of his first acquaintances was Ed Critchlo. A local guitarist, Critchlo was a regular on the Center Street scene and was acquainted with Helen Gale, Bob Parker and others. Orville Cox and Milt Madison were playing at one of the clubs in the area and would ask Dawson to sub when either were unavailable. When Dawson subbed for Milt on piano, Orville would say, "Man, the way you play piano, you should never touch a bass." When he subbed for Orville, Milt would say, "Man, the way you play bass, you should never touch the piano!"

Between 1951 and 1953, Dawson served in the Army in Europe. Although he worked as an adult education instructor, Dawson did get to play in shipboard bands on the trip over and back. One of those bands included a friend of Thelonius Monk.

Returning to Des Moines, Dawson played at the Sepia Super Club in a band which had been led by Thad Jones in 1949 and still played some of Thad's arrangements. Dawson is considered to be the first person to play electric bass in Des Moines, having replaced his "Airline" bass with a more modern electric bass around this time.

In 1964, when liquor by the drink in night-clubs became legal, Dawson led the first live group at Ernie's Urban Lounge in its Sixth Avenue location.

The group was patterned after the popular

Bluenote Records group "The Three Sounds." The club was full every night, and when people urged Ernie to add a singer, he had to refuse because there simply wasn't any room to accommodate more musicians or customers! When freeway construction closed the Sixth Avenue Ernie's, the club moved to the site on Harding Road that most of us remember. There was room for a singer in the new club!

Dawson continued to lead and play in other groups throughout the city, including a band with Dale Convey and Don Lincoln which played at the French Room at Johnny and Kay's.

Rightfully so, when CJC started the Hall of Fame, Dawson was one of the first people contacted to share his memories of Des Moines' jazz scene, a scene in which he was proud to be a part, and a scene that honors him with the CJC Bobby Dawson Award.



CJC's Phyllis Leaverton with Bobby Dawson at the 2005 CJC Hall of Fame reception.

Editor's Solo Spot

Spring has sprung, the school year is winding down, and Jazz in July is not far away. The Community Jazz Center of Greater Des Moines is winding up its educational activities that align with the school year. This year has seen a turnover in kids. Some of our "regulars" have moved on to college and are coming back occasionally to be teachers and mentors. New students are becoming "regulars." The cycle continues.

The CJC combos participated in the Historic Valley Junction Spring Art Market. Caren Sturm deserves thanks for including music this year and taking a chance on the CJC groups. Playing music in a non-threatening, non-judged environment is an incredible learning experience for our young "jazzers."

- **All Star # 2 Combo**, under the direction of Andy Poppen, featured David Higdon, Hayden Goldstien, Paige Sanders and Ben Poppen.
- **Ignition** featured Chris Oatts, Eric Oatts, Jeff Oatts, John Temple and Nick Evans.
- **All Star # 1 Combo** featured Andy Poppen, Pat Noonan, Martin Whitman and Ben Mars,

Wayne Page again hosted the Junior High Jazz Fest in January. The festival moved to Waukee this year and will continue hopefully for years to come. Clinicians for the event included: Myron Peterson, Marty McDonald, Dick Redman, Steve O'Brien, Rene Bernard and Chris Crandell. Wayne has spent many years making this festival one of the best offerings in the state of Iowa. His hard work is greatly appreciated by CJC and the participating schools, directors and students.

Myron Peterson is stepping down as the chairman for the CJC Jazz Honor Band event. Myron put on a great show again this year. The two honor bands worked with Chris Mertz and Jim Gosnell. Indianola was gracious enough to host the event again

and CJC would like to thank the Indianola band staff and schools for allowing us to use their facilities. This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn from great clinicians alongside their peers from other schools.

Java Joes continues to host the popular jam sessions on the first Sunday of every month. Depending on availability, our house rhythm section includes Steve Charlson, Pete Simonson, Stu Calhoun, Susie Miget, Jason Danielson, Janey Hooper, Sam Salomone and Rob Messer always gives the students a great experience. We wish to extend our gratitude to Abe Goldstien for volunteering his humorous emcee duties each month at our CJC jam sessions. He does a spectacular job and has a great rapport with the student/musicians.

The opportunity for young musicians to play with this group of pros is an incredible experience. The opportunity to play with them regularly is priceless. It is amazing to hear the musical growth from month to month and see the confidence build as these young musicians realize that, though a challenge, jazz can be fun!

The Annual Des Moines Jazz Hall of Fame event was a wonderful night of music and memories. John Krantz and his committee of Abe Goldstien, Scott Davis, and Stu Calhoun are to be commended. Linda Diment also does a fantastic job of taking the photos for the event. She has volunteered her time again for this fall's event. Anita Micich also deserves praise for donating the Roosevelt sweatshirts to the nominees for the Hall of Fame.

Jazz in July is just around the corner. The CJC student All-stars will once again perform as will the CJC Big Band. See you at a jam sometime. Keep listening and learning!

Joel Poppen
Instrumental Music and Jazz Studies
Ankeny High School
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Remembering A Friend of CJC: Jack Krantz

John F. (Jack) Krantz was born in Saylorville and graduated from North High School. He was very successful in the home building business in the '60s before founding Adventureland in the early '70s. Jack passed away earlier this year.



Krantz contributed to the local music scene during the earlier years of Adventureland Inn's operation. The hotel featured the music of several CJC Hall Of Fame musicians, including Scott Smith, Ross Cornelison, Jim Eklof, Julius Brooks and Irene Myles. Scott Smith, Beth Smith, Julius Brooks and Ross Cornelison can still be found performing five days a week on the Chapel Stage at Adventureland Park this summer.

Krantz's eldest son, John M. Krantz became involved with the CJC and Adventureland Inn hosted monthly jam sessions in the lounge for two winters. Adventureland Inn has also become the host of the CJC Hall Of Fame and Special Recognition Award and is home to the Des Moines Big Band every Monday night nine months out of the year.

Not only did Jack Krantz succeed in creating the funnest place for millions of people to go in Iowa for the last 33 years, but he also left his mark on the local music scene by employing some of the area's finest musicians. This is a trend that his son, John, has pledged to continue. Krantz will be missed by countless Iowans who had the opportunity to know him and enjoy the many things that Adventureland has to offer.

JAZZ IN JULY SCHEDULE

Summer starts heating up with Metro Arts Jazz in July 2006 series highlighting the area's premier jazz artists. Highlights include six Giants of Jazz, a series focused on top jazz legends, including Antonio Carlos Jobim, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong; and additional opportunities to enjoy the arts, including select opening bands, mini-art markets, dance performances, and unique vendors at various venues.

The Jazz in July 2006 season will kick off with a picnic fundraiser, "Jumpin' Jive on the Green" on the Patio at the Embassy Suites on the River followed by a concert by the Des Moines Big Band at the Simon Estes Amphitheatre in downtown Des Moines on Saturday, July 1, 2006. The picnic begins at 5:30 p.m. and the concert will follow at 7:30 pm. Tickets for the picnic are \$40 and include a special picnic and swinging entertainment. Tickets are available in advance by calling the Metro Arts office, 280-3222.

[ALL JAZZ IN JULY CONCERTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC]

June 30, 6:30 p.m.

Susie Miget Group
State Capitol Grounds, pre-Pops

July 1, 7:30 p.m.

Des Moines Big Band
Simon Estes Amphitheater

July 2

The Void (6:30 p.m.)
Noteworthy (8:00 p.m.)
Woodward City Park,
3rd & Oak, Woodward

July 2, 7:00 p.m.

Ed Kaizer Quintet
Lion's Park, 72nd St & Prairie Ave.

July 4

CJC All-Star Combo (1:00 p.m.)
Soul Searchers (3:00 p.m.)
Water Works Park, 2201 Valley Drive

July 7, 5:30 p.m.

GIANTS OF JAZZ: Tina Haase Findlay & Friends performs the music of Ella Fitzgerald
Blank Park Zoo African Boardwalk,
7401 SW 9th Street

July 8, 6:30 p.m.

Natasha Miller
Roosevelt High School, West Lawn

July 9, 6:00 p.m.

Scott Smith Group
Salisbury House, 4025 Tonawand Drive

July 11, 6:30 p.m.

GIANTS OF JAZZ: Scott Davis Group performs the music of Louis Armstrong
Behind The Shops at Roosevelt,
North of I-235, off 42nd Street

July 12, 11:00 a.m.

Keith Nash Quartet
Scott/Four Mile Community Center,
3711 Easton Blvd

July 12

By Heart (6:00 p.m.)
Sam Salomone Group (7:00 p.m.)
Heartland Presbyterian Church,
14300 Hickman, Clive

July 14, 7:00 p.m.

GIANTS OF JAZZ - The Party Gras Classic Jazz Band performs the music of Bix Beiderbecke
Copper Creek Lake, Hwy 163 & Copper Creek Dr, Pleasant Hill

July 15

R.E. Fusion Band (5:00 p.m.)
Brothers & Sons (7:00 p.m.)
Beaverdale Park,
34th Street & Adams Ave 5 p.m.

July 16, 6:30 p.m.

Peoples Connection
Clive Aquatic Center, 1801 NW 114th St

July 18, 7:00 p.m.

GIANTS OF JAZZ: Ashanti performs the music of Antonio Carlos Jobim
West Des Moines City Hall,
4200 Mills Civic Parkway

July 19

Galactic Assault (6:00 p.m.)
Thelonius Assault (7:15 p.m.)
Old Main at Drake University,
26th & University

July 21, 12:15 p.m.

Belin Quartet
Nollen Plaza, Downtown, 221 Walnut St

July 22

Red Sneaker Jazz Band (12:00 p.m.)
Janey Hooper Trio (2 :00 p.m.)
R.E. Fusion Band (4:00 p.m.)
Freestyle (6:00 p.m.)
Tony Valdez Large Band (8:00 p.m.)
Railroad Pavilion Park,
Historic Valley Junction

July 23, 7:00 p.m.

GIANTS OF JAZZ: Kim Fitch with Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra performs the music of Billie Holliday
Hoyt Sherman Place,
1501 Woodland Ave

July 25, 7:00 p.m.

GIANTS OF JAZZ: Rod Biensen with the Skunk River Jazz Band performs the music of Scott Joplin
Colby Park, 6900 School Street

July 26, 11:30 a.m.

Saxman Fuzion Mix
Regency West,
4700 Westown Parkway, WDM

STRAIGHT AHEAD

Straight Ahead is published quarterly by the Greater Des Moines Community Jazz Center. We welcome any and all contributions to this newsletter, including book, concert and CD reviews, editorials, concert news and any other information that would be of interest to CJC members. Please send your articles and information to Abe Goldstien, c/o Trilix Marketing Group, 4000 114th St., Urbandale, IA 50322. Materials can also be e-mailed to abe@trilixgroup.com. For information about advertising in *Straight Ahead* or to receive future copies of the publication, contact Phyllis Leaverton at 515-276-0777.

And The Winners Are ...

Hall of Fame Committee Announces Winners And Date For 2006 Event

Des Moines may not be the jazz capital of the world, but that isn't stopping the Community Jazz Center (CJC) from recognizing the musical contributions of some of Des Moines' most influential jazz musicians. Billed as a Celebration of Des Moines Jazz, the CJC will host its sixth annual Des Moines Jazz Hall of Fame Reception & Concert on Sunday, October 22, 2006, at Adventureland Inn in Altoona.

After several meetings, the Hall of Fame Committee, with input from previous Hall of Fame winners, is

pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Hall of Fame honors.

The following musicians will be inducted into the CJC Hall of Fame:

- **Ed Darlington**
- **Jim Bowermaster**
- **Dale Convey**
- **Frank Tribble**

Special recognition awards will be presented to:

- **Janey Hooper**
- **Don Jacques**
- **Java Joe's**

The winner of this year's Bobby Dawson award is **Pat Noonan**.

Mark your calendar for another incredible evening of music and friendship when we honor these individuals at the 2006 CJC Hall of Fame Reception & Concert, Sunday, October 22, at Adventureland Inn. Watch your mail and future issues of *Straight Ahead* for ticket information. ALSO, if you would like to honor this year's recipients with any stories, please contact Abe Goldstien at 515-221-4900.



Bassist Steve Chartson accepts his CJC Certificate of Recognition from trumpeter and friend Scott Davis.



CJC Hall of Fame winner Scott Smith shares a song with the audience at the 2005 event.



Pianist Helen Gale chats with long-time Des Moines Register columnist and jazz fan Walt Shotwell.



Drummer Bill Stewart honors the memory of his father "Toad" Stewart, who was inducted into the CJC Hall of Fame.



Guitarist Ben Harrison (left) receives his Hall of Fame award from John Krantz.

CJC Volunteer Profiles

It takes many generous volunteers to help CJC accomplish its mission. We are pleased to introduce you to two of these people — Joel Poppen and Wayne Page. Watch for more Volunteer Profiles in future issues of *Straight Ahead*.



Joel Poppen

Joel Poppen is in his 15th year of teaching in the Ankeny School District where he currently serves as co-director of the Ankeny Marching Hawks, director of the sophomore concert band, theory instructor and director of jazz studies. He also serves as department chair for the Ankeny instrumental music staff.

Joel has been a member of the Executive Board of The Greater Des Moines Community Jazz Center for the past 12 years, has served as president of the board and is a contributing editor to CJC's quarterly newsletter. He is actively involved as a clinician and adjudicator for jazz and marching contests throughout Iowa, including the NCIBA jazz festival, Valleyfest and the M.A.C.B.D.A. Summer tour. Joel also plays trumpet for local churches and the occasional dance band.

Joel has been married to Josie Poppen, a lecturer in the Theater Department at Drake University for 24 years. Their three boys have grown up around music and theater and participate in CJC activities regularly. Andy Poppen is currently a freshman at Drake University majoring in music. He is a regular at the monthly jam sessions and is the inaugural recipient of the Bobby Dawson award. Ben Poppen is a freshman at Ankeny's Northview middle school. He plays drums in the monthly jams and studies piano when he is not running around the soccer field. Cole, a third grader, is studying piano and wants desperately to play drums like his older brother.

As his children grow older and consume more time with soccer, piano, and school activities, Joel has continued to have an active voice in CJC policy, consulting with Phyllis Leaverton regularly by phone and email. According to Joel, the time spent with CJC is so rewarding because of the cosmopolitan nature of the organization. "We bring together students of all ages from all over the metro area in an atmosphere that is very open and encouraging."

Wayne Page

Wayne Page is in his first year as Director of Jazz Studies at Waukee High School and conductor of the 9th grade concert band. He had taught the previous 20 years in the Ankeny, Saydel and Lenox school districts. Bands under Wayne's direction have performed at the Iowa Band Masters Convention, Iowa Music Educators Convention and Iowa Jazz Championships, and have consistently received Division I ratings in Concert, Jazz and Marching Bands. In addition to teaching, he is in demand as an adjudicator/clinician throughout the state.

Active in numerous CJC activities, Wayne has been an important part of CJC's Junior High Fest for the past 15 years.

As a performing musician, Wayne plays/or has performed with the Des Moines Big Band, The Des Moines Symphony and has been back up musician with the likes of Michael McDonald, Harry Connick Jr., Sheena Easton, the Temptations, Lou Christie, Leslie Gore and others.



Sam Salomone: Now Appearing On Your CD Player

You don't have to go to a club to hear organist Sam Salomone. With the release of his second CD, you can hear Sam in the comfort of your home. The new CD, "Voodoo Bop" features a who's who of Des Moines' jazz scene, including Don Jacques, Nathan Peebles, Jim Oatts, Pete Simonson, Rob Messer and others. Copies of this CD as well as Sam's earlier release, "It's Never Too Late," are available at samsalomone.com.

Jam Session Profile: **Paige Sanders**

On the first Sunday of every month, young jazz musicians gather at Java Joes for the CJC jam sessions. We're proud to introduce you to one of these "young lions" — Paige Sanders. A junior at Johnston High School, Paige came to her first jam session about three years ago. "I used to sit in the far back freaking out if I was called up," admits Paige. "I thought I was going to die the first time, but once you're up there it's probably one of the coolest feelings you can ever experience."



Instrument:

Drums, vibraphone and keyboard

Teachers:

Pete Simonson and Susie Miget

Favorite Musicians :

Tim Sanders (my brother), George McCutchen (my brother's best friend), Pat Noonan, Dennis Chambers, Elvin Jones, Gary Hobbes, Pete Simonson, Susie Miget, Kelly Albrecht and Jonathan Emeheiser.

Educational Goal:

I hope to get even more inspired by jazz music as the years go on and I progress as a player. I'd like to get my other friends more into it as well. I think it's very important for me to carry on music wherever I go in life because it's a major part of who I am today and what I'll become.

Looking Back At CJC

by Dave Kobberdahl

Although it seems like just yesterday, the CJC has been providing and supporting jazz activities in Des Moines for almost 20 years. CJC was the brainchild of Willie Thomas. Willie is a world-class jazz player/teacher. He has performed with the likes of Woody Herman, Slide Hampton, Freddie Hubbard and has recorded a number of very successful albums with a group called MJT+3 which was recently re-released on CD. Willie had come through the Des Moines area many times promoting his jazz method books "Jazz Anyone," and felt it would be a great place to start a

community based jazz support group. I had just graduated from college and had studied with Willie on and off since high school. With the help of many people including Willie's good friend, Valerie Dack, countless area band directors, and of course, the CJC's true heart and soul, Phyllis Leaverton, the Community Jazz Center was formed.

That first year was a great learning experience for me as I had the opportunity to help with many first time CJC events. The CJC started by going to many area band rooms drumming up support. In the first year, the CJC took on many activities. The first CJC sponsored jam sessions were held bi-weekly at Billy Joes in West Des Moines. They were attended by all ages and proved to be a cornerstone of the CJC philosophy. Everyone is welcome and everyone is encouraged to jam regardless of how experienced. Private and group jazz lessons were given at many area schools, which helped raise the skill level of the students. An all-star big band and an all-star

little big band were started with some of the areas top high school players. These bands rehearsed at the Des Moines Central Campus auditorium. The Big Band traveled that year to San Diego and performed at the International Association of Jazz Educators convention. The CJC also helped start many local festivals and concerts. The Gala Jazz Concert was held at Drake with a number of big name jazz musicians. A number of jazz combo festivals were put on at area high schools.

Over the years, CJC has done so much to help support jazz music and jazz musicians in a non-competitive environment. Although I have not been as active in recent years due to a busy band director's schedule and two daughters, I am so glad to have had the chance to learn so much from so many in those early years.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Kobberdahl received his B.M.E. from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri in 1988 and his Master's degree at Vandercook College of Music in Chicago. Dave is currently the director of the Jazz Studies Program at Valley High School in West Des Moines. In addition to teaching, he plays trumpet with the Latin Jazz Group Ashanti and has been a member of the Des Moines Big Band for the past 18 years.

Jazz Up Your Sundays

Head to Java Joe's the first Sunday of every month for CJC Jam Sessions and stop back on the third Sunday of the month for the CJC Big Band.

Notes & Tones

From World Port: Summer Performances

June 24

Farmers Market, Des Moines

June 30, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Wine House, University Ave. north of
Des Moines Golf & Country Club

July 6, 7 - 9:00 p.m.

Joslyn Museum, Omaha

July 7-Friday, 7 - 9:00 p.m.

Stomping Grounds, Ames

July 16, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Marshalltown Art Festival

July 22 6 - 9 p.m.

Sugar Grove Winery, Newton

July 2, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Kaleidoscope at the Hub, Des Moines

July 29

Farmers Market, Des Moines

August 4, 5 & 6

Anacortes Arts Festival, Seattle

August 11, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Blank Park Zoo

August 12

Farmers Market, Des Moines

August 19, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Sugar Grove Winery, Newton

August 25

Stomping Grounds, Ames

From CJC: Member/Contributor Update

Welcome to these new members:

Mark Levine

Anne Temple

Thank you to these renewing members for their support:

Vic and Barb Anderson

David Barnes

James Bush

Ron and Katie Danielson

Marlene Dickey

Jack Hauser

Gary Lozano

Mark Movic

Jack Oatts

Andy Shaffer

Bob Skinner

Ron Sundberg

Joyce Templeton

Dave and Kay Williams

Thank you to these people and organizations for their financial support:

Riemans (South) gave \$80.00 for the

Junior High Fest at Waukee

Hy Vee donated bakery goods for

Junior High Fest at Waukee

Thank you to these people and organizations for their support of the 2005 CJC Jazz Hall Of Fame:

Adventureland Inn

Brackett Media

Linda Diment, photographer

John Krantz

Curtis & Evelina Leaverton

Robert Leaverton

Dr Doug Paul

Mark Movic and Susan Skinner

Trilix Marketing Group (Abe Goldstien)

WOI Radio

Mystery Patrons:

We were pleased to received a total of
\$750 from two anonymous CJC patrons.

This generous contribution will help
fund future educational/performance
opportunities for younger musicians.

From Abe Goldstien: Trio-X Comes To Iowa

Leave it to local jazz fan Abe Goldstien to bring a group like Trio-X to the area. Trio-X features bassist Dominic Duval, saxophonist and trumpeter Joe McPhee and drummer Jay Rosen. The group is doing a swing through the Midwest and Abe and his family will be hosting them in Des Moines in early October. Look for details about a performance on October 5 or 6. The performance will also be recorded for a future release on the CIMP label. According to Abe, Trio X is known for taking well-known standards into the far reaches of avant-garde. *Sounds right up Abe's alley!*

From Harold Luick: KAJAC Record Reunion

The central Iowa jazz community is invited to attend the KAJAC Record Corporation Reunion on July 16, 2006 in Carlisle, Iowa. This reunion is for studio musicians that worked in the KAJAC 16-track studio. From 1969 to 1980, many studio musicians from the community worked on studio sessions for Harold Luick, including Bob Parker, Dartanyan Brown, Susie Miget, John Krantz, Scott Smith, James & Eva Brauninger & Son, Sam Salomone, Don Archer and many others.

Community Jazz Center
2921 Patricia Drive
Urbandale, Iowa 50322-6863

CJC Membership Form

School [\$35] Patron [\$30] Adult [\$20] Student [\$10]

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax Number _____ Email _____

Volunteer Interests/Skills _____

Date: _____

Return to: CJC Membership Chair, 2921 Patricia Drive, Urbandale, Iowa 50322-6863