

# STRAIGHT AHEAD



Sunday, October 21, 2007

6:00 p.m. (hors d'oeuvres & cash bar) • 7:00 p.m. (program)

Adventureland Inn, Altoona

Tickets: \$25.00/\$15.00 for students

Advance ticket sales: 276.0777

**SEE PAGE SEVEN FOR A FREE HALL OF FAME POSTER OFFER!**

*Des Moines Community Jazz Center*

## JAZZ HALL OF FAME



HONORING:  
PHIL MATTSON  
DARTANYAN BROWN  
THE GRAY BROTHERS  
BOB WEAST

# Jazz Pianist Benny Green To Perform at Art Center

Thanks to the passion of local CJC member John Krantz, jazz pianist Benny Green brings his years of experience to the acoustically impressive Levitt Auditorium stage for a solo concert on Thursday, October 11, 2007.

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**He plays funky and hard, and breathes not only bebop but Oscar Peterson's virtuosic effusions as well."**

*The New York Times*

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Green's approach encompasses the entire range of pianistic styles of his forebearers in the vast legacy of jazz piano. He is equally adept in tackling a standard song with a stride/ragtime approach, a down and dirty bluesy style, a Bud Powell influenced bob style or a two-handed show of technical bravura in the Oscar Peterson mold. But don't be mistaken — Benny Green has his own voice. While it is always first rate serious jazz piano at its best, Green often mixes a degree of subtle humor in his interpretations by infusing the music with abrupt stylistic mood changes and occasional musical references.

Growing up in Berkeley, California, Green began playing professionally as a teenage with trumpeter Eddie Henderson and a 12-piece big band led by Chuck Israels. Later, he moved to New York and studied with pianist Walter Bishop, Jr, before playing with the likes of Bobby Watson, Betty Carter, Art Blakey, Freddie Hubbard and the veteran bass player Ray Brown. Since 1977, Green has been leading his own



## **BENNY GREEN** **OCTOBER 11 • 7 p.m.** **DES MOINES ART CENTER**

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trios and concentrating on his solo piano performances.

General admission tickets for the Benny Green performance are \$25 and may be purchased with a credit card at [www.iowatix.com](http://www.iowatix.com). Call Phyllis Leaverton (CJC) at 515-276-0777 for all other ticket purchases. Seating is limited, so please purchase tickets early. Tickets

will not be available at the door and must be purchased in advance.

Any proceeds from this concert will go to the Community Jazz Center (CJC), a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for student musicians to develop their talents. "Green is a young classicist, and one of the better ones playing the piano.

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### **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](mailto: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.

## Editor's Solo Spot

Another Fall. As I write this, I am entering my 17th year of teaching, dodging raindrops and wondering if we will ever get our marching show on the field. I have been involved with CJC for sixteen of those seventeen years and am continually amazed at the time and energy spent by the volunteers of this great organization. Some of the faces have changed over time but the dedication to jazz in the Des Moines area and specifically the dedication to jazz education for young and old students alike has remained strong. Phyllis Leaverton, Abe Goldstien and John Krantz have taken this organization onto their backs and carried it forward with an energy and vigor that is inspiring. Please thank these individuals when you see them at the various events sponsored by CJC.

The summer was busy as the CJC Combos played at Jazz in July events and the State Fair. A big thank you goes to Tracy Levine for having the High School Combo play in Valley Junction (see story and photos below). John Busbee helped set up the State Fair performance, which was a wonderful opportunity for our students and alumni to share their talents.

Of course, CJC always sponsors a jam session at Java Joe's on the first Sunday of

every month. The jam sessions have been busy as students begin to hone their "chops."

These events would not be possible without the cooperation of Java Joe's. CJC would also like to thank Abe Goldstien, Dave Kobberdahl, and Jim Oatts for keeping these sessions running smoothly. Our rhythm sections made up of local pros such as: Steve Charlson, Stu Calhoon, Jason Danielson, Rob Messer, and John Kitselermut have been very patient and giving as these young musicians strut their stuff. It was a special treat to have Dick Oatts sit in with the kids in July. We already miss Pete Simonson, a regular in our "house band." Pete and his wife moved out town this summer and Des Moines will miss Pete's fabulous playing and teaching.

John Krantz has put together a new Web site for CJC that should be available within the next few weeks. This has been an element of communication that CJC was sorely needed.

It is fantastic that we have CJC volunteers involved with the jazz programming at KFMG radio. Abe Goldstien, Sam Salomone, John Busbee, and Brian Holtz just keep on spreading the good word of jazz. Check them out at 99.1 FM or online at [kfm991.org](http://kfm991.org).

Thanks to all who have dedicated time, money, and energy to the success of the Community Jazz Center of Greater

Des Moines. Support Jazz as it is a American original, truly an art form that will live forever.

### Joel Poppen

Instrumental Music and Jazz Studies  
Ankeny High School

## Membership Update

### CJC Patrons and Donors

Thanks to these people who help make CJC events possible with their financial contributions:

- Ray Garmo
- Jim Oatts
- Phyllis Swink
- Joyce Templeton
- Dave Williams

### CJC Renewals

Thanks to these members for their continued interest in CJC:

- David Barns
- Judy Diedrichs
- David Evans
- Chuck Gradi
- Gayle Lundak
- Ann Packer
- Bob Skinner
- RJ Sunberg

## Jazz In July Features CJC All Star Band

Some of the area's younger musicians had the opportunity to perform during the final concert of Jazz In July. Appearing on the stage in Valley Junction were high school students Paige Sanders on drums and keyboards, Hayden Goldstien on bass, Jonathan Emehiser on sax, David Ferneau on trombone and Ben Poppen on keyboards. The group was led by Tim Sanders, who is currently attending UNI. The musicians were chosen because of their ongoing participation in the monthly CJC jam sessions.





“This is our opportunity to recognize Des Moines’ own jazz heroes,” comments John Krantz, head of the committee organizing the Hall of Fame event. “Whether by birth or by choice, these musicians are proud to call Des Moines home and have not only influenced future generations of musicians, but have provided the city’s jazz fans with years of musical adventure and enjoyment.”

## Seventh Annual Jazz Hall of Fame Event Scheduled For October 21

**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 seventh annual Des Moines Jazz Hall of Fame Reception & Concert on Sunday, October 21, 2007 at Adventureland Inn in Altoona. For ticket information, call 515-276-0777.**

This year, the Community Jazz Center will honor bassist and educator **Dartanyan Brown**, trumpeter and educator **Bob Weast**, singer and educator **Phil Mattson** and Center Street club owners and musicians **Seymour and Howard Gray**.

Other presentations scheduled for this year’s Jazz Hall of Fame Reception and Concert include recognition for the following people/organizations for their contributions to the musical scene: musician **Paul Micich** and drummer **Rob Messer**. Drummer **Paige Sanders**, a senior at Johnston High School, will receive the Bobby Dawson Award for her participation in CJC-sponsored student jam sessions.

In addition to recognizing these Des Moines heroes with words and pictures, the event will feature musical tributes to this year’s honorees presented by many local jazz artists, including many past Jazz Hall of Fame honorees.

**The “Celebration of Des Moines Jazz” will be held at Adventureland Inn on Sunday, October 21 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a reception. The awards presentation and concert will begin at 7:00 p.m.**

## *Congratulations to this year's Hall of Fame winners ...*



### **PHIL MATTSON**

If you want to be a jazz singer or jazz vocal arranger, head to Creston, IA. That's where you'll find Phil Mattson, director of the School for Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College.

During his career, Phil has published more than 70 choral and vocal jazz compositions. He has been nominated twice for Grammy awards for arrangements and performances. He has produced CDs and an instructional video with VoicesIowa. Every summer, Phil travels the U.S. and Canada directing his popular vocal jazz/choral workshops. Listen to groups like The Four Freshman, Chanticleer and Manhattan Transfer and you'll probably hear a Phil Mattson arrangement.

Phil's career has taken him throughout the world, but he is proud to call Iowa home, and we are proud to have him here doing what he does best — singing, arranging, directing, and most of all inspiring future generations to appreciate the art and craft of jazz vocalese.

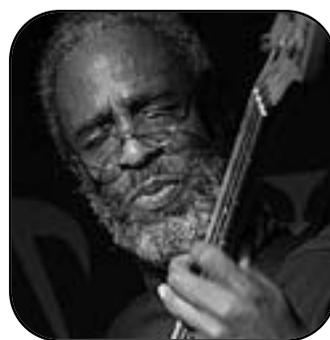


### **THE GRAY BROTHERS**

If you wanted to hear jazz in Des Moines in the 1940s, you would head to a club owned by brothers Howard and Seymour Gray — the Sepia Club on Center Street. The club boasted not only some of the hottest music in town, but delicious home cooking from the brothers' sister Gladys Bates.

Although nationally known musicians played regularly at the club, including Thad Jones who made his home in Des Moines for a short time, the local house band developed a strong following. Led by Howard Gray on tenor and Seymour on bass, the band featured the top players in the area. Many CJC Hall of Fame winners graced the bandstand at The Sepia including Speck Redd, Frances Bates, Bobby Parker, Bobby Dawson and others.

Although The Sepia Club closed in 1965, it provided a launching pad for many local musicians and introduced many fans to the joys of jazz ... and fried chicken!



### **DARTANYAN BROWN**

Bassist Dartanyan (Dart) Brown represents a link to the past and present of the city's jazz scene. As a child, he can remember the likes of Speck Redd, Wes Bettis, Frank Perowsky and others coming to his home to jam with or take lessons from his father Ellsworth Brown. Often times, nationally known jazz players would stop by the house for a visit.

As a young adult in the 1960s, Dart played with a who's who of area musicians — Frank Tribble, Sy Strother, Paul Micich, Sam Salomone, Don Archer, Wendy Allen and many more. After a stint with the jazz-rock band Chase, Dart returned to Des Moines to complete his degree at Drake, where he met his wife Marcia Miget and started the popular band Midwest Express.

Today, you'll find Dart sharing the musical lessons he learned in Des Moines with students at Marin Academy in California. He is also proud to have shared those lessons with his two children who are also musicians of note.



### **ROBERT WEAST**

During his 66 years as a performer, trumpeter Bob Weast has done it all — playing in a speakeasy at the age of 14, being on the road with big bands in the late 1940s, giving trumpet lessons in Costa Rica!

An emeritus professor of music from Drake, Bob created the university's first official big band. Among the many students that played in this band during Bob's teaching career were Dartanyan Brown, Marcia Miget, Frank Tribble, Dick Oatts, Vern Hansen and Mitch Espe. While at Drake, Bob also managed the school's annual jazz spectacular which brought the bands of Duke Ellington, Buddy Rich, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis and Stan Kenton to the community.

Bob's reputation as a musician, however, reaches far beyond Iowa. He was managing editor for *Brass World*, has published three pedagogical brass instrument books and organized and played big band benefit concerts in Rio Grande Valley for two Mexican orphanages.



*Jam Session Profile:*  
**Alec Packer**

Although he's been playing reed instruments for almost six years, Waukee High sophomore Alec Packer is a relative newcomer to the CJC Sunday jam sessions. However, since his first session earlier this year, he's been a regular on the CJC jam scene.

**Teachers:**

Jeff Patterson and Wayne Page

**What Attracted You To Jazz:**

The excitement of improvising gives me a thrill.

**Favorite Musician :**

John Coltrane

**Favorite Musicians to Jam With:**

Fellow students Brendan Cunningham and Bryce Bernard

**What I Like About Jamming:**

I like all the fun people have at the jam sessions — whether they are there just to listen or to play jazz.

**Educational Goal:** I hope to be able to continue my playing throughout my life and eventually get some gigs.

**Check us out online:**  
[dmcommunityjazzcenter.org](http://dmcommunityjazzcenter.org)

# Celebrating Mainstream Jazz At Ames Jazz Party

For their 14th Ames Jazz Party, Ames jazz fans Harry Weiss and Don Newbrough are pleased to bring back the master of the trombone, **Dan Barrett**, who played to an applauding crowd at their 11th Party. He has been described as "... a melodist, a colorist who knows how to use a plunger mute with taste and, in total, a player Duke Ellington would have loved."

Barrett brings an outstanding sextet which includes **Randy Reinhart** on cornet. According to one critic, Reinhart delivers with an incessant drive, and a seductive quality on the minor chords that vividly illustrates why the guardians of morality found jazz so threatening back in the teens and the 20s.

Dan and Randy sometimes surprise listeners by trading instruments in mid-song!

Adding to the mix is

**Tom Fischer**, doubling on clarinet & tenor sax — "... one of the best of a top-notch group of young clarinetist playing today;" **Frank Tate** on bass — "... that rarity of rarities, a bass player whose contribution rather than being a lot of plinking, plonking and skittering around the strings, actually makes musical sense;" and carrying the rhythm, **Jeff Hamilton** on drums — "... his contribution can be summed up in a few words: perfect time, taste and irresistible swing."

As a special treat, Dan is bringing along an Italian import, the pianist, **Rossano Sportiello** — "... even before the French institution L'Academie du Jazz recognized his work on solo piano with the 2005 Classic Jazz Prize, or French jazz magazines printed rave reviews about him, Rossano was an emerging talent on the international jazz scene."

"Jazz fans showed us last year that they really appreciate great jazz by providing a capacity sized audience," comments Harry. "We expect another special party this year; help us make it so by joining us that evening to celebrate the joy of jazz," adds Don.

**The Ames '07 Jazz Party will open on Friday, November 9, 2007 at 6:45 p.m. -- performance begins at 7:30. Setting is at the Hotel at Gateway Center, US 30 & University Blvd.(formerly Elwood Dr.), Ames, Iowa.**

**Cost: \$45.00 per person**

Send your reservations and checks in early to be sure of getting in. If you want a friend or friends invited, send us the names(s) and address(es) and we will send an invitation.

Mail check, payable to Jazz Party, to: Harry Weiss, 2529 Northwood Dr., Ames, IA 50010 or Don Newbrough 3122 Ross Rd., Ames, IA 50014. For additional information contact Harry at 515-232-2145 or Don at 515-292-3004.



*Dan Barrett*



*Randy Reinhart*



*Tom Fischer*



*Frank Tate*



*Jeff Hamilton*



*Rossano Sportiello*

# Notes & Tones

## From CJC: Jazz Up Your Sundays

Head to Java Joe's the first Sunday of every month for CJC Jam Sessions, 2 to 4 p.m. Then stop back on the third Sunday of the month for the CJC Big Band performing 2 to 4 p.m.

## From Des Moines Big Band: New Season

The Des Moines Big Band will start up the season at Adventureland Inn on Monday, October 8, 2006. The band plays every Monday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cover is \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Watch for news about upcoming soloists and high school bands to be featured during the Monday night sessions.

## From KFMG, 99.1: Sunday Is Jazz Day

Tune in to 99.1 FM or connect via the Internet at [kfm991.org](http://kfm991.org) and listen to some of the area's most knowledgeable fans play their favorite selections.

- Sundays 6 to 10 a.m. — "Sunday Morning Jazz" with Clarence Key, Jr.
- Sundays, 5 to 7 p.m. — "Straight, No Chaser" with Abe Goldstien
- Sundays, 7 to 9 p.m. — "Jazz Gumbo" with Sam Salomone

Who's playing where? Find out at  
[dmcommunityjazzcenter.org](http://dmcommunityjazzcenter.org)



Top row, from left: Ross Marie Webster, Ross Cornelison, Julius Brooks, Ben Harrison, Stu Calhoun, Steve "Toad" Stewart, Helen Gale, Bob West.  
 Second row, from left: Wayne Lage, Francis Bates, Jim Bowermaster, Ed Darlington, Speck Red, Irene Myles, Don East, Jerry Stenstrom, Joanne Jackson, Dartanyan Brown.  
 Third row, from left: Phil Mattson, Scott Smith, Don Archer, Jack Gatts, Frank Tribble, Sam Salomone, Jim Ekko, the Gray Brothers, Harry "Dale" Convey and Bobby Parker.

Des Moines Jazz Hall of Fame  
 2001-2007

**ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY  
 AND RECEIVE THIS FREE JAZZ  
 HALL OF FAME POSTER.**

Call 276-0777 today to order your tickets for the 2007 CJC Hall of Fame Reception & Concert and we'll give you this limited edition 12" x 18" poster featuring all 28 members of the Des Moines Jazz Hall of Fame — a \$5.00 value FREE with your ticket purchase.

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**