

Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

Volume 56,
Number 5

May/June 2011

Denver Jazz Club in operation for 57 continuous years

Established 1954

After Midnight Jazz Band

Sunday, May 15



Award winning clarinetist Roger Campbell leads this hot sextet that has been swinging hard since 1997. This extraordinary group of musicians has performed thousands of concerts around the world for jazz festivals, clubs, weddings, summer concerts, and more. They

conquer dizzying small ensemble charts by the likes of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, and Lionel Hampton. The band includes **Roger Campbell**, clarinet & leader; **Jerry Weiss**, piano & keyboard; **Rick Weingarten**, vibraphone & vocals; **Mike McCullough**, guitar & vocals; **Ced Forsyth**, bass; and **Jim Moore**, drums

Where, when, how much:

- Denver Jazz Club, 2:00-5:00 PM Sunday, May 15.
- Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Drive.
- Admission is \$5 for members of any jazz club, \$7 for anyone who isn't a jazz club member, free for age 12 and younger.

Amenities:

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

Vern Baumer's Mile High Jazz Gathering

Sunday, June 19



Clarinetist Vern Baumer has been active on the Denver jazz scene since 1970, when he formed the New Orleans Jazz gathering. Over the years since, the band has played regular gigs at various bars, restaurants and jazz festivals. Vern himself has worked with Big Tiny Little, the Summit

Ridge Jazz band, the High Sierra Jazz Band and the Wild Bill Davidson Legacy Band, with Tom Saunders. He has also appeared at Mahogany Hall and Pat O'Brian's, in New Orleans. For this DJC appearance, the band will include **John Bartman**, trumpet; **Ed Stephen**, guitar, **Bill Blackman**, bass and **Bill Watkins**, drums, and possible special guest!

More information to come.

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- Denver Jazz Club, 2:00-5:00 Sunday, June 19.
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Amenities:

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

A little bit of this 'n' that

By Walt Hewitt

Denver Jazz Club Events Columnist

As promised two months ago, we got to Del Mar for the San Diego Swingin' Jazz Party. (I was talking to a musician recently, and he asked, "Where's Del Mar?" He also asked, "What's an All-Star?" It was then that I left the bar.) Music was great as expected. A lot of it put together by Ed Polcer of New Jersey and New Orleans. He moved south because his kid was getting more gigs than he was.

Ed Metz Jr., was there—we had just had him in Denver to help our kids—and Joe Ascione, who is still struggling terribly with multiple sclerosis. He is confined to a wheelchair and needed the assistance of two men to go up two steps to the stage. He's only 50 to 57 years of age, and in general has a great outlook on life. He's surely one of the best drummers in the country.

Nikki Parrott has to be one of the best "packages" on the circuit. She has the looks, youth, musicianship, and voice to be up there at the top of her profession for decades yet. And remember, I'm talking for Joe Dokes, the plumber, not the self-styled experts out there. She's good!!!

By the time Monday rolled around, we knew we'd had a bunch of music, so we headed for my niece's home in Palm Springs, with no intention of going on up the coast for the festival in Monterey. It's so nice to see how the other half really does live—putting green in backyard, golf cart in garage, gated community. And she's only a PhD at Cal-State Northridge!

From Palm Springs we went up along the Colorado River and stayed right at the London Bridge in Lake Havasu. Took a boat ride to California to the casino and didn't lose a cent. Ate lunch and dinner outside. Any of you readers who try to see how fast you can get from point to point should try a nice leisurely trip via auto.

Heard the Mustache Band at The Bull one Sunday. Great venue for eating, drinking, good beer, and jazz. They'll probably have music there long after we're all gone. Amongst their sit-ins that night was a guy with a forgettable name—I forgot it—but he was a bandsman in the army and now retired. The services have done a great job for decades in recognizing the value of music, and allowing their people to be stationed at one post for many years, and lending continuity to their music. Think of the Air Force Academy and NORAD bands, on-going for decades.

Hit St. Julien's in Boulder one week night to hear Ralph Sharon with Ron Moewes on drums and Dean Ross on bass. It's worth the 50-mile drive up there to hear Ralph—no wonder I get a new car every two or three years. It's easy to imagine you're in a neat bar, late night on the lower east side of Manhattan when you listen to that beautiful piano. All you got to do is close your eyes.

Went to a life remembrance for Phil Konsella, long-time member of DJC. He had made sure there'd be good music, and got Don Grove to put together a band that hadn't rehearsed, but didn't have to. Chas Bowles was there on vocals and trumpet, Bill Pontarelli, clarinet, Scott Grove on keyboard, Colin Gieg on bass, Rory Thomas, banjo and guitar. Just couldn't have been any better. This was at Table Mountain Inn in Golden in a great room for a party such as this. It's always amazing to me how we all are able to recover from the death of a spouse and go on living.

The Ron Cope benefit went really well. There may be something more about it in this newsletter. Had about 150 paying guests, and the largest income from the raffle in history, mostly because some of our people got out and got great prizes. Hot Tomatoes got things off to a swinging start. Our people just plain old dig that 40's Big Band stuff. The Claim Jumpers sounded better than ever, and our DJC All-Stars acquitted themselves nicely. Queen City with Wende as a perennial crowd-pleaser, and a Denver tradition.

I've developed into the airport expert for arriving and departing musicians. By the time you read this, I will have picked up and delivered to some hotel, James Chirillo and Jay Leonhart for the Seawell Ballroom concerts, April 22 and 23. They apparently walk back to DIA to return home. Then after the Broadmoor Party—that sounds so much classier than Colorado Jazz Party—I've been selected—actually elected—to deliver Ed Polcer to DIA from Colorado Springs. Last year it was Ed and Peter Appleyard to DIA. It was blowing snow like I couldn't believe, and when I asked, "Where are we? Are we over Monument Hill yet?" We were in Greenland. I may not do that this year.

And this has to be attributed to Don's Dictionary in the "Rag"—if we weren't meant to eat animals, why are they made of meat?"

Denver JAZZ Club NEWS

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

Deadline for next issue: April 15, 2011

Ed Danielson, Editor Phone 303-756-9508

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



Peter's Place

By Peter Robinson

Denver Jazz Club Guest Columnist

In our eclectic mixture of recordings at home we have some to take 'on the road' with us. One or two of these may be a surprise to mention in this newsletter and are not out-and-out jazz. But who are we to determine what is jazz these days? I'll name one artist who perhaps to some people is not even on the verge of a jazz category but more in the popular group – Leon Redbone, he the man of mystery. Even other artists who have spent an afternoon with him still don't know him. He remains a somewhat unknown and secretive figure never appearing to take off his hat and sunglasses to expose his full features. He is obviously talented and sings in a low voice, often whistling or humming the tune, plays some good guitar, harmonica and a few other instruments. His recordings usually have a good variety of other instrumentalists accompanying him. He has a leaning towards playing well-known tunes, what he terms 'sing-a-long' numbers, for example, Shine on Harvest Moon, Melancholy Baby and Polly Wally Doodle.

We missed seeing Leon at the Swallow Hill venue at a previous concert so this time (15th April) booked early. A grand piano on stage was the only instrument that greeted a packed hall. A young pianist (to me!) appeared and sat down followed by Leon with a guitar and walking stick. The

whole two-man show that followed was similar to a rehearsal: chatting in between tunes, what to play next, an introduction then stopping plus amusing asides. All very laid-back and seemingly impromptu. The pianist immediately took my attention as he was no slouch, with an early chorus in excellent stride style a la Fats Waller. Towards the middle of the hour's concert he showed off his dexterity by performed a masterful solo by James P. Johnson.

It was only at the end of the show that I heard the pianist's name – Paul Asaro. I knew I had a recording by him and yes! photos of him proved it on CTR Technologies PA-002-1. This was released in 1997 when as a 'young lion' he was proving his capabilities. Within the 18 tracks there are eight solos, the remainder taken by Paul and his rhythm section. Among the selection are numbers by James P., Willie the Lion Smith, Dick Wellstood, Ralph Sutton and Waller. This is an excellent indicator of where his influences come from. He has certainly matured since that date and could skillfully weave in and out of Leon's interesting guitar work. To quote writer Whitney Balliett's book title, definitely "The Sound of Surprise". The recording is a very pleasant mixture and well worth finding.



It's a 50th Anniversary fundraising event for The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) so that they can lead full and satisfying lives in their communities.

May 12, 2011 • 7:30 PM

Mile Hi Church • Vogt Center Auditorium

9077 W. Alameda Avenue • Lakewood, Colorado 80226

FEATURING:

**The Queen City Jazz Band • Swing Shift
Neil Bridge 7+ • Dez Rubano & Friends**

TICKETS:

\$25 General Admission • \$10 Students

\$10 Self-Advocates (people with developmental disabilities)

\$100 Patrons

Information and ticket orders at (303) 232-1338

Swing's Our Thing

Neil Bridge & Rich Chiaraluce



Denver Jazz Legends

Neil Bridge, Piano

Rich Chiaraluce, Clarinet and Sax

Roger Johns, Bass

Kevin Smith, Drums

Karen Lee, Vocals

May 20th • 7:00 PM

The Mercury Café

2199 Arapahoe, Denver

303-294-9281

Hot Jazz, Pop Jazz, Hokum, Hilarity and History

By Ed Danielson

There are some terrific players to acknowledge who were born on the dates of our Denver Jazz Club sessions for May and June:

On May 15, 1901, one of the giants of the clarinet, Edmond Hall, was born in Reserve, Louisiana. Coming from a very musical family, he found steady work in New Orleans from his late teens, first with some fairly obscure bands, leading to a gig with the popular band of Buddy Petit. Ultimately winding up in New York after several years on the road with a variety of bands, he became a regular at Café Society, giving him great exposure to the top players of the day. This led to a gig with Teddy Wilson, then leading to bands of his own, and free-lancing with, among others, the "All Star Stompers" with Wild Bill Davison, Ralph Sutton and Baby Dodds in 1947. Wouldn't you have loved to hear *that* band!

When Louis Armstrong gave a concert at Carnegie Hall in 1947, Hall's was the other band on the bill. They were so well received that Armstrong decided to disband his big orchestra and concentrate on the music of his youth, New Orleans jazz, forming the All-Stars.

In 1955, Hall replaced Barney Bigard as Satchmo's clarinetist, the most prominent job of his career. After three years, Hall was tired of constantly touring, and, as he put it, "playing the same twenty songs night after night," so he left Armstrong and resumed his free-lance

career. His later All-Stars toured Europe and Africa, where he was particularly well-received in Ghana. Hall eventually retired to New Orleans, where he passed away in 1967.

Also born on May 15 was the well-regarded clarinetist Jimmy O'Bryant, in 1896. Compared favorably to Johnny Dodds, O'Bryant was based in Chicago, where he worked with Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver, Lovie Austin and W. C. Handy. He died in 1928, at the age of 32, so never became particularly well-known.

Two fine swing era tenor saxophonists were both born on June 19 – Joe Thomas in 1909 and Jerry Jerome in 1912. Thomas worked for Horace Henderson, Stuff Smith and Jimmie Lunceford, among others. He also played early R&B music in the 1950s, but got out of the music business for several years to work in his family's undertaking business. After making a comeback in the late 1960s, he passed away in 1986. Jerome was a veteran sideman in many big bands, including those of Glenn Miller, Red Norvo, Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw. He mostly worked in the recording studios, though, and wrote jingles for commercials (so he's the one to blame!). His highest profile appearance may have been late in his career, when he recorded for Arbors Records in 1996, with Randy Sandke, George Masso, Dick Hyman, Bucky Pizzarelli, Bob Haggart and Joe Ascione. Jerry Jerome passed away in 2001.

In Memory of Roger Fell

On March 23rd, at the age of 93, Roger Fell left us to join his favorite musicians: Frank Sinatra, Count Basie, Stan Kenton, and Woody Herman.

Born in Denver, Roger graduated from South High and DU. When he was in high school, he developed his love of jazz while listening to late night jazz programming from a radio station out of Greeley.

Roger was a virtual encyclopedia with his exhaustive knowledge of birds, geology, watersheds, trains, football, and especially jazz. His recollection of names, dates and places was extraordinary. There was no better guide to have on a trip, with his detailed narrative of sights along the way, people, events and stories that capture a wrinkle in time.

Roger served proudly during WWII as Lt. Commander on the USS Sturgis, 2nd ship into Tokyo Harbor after Japan's surrender, escorting General MacArthur's staff back to the United States. Roger retired from the Naval Reserve after 27 years. A resident of Boulder County for decades, he owned a working farm and cattle ranch with the brand Circle F. He devoted many of his years to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, serving as President, seeped in understanding of Colorado watershed management and adjudication to preserve and uphold the rights of agricultural farmers and ranchers.

We will miss Roger's delightful sense of humor, his charming smile and laughter. Never a goodbye, his parting words are held up in tribute:

"Keep on keepin' on!"

- Lyn Thompson

Local band appearances

Alan's Orphans (formerly the Alan Frederickson Jazz Ensemble)

Sundays, May 1 and June 5 6:00 PM - Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale

After Midnight Jazz Band

<http://aftermidnightjazzband.com>

Friday, May 13 7:00 PM – Broomfield Auditorium, 3 Community Park Rd., Broomfield.
 Sunday, May 15 2:00 PM – Denver Jazz Club, Westminster Elks Club, 3850 Elk Dr., Westminster.
 Saturday, May 21 8:30 PM – Hope Scholarship Fundraiser, Northeastern Jr. College, 100 College Ave., Sterling.
 Sunday, June 12 1:00 PM – Pikes Peak Jazz & Swing Society, Olympian Center, 975 S. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs

Dean Bushnell Orchestra

<http://deanbushnellorchestra.com>

Thursday, May 12 7:30 PM – Copperfield's Events Chateau, 4901 Marshall St., Wheat Ridge
 Sunday, May 29 4:00 PM – Heritage at Eagle Bend, 23155 E. Heritage Pkwy., Aurora.
 Thursday, June 16 6:30 PM – Bicentennial Park, Alameda and Potomac, Aurora.

Denver Jazz Club Youth All-Stars

<http://youthallstars.denverjazzclub.com>

Saturday, May 14 2:30 PM - Mile High Church, 9079 W. Alameda Ave., Lakewood – Montreux Jazz Festival Trip Fundraiser
 Sunday, May 15 4:00 PM - Westminster Elks Lodge, 3850 Elk Dr. (May DJC Session)
 Tuesday, May 24 6:30 PM Luigi's Italian Restaurant, 8130 S University Blvd., Centennial,
 Friday, May 27 – Monday, May 30 Sacramento Jazz Jubilee
 Tuesday, June 14 5:45 PM - Anti-Defamation League's Platinum Gala, Mile High Station, 2027 W Colfax, Denver
 Thursday, June 16 6:30 PM - Arvada Estates, 7175 Kipling Street, Arvada
 Friday, June 17 8:00 AM Wellshire Inn, 3333 S Colorado Blvd (KEZW 1430-AM Radio Show)

Hot Tomatoes

www.hottomatoes.com

Sunday, May 1 7:00 PM - St. James Presbyterian Church, 3601 West Belleview Av. Littleton
 Sunday, May 15, 2011 8:00 PM - Mercury Café, 2199 California, Denver
 Saturday, June 18 7:30 PM - WWII Ball Charity Fundraiser, Boulder Airport, 3324 Airport Road

Joni Janak & Centerpiece Jazz

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

Thursdays, May 5 & 19
 June 2 & 16 6:00 PM - Café Del Sol, 608 Garrison
 Saturday, June 18 8:00 pm - Lakewood Elks' Lodge, 1422 Newland St., Lakewood (members and guests)

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra

<http://mjo-denver.org>

Sundays, May 1, 8, 15 & 22
 June 5, 12, 19 & 26 4:00 PM - Open Rehearsal, Community of Christ Church, 480 Marion St., Denver
 Mondays, May 9 & June 13 7:00 PM - Dazzle, 930 Lincoln St., Denver with Bear Creek High School jazz ensemble
 Monday, May 16 7:00 PM - Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora, with Standley Lake High School jazz ensemble

Mile High Banjos

www.hottomatoes.com

Friday, May 6 12:40 PM – Thornton Senior Center, 9471 Dorothy Blvd., Thornton.
 Wednesday, June 15 7:00 PM – Windsor Gardens Community Center, 595 S. Clinton St., Denver.
 Sunday, June 26 1:00 PM – Springwood Retirement Center, 6550 Yank Way, Arvada,

Neil Bridge 7 +

Sunday, May 8 1:00 PM – Pikes Peak Jazz & Swing Society, Olympian Center, 975 S. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs
 Thursday, May 12 7:30 PM – Anthology of Jazz, Mile Hi Church, 9077 W. Alameda Ave., Lakewood.
 Friday, May 20 7:00 PM – Mercury Café, 2199 California St., Denver.
 Saturday, May 21 5:30 PM – 5 Points Jazz Festival, Crossroads Theater, 2590 Washington St., Denver.
 Thursday, May 26 6:30 PM – St. Julien Hotel & Spa, 900 Walnut St., Boulder.
 Sunday, June 12 7:30 PM – Nissi's, 2675 N. Park Drive, Lafayette.
 Wednesday, June 29 7:00 PM – Dazzle, 930 Lincoln St., Denver.

Poudre River Irregulars

www.prijb.com

Fridays, May 6 & June 3 4:00 PM - Avogadro's Number, 605 S. Mason St., Fort Collins

Queen City Jazz Band

www.queencityjazzband.com

Sunday, May 8 and June 12 8:00 PM - Mercury Café, 2199 California, Denver
 Thursday, May 12 7:30 PM - Benefit for Arc at Mile Hi Church, 9077 W. Alameda, Lakewood
 Sundays, May 15 & 29 and June 19 6:00 PM - Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale
 Thursday, June 30 7:00 PM - Del Mar Park, 6th Ave. and Del Mar Circle, Aurora

Your Father's Mustache Band

www.mustacheband.com

Sundays, May 8 & 22, June 12 & 26 6:00 PM - Bull and Bush Pub, 4700 Cherry Creek Drive South, Glendale
 Sunday, May 29 & June 19 8:00 PM - Mercury Cafe, 2199 California, Denver
 Sunday, June 19 2:00 PM - Jockeys Juleps & Jazz Fundraiser, Invesco Field at Mile High

Zing (The Great Big Band)

www.zingbigband.com

Sundays, May 8 & June 12 6:30 PM - Copperfield's Events Chateau, 4901 Marshall St., Wheat Ridge

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Allan Vaché – clarinet
Rossano Sportiello – piano
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Phil Flanigan – bass
Ed Metz Jr. – drums
James Chirillo – guitar

The Warren Vaché - John Allred Quintet

Warren Vaché – cornet
Tardo Hammer – piano
John Allred – trombone
Frank Tate – bass
Leroy Williams – drums

Special Guests

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Banu Gibson
Terry Blaine

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leading our amateur JazzFest Jammers
in organized jam sessions in which all
are encouraged to participate!

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www.JazzFestatSea.com

The /rez sez ...

By John Sobott

Denver Jazz Club President

Our recent concert at the Elks Club was a smashing success. It was the annual Ron Cope benefit concert afternoon with the Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra, The UC Claim Jumpers, and the Queen City Jazz Band. All of the above musicians donated their time and talents to the cause and we all had a great afternoon of music. We also heard several numbers by our own Denver Jazz Club Youth All Star Band. These young folks are preparing for trips to the Sacramento Jazz Festival and also to Switzerland to play in the Montreux Jazz Festival there. With over 180 supporters in attendance, it was a wonderful time and we thank all of you for your support. Thanks to the folks who provided gifts for the raffle and all of

you who bought tickets. Again, thanks for your support for a fine session and we'll see you at the next jam and bring a friend!

Don't forget the Denver Jazz Club e-mail list!



We use it to notify our members of special events, last minute cancellations and 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: flesher.kristi@gmail.com to be added to the list.



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KEZW Radio 1430 AM Denver
Jazz, swing, standards from the 1940s and later

Saturdays, 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM: Big Band Jump

KGNU Radio
1390 AM Denver/88.5 FM Boulder

Thursdays, 8:00–9:00 PM, Ragtime America or
Dixieland Marmalade

KUVO Radio
89.3 FM Denver/89.7 FM Breckenridge/88.5 FM Vail

Mondays, 6:00–7:00 PM: Riverwalk (Jim Cullum Jazz Band)
Saturdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Ed Danielson

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Denver Jazz Club

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ther jazz clubs

Boulder Friends of Jazz

(phone 303-449-1888, website www.boulderfriendsofjazz.org)

2:00-5:00 PM, first Sunday of every month at American Legion Post 111, 1150 Pine St., Louisville.

\$5 for members of any jazz club, \$7 for non-members, \$2 for students, free for musicians who wish to play in jam session.

Sunday, May 1: **John Bredenberg**, clarinet, tenor sax, banjo, vocals
Sunday, June 5: **Vern Baumer**, clarinet and vocals

Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society

(phone 1-970-498-8616, email 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, 18 or younger free.

Fridays, May 6 and June 3: **Poudre River Irregulars**.

Peak View Jazz Club

(phone 1-970-330-6663)

8:00-10:00 PM, Friday evenings at the Greeley Country Club, 4500 W. 10th St., Greeley. Reservations required!

\$10 for Peak View Jazz Club members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for students, \$25 for buffet dinner (served at 6:30 PM).

Please call for information.

Pikes Peak Jazz & Swing Society

(phone 1-719-685-9451, website 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, \$7 for non-members, \$3.50 for students, free for children age 12 or younger.

Sunday, May 8: **Neil Bridge 7+**

Sunday, June 12: **Roger Campbell's Pearl Street Jazz Band**

Denver Jazz Club officers and board members

Parentheses indicate year when term ends.

Officers:

- **President:** John Sobott (2011), 303-430-5606
- **Vice President:** Bill Clark (2012), 303-232-8350
- **Secretary:** Dottie Sobott (2011), 303-430-5606
- **Treasurer:** Walt Hewitt (2011), 303-366-1107
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Kristi Flesher (2014), 303-433-8891

Board members:

- Casey Hayes (2012), 303-288-5869
- Birch Musselman (2014), 303-693-6363
- Paul Chamberlin (2013), 303-237-4619
- Ed Cannava (2013), 303-328-7277

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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**

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