

STRAIGHT AHEAD



It's the late 1970s in Des Moines. A teenage boy walks into a record store (remember those?) but rather than searching for the latest record (remember those, too?) by Fleetwood Mac, The Clash or Meat Loaf, he heads for the male vocal section and pulls out a classic Mario Lanza record. He walks up to the clerk to purchase the record and on his way out the clerk says, "Hope your parents enjoy the record, kid."

"That happened more than once," says local singer Fred Gazzo, who grew up surrounded by the sounds of the great Italian male singers coming from his father's Zenith console. "My father played that stereo morning, noon and night," remembers Fred. "He would pull me into the living room and teach me to appreciate what those singers were doing." That was Fred's musical training — the records of Mario Lanza, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Jerry Vale, Al Martino and Pavarotti. Today, he's using that training to achieve his personal mission of bringing back the art of live performance.

For Fred, the art of live performance means interjecting his personality into the show while focusing on one

simple goal — to entertain. "It's not about me. It's about the audience experience," states Fred.

Fred honed his entertainment skills in the entertainment capital of the world — Las Vegas, where he spent 10 years pursuing his love of music. He was "discovered" by bandleader Jerry Blake's wife while singing along to the Muzak in a Vegas elevator. Before long he was singing with the Blake band at the Stardust as well as appearing with various other big bands in numerous hotel shows.

Although Vegas was an exciting time in Fred's life, he's the first to admit it was also a tiring time. He yearned for the simpler and more "genuine" way of life in Des Moines and returned in

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Editor's Take

Des Moines continues to be an exciting place for jazz music. Numerous organizations are sponsoring concerts and bringing in artists from throughout the world for Des Moines' listening pleasure including Civic Music Association, Abe and Jackie Goldstien, Synergy Jazz and Drake University. CJC fits into this culture by continuing to offer educational opportunities as well as recognizing local musicians for their contribution to the scene.

CJC is very grateful to the Hall of Fame committee of John Krantz, Abe Goldstien and Scott Davis who organized another great Hall of Fame event. Congratulations to inductees Ellsworth Brown (family) and Ken Jolls, the special recognition honorees — Jason Danielson, Michael Swanger and Bobby Dawson honoree Alec Packer. A big thank you goes out to Ron and

Clarice Rubek and Jerilynn Kobberdahl for their outstanding help at the door.

Daphne Munson did an outstanding job hosting the CJC Junior High Jazz Festival. We appreciate her willingness to host the event next year. Thank you to the Urbandale parents, HyVee, Abe and Jackie Goldstien and Ron and Clarice Rubek for their help.

Java Joe's continues to support our monthly student jam sessions. We could not produce the jams without Abe Goldstien and the house band, Sam Salomone, Rob Messer and David Altemeier. The event works so well that Java Joe's will have a student jam on the second Saturday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. The students will have their own rhythm section.

Chris Crandall, again, organized and hosted the Jack Oatts Honor Bands this year. He has done a fantastic job with this event and we are sad to see him bow out to pursue

another chapter in his life. We wish him the best as he becomes the All-State Band Chair for the Iowa High School Music Association.

CJC welcomes and thanks our four new volunteers for their contributions of time and knowledge:

- Kay Williams – membership chair
- Paul Clowser - Facebook assistant administrator
- Roger Sparks – Youth Combo chair
- Michael Smith – Lawyer agent

Bob Start recently put on a great show with our CJC Big Band. He brought in six singers and the room was completely filled.

So you see, CJC is alive and well. Jazz is alive and well in Des Moines.

Keep Swingin'
Joel Poppen, Editor

FRED GAZZO continued from front page

1999 to balance a career as the owner of a hair salon and a singer.

“I can't imagine anything more meaningful than expressing your feelings through song.”

Fred's first challenge upon returning to Des Moines was finding musicians who shared his passion for the singers and style he admires. Fred has been fortunate to find small combos, big bands, trios and pianists who believe in what he is trying to do in Des Moines. “Best of all, they are just as good as the musicians I encountered in Las Vegas — not only musically, but in the quality of the human holding the instrument,”



Pick up a copy of Fred's most recent CD wherever you find him singing.

comments Fred. He's already recorded one CD with some of his Des Moines musician friends and is about to release a duo recording featuring pianist Jason Danielson. “It's our take on the classic Tony Bennett/Bill Evans recording.” Once that CD is released, Fred will

begin work on a holiday CD featuring a symphony orchestra.

“Although the CDs are nice to listen to, there is truly no substitute for the thrill of hearing music live,” says Fred. And there is no bigger thrill for Fred than when the piano player starts, the band kicks in, he walks up to the microphone and sees a group of people waiting to be entertained. “That's what it's all about!”

The old Zenith may be long gone, but the spirit of those singers Fred's father shared with him are alive and well in the music Fred Gazzo brings to live in our community. You can hear him live every Thursday evening at Sam and Gabe's Italian Bistro. “I guarantee your parents will like it, and so will you,” concludes Fred!

JAZZ@CASPE TERRACE

SPRING 2011 SERIES

Abe Goldstien and Jackie Garnett are pleased to announce a once-in-a-lifetime lineup of internationally-renowned jazz artists in the intimate setting of The Caspe Terrace in Waukee.



APRIL 9: THE ICP ORCHESTRA

Pianist Misha Mengelberg and drummer Han Bennink bring the cream of the crop of the Dutch jazz scene for ICP Orchestra's first ever performance in Iowa. What can you expect? Here's what trumpeter Dave Douglas has to say about ICP: "These musicians can swing like mad when they want to, and can play the most sensitive cafe ballad at the drop of a hat. They also compose their own fantastic repertoire, and play a passel of Misha Mengelberg tunes, many dating back to the fifties. But the crux of what they do, as the name implies, is improvisation. And they do it as well as anyone out there."



MAY 5: LEE SHAW DUO

At age 85, Lee Shaw is keeping the jazz piano tradition alive. Lee definitely bridges the generation gap in jazz. She was a former student of Oscar Peterson and a former teacher of John Medeski (Medeski, Martin & Wood). She plays standards. She writes her own tunes. Most of all, she swings in the style of the great pianists that have inspired her — Oscar Peterson, Elmo Hope, Tadd Dameron and others. Lee will be joined by long-time associate **Rich Syracuse on bass**. It's not her age that will amaze you, it's her playing!



JUNE 4: DAVE LIEBMAN DUO

This will be a first for saxophonist Dave Liebman, who cut his teeth in the bands of Miles Davis and Elvin Jones. He has never played in Central Iowa in his 40-plus years as a jazz musician nor has he ever performed in a duo setting with his long-time associate, **guitarist Vic Juris**. Having recently been awarded the National Endowment of the Arts Jazz Master title, Dave's recent recording of Ornette Coleman compositions is topping the jazz charts throughout Europe and the U.S. Expect to be blown away as Dave blows through an evening of standards, jazz classics and originals on soprano and tenor saxophone.

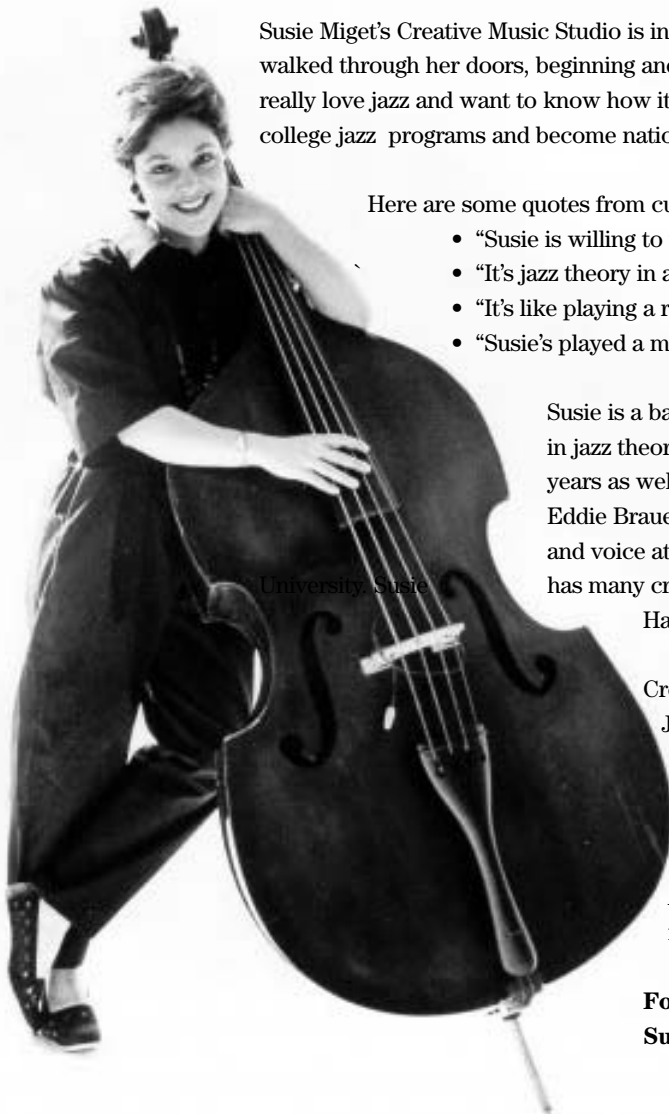
All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are followed by a meet-the-artist reception.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are \$25 for each performance in advance and \$30 at the door. Student pricing is available. To order tickets, send checks to Abe Goldstien, 4011 Plainview Drive, Des Moines, IA 50311. Seating is limited to 150 people.

For more information, contact abe at 515.279.6452 or abe@trilixgroup.com

Susie Miget's Creative Music Studio



Susie Miget's Creative Music Studio is in its sixteenth year and still going strong. Hundreds of students have walked through her doors, beginning and advanced students, young and old students and people who just really love jazz and want to know how it all works. Many of her students have been accepted into prestigious college jazz programs and become nationally known jazz artists.

Here are some quotes from current students:

- "Susie is willing to work with you wherever your playing level is."
- "It's jazz theory in a real, hands-on environment. It's the REAL DEAL"
- "It's like playing a real jazz gig in a small group. You get plenty of time in on soloing."
- "Susie's played a million gigs. She knows what it's like to be out there actually doin it."

Susie is a bassist, pianist, vocalist, trombonist, composer, arranger and an expert in jazz theory and improvisation. She has played with many jazz greats over the years as well as leading her own groups. She has studied at Fontbonne College, Eddie Brauer Studios and Mel Bay Studios in St. Louis. She majored in trombone and voice at Murray State University, and bass and composition at Drake. Susie has many credits to her name. Most recently she was inducted into the CJC Jazz Hall Of Fame for her contributions in Iowa as a musician and educator.

Creative Music Studio begins its summer 2011 classes the week of June 6. Registration deadline is Friday, May 6. The following is a list of courses to accommodate all your needs: Basic Music Theory, Jazz Theory I, Performance Combo, Licks and Patterns and Jazz Rhythms.

All classes stress ear training and listening skills and individual creativity and expression.

For more information or to register for classes contact Susie Miget at 515-224-5959 or smiget@mchsi.com.

A Special Thanks To ...

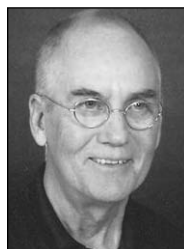


Vic Anderson

CJC would like to thank Vic Anderson for the generous gift of his PA system and musical charts for the CJC Big Band. Vic has been a generous supporter of CJC for over 20 years and his generosity has been very much appreciated. We wish him good luck in his move to a warmer climate.

Mike Smith

Thanks to Phyllis Leaverton's love of bridge, CJC has a new lawyer agent — Mike Smith. Phyllis met Mike during a bridge game and immediately asked him to help us with our legal affairs. A retired attorney, Mike accepted the offer and has been busy bringing CJC up to date on all our filings with the state and federal government.



Membership Update

Welcome to these new CJC Members:

- Kitty & Daryl Metzger
- Steve Jones
- Roger Sparks
- Fred Gazzo

Thanks to these renewing members:

- Joyce Templeton
- Ron Sunberg
- Lois Davis
- Frank Gregorich
- Charles Timberlake
- Lloyd Miller
- Teri Dermody & Davis Sanders
- Roberta Dawson Perry

From The Family Of Bobby Dawson

Throughout most of his life, Bobby Dawson was a vital member of the Des Moines jazz community. We are pleased to learn from Bobby's daughter, First Lady M. J. Clay, that his grandchildren are carrying on his musical legacy.

Gilbert Clay, Jr. who plays upright and electric bass has a gospel-jazz group, Ultra Feel'N, that performs regularly in the Waterloo area.



Gilbert also teaches music to youth in the Waterloo area and hopes to open a business where he can give lessons, sell music and teach the business side to the profession.



Trimecia Clay is an exceptional organist/keyboardist and is also Director of the musicians at her church.

When he is not busy as the coordinator of Chicago recruitment for Grinnell College, you'll find Quinton Clay keeping the beat going behind a drum set.



Who's playing
around town? Find out at
dmcommunity
jazzcenter.org

What Are They Doing Today?

Tim and Paige Sanders were regulars at our monthly jam sessions when they were in high school. So what are they up to now? Here's an update from their parents who continue to support CJC long after their children have moved on.

Keeping Up With Paige

Paige is a business major at Grandview University in Des Moines. Although she doesn't play regularly, she is often asked to get a band together for a party. Thanks to CJC, she knows lots of talented musicians, so that is an easy thing for her to do! She plays vibes or piano for those gigs, and she always has a great time!



Paige and Tim playing prior to the 2007 CJC Hall of Fame banquet, when she was presented with the Bobby Dawson award.

Paige thought that Grandview should have a drumline so that anyone interested could participate and eventually get involved in competitions. She and a few others got that accomplished, and she is happy about that. She is working and taking many credits, however, so when it was approved, she couldn't work it into her own schedule!

She hopes to again take lessons from John Kizilarmut (she is his biggest fan!) on drums and vibes when things settle down for her, which may be after she graduates in Spring 2012. If she doesn't continue with lessons, her love and appreciation of music, and her absolute fearlessness of getting on stage and performing with ANYBODY, will never change. She got that from CJC, and we all are so appreciative of that!

What's New With Tim?

Tim graduated from UNI in the spring of 2010 with majors in political science and Spanish, and a minor in jazz studies. He went to school his last semester in Spain, and enjoyed it so much that he returned there in November, and will be there until this coming July. He is an assistant teacher for english classes, as well as music, art, biology, and PE. He loves it, and definitely should be fluent by the time he returns!

He is living with 4 others very close to his age who are from the area, and none of them speaks any english. He never goes anywhere without his saxophone, so of course he took it with him to Spain. He found his housing/roommates on the internet when he got to Spain, and called me as soon as he visited their flat. He was so excited because they have a room with drums and a keyboard, three of them play guitar, two sing, and one plays drums. They don't know jazz, but he says that he has learned about Flamenco music, and loves to play it with them! So another example of how important music has been to the Sanders family!

A Parent's Point Of View On CJC

*Paul Clowser,
father of Ross
Clowser; a ninth
grader at Waukee
High School, who
has been attending
our monthly jam*



sessions since he was in seventh grade, sent us the following note about what CJC means to his family. We are also pleased to add Paul to our growing list of volunteers. Paul will help maintain our presence on Facebook.

The Community Jazz Center has been so important to our family. All of us have grown in our appreciation of music in general, and jazz in particular, since becoming involved in the CJC just over a year and a half ago. The musicians who mentor the kids, and the talent of the students are incredible — absolutely amazing! Thanks so much for the efforts of everyone involved in this program. Your time and your talents are more valuable than you know.

MORE CJC THANKS ...

Thanks to the following CJC members for volunteering their time to help our cause:

- **Kay Williams** has agreed to serve CJC as our membership chair. Keep her busy by telling your friends about CJC.
- **Roger Sparks** has agreed to take charge of the new second Saturday of the month jam sessions, 2 to 4 p.m. at Java Joe's. This session is exclusively for students including a student rhythm section.

A special thanks to **Stan Moffatt** and **Roberta Dawson Perry** for their generous contributions to CJC.

Get Ready For Jazz In July

Metro ArtsAlliance has announced the following concerts for the 2011 Metro Arts Jazz in July season.

- 7/1** Orquesta Alto Maiz opening for Des Moines Symphony's Yankee Doodle Pops
- 7/2** Whitney Marchelle Jackson at 6TH & Colleges Avenue and DMACC
- 7/3** Java Jews at Music Under the Stars
- 7/4** Glenn Miller Orchestra at the Urbandale 4th of July Celebration
- 7/7** The Jazz Page at the Waukee Area Arts Council
- 7/8** World Port at Aviva
- 7/9** Jim Oatts Quintet at Waveland Neighborhood Association
- 7/10** Workshop at Union Park Neighborhood Association
- 7/12** John Krantz Quartet at Windsor Heights
- 7/13** Big Band Sound at Sylvan Theater - Greenwood Park
- 7/14** Soya Vista at Wesley Acres
- 7/15** Scott Davis Quartet at Beaverdale
- 7/16** Ashanti at Clive Festival
- 7/17** DSM Big Band at Johnston Commons
- 7/18** Dave Rezek Alpha State Agents at Roosevelt Cultural District/ Drake Neighborhood Association
- 7/19** Belin Quartet at West Des Moines City Hall
- 7/20** High Society Big Band at Living History Farms
- 7/21** Drake Faculty Band at Drake University/Friends of Drake Arts
- 7/22** Fred Gazzo at Chautauqua Park Neighborhood Association
- 7/23** Susie Miget at the Historic East Village
- 7/26** Ballyhoo Foxtrot at Terrace Hill Governor's Residence
- 7/27** Salsa Vibe at Hispanic Education Resources
- 7/29** Betsy Hickok at Polk County Conservation Thomas Mitchell Park
- 7/30** Bella Soul at the Jazz in July Finale concert

Each concert is a mini-festival experience with artist vendors, children activities, and food and drink vendors. "Metro Arts Jazz in July gives communities a chance to gather, enjoy great music, and become neighbors again," says Metro Arts Jazz in July Committee Chair Brian Porter. "We are very pleased to partner with these terrific sites." For more information, visit metroarts.org.

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, 9105 Northpark Drive, Johnston, IA 50131. 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.

Notes & Tones

From Lyle Krewson: **Borders Jazz Club**

Borders Jazz Club meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.. Facilitated by Lyle Krewson, the club listens to a jazz topic with recordings, usually more listening than talk. Members take turns preparing and presenting a program on jazz styles, a highlighted performer, a potpourri with a theme, or any jazz topic prepared by the presenter. Lots of fun, and much learning. New members welcome, just come!

From Roger Sparks: **Look Who's Hangin' With Wynton**



Jazz great Wynton Marsalis poses with future Des Moines jazz greats — from left: Nate Sparks, Brad Sparks and Patrick Herrera. All three are regulars at the CJC First-Sunday-Of-The-Month jam session.

From KCCK: **Introducing The Iowa Channel**

The Iowa Channel was created by Jazz 88.3 KCCK, Iowa's only jazz station, operated by Kirkwood Community College. Our station has always supported and played the music of Iowa jazz and blues artists, but wished for the chance to involve the great Iowa musicians who create other kinds of music as well. When we added HD Radio to

our broadcast, we created the Iowa Channel to run on our second program channel, 88.3 KCCK HD-2. Now, anyone with a computer or appropriate phone or mobile device can tune in as well. How can you get your music on the station? Email KCCK, feedback@iowachannel.org or just send your CD to The Iowa Channel, KCCK-FM, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

From Iowa Juneteenth Celebration: **Jazz Takes The Spot On May 21**

As part of its annual Juneteenth Celebration, the Iowa Juneteenth Observance will host a Jazz Heritage Concert at noon on Saturday, May 21, at the Iowa State Historical Building. The concert, being coordinated by CJC volunteers, will educate Iowans on the historic role that African Americans played in creating this American art form. At that time, CJC Jazz Hall Of Fame pianist, Ernest 'Speck' Redd, will receive a national lifetime achievement award from Rev. Ronald V. Myers, MD, chairman of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, who is a jazz musician. The concert will also include performances from a combo of CJC Hall of Fame winners as well as a group of students representing area high schools. A panel is being organized to talk about the impact of the Center Street scene on the local jazz community.

JAZZ UP YOUR SUNDAYS WITH JAVA JOE'S

STUDENT JAM W/CJC HOUSE TRIO:

First Sunday Of The Month, 2-4 p.m.

STUDENT JAM W/STUDENT TRIO:

Second Saturday Of The Month, 10 am - Noon

CJC BIG BAND:

Third Sunday The Every Month, 2-4 p.m.

JOHNSTON STATION BIG BAND:

Fourth Sunday The Every Month, 2-4 p.m.

All performances are free!

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