

STRAIGHT AHEAD

[Editor's Note: The following excerpts are from a paper by Drake music student Brian Ruggle.]

Des Moines' small group jazz scene is thought of differently by different jazz musicians, business owners, and listeners. The following is the culmination of eleven interviews with people involved in the jazz scene.

The Small Jazz Group Scene In Des Moines

Generally, those I interviewed spoke of the past Des Moines jazz scene with a sense of nostalgia and disappointment.

- Jim Oatts, leader of the Des Moines Big Band and avid member of the Des Moines jazz community for the past twenty years, said from experience that the jazz scene was much better in the past than it is today.
- John Krantz, owner of Adventureland Inn, which hosts weekly performances by the Des Moines Big Band, agreed. Krantz, also the founder of the seven-year-old CJC Hall of Fame, noted there was more live music in Des Moines, including jazz, twenty years ago than there is now.
- Stu Calhoon, keyboardist who arrived in Des Moines in 1970, remembered back to the 1970s when the jazz scene "was hopping" and there used to be many more venues for piano

gigs. According to Calhoon, business owners "turned a switch and decided they could get along without live music" in the 1980s.

- After being in the Des Moines jazz scene since 1979, bassist, vocalist and teacher Susie Miget observed that the jazz scene is "not like it used to be" because, in the past, people

went out to clubs more and, when they were out, drank more than they do today.

The decline in the Des Moines jazz scene hit home recently with the closing of Lloyd's Jazz, Wine and Cigar Lounge and a change in the music policy at Court Avenue Restaurant and Brewing Company.

Good News and Bad News

Most of those who were interviewed provided comments about both the positive and negative aspects of the Des Moines jazz scene.

- Bassist Eric Krieger described the Des Moines jazz scene by saying, "It's always changing." He noted that there is a lot going on, but he also said that it is not possible to live off of only money earned gigging due to the lack of jazz clubs.

- Organist Sam Salomone said that, although the Des Moines jazz scene is growing, people do not support it like they should.
- Trumpeter and Des Moines Big Band leader Jim Oatts noted that while the Des Moines jazz audience is relatively small in number, the audience is enthusiastic.
- Drummer John Kizilarmut said that although the people of Des Moines like and care about jazz, they just do not realize that they are responsible for actively supporting live jazz music to keep it from disappearing.

While the jazz scene may seem hopeless from the interview responses above, some of those who were interviewed talked more positively and encouragingly of the Des Moines jazz scene.

- Linda Shepley, co-owner of the Ritual Café, said that music as a whole in Des Moines is expanding.
- Andy Poppen agreed that the jazz scene is currently growing, with more playing and listening opportunities in cafes such as Mars Café, Black Cat Café, Ritual Café, Java Joe's and Café Di Scala.

How Does Des Moines Compare?

While a surprising consensus was found that the jazz scene in Des Moines is similar to jazz scenes across the country, some interviewers did include some differences, mostly regarding population size between Des Moines' jazz scene and other jazz scenes.

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Editor's Solo Spot

As the Community Jazz Center of Greater Des Moines celebrates its 20th year, I continue to be awed and humbled by the dedication of the volunteers that make CJC events special. Whether it is the Hall of Fame Event, our Junior/Senior High school educational offerings, the monthly jam sessions at Java Joe's, or just the every day administration of the organization, our volunteers spend countless hours organizing and managing CJC so that jazz and jazz education continues to thrive in Des Moines.

John Krantz and his committee consisting of Abe Goldstien, Stu Calhoon and Scott Davis organized the 7th CJC Hall of Fame Event. We would also like to thank Linda Diment for the wonderful photos taken at this event. Also, a big thank you to Ron and Clarice Rubek for volunteering their time taking tickets.

CJC, once again, sponsored the annual High School Jazz Honor Bands. Indianola High School, Chris Crandell and Phil DeLong graciously organized and hosted the event. Directors this year were Chris Merz and Chris Buckholz from the University of Northern Iowa. Unfortunately, this year the event was cut short by a winter storm, but the students had a wonderful time learning about jazz.

We would like to thank Todd Woodard for chairing our Junior High Fest again this year. He does an exceptional job of lining

up great clinicians to work with the students on their particular instruments after they have performed as a big band. This event is a very popular festival that focuses on making the students better performers.

CJC continues to sponsor a monthly Jam session for students at Java Joe's Coffehouse. We would like to thank Abe Goldstien for taking over the 1st Sunday Jam Session. He is doing a wonderful job setting up tunes each month and making CDs for the students. Please become a member of CJC to get on Abe's mailing list so you can prepare the tunes for each month. We are sorry to lose a member in our House Band at Java Joe's. Steve Charlson has had to step down because of his many other commitments but we want to thank him for his many years of dedication to our organization. On the other hand, we want to thank a new addition to our house band, drummer John Kizilarmut.

A special thanks to John Krantz for his efforts in getting our website up and running, and keeping it running. He really works very hard keeping jazz alive in Des Moines.

A special thanks to Abe Goldstien, not only for putting our newsletter together but for the other many things he does for our

organization such as chairing the jam sessions, making all the posters and labels for all the events and especially offering great support to all the musicians and student performers. If anyone needs a ride, he is the first to offer.

A special thanks to Ron Rubek for not only his Treasury job but the hours he has spent going to all of our events, visiting with and making all of students, musicians, and participants feel welcome. He is a big asset to the organization.

It takes a passion, persistence, and a love of jazz to keep this organization going. I know that I speak for all of the volunteers when I thank Phyllis Leaverton for dedicating her life to CJC. She is so patient as she steers this organization through the difficulties that arise with anything that relies on volunteers for its livelihood. My children have grown as musicians and human beings by being involved with CJC. I have grown as a person for knowing these great volunteers. I would like to thank Phyllis and all of the volunteers for making jazz a living, breathing, growing art form in the Des Moines area. See you at Jazz in July!

**Joel Poppen, editor
Instrumental Music and Jazz Studies
Ankeny High School**

CJC Big Band In The Spotlight

They range in age from teenagers to seniors, but they have one thing in common — big band jazz! Under the direction of drummer Frank Iacovazzi and trombonist John Kendeigh, the CJC Big Band plays every third Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at Java Joes. This past season, they also played for several dances and an appearance at Graceland College. The band, all volunteers, practice every Sunday night. CJC is pleased to help support the band and provide it with a stream of young musicians like bassist Hayden Goldstien, age 15.



Front row, from left: Michael Compton; Mahlon Earl; Pat Oswald and Bob Start; Second row, from left: Rich Mintz; Kay Williams and John Kendeigh; Third row, from left: Frank Iacovazzi; Dan Ketterer; Bob McElderry; Pat McFarland; Clayton Murphy and Steve Russell; Back row, from left: Hayden Goldstien; Christy Wilkins; Dave Williams; Dave Krogan; and Doug Bown.

The Des Moines Scene *(continued from cover)*

- Jim Oatts commented that Des Moines has fewer people and less support of its jazz scene than large cities have.
- John Kizilarnut mentioned that there are more clubs in Kansas City and thinks the number of jazz musicians to the number of jazz clubs is greater in Kansas City.
- Although Eric Kriegar did not specifically say that the jazz scene is better in Chicago than in Des Moines, it is implied through his possible plans to move to Chicago to earn a living playing jazz music.

The Future of the Des Moines Scene

From the responses from the interviews, there is a surprising amount of hope for Des Moines' jazz scene.

- Linda Shepley of the Ritual Café states that the amount of jazz will increase as development of the East Village continues.
- Andy Poppen expresses his hope for the revival of the Des Moines jazz scene by recognizing that jazz is coming back in Des Moines through cafes.

Multiple ways of rebuilding the jazz scene have been suggested by those interviewed.

- John Kizilarnut and others think by uniting jazz enthusiasts on a grass roots level to do a better job supporting live jazz in Des Moines, the scene can be turned around.
- Local fan and promoter Abe Goldstien thinks that any type

of music, including jazz, has hope as long as the media get involved.

- One way Susie Miget thinks that the Des Moines' jazz scene will be bettered is through jazz education.

Conclusion

By picking the brains of eleven members of the Des Moines community associated one way or another to local jazz, I have gained a more accurate picture of the jazz scene. Overall, the current jazz scene in Des Moines is lacking support from members of Des Moines and is struggling. While this current jazz scene is not great, there is still significant hope with quality ideas to allow Des Moines' jazz scene to thrive.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2008 Jazz Hall of Fame

Plans are underway for our annual CJC Hall of Fame reception and presentation. This year's event will be held on **Sunday, October 19** at Adventureland Inn in Altoona. The Hall of Fame committee is proud to announce this year's Hall of Fame honorees:

- BOBBY DAWSON AWARD - David Furneau, trombonist from Urbandale High
- SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS - Wayne Page and KFMG-FM
- SPECIAL CJC 20TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD - Dave Kobberdahl
- HALL OF FAME AWARDS - Jim Oatts and Don Hoy

Watch for more details about this event in the Fall issue of Straight Ahead and on the CJC website — dmcommunityjazzcenter.org

 **A of thanks to Rieman Music for their support of CJC.**

Jazz@KFMG-FM

Tune in to 99.1 FM or connect via the Internet at 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

Jazz@Borders

Join the Border's Jazz Club on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. for some lively discussions covering the whole gamut of jazz — traditional to avant garde.

CJC Alum Ashley Paul Explores New Musical Terrain

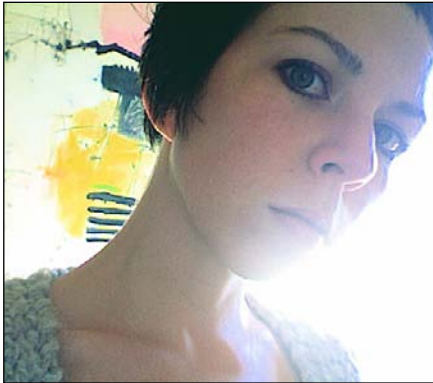
[Editor's Note: As a Des Moines high school student, Ashley Paul was an active participant in CJC jam sessions. Today, you'll find her exploring new musical adventures on the East Coast. We're pleased and honored that she took the time to update us on her activities.]

I have many fond memories of growing up in Des Moines and attending CJC jam sessions and concerts. I was given so many opportunities to play music and see great musicians which provides invaluable learning experiences.

I admit that when I was in high school I was self-conscious. Jazz band was so competitive that I remember constantly feeling like I had to learn to play one particular way. I was so worried about doing everything the right way that I usually forgot to just play music and have fun. I now see how much the jam sessions benefited me, but at the time I was often too scared to truly enjoy myself. I am so glad that my parents encouraged me to go to the sessions. I now love and feel very confident in my performance abilities in stressful environments, which occur on a pretty regular basis when you're trying to be a professional musician.

Since leaving Des Moines in 1997 to pursue jazz at New England Conservatory in Boston, I have been searching for my own music. It took a bachelor and masters degree and a few years living in New York City struggling and playing in the subways to discover that my own music is not jazz. I'm not quite sure what classification it can be given. It is just music. This is not to say I am not rooted in many jazz traditions. My interests are broad and I really love all kinds of music, in particular the works of Morton Feldman, Guided By Voices, Duke Ellington and John Cage. A little Paul Desmond still manages to creep in, too.

The musicians I adore focus more on sounds and space than harmony and melody when creating their music and this has also become my focus in



composing and playing. I am really attracted to sound in a broad sense, feeling that the noises around me inspire me more than any particular music or musician. I love just sitting and listening to nothing and everything. I love exploring all the sounds a saxophone can make, from horrifying wails to breathy, beautiful songs. I now use not only the saxophone but an assortment of instruments from clarinet, voice and keyboards to bells, taishokoto and electronics to create a little musical sound world of my own. For me, using a lot of instruments both in recording and performing has become essential to my art. It's my release from the box.

Experimenting with sound possibilities and finding my own ways of playing these instruments, even being terrible on them, broke down a lot of fears I had built up about always trying to be perfect on one instrument and instead allowed me express myself freely and have fun. The concept of being perfect on only one instrument had only kept my creativity stifled.

I currently live in Providence, Rhode Island, and travel frequently to New York and Boston for performances, rehearsals and radio shows. I am

focused mainly on my solo work and a duo with percussionist Eli Keszler. I also play in trio with pianist/ composer Anthony Coleman and Keszler, in Coleman's newest septet project and in my quartet formed while at NEC, Everything's A Little Glorious. I also played on Anthony's December 2007 release for New World records entitled "Lapidation".

This spring has been particularly exciting. I performed the U.S. premiere of Mauricia Kagel's 'Der Schall' at Merkin Concert Hall in NYC with Joe Morris on strings, Tom Plsek on trombone and prepared winds, Greg Kelley trumpet and prepared winds, Eli Keszler on percussion and myself playing everything from octave-bass harmonica and taishokoto to bass balalika and okarina. My first full length solo album was released on REL records and I was featured in a solo performance on WZBC 90.3 Boston. I just completed a spring artist-in-residency at New York's experimental music venue ISSUE Project Room in Brooklyn with Eli Keszler. We performed with legends such as Loren Connors, Charles Cohen, Aki Onda and David Linton. We also recorded a new piece with minimalist composer Phill Niblock which we premiered last Saturday, June 14 at ISSUE.

It has been quite a ride since I left Iowa. It is sort of an all uphill battle trying to be a musician, in particular one who is attempting to do something new and different. I find I'm constantly struggling and frustrated but also able to find little moments of glory and work with really incredible people.

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.

CJC Profiles



Chris Crandell

For the past three years, Chris Crandell, director of bands at Indianola High School has coordinated the CJC honor bands. A native of Storm Lake, Iowa, Chris attended the University of South Dakota and upon graduation he became the 7-12 director of bands and head baseball coach at Wall Lake View Auburn Community Schools.

Chris' duties in Indianola include director of the "Pride of Indianola" marching band, jazz one and jazz III, small ensembles, IHS purple pep band, lessons, co-conductor of the concert band and co-conductor of the symphony band. He is also a guest clinician and adjudicator throughout the Midwest, in the field of jazz, marching and concert bands. Chris "gigs" whenever possible on trombone in the field of jazz and classical trombone.

Chris and his wife, Alisa, have two young children who love "Daddy's band!" Chris is the son of the late Martin L. Crandell, a music educator in Iowa for thirty years and current IBA historian, Cheryl A. Crandell. In his spare time, Chris enjoys being a daddy, golfing, hunting, fishing, listening to jazz music and enjoying time with family.



John Kizilarmut

A regular on the Des Moines jazz scene and "usual suspect" as the house drummer at CJC jam sessions, John Kizilarmut holds a BSEd in Instrumental Music Education from Northwest Missouri State University and a MM in Percussion Performance-Jazz Emphasis from the University of Texas at Austin. He has recorded with a wide range of artists, from jazz pianist Anthony Belfiglio to the Grammy Award winning DJ Starscream. John has also worked professionally with several jazz luminaries, including Branford Marsalis, Ron Westray and Slide Hampton.

In May 2006, John presented a clinic entitled "Jazz Vibraphone for the College Percussionist" and performed with drummer Greg Bissonette at the East Central University Day of Percussion. He has also been active in DCI, both as an instructor and arranger for several Drum Corps. John currently has a teaching studio at Joyful Noise in West Des Moines, IA, and is serving as an adjunct percussion instructor at Northwest Missouri State University.



Rob Messer

Rob Messer grew up in southeastern Iowa where he began playing music professionally at the age of 12. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa, where he received a masters in music performance in 1984. While at the University of Iowa, Rob served as a teaching assistant and was also the principal percussionist with the Cedar Rapids Symphony. In addition, he spent a year as the percussion instructor and jazz band director at Iowa Wesleyan College.

In 1984 Rob moved to Des Moines where he began performing and teaching. Over the last 20 plus years he has worked with many of the jazz, blues, and pop musicians in the area and throughout Iowa. His experiences include shows with Bo Didley, Fabian, Del Shannon, Jim Stafford, Engelebert Humperdink, Sid Caesar, and Peter Noone, as well as touring with the Guy Lombardo Orchestra and working for Norwegian Cruise Line. In 2007 Rob was a recipient of the CJC Hall of Fame Special Recognition Award.

Last fall Rob left his job of 17 years as general manager of Sunset Foods to concentrate his energies into his musical interests. He is currently performing regularly with The Sam Salomone/Rob Messer Trio and Paul Micich's band, World Port, as well as freelancing with numerous other artists. He has recently begun teaching again out of his private studio.

Who's playing where in town? dmcommunityjazzcenter.org

Snapshots from the 2007 CJC Hall of Fame



Jazz Hall of Fame honoree Robert Weast on trumpet accompanied by former student and Hall of Fame honoree Dartanyan Brown.



Jazz Hall of Fame honoree Phil Mattson thanks CJC for the honor.



Just another night of "giggin" for achievement winner Rob Messer.



Tina Haase pays tribute to honorees Howard & Seymour Gray, two early pioneers of Des Moines' jazz scene.

**Check us out online:
dmcommunityjazzcenter.org**

JAZZ IN JULY

One Month, Thirty Bands, Twenty-Two Venues!

July 1 • 5 p.m.

Mike Giles the 3 x 5
West Glen Fountain
Plaza, West Des Moines

July 1 • 7 p.m.

Giants of Jazz/Des Moines
Big Band & The Music of
Thad Jones
[same as above]

July 2 • 5:00 p.m.

Java Jews
Lion's Park, Urbandale

July 2 • 7 p.m.

Tony Valdez Large Band
[Same as above]

July 6 • 6:30 p.m.

Jumbies
Casady School,
16th and Allison Ave.

July 8 • 7:00 p.m.

Giants of Jazz/Skunk River
Jazz Band & The Music of
Scott Joplin and Friends
West Des Moines City Hall
4200 Mills Civic Parkway

July 9 • 5:00 p.m.

Dave Camwell Quintet
Heartland Presbyterian
Church, Clive

July 9 • 7:00 p.m.

Ashanti Latin Jazz
[Same as above]

July 10 • 6:00 p.m.

Peoples Connection
Waukee Downtown Triangle

July 10 • 7:30 p.m.

Wayne Page Quartet
[Same as above]

July 11 • 6:00 p.m.

Mandy Julson, Storyteller
Greenwood Park,
Sylvan Theater

July 11 • 6:30 p.m.

The Roxi Copland Band
[Same as above]

July 12 • 6:30 p.m.

Brazilian Sunset featuring
Don Brown & John Scott
Roosevelt High School

July 13 • 6:00 p.m.

Susie Miget's Creative Music
Studio Young Jazz Artists
Salisbury House

July 13 • 6:30 p.m.

Susie Miget Group featuring
Janey Hooper
[Same as above]

July 14 • 10:30 a.m.

Keith Nash Septet
Scott / Four Mile
Community Center

July 15 • 6:30 p.m.

Giants of Jazz/Tina Haase
Findlay & The Music of
Fats, Billie, Ella & Irene
Behind the Shops at
Roosevelt

July 16 • 7:00 p.m.

Giants of Jazz/Scott Smith
Five & The Music of
Michel LeGrand
Science Center of Iowa

July 22 • 10:30 a.m.

Party Gras Classic
Jazz Band
Raccoon River Park

July 22 • 6:00 p.m.

Sam Salamone Trio
featuring Steve Grismore
and Rob Messer
Botanical Center

July 23 • 6:30 p.m.

Giants of Jazz/Ed Kaizer
Junior Group & The Music
of Duke Ellington
Wesley Acres, 3520 Grand

July 25 • 12:15 p.m.

Belin Quartet featuring Pete
Simonson, John Morgan,
Steve Charlson
Downtown Public Library

July 26 • 4:00 p.m.

X-tet
Beaverdale Park

July 26

Giants of Jazz/ Stu Calhoun's
80th Birthday Band
& The Music of the Modern
Jazz Quartet
[Same as above]

July 27 • 5:30 p.m.

Classic Jazz featuring
vocals by Judi Brown
Blank Park Zoo

July 27 • 6:30 p.m.

Freestyle
[Same as above]

July 29 • 6:00 p.m.

Giants of Jazz/ Hot Club of
Des Moines & The Music of
Stephane Grappelli
Valley Junction
6:00 pm
Sponsor: Historic Valley
Junction Foundation

July 30 • 5:30 p.m.

Octangle
East Village Books

July 30 • 6:30 p.m.

Luca Donini Quartet
State Capital West Steps

July 30 • 8:00 p.m.

Wrap-up Party
Pianopalooza
Grand Piano Bistro

Notes & Tones

From Jazz@Casper Terrace: The Return of Trio X in October

Local jazz fan Abe Goldstien is pleased to announce the return of Trio-X (**Joe McPhee - trumpet & sax; Dominic Duval - bass; Jay Rosen - drum**) to Casper Terrace in Waukee, IA on the evening of October 18. Those of you who attended their performance in October 2006, know the caliber of music to expect from these world-renowned musicians. The October 18 performance will also serve as a release party for a box-set recording of Trio-X live sessions, including their 2006 appearance in Waukee! Plus, there is no better spot to experience the beauty of the music and the personality of the performers than the intimate setting of Casper Terrace. To order tickets or for more information, contact Abe at 515-279-6452 or at abe@trilixgroup.com.

From CJC: New Jam Session Format

In late spring, CJC introduced a new format for the first-of-the-month jam session. Several weeks prior to the session, participants receive a list of tunes to be performed at the next session. They can request a copy of the music as well as a CD containing a recorded version of the selections. For example, in April we honored musicians born in that month by playing some of their tunes. In May, we celebrated Miles Davis' birthday with an afternoon of tunes associated with the trumpet player. Songs are selected for beginners to advanced musicians. The change in policy was made for several reasons: to introduce participants to a wider range of tunes; to maximize performance time by eliminating the time it took to select songs and organize music during the session; and to provide advanced players with more challenging tunes. Participants are always more than welcome to suggest tunes for upcoming jam sessions. And don't worry, you can always show up at the jam session and join in!

From CJC Hall Of Fame: Video Interviews Receive Award

The video interviews presented at the 2007 CJC Jazz Hall of Fame received several Awards of Excellence from the Iowa Motion Picture Industry. Our congratulations go to Brackett Media, who have assisted in the production of these interviews for the past six years.

From: Ames Jazz Party Lineup For November Party Announced

The 15th Annual Ames Jazz Party is a tribute to the memory of Don Newbrough, co-founder and –sponsor of the Ames Jazz Parties. As an appropriate tribute, they have put together a quintet of some of Don's favorite jazz musicians — cornetist **Warren Vaché**, trombonist **John Allred**, drummer **Leroy Williams**, bassist/vocalist **Nicki Parrott** and guitarist **James Chirillo**. The Ames '08 Jazz Party will open on Friday, November 21, 2008 at 6:45 p.m. – performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Setting is the Hotel at Gateway Center, US 30 & University Boulevard (formerly Elwood Dr.), Ames, Iowa. Cost: \$45.00 per person. Send your reservations and checks in early to be sure of getting in. Mail check, payable to Jazz Party to: Harry Weiss, PO Box 1536, Ames, IA 50014.

From CJC: Membership Update

Thanks to the following individuals for making a financial contribution to CJC:

- Teri Dermody/Davis Sanders family
- Jack Houser
- John Krantz
- Curtis and Evelina Leaverton
- Robert Leaverton
- Kendrik Packer
- Reimans Music-South

Thanks to the following new and renewing members for their support of CJC:

- Vic Anderson
- Judi Brown
- Lois Davis
- Lee Furgerson III
- William Godi
- Marvin Krause
- Paul Micich
- Steve O'Brian
- Varun Ramaswamy
- Tom Seaberg
- Roz Ansher
- James Bush
- Robert Day
- Penny Furgerson
- Wayne Kobberdahl
- Lyle Krewson
- Barb Nish
- Kay Parker
- Nick Ruechert
- Bruce Smith

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