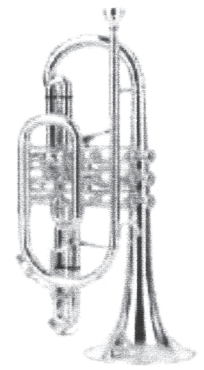


JAZZ SOUNDINGS

THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY



January 2019

Volume 44, Number 01

JANUARY 20TH - UPTOWN LOWDOWN AND A DAY OF APPRECIATION FOR BERT BARR!

by George Swinford



I'm guessing that Bert Barr's Uptown Lowdown Jazz Band has played for PSTJS once each year since our society started hiring bands. It's certain that they have done so in this century. Since 2007 they have started each year as our January band. January 2019 will be no exception, yet it's going to be something a bit different. Rather than the familiar larger band, Bert will be leading the pictured quintet of long-time Uptown Lowdown members. That's Rose Marie Barr, piano, Art Horgen, tuba,

Paul Woltz, soprano and bass saxes, Bert Barr, cornet and, on the right, Andy Hall, trombone.

John Ochs explained in last month's Jazz Soundings how Bert, the late Barry Durkee, and Susan Speer (then Uptown's vocalist) co-founded PSTJS, back in 1975. Bert had organized his Uptown Lowdown Jazz Band a few years earlier, and for 45 years it has provided its wide repertoire of classic jazz tunes and unique ensemble sound to us in the Northwest, to all of America and

indeed, to much of the world. The PSTJS board has agreed that it's long past time for us to acknowledge and celebrate Bert's contributions. January 20th is going to be A Day of Appreciation for Bert Barr.

Spread the word that this year's Uptown Lowdown session will be something special. Bring a couple of friends along, listen and dance to the Uptown Lowdown quintet and join in celebrating Bert's contribution to our society and to the music we love.

WHERE:

Ballard Elks Lodge
6411 Seaview Ave. NW, Seattle

WHEN:

1 pm - 4:30 pm - January 20

ADMISSION: Pay only at door.
\$12 PSTJS members
\$15 non-members.

Free admission for those under 21 who accompany a person paying admission.

FURTHER INFO:

Carol Rippey 425-776-5072.

Or - website: www.pstjs.org. Plenty of free parking; great view & dance floor, snacks, coffee, and other beverages available.

Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society

19031 Ocean Avenue
Edmonds, WA 98020-2344
425-776-5072 www.pstjs.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elks Lodge, Ballard, 6411 Seaview Ave N.W., Seattle

Jan. 20	Uptown Lowdown Jazz Band <i>A Day of Appreciation for Founder Bert Barr</i>
Feb. 17	Jen Hodge's All-Stars
March 17	Gerry Green's Crescent City Jazzers
April 28	Terry Rogers' Ain't No Heaven Seven
May 19	TBA
June 16	TBA

PRESIDENT	Jim Blokzyl	jazzoidjim@aol.com 253-344-1247
VICE PRESIDENT	Bill Julius	wdjulius@live.com 360-943-4492
SECRETARY	Cilla Trush	paultrush@yahoo.com 206-363-9174
TREASURER	Gloria Kristovich	mercurybird@outlook.com 425-776-7816

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keith Baker	kacybaker@comcast.net	425-823-4635
Joanne Hargrave	shorejo1@comcast.net	206-550-4664
Myra Karp	myra@larrykarp.com	206-284-9203
Edmund Lewin		360-297-6633
Patrick Monteith	patrick.monteith@gmail.com	206-979-1324
John Ochs	johntochs@comcast.net	206-932-8313
Carol Rippey	trianglejazz@comcast.net	425-776-5072
Michael Shilley	michael.j.shilley@gmail.com	206-890-6237

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Carol Rippey trianglejazz@comcast.net 425-776-5072

MUSIC DIRECTOR

John Ochs johntochs@comcast.net 206-932-8313

EDITOR

Anita LaFranchi jazzeditor@q.com 206-522-7691

WEBMASTER

George Peterson ggpeters99@gmail.com 425-890-8633

JAZZ SOUNDINGS

Published monthly except July and August by the Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society.

Anita LaFranchi, Editor, jazzeditor@q.com

Ads must be submitted in a jpeg or PDF format

Payment in advance to: Gloria Kristovich, P.O. Box 373, Edmonds, WA 98020-0373

Advertising Rates:

Full page	\$100.	7 1/2" wide by 9 1/2" tall
Half Page	\$60.	7 1/2" wide by 4 1/4" tall
Quarter Page	\$40.	3 5/8" wide by 4 1/4" tall

Deadline is the 10th of the month for the next month's issue

Gigs for Local Bands

BELLINGHAM TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

1st Saturday, 2-5pm VFW Hall 625 N. State St., Bellingham, WA

Jan. 5	Bonnie Northgraves & Friends
Feb. 2	Jen Hodge's All-Stars
March 2	Clearbrook Dixie Band
April 6	Market Street Jazz Band
May 4	Leigh Smith's Maple Leaf Jazz Band
June 1	Evergreen Classic Jazz Band

DAVE HOLO TRIO

Salty's on Alki 1936 Harbor Avenue. SW Seattle, WA 98126

(206) 937-1600 <http://saltys.com/seattle>

Jan. 4	5 - 8pm
Jan. 18	5 - 8pm

OLYMPIA JAZZ SOCIETY

2nd Sundays 1-4 pm Elks Lodge. 1818 Fourth Ave E., Olympia, WA

Jan. 13	Uptown Lowdown JB
Feb. 10	Bellingham Dixieland All-Stars
March 10	Ray Skjelbred's Yeti Chasers
April 14	Black Swan Classic Jazz Band
May 5	Gerry Green's Crescent City Jazzers
June 9	Evergreen Classic Jazz Band

PEARL DJANGO

Jan. 2,3 7:30pm Jazz Alley We will be celebrating 25 years of Pearl Django. Please help us celebrate!

2033 Sixth Ave., Seattle, WA (206) 441-9729

Jan. 25 7:30pm Oak Bay Recreation Centre. Celebrating 25 years of performing and with luck, we will have our new CD available. Presented by Beacon Ridge Productions 1975 Bee St.; Victoria, B.C. (Canada)

continued on page 5

J THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY
JAZZ SOUNDINGS



On Your Dial.....

Sunday

3 - 6 pm Ken Wiley's Art of Jazz on KNKX - 88.5FM

JEN HODGE – CARRYING FORWARD THE TRADITION

by John Ochs



“Jennifer Hodge, Vancouver, B. C. bass player, bandleader, and arranger, plays with a wide variety of artists all over the world. When Jen leads a band, she likes it hot – hard swinging grooves, boisterous New Orleans style horns, cheeky lyrics, intriguing arrangements, plenty of spontaneous fun and an infectious love for making music. Jen’s expertise in traditional jazz has taken her to stages all over the USA, Canada, China, Spain, France, the UK, and the Caribbean.” - Band biography, Syncopated Times

Hot lyricism with beautiful melodic statements and just the right blend of rocking collective improvisation ... I delight in hearing evidence that the young bloods are swinging so hard, with such taste and individuality, and I delight in the particulars of their music.” -Michael Steinman, JAZZ LIVES, New York

“With Ms. Hodge driving the band, the musicianship is consistently excellent, the frameworks give the set plenty of variety, and the music always swings hard.” Jazz journalist Scott Yanow

“Jen is a mainstay of the traditional jazz scene in Vancouver; nay, she’s not just a mainstay, she may even be the nucleus.” - Pianist & bandleader Solomon Douglas

While recent articles in our newsletter have focused on veteran bandleaders, this month’s issue profiles a new-generation jazz musician who has been making quite a name for herself in the Pacific Northwest as well as nearly everywhere else. You may remember Jen Hodge from prior performances at our club meetings as the bass player

in Mighty Aphrodite, but now she is much in demand as a bandleader and side musician. Fortunately, she has fond memories of her previous appearances here and has kindly agreed to bring her all-star band down from Vancouver to play at our February meeting.

Hodge was born and raised in Courtenay, B. C., a city located in the Comox Valley region on the east side of Vancouver Island. Jen recalls there was always music in the home while she was growing up. Her parents were amateur musicians. Her mother played flute in a community concert band and has maintained an interest in folk and classical music of all types, but particularly English folk music. Her father played acoustic guitar as a young man, using both nylon- and steel-stringed instruments. Recently retired, he is playing again, and has taken up electric guitar as well.

Jen’s introduction to the performing arts came from taking dance classes during her elementary school years. Much to the surprise of her parents, who were not particularly interested in rock music, she was drawn to the by-then vintage music of the Beatles, and by the time she was 11 years old, she had decided she wanted to be a rock musician and – naturally enough – not just a musician, but a rock star.

The next year in Grade Seven at junior high school, Hodge faced a decision which had long-term consequences – what instrument to play? Since most of the instruments in the school’s concert band were not used in a typical rock band and since playing lead guitar wasn’t an option either, Jen opted for the next closest thing – the electric bass. By age 15, she was earning money playing in a basement rock band she had formed and working as a pit musician for community theater.

When she moved on to Grade 11 in high school, Jen still dreamed of being a rock star, but again fate intervened. As had been the case in junior high, the school’s concert band needed a bass player, but the instrument of choice for the band’s repertoire was the more formal acoustic instrument rather than the electric bass. As it happened, playing upright bass opened up a new musical world when she was invited to join a modern jazz combo which older classmates had put together. Playing in a combo was another turning point because for the first time she experienced the freedom of small-group jazz.

In 2001 and 2002, Hodge attended the CYMC (Comox Valley Youth Music Centre) jazz camps where bandleader Hugh Fraser counseled that if she wanted to be a professional musician she should give it “110 percent, and not have something else to fall back on.” Taking his advice to heart, she enrolled in the Jazz Studies program at Capilano College (now University) in North Vancouver, B. C. By this time, she

continued on page 4

Hodge - continued from page 3

had already decided to devote her life to playing music for a living.

When Jen arrived at Capilano in 2002, she had no expectation that traditional jazz would be the music she would end up playing. "Traditional jazz was not a focus of the school curriculum," she recalls. "But on my first day, I met Evan Arntzen and Bria Skonberg. They had a traditional band Bria had started in high school. They were playing gigs and actually flying to places on weekends and playing festivals, when they were that young." Right away, Hodge started to hang out with them in school and at their traditional jazz gigs. Eventually, she started subbing on bass when their tuba player left. This led other leaders to hire her for their shows, and before long she was in demand as an established bass player.

The success Jen enjoyed in her first year at college was a surprise. "Coming from a small community, I thought I would not be as advanced as students from bigger cities, but it turned out I was better than I thought." As the requests rolled in, she accepted every gig she was offered even at the expense of her studies. Learning music in a classroom was fine, but the most direct path to becoming a professional musician was to work with experienced players. Although it took an extra year to complete her formal education, the decision was the right one because she paid her own way through school and gained experience as a working musician at the same time. Even so, Jen excelled as a student musician, performing in the school's top ensembles and receiving the first Linton Garner Memorial Jazz Award in 2005. She graduated from Capilano in 2007 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies.

Hodge's first experience as a bandleader came in the summer of 2006 when she teamed with some student colleagues to form the **Company B Jazz Band**. The band began as a vocal-oriented group featuring three-part harmony sung in the swing style of the Andrews Sisters,

but soon its repertoire expanded to include arrangements rooted in the hotter, more jazzy style of the Boswell Sisters. Although the band performs in a variety of configurations, the core roster features the vocal front line of Shannon Scott, Juhli Conlinn, and Bonnie Northgraves, and an instrumental trio anchored by Jen on bass. She also has served as the band's booking agent and contributed arrangements and transcriptions to the group's tune list. Notably, it was her research that introduced the Boswells' music to the band.

Jen's traditional jazz band, the **Jen Hodge All-Stars**, came about as a result of her role as **Company B's** booking agent. She had booked **Company B** to perform in December 2010 at a Vancouver swingdance club. The organizer said the November band had canceled, and he was having trouble finding a substitute. He didn't want to use **Company B** two months in a row, but could she maybe put a different band together on short notice? As it turned out, the date of the gig was November 13, which was Jen's birthday: "I told him I'd love to play a gig on my birthday. I'll just call all my best friends and make them play my favorite songs ... So, I put a bunch of charts together. It was an awesome band. It was a good night and a good party. People really loved it. The organizers booked me again, right away."

Jody Bowen, manager of the **Guilt & Co.** in Vancouver's historic Gastown district, heard about the **All-Stars** from a friend who had attended one of the swing dances. Bowen had been struggling to find a band to enhance her club's image as a racy, high energy nightspot, and she decided to give the **All-Stars** a try. The band's first gig on a Wednesday night in January 2011 was a hit. Since then, **Guilt & Co.** has come to be recognized as Vancouver's premier night club and, as one critic put it, "a major hub for the city's musical creative minds." Today, eight years later, Hodge's **All-Stars** band remains one of the club's leading attractions while continuing to hold down the weekly Wednesday night slot.

Jen is just as busy as a side musician as she is as a bandleader. She has performed with the Milk Crate Bandits, Brothers Arntzen, Blackstick, Diane Lines, Solomon Douglas, and the Universal Gospel Choir and has worked with such diverse acts as Rebecca Kilgore, Casey MacGill, Dal Richards, bandleader Glenn Crytzer, country stars The Higgins, and rock producer Garth Richardson. She has also directed and performed with groups for CBC Radio and CTV productions, is a regular at swing dance events all over the Northwest, does frequent top-call corporate work, and has appeared on over a dozen albums.

Hodge's philosophy about band leading has evolved. When she first formed the **All-Stars**, she used a consistent lineup, but now she makes a point of varying the band's personnel from gig to gig. She explains: "A couple of years ago I switched to hiring different people all the time. It's been really great. I think that it is in the spirit of traditional jazz, and it has been helpful in developing the community. It's rewarding to place myself in the role of giving young musicians a chance and watching them swim on their own. It also makes it easier to throw gigs to musicians who are coming through on tour and that kind of thing. It's always very exciting, and it gives the music an extra jolt of excitement, too."

As we go to press for this article, Jen, in her typical fashion, has not yet settled on her band's personnel for our February 17th concert. Whatever she comes up with, you can be sure that it is bound to be tasty, exciting, unique, and perfect for dancing. Stay tuned to this same station in next month's Jazz Soundings for an update! Don't forget. Note the date on your calendar now! It's gonna be a blast!



Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society
19031 Ocean Ave., Edmonds, WA 98020-2344

Please (enroll) (renew) (me) (us) as a member or members

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____
 Zip Code _____ E-Mail _____
 Phone _____ Check when renewing if your address label is correct

Dues for 12 months: Single \$25 Couple \$40 Lifetime single \$200 Lifetime Couple \$350
 Patron \$500 (One or two lifetime membership)

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. _____

The Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to the performance and preservation of traditional jazz. Your membership and contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you.

Gigs - continued from page 2

RAY SKJELBRED'S YETI CHASERS

Feb. 2 5 to 7pm at the Royal Room
 5000 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

JACOB ZIMMERMAN

Jan. 3 11:15am KNKX live radio broadcast 11:15 a.m.
<http://www.knkx.org>
 Jan. 15 10-11am Music Center of the Northwest
 901 N 96th Street, Seattle, WA 98103
<https://www.musiccenternw.org>

WELCOME NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

MIKE DAUGHERTY / JULIE GRANT



We're looking for new
Members

YOU can help with little effort and that's by bringing just one of your friends or family members into our club. If WE ALL do that, our membership will double.



THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY
JAZZ SOUNDINGS

Red X on your Jazz Soundings mailing address label with **your name** on it - means it's time to renew your membership.

TWO red XX means last chance to Renew Now!

**Puget Sound
Traditional Jazz Society**
19031 Ocean Ave.
Edmonds, WA 98020-2344

Address service requested

Non-profit Org U.S. Postage Paid Seattle, WA Permit 1375
--

BANDS, CONTACTS

AIN'T NO HEAVEN SEVEN Leader: Terry Rogers
terryrogers@comcast.net 206-465-6601

BARRELHOUSE GANG Leader: James Walls
206-280-1581 email: barrelhousegang@gmail.com
www.barrelhousegang.com

BOURBON STREET ALL STARS
Leader: Jeff Winslow (360) 731 0322 drjwjazz@gmail.com

COAL CREEK JAZZ BAND Leader: Judy Logen, 425-641-1692
Bookings: judy@coalcreekjazzband.com

CORNUCOPIA CONCERT BAND Leader: Allan Rustad
www.comband.org 425-744-4575

DAVE HOLO TRIO Leader: Dave Holo email: dave@daveholo.com
www.holotradband.com

DUKES OF DABOB Bookings: Mark Holman, 360-779-6357, sea-
clar7@embarqmail.com.

DUWAMISH DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND Bookings:
Carol Johnston, 206-571-7938 carolanjo@yahoo.com,
www.duwamishdixielandjazzband.com

EVERGREEN CLASSIC JAZZ BAND Leader: Tom Jacobus
email: t.jacobus@comcast.net ph: 253-852-6596 or cell 253-709-3013

FOGGY BOTTOM JAZZ BAND Leader: Bruce Cosacchi
206-819-7079 email: pbc200606@yahoo.com

GRAND DOMINION JAZZ BAND Bookings: Bob Pelland
bobpelland@gdjb.com 360-387-2500

HOT CLUB SANDWICH Contact: James Schneider
www.hotclubsandwich.com 206-561-1137

HUME STREET PRESERVATION JAZZ BAND
Bookings: Karla West 406-862-3814

JAZZ UNLIMITED BAND Leader: Duane Wright
duane.janw@frontier.com 206-930-9998

JAZZ STRINGS Bookings: Dave Brown
jazzstrings@comcast.net 206-650-5501

LOUISIANA JOYMAKERS Leader: Mike Hobbs
mikehobbs1924@gmail.com

THE MARKET STREET DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND
Ansgar Duemchen: 425-286-5703 Tim Sherman 206-547-1772
www.marketstreetjazz.com

MIGHTY APHRODITE Co-leaders: Bria Skonberg, Claire
McKenna mightyaphroditejazz@hotmail.com 405-613-0568

NEW ORLEANS QUINTET Jake Powel 206- 725-3514
jake_powel@comcast.net

RAINIER JAZZ BAND Manager: Randy Keller
randolphscottkeller@gmail.com 206-437-1568

RAY SKJELBRED
rayskjelbred@gmail.com 206-420-8535

SWINGIN' IN THE RAIN Leader: Dina Blade
dinablade@dinablade.com 206-524-8283

UPTOWN LOWDOWN JAZZ BAND Leader: Bert Barr
uljb@yahoo.com 425-898-4288

WILD CARDS JAZZ Leader: Randy Keller
randolphscottkeller@gmail.com 206-437-1568

THE YETI CHASERS Leader: Ray Skjelbred
Rayskjelbred@gmail.com 206-420-8535 For more information:
<http://www.rayskjelbred.com/calendar.html>