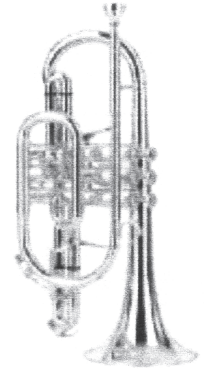


# JAZZ SOUNDINGS

THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY



November 2021

Volume 46, Number 3

## IT'S BLACK SWAN, WITH MARILYN KELLER, ON NOVEMBER 21

By George Swinford



### Band line-up:

Marilyn Keller, vocal  
Rick Holzgrafe, cornet  
Don Stone, trombone  
Steve Matthes, clarinet  
John Bennett, piano  
Ron Leach, drums  
Kevin Johnston, banjo  
Kit Johnson, tuba

make it happen. With Marilyn's rich voice and flawless delivery it's easy to imagine her as one of the vocal stars of the old Black Swan company, along with Alberta Hunter, Trixie Smith, Eva Taylor, and the great Ethel Waters.

*(Continued on page 2)*

The Black Swan Classic Jazz Band declares itself "Dedicated to the preservation of Dixieland, old-time gospel, early jazz, and ragtime music." The band's name memorializes Black Swan Records, a Black-owned company of the early 1920s. Founded by Harry Pace in Harlem, it was about the first to produce recordings featuring Black artists and intended for an African-American audience.

Kit Johnson, founder of the band, is the self-proclaimed "owner and operator of the tuba." Rick Holzgrafe will be playing cornet. We most recently heard Rick on cornet with the Evergreen Classic band at our November 2018 concert. Steve Matthes, former director of the

OSU concert band, will play clarinet. Don Stone, the trombonist, played here with the band in 2013. Pianist John Bennett earned some of his college tuition playing in a burlesque theater. He claims to be the only pit pianist who never looked up. The drummer will be Ron Leach. He is a lifelong student of percussion who has played in jazz, Latin, blues, and bluegrass bands, as well as symphony and theater orchestras. The banjo with this group of Oregonians will be locally sourced, played by Kevin Johnston.

It took a bit of schedule juggling to ensure that singer Marilyn Keller would be free to appear, but band leaders Kit Johnson and Jonathan Doyle swapped concert dates to

### WHERE:

**Ballard Elks Lodge**  
6411 Seaview Ave. NW,  
Seattle, WA

### WHEN:

November 21, 1–4:30 p.m.

**ADMISSION:** Pay only at door  
PSTJS members, \$12  
Nonmembers, \$15

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

**FURTHER INFO:** Carol Rippey,  
425-776-5072, or [www.pstjs.org](http://www.pstjs.org).

Plenty of free parking; great view & dance floor; snacks, coffee, and other beverages available.

## Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society

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### UPCOMING PSTJS EVENTS

November 21: The Black Swan Jazz Band  
with Marilyn Keller

December 19: Ray Skjelbred's Yeti Chasers

## Gigs for Local Bands

### RAY SKJELBRED TRIO

Saturday, November 27, 2021, 5–7 p.m.  
Royal Room  
5000 Rainier Ave. S.  
Seattle, WA

For more info, visit: <http://theroyalroomseattle.com>

### **BLACK SWAN** (Continued from page 1)

The Black Swan Classic Jazz Band is a top-notch group which we've enjoyed in previous appearances and Marilyn Keller is a first class attraction in her own right. In combination they are just not to be missed! Join our happy masked and vaccinated group of listeners and dancers for an afternoon of the real stuff, at the Ballard Elks on November 21!

## Welcome, New Members!

Mark & Patti Seklemian  
David McClung

### JAZZ SOUNDINGS

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Kathy Bruni, Editor: [pstjs.editor@gmail.com](mailto:pstjs.editor@gmail.com)

### ADVERTISING RATES

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Half Page, \$60. 7 1/2" wide by 4 1/4" tall

Quarter Page, \$40. 3 5/8" wide by 4 1/4" tall

**The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month for the next month's issue.**

Ads must be submitted in a JPG or PDF format

Mail checks *in advance*, payable to PSTJS to:

Gloria Kristovich  
P.O. Box 373  
Edmonds, WA 98020-0373

## PREZ SEZ

By Jim Blokzyl

The more I become involved with the Jazz Society, the more it intrigues me. So many memories continue to return to “those good old days,” when anything musical would gain my attention and there was always something happening. One of the most influential was the music that took us to the Ebony Club, where musicians would gather at 6 a.m. each Saturday and play until dawn. Much fun, but walking out of the place at noon left a lot to be desired, since most of us had plans to go dancing to Elmer Green’s Spanish Castle Band that night. That was the place to meet the rest of the

acquaintances and make friends with new ones for dates that would come later. That’s kinda how it appears on the current third Sundays at the Elks, except that most of the members are now white-haired, but still enjoy listening and dancing to the great music of America! It opens the door to finding new members that are looking for that kind of friendship and the sound of the music from those days gone by. So let’s look around and find those folks and become partners here in Ballard.

## A NOTE FROM A PAST PREZ

By John Heinz, Lifetime Member

It has come to my attention that, once again, the Board is having difficulty enlisting candidates from the membership to be a member of the Board. Having been in your position, just a happy member enjoying the Sunday concerts, I was just as reluctant as you when recruited to be a member of the Board. However, after twenty years, since 1993, I caved, was on the Board for five years, and then became the President. I had planned to be President for several years, but an unexpected life change resulted in moving to Coos Bay after only six months as President. (My home is Chelan now.)

I look back with great joy on my association with the wonderful members of the Board. They all are so knowledgeable, and Board meeting discussions often induce a vignette from a member regarding an event from their past. But Board membership is much more important than just that. We are a diminishing, rare group of folks who are lucky to have been alive when the great musicians of the twenties, thirties, and forties were there for us. The traditional jazz era, and the swing era to follow, were the greatest years for America’s music. As I write this, I am remembering going to the Italian Village in San Francisco to listen to Turk Murphy. Fortunately, I was stationed there for six

weeks and could go twice a week.

I encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity to be on the Board. The quarterly Board meetings are never more than ninety minutes. The reports are brief. The agenda items are presented for discussion, and occasionally a member is assigned to follow up and report back. The PSTJS cannot survive without a dedicated Board. I can assure you that you will retire from the Board with considerable satisfaction that you have done your best to keep the music alive.

PS: I have been a traditional jazz devotee all of my life. My father graduated from the University of Washington in 1930, was a fabulous banjo player, put himself through college with his traditional jazz band, and continued with the band during the Great Depression. They practiced once a week in the living room of our small cottage, and I slept on the other side of the thin wall of our bedroom. I was born in April 1931. It’s in my blood. I’ve had a wonderful life, thanks in large part to the music I have enjoyed. My wife and I go to sleep each night listening to one of our many playlists: traditional jazz, swing, and country.

## Membership News

Our September concert was a great re-opening success—fine trad jazz enjoyed by more than 70 folks, many of whom had renewed their PSTJS membership after the COVID hiatus.

More concerts are scheduled, and we hope to hear from many more of you who are ready to rejoin us for some OKOM. As always, you have the choice of annual, lifetime, or patron-level memberships, all at no increase in cost.

Please use the registration form on the top of page 5 to send us your check. That will help us keep the music flowing, and will enable you to share it with us. We hope to see you soon.

# PSTJS RE-OPENS FOR BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021!

By John Ochs



*The long and the short of it: The return of live jazz to the Ballard Elks club! Good Herb Jazz Band (left to right): Dan Marcus, Michael Van Bebber, Mike Daugherty, Dave Holo, Kevin Johnston, Jacob Zimmerman, Paul Hagglund, and Ray Skjelbred*



*Dave Holo solos while the rest of the front line listens and studies Lu Watters' complicated charts*

After 19 months of silence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PSTJS members reveled in the return of live hot jazz to the Ballard Elks Lodge, as presented by the Good Herb Jazz Band.

The September 19th concert was memorable for several reasons. Outside, the weather brought the wettest weekend of the year. During a break between sets, people near the windows were treated to the thrilling view of a sudden squall as it blew in across Puget Sound and inundated the Magnolia enclave on the opposite side of Shilshole Bay. Inside, the music was enthusiastically received. A final tally reported 70 paid attendees (50 members and 20 nonmembers), much better than anticipated by the PSTJS board. The amount still did not cover operating costs, but donations and the payment of membership dues kept us in the black for the month. Unfortunately, bandleader Dave Loomis was unable to attend, due to a death in his family, but Dan Marcus took over Dave's trombone duties and the music never skipped a beat. We offer our deepest condolences to Dave and his family on their loss.



**Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society**  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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 memberships)

**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 to the extent provided by law. Thank you.*



We're looking for new

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 our membership will double.

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THANK YOU.

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