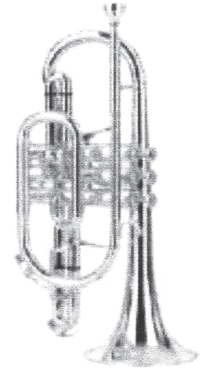


JAZZ SOUNDINGS

THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY



December 2023

Volume 48, Number 11

IT'S SKJELBRED'S YETI CHASERS ON DECEMBER 17!

By John Ochs, with assistance from prior articles by George Swinford

“Happiness Lies Under Your Eyes Back In Your Own Backyard.”



Before launching into a preview of what Ray Skjelbred's Yeti Chasers have in store for us this holiday season, let's take a minute to examine its leader's stature not only here in the Pacific Northwest, but also in the traditional-jazz world at large. Those of you who attended the New Orleans Ale Stars concert in September may remember that Simon Stribling introduced Ray to the audience as “a national treasure.” Because Skjelbred lives in the Seattle area, it is easy for us to take him for granted and remain unaware of the respect that his artistry commands from musicians elsewhere.

Except for annual appearances at a few Midwestern festivals, Ray has spent most of his 60-plus-year career on the West Coast. Well-versed traditional-jazz musicians and aficionados have appreciated his piano work for a long time, but until recently, his prowess had not

received the mainstream recognition it deserves. Happily, this is changing. In 2018, his film *Piano Jazz—Chicago Style*, won the Historical Documentary award at the New York Jazz Film Festival. In 2020, the prestigious *Synco-pated Times* published a two-part interview of Ray, followed by another interview this year in its June issue.

Skjelbred's piano style recalls the work of such masters as Earl

(Continued on page 4)

WHERE:

Ballard Elks Lodge

6411 Seaview Ave. NW
Seattle, WA

WHEN: December 17
1–4 p.m.

ADMISSION: Pay only at door
PSTJS members, \$15
Nonmembers, \$20

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

FURTHER INFO: Carol Rippey,
425-776-5072, or 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

Jan. 21, 2024: The Ain't No Heaven Seven
Feb. 18, 2024: Alex Guilbert's Stampede Sextet
Mar. 17, 2024: Dave Loomis Septet
Apr. 21, 2024 Market Street Jazz Band
May 19, 2024 Seattle Trad Jazz Band



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**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 Terry Rogers

First of all, thank you to those who helped the Ain't No Heaven Seven celebrate its 40th anniversary at the Royal Room. Dave Loomis joined us on cornet, and Bert Bertram (and wife Pat) drove up from California for the long weekend to once again play with us. It was great fun, and a bit sobering to accept that it was indeed 40 years...yikes!



A sister organization to ours on the East Coast, the Potomac River Jazz Club in the Washington, D.C. area, has been very active for a long time. Years ago, I happened to attend one of their events when I was visiting D.C. It was an enjoyable evening.

The reason to mention them at this time is that this club sponsors a monthly Internet-based educational event called the PRJC Zoom Jazz Class. They schedule a featured speaker who informs the attendees about some aspect of traditional jazz, such as a musician, a composer, or a band. The events are free but, of course, they accept donations to help defray expenses. Currently, the sessions are held once a month on a Monday, with the next session on December 4 at 4 p.m. PST. Registration is required and occurs through Eventbrite. All of the pertinent information about their club's activities, including the Zoom Jazz Classes, can be found on their website, which is www.prjc.org. I should also mention that all of their past Jazz Classes are available on their YouTube channel via links on their website. I think that this is a very valuable educational service and is very much worth checking out. Thank you to PRJC for thinking of us and including our members in this activity. I am definitely going to participate and will access the sessions that have already been recorded.

On another note (sorry!), please remember that the December meeting is when we vote to elect (or re-elect) board members and officers. I am very grateful for the time and energy that all of our board members and volunteers offer to support our activities and monthly meetings. You know who they are, so please offer them a word of thanks for their efforts to keep this music available for us to enjoy.

See you on December 17!

THANKS FOR THE DONATION!

Ron and Julie have contributed to pay for the December concert as a gift to the PSTJS membership, especially the officers, the board members, and the many volunteers.

To donate for upcoming concerts contact treasurer Gloria Kristovich at (425) 776-7816.

GIFTING OPPORTUNITIES

By Gloria Kristovich

Gifting opportunities arise all over the place. Maybe one of your neighbors shoveled your driveway last winter. Perhaps people you know like traditional jazz, or maybe someone is curious about what our kind of jazz really is.



It turns out that we have ample stock of the five-band CDs that were produced years ago for our Youth Scholarship Fund. We have been selling these for \$5.

Then there are the two holotradband CDs that the Holo family donated to PSTJS after Dave Holo's sudden passing in November 2021. I currently have over three large boxes of these in my garage!

So, here's the deal: Buy two, get one free. Come to one of our concerts, buy any two unopened Holo CDs for \$3 each and get a free unopened five-band CD. That's three great CDs for a total of \$6.

By the way, just because the selling price of the Holo CDs is low definitely does NOT mean they are not really worth more—much more! You can find lists of the song titles on our website, PSTJS.org.

This offer does not refer in any way to the other CDs we sell on concert days.

Raffle Donation

Thank you to Dave McClung, who donated his winnings from the 50/50 drawing back to the youth fund.

Thank You

SKJELBRED'S YETI CHASERS (Continued from page 1)

Hines, Joe Sullivan, Art Hodes, and Jess Stacy, who made their reputations in Chicago during the 1920s. As a leader, he chooses a variety of tunes: some familiar, some obscure, and some just not heard very often. Sometimes the band may play a tune at an unfamiliar tempo to highlight an aspect of the music we may not have noticed. Rest assured, however, that danceable rhythms will prevail, whatever tempo Ray chooses. And give a listen to Ray's piano "fills," which accent the efforts of his band mates during the open spaces in their solos.

The December meeting will be the Yeti Chasers' 12th appearance as our pre-Christmas band. Early on, when the band was a fixture at the New Orleans Restaurant in Pioneer Square, it was called "The First Thursday Band." Since the restaurant's closure in 2015, it's been known as the Yeti Chasers.

This year's group features the same personnel who entertained us last December. On the front line, Steve Wright plays trumpet and reeds; Jacob Zimmerman plays clarinet and alto sax. Mike Daugherty will sing a few vocals and co-chair the rhythm section on drums, along with Matt Weiner on bass, Josh Roberts on guitar and, of course, Ray on piano. Steve and Mike are holdovers from the original First Thursday Band. Jacob came aboard in 2017, and Josh and Matt in 2021. Except for Steve, each has led combos for us in the past.

As we have come to expect, Ray will introduce us to compositions new to the Yeti Chasers repertoire. One of these will be an arrangement of "My Darling Nelly Gray," which draws inspiration from a record by Louis Armstrong and the Mills Brothers. For me, it will be worth the price of admission to see and hear how the band meets the challenge of adapting its style and personnel to a source recording that is in large part a vocal arrangement. We are also likely to hear an original composition or two from Ray's latest solo album, *Everything Has the Blues*, recorded this past August.

So, at this December meeting, let us join together and rejoice in the holiday season and in the fact that one from our "own backyard" is gaining much deserved recognition for his excellent musicianship and long service to traditional jazz. Put aside your Christmas preparations for a few hours, put on your dancing shoes, and join the PSTJS crowd at the Ballard Elks lodge on Sunday, the 17th. Bring a friend or two!
Remember, youngsters under 21 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

MUSICAL EMOTION AND THE AUGMENTED CHORD

By Ray Skjelbred

I always have an instant and intense emotional reaction when I hear the song "Shine On, Harvest Moon." It is a positive reaction; it touches my heart. I feel a sort of unresolved yearning, a melancholy mood, all from the first note, which occurs on the word "Shine." Why? It is a simple song, short and repetitive. In fact, the second half of the song really just repeats the first half. But it begins with the most emotional construction in music: the augmented chord. This chord is created by taking a simple construction, a major triad, and playing the top note of that chord one step higher, a slight difference. That change turns it into a kind of leading tone that needs to be resolved, a restless sound that hangs in the air and needs to come home, which it finds by the time you play, sing, or hear the second note, which is "On." And for emphasis, those notes/words are repeated to establish the first line "Shine On, Shine On Harvest Moon."

Of course, music has its technical or mathematical side, but you don't need to have musical notation skills to understand it. All you need is an ability to listen. After that first line, "Shine On Harvest Moon" quickly returns to a more predictable musical world, but the suspense and melancholy feel of that augmented chord still hovers over the whole sound. If you want to try out examples of the augmented effect, there are some wonderful recordings of this song. The Boswell Sisters have a lovely recording that charges boldly into the augmented first note. And there are many other varied examples that tell me the musicians heard that yearning sound. Leon Redbone did it, and Count Basie, and Ruth Etting, and Milton Brown, and Tuba Skinny and my favorite—Laurel and Hardy.

Another song that begins with the augmented note is New Orleans clarinet player Joe Darensbourg's "Lou-Easy-An-I-A." If you care to listen carefully to the 25th and 26th measures of "The Sheik of Araby," you'll hear the same emotional tension—the augmented, the chord looking for home.

In the long run you don't need to know anything about chords and math: if you listen for it and your heart quickens on the word "Shine" you are there.

GIGS FOR LOCAL BANDS

JACOB ZIMMERMAN 3

Jacob Zimmerman, alto sax and clarinet; Chris Spencer, guitar; Matt Weiner, bass
Every other Sunday, 8–10:30pm
 Zig Zag Café, 1501 Western Ave Ste 202, Seattle
 (206) 625-1146; www.jacobrexzimmerman.com

HIDDEN DOOR TRAD JAZZ/SWING JAM

Every other Monday, 8–11 p.m.
 This month, **December 11**
 The Hidden Door, 14525 Aurora Ave. No., Shoreline
 Contact: James Wall, (206) 741-3424

MATT WEINER & FRIENDS

Wednesdays, 7–10 p.m.
 The Pink Door, 1919 Post Alley, Seattle
 (206) 443-3241; website: <http://thepinkdoor.net>

JACOB ZIMMERMAN 3

Thursdays, 8:30–11:30 p.m.
 Il Bistro, 93 Pike St. Suite A., Seattle
 (206) 682-3049; website: www.ilbistro.net

ALEX GUILBERT'S STAMPEDE SEVEN TRIO AND QUARTET

Swing It Seattle Anniversary Celebration
December 2, 7:30 p.m.
 Polish Cultural Center, 1714 18th Ave, Seattle
 (206) 909-3365; info@SwingItSeattle.com

ALEX GUILBERT

Alex Guilbert solo piano at the 1611
 1611 Everett Ave., Everett
December 9, 16, 23, and 30, 7:30–9:30
 (206) 909 2365; website: www.1611everett.com

ALEX GUILBERT

T.O.P. Jazz Band
January 4, First Thursday Art Walk
 Beneath the Streets, 6–8 p.m.
 Corner of Occidental Ave. and S. Main St., Seattle

ALEX GUILBERT

Alex Guilbert presents "Piano Starts Here"
January 17, "The Orbit of Bix and Louis"
 Solo piano sets by Alex, Ray Skjelbred, and Andrew Oliver
 Royal Room, 5000 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle
 (206) 906-9920; website: theroyalroomseattle.com

RAY SKJELBRED TRIO

January 20, 3:30–5:30
 The Royal Room, 5000 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle.
 (206) 906-9920; website: theroyalroomseattle.com

We're looking for new members
YOU can help with little effort by
 bringing just one of your friends
 or family members into our club.
 If **WE ALL** do that, our
 membership will double.



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

If any of you are thinking
 about moving,

**NOTIFY US PROMPTLY
 OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS.**

Email to: trianglejazz@comcast.net

Or phone: 425-776-5072.

THANK YOU.

Photo Review of Bridgetown Sextet, October 15, 2023

Photos courtesy of Bob Morgan



The band: David Evans, reeds; Sam Dechenne, trumpet; John Moak, trombone; Eric Gruber, bass; Doug Sammons, banjo; Tyson Stubelek, drums; Andrew Oliver, piano, and guest saxophonist Austin Yancey. Appreciative smiles by band members for each other's work abounded.

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

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

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City, State, ZIP code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Check when renewing if your address label is correct

Dues for 12 months: Single, \$30; Couple, \$50; 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.

PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

PSTJS officers and board members—December 2023 absentee ballot

* Incumbent

If you must miss the December meeting, here is your chance to vote for your PSTJS officers and board members. Remove the ballot from the newsletter, vote your preference, and mail by Dec. 10, 2023 to: PSTJS, 19031 Ocean Ave., Edmonds, WA 98020-2344.

Place your name(s) and the word **BALLOT** on the top left of the envelope. Your name will be checked on election day and your vote added to the rest. On election day the ballots will be removed and the envelope discarded before the ballots are tallied.

OFFICERS

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 Terry Rogers*

VICE PRESIDENT
 Joanne Hargrave*

SECRETARY
 Cilla Trush*

TREASURER
 Gloria Kristovich*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vote for **eight** of the following candidates.

Carolyn Baker* Keith Baker*

Jim Bloxyl* Sharon Dooley*

Bill Julius* Gary Milligan

John Ochs* Carol Rippey*

Heather Scarse

If you intend to vote at the concert in December, you will be required to present your membership card to receive a ballot.

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www.barrelhousegang.com

BOURBON STREET ALL STARS Leader: Jeff Winslow
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CoalCreekJazz@gmail.com; 425-283-2993

CORNUCOPIA CONCERT BAND Leader: Allan Rustad
aprustad@comcast.net; 425-744-4575; www.comband.org

DUKES OF DABOB Bookings: Mark Holman
seaclar7@embarqmail.com; 360-779-6357

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

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

HUME STREET PRESERVATION JAZZ BAND
Bookings: Karla West, 406-253-3157; glacierjazz@hotmail.com

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

JAZZ STRINGS

Bookings: Dave Brown, jazzstrings@comcast.net; 206-650-5501

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THE MARKET STREET DIXIELAND JASS BAND
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Tim Sherman, timshermanguitar@msn.com; 206-547-1772
www.marketstreetjazz.com

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www.rayskjelbred.com/calendar.html