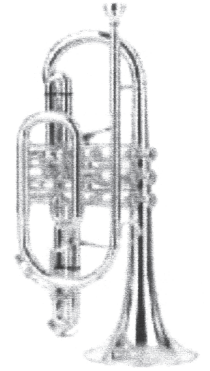


# JAZZ SOUNDINGS

THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY



January 2023

Volume 48, Number 1

## ON JANUARY 15, IT'S ALEX GUILBERT'S MUSICAL CHAIRS!

By George Swinford



*(l to r) Matt Weiner, string bass and banjo; Jerome Smith, trombone and tuba; Eric Eagle, drums; Alex Guilbert, piano; Jacob Zimmerman, various reeds; Jonathan Doyle, clarinet and bass saxophone*

Musical Chairs? What sort of a name is that for a traditional jazz band? Here's how Alex explains it: "The reason I decided to call it Musical Chairs is two-fold, I guess. First, everyone is bringing in a few arrangements, so we kind of have rotating bandleaders, in a way. Second, the bass chair is rotating, as well. We'll have bass sax for a set, tuba for a set, and string bass for a

set. So just a lot of shifting for three sets."

With Alex Guilbert on piano as nominal leader, here are the other musicians who will be doing all that shifting: Jacob Zimmerman on reeds, Jonathan Doyle on clarinet and bass sax, Jerome Smith on trombone and tuba, Matt Weiner on string bass and banjo, and Eric Eagle on drums.

With bass sax in the mix, Alex will be bringing in some Adrian Rollini material. Rollini was a gifted multi-instrumentalist popular in the twenties and thirties. Wikipedia notes that "scattered through the 1920s, Rollini's great bass sax solos were on scores of records and were usually outstanding." Notable among the many groups featuring Rollini was one called The Goofus Five. Goofus was a common name for the quesnophone, a mouth-blown free-reed instrument

*(Continued on page 3)*

### WHERE:

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

### WHEN:

January 15, 1–4 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.

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### UPCOMING PSTJS EVENTS

February 19: The Ain't No Heaven Seven  
March 19: Matt Weiner's Noonatics  
April 16: TBA  
May 21: The Old Grey Eagle Jazz Band

### GIGS FOR LOCAL BANDS

#### 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, 9–12 p.m.  
Il Bistro, 93 Pike St. Suite A., Seattle  
(206) 682-3049; website: [ilbistro.net](http://ilbistro.net)

#### ALEX GUILBERT QUARTET

(Guilbert, Zimmerman, Weiner, and Schatz)  
January 7  
Swing It Seattle, Polish Center, Capitol Hill, Seattle

#### T.O.P. JAZZ BAND (Guilbert, Doyle, and Daugherty)

January 14, 2–4 p.m.  
Ev Stern's Jazz Workshop, 1060 NE. 100th St., Seattle

#### ALEX GUILBERT AND JACOB ZIMMERMAN

February 11 and February 25  
The Rouge, 10204 Main Street, Bellevue

### JAZZ SOUNDINGS

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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  
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## PREZ SEZ

By Terry Rogers

Well, here we are, with another year in the books. From the standpoint of the Society, I think that it was a good one. We heard some great music played by many very talented musicians and appreciated the many fine dancers on the floor.



Once a month we have the opportunity to kind of forget all else that might be going on in our lives or in the world around us and come to enjoy and be surrounded by the music we love, played in many different ways and different styles.

We have been spoiled over the years by the talent and skill of so many of our musician performers. It is so rare to hear a sour note, or, as some might call it, a “clam.” Make no mistake, they occur, but not very often. One fellow musician once remarked to me, “There are no bad notes in jazz, just poor choices....” The thing is, all musicians have to start somewhere. They have to learn, make mistakes, gain experience, and, most importantly, gain confidence that how they play and what they play is worthy of presentation and acceptance and appreciation. For some, it comes pretty easily, but for others it takes time and no little prodding. No more hiding behind another player or standing many feet away from the microphone.

Many years ago, we used to offer a jam set in our monthly sessions, where individual musicians could come and have the opportunity to play a few tunes in public as they improved their skill and confidence. Sure, the quality varied, but from such sessions arose players who would mature and become comfortable with their abilities, enough to be willing to continue progressing in their musical journey. I remember one banjo player (to remain unnamed) back in the Russian Center days, who would only stand off-stage behind the side curtain and play that way so no one could see (or hear) them play. As I said, you have to start somewhere.

I recently did a rough count of the total number of years of musical experience that is present just in our (currently) six-person band, and it is well over 400 and counting. Some musicians are born with more innate talent than others, but everyone you hear play

has had to work diligently and consistently to get to where they are now. There is a sense of joy and accomplishment that comes with playing in a group that is making good music. Sometimes it flows easily and sometimes it is more work, but no matter how it comes out, it is for the musicians a most worthy endeavor. Those of us who play truly appreciate the feedback and engagement of those in the audience, and it entices us to keep the music coming. It is good for us, and we are hopeful that it is good for you also.

See you on the third Sunday in January!

### **ALEX GUILBERT AND THE MUSICAL CHAIRS**

*(Continued from page 1)*

resembling a toy saxophone and sounding like a cross between a harmonica and an accordion. It was patented in France in 1924 and Rollini quickly mastered it and used it throughout the ‘20s. Alex has recently acquired a similar-sounding mouth-blown free-reed instrument, but one that uses a three-octave keyboard for input. It’s called a melodica. Expect some ersatz Goofus solos during the bass sax set!

On January 15, we’ll enjoy much more than the usual amount of musical variety. As each set features a different bass instrument played by a different musician, the instrumental makeup of the band will vary accordingly. In Jerome’s tuba set there will be no trombone. With Jonathan playing bass sax, the only other reeds will be Jacob’s. With Matt in his usual role as stand-up bassist, we’ll hear no banjo. Eric’s drums will be a constant, as will piano, except when Alex doubles on melodica during the bass sax set. Also, with arrangements coming from rotating leaders, we can expect a variety of presentations of the classic tunes we enjoy.

We know the band members from many previous concerts, but this time they get the chance to do something a bit different. Alex is excited about this show, and we should be too. Let’s get together at the Ballard Elks on the 15th to listen and dance to Alex Guilbert and the Musical Chairs. Unlike with the similarly-named party game, there will be a chair waiting there for everyone.

### **Raffle Donation**

Bravo to the sweet lady guest Evelyn Shively who donated the \$71 she received in the 50-50 raffle on 12/18. She wrote on a napkin: “In honor of great jazz musicians everywhere.”

*Thank You*



## Photo Review of the Black Swan Jazz Band, November 20, 2022

*Courtesy of Lynn Graves and Bob Morgan*



*The band: Steve Matthes, clarinet; Rick Holzgrafe, cornet; Ron Leach, drums; Dave Loomis, trombone; Kit Johnson, tuba; Marilyn Keller, vocals; and Andy Hall, piano.*



*Turning back the clock from Daylight to Standard Time provided a variety of photo opportunities. At left, Marilyn looks to the sky for inspiration early in the afternoon. Later, the camera caught the silhouette of a parasol dancer parading to Fat Waller's "The Joint Is Jumping." And so it was!*

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*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.*

## Welcome to New Member

Marc Sachnoff



*Welcome!*

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