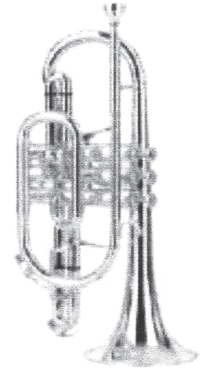


# JAZZ SOUNDINGS

THE PUGET SOUND TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY



May 2023

Volume 48, Number 5

## AFTER A LONG HIATUS, THE MARKET STREET JAZZ BAND RETURNS ON MAY 21!

By George Swinford (quoting shamelessly from research by John Ochs)



Left to right: Jim Bigelow, Ansgar Duemchen, Jim Dejoie, Tim Sherman, John Mascarella, and Bob Merihew



Tim Sherman

The Market Street Jazz Band played our June concert back in 2012. In the nearly eleven years since then, the band has kept the same roster of musicians (with one recent retirement). They have retained their emphasis on the sound of traditional New Orleans jazz. Taking their name from Ballard's Market Street, they have been featured at the Salmon Bay Eagles, Egan's Ballard Jam House, the Conway Muse, the Bellingham and Olympia jazz societies, various private events, and recently at Kenyon Hall.

Trumpeter Ansgar Duemchen and banjoist Tim Sherman are the band's co-leaders. In an accompanying article, John Ochs has profiled Ansgar's interesting musical background. Just quoting him briefly here, Ansgar has said, "We all play with passion. We play traditional New Orleans jazz, featuring a lot of '20s and '30s dance tunes, including "The Charleston" as well as West Coast numbers like Turk Murphy's "Big Bear Stomp" and hot jazz favorites like "Snake Rag," "Cornet Chop Suey," "Mahogany

(Continued on page 5)

### WHERE:

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

WHEN: May 21  
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

June 18: Jacob Zimmerman and His Pals  
*July–Aug Summer break*

Sept 17: Simon Stribling and his All-Stars

Oct 15: Andrew Oliver's Bridgeport 7

Nov 19: Black Swan Classic Jazz Band

Dec 17: Ray Skjelbred's Yeti Chasers

### GIGS FOR LOCAL BANDS

#### JACOB ZIMMERMAN 3

Jacob Zimmerman, alto sax and clarinet; Chris Spencer, guitar; Matt Weiner, bass  
**Tuesdays**, 6:30–9pm  
Place Pigalle  
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#### 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)

### 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

A question swirls around this music that we play, listen to, dance to and enjoy. And that question is: Is it relevant any longer? Has its time come and gone? Is it only old folks like me and perhaps you who hang on to the tunes and rhythms until they just die out?



So, I have two sons who are in their fifties. They are fine humans and make a father proud. They both played instruments in middle and high school, but other pursuits led them away from direct participation in music. They have always been supportive of my trad jazz fascination and have attended many of our gigs over the years. But their taste in music has led them to more modern bands and performers. For a long time, they intently followed a band called Widespread Panic, often seeing concerts on three successive nights in distant cities. More recently it is a band called Phish, which played a couple of sold-out concerts here in Seattle last weekend. I am listening to their music in the background as I write this.

Well, you might ask, what is the point of my sons' musical interests (and that of thousands of others)? Here is the connection: Much of the music that is played by Phish and adored by legions of fans is structurally the same as the structure of so many of the Trad Jazz tunes that we have played and enjoyed for so many years.

Yes, the songs may be drawn out (and out), but the chord progressions and structures of the songs are just like what we play and listen to. Songs start on the root



chord, progress to the fourth, then the fifth, and back to the root chord. Yes, the instrument makeup of the bands certainly differs—usually two guitars, keyboard, and drums—but the music is grounded in the formats of the music that has resonated in this country and with us for well over a century. The musicians often take prolonged solos, repeating the chord progressions over and over, but their crowds love it and clamor for more.

So if you are in a lamenting mood about the survival of trad jazz, take at least some comfort in the realization that without trad jazz, a lot of popular music of today just might not exist.

In the meantime, support and treasure what we have. And bring a friend to our next meeting!

## Did you lose a ring?

If any of the ladies who attended the April 16 concert lost a silver ring, please call Gloria at (425) 776-7816 or email [kristovichg@gmail.com](mailto:kristovichg@gmail.com) to identify it. I have the ring.

## Raffle Donation

Thank you to the Sharpes for their donation of \$55 from the 50/50 drawing at the April PSTJS meeting.

*Thank You*

## Welcome to New Members

Patricia Raine

Connie Ward

## ANSGAR DUEMCHEN, A HORN FOR ALL SEASONS

By John Ochs



Ansgar Duemchen, co-leader and music director of the Market Street Jazz Band, is a versatile and well-traveled brass horn musician. Besides obtaining a formal education steeped in the classical tradition of baroque trumpet and brass orchestra, he was an avid participant in Europe's hot jazz craze of the 1980s, a scene particularly remembered for its singular enthusiasm and energy, in part because the music's popularity peaked there a full generation later than in America and its musicians were on average quite a bit younger than the veteran Americans still playing traditional jazz at the time.

Ansgar was born in a town in the Black Forest region of Germany just across the border from Basel, Switzerland. As a youth, his father encouraged him to study violin, but he preferred trumpet. In 1987, he enrolled in the Music Academy of Basel (Switzerland) where he studied with Leonard Cecil and the

celebrated baroque trumpeter Edward Tarr. When Tarr accepted a temporary position as guest lecturer at Washington State University (WSU), he invited Ansgar to continue his undergraduate education there. Ansgar stayed on at WSU for three years (1988–91), studying with Gerald Webster and earning an undergraduate degree in trumpet performance. During this time, Ansgar played his first traditional jazz in the U. S. with the Snake River Six in the Pullman area.

After graduation, Ansgar returned to Germany, where he taught trumpet and band at music schools in Gernsbach and Neuenbuerg and performed in a variety of European-style brass bands and symphony orchestras throughout the Black Forest region. Interest in hot jazz was huge in Europe at the time, and he was a founding member in two jazz bands, the Black Forest Dixie Dogs and the Sugar Foot Stompers, as well as filling in on cornet with the Hardt Stompers.

Finding that work as a freelance musician in Germany couldn't support a family, he returned to Washington state with his wife in 1999. In 2002, he earned a masters degree and certificate in music education from Western Washington University. He has taught band and orchestra at Jackson High School in Mill Creek and at Leota Junior High in the Northshore School District. Currently, he is the Director of Band and Instrumental Music for Park Place Middle School in the Monroe School District.

In addition to his classroom duties, Ansgar has played with numerous orchestras throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 2000, he assembled Dr. D and the Dixie Dogs, a band patterned after the freewheeling hot jazz he had played in Europe. In 2001, he co-founded the Seattle Trumpet Consort, a group comprised exclusively of musicians who perform on trumpets patterned after the baroque instruments of the 18th century. He also plays E-flat cornet for Puget Brass, a British-style brass band specializing in both traditional and contemporary compositions and arrangements.

After the Dixie Dogs ran its course, Ansgar and long-time Seattle blues guitarist and banjoist Tim Sherman assembled a new jazz band in 2011 with a traditional trumpet-clarinet-trombone front line and rhythm section of drums, tuba, and banjo. When the band's

first gig at the Salmon Bay Eagles aerie near Ballard's Market Street proved a success, they settled on Market Street Jazz Band as a band name.

Assembling the band was a joint effort on the part of both leaders. Tim drew upon his prior associations as a working musician and Ansgar from the Dixie Dogs. The pandemic put a damper on the band for a while, but they've been busy in recent months, playing regularly again at old standbys like Egan's Ballard Jam House, Third Place Books, the Conway Muse, the Salmon Bay Eagles, and the Bellingham and Olympia jazz societies, as well as at weddings and corporate events. Ansgar recently visited New Orleans for the first time and returned more enthused by traditional jazz than ever.

As a lifelong musician who has performed with so many different types of ensembles, Ansgar has accumulated a collection of vintage-style brass instruments that would do any museum curator proud. As part of our jazz Sunday, we have invited him to bring a few of these instruments with him and share with us his love for the various sounds they produce.

Our Market Street Jazz Band concert on May 21 will be a memorable experience. Mark your calendars and join us for a fun time. And remember that young people under 21 will be admitted free when they accompany an adult who pays admission. Please invite your friends and their families!

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### **MARKET STREET JAZZ BAND** *(Continued from page 1)*

Hall Stomp," and "Basin Street Blues." We play music for dancers and we throw in some vocals, too." That all sounds like our kind of thing!

Co-leader Tim Sherman will be playing banjo. Also known to the Seattle blues community as "Stoop Down Slim," he is a three-time recipient of the Washington Blues Society's "Best of Blues Award for Best Electrical Guitarist." Tim's extensive blues activity lies outside the scope of this article, but here is what Tim had to say about his involvement with the Market Street Jazz Band: "Trad jazz, Dixieland, and swing was the first music I really loved as a child and early teen, due to my mom's great collection of 78 rpm records. I learned a bit of guitar on my own (and) took tenor banjo lessons. I played electric blues

after that period, but always loved trad and would listen to bands whenever possible...I reconnected with tenor and plectrum banjo about twenty years ago, met Ansgar, and joined the band. It was my first traditional group." (For the blues side of Tim's musical life, Google "Tim Sherman blues guitar.")

Clarinetist Jim Dejoie is a Seattle native. He has been a member of the Market Street band since 2012. He's equally fluent on clarinet, baritone, and alto saxes, bass clarinet, flute, and percussion. He has been playing, writing and performing in Seattle for over thirty years.

Trombonist John Mascorella is a founding member of the Market Street band. After graduating from Issaquah High School, he attended the University of Washington. His Facebook posting says "Musician (trombone) plays all styles." Since returning in 1997 from playing in Alaska he has been a musical instrument repair technician at Kennelly Keys in Lynnwood.

Brady Kish will be playing string bass. He has replaced long-time sousaphonist Jim Bigelow, who recently retired. Brady is from New Orleans, by way of Michigan. He has gigged with trad, modern jazz, and blues bands in New Orleans and here in Washington.

On drums we'll hear Patrick Roulet, subbing for regular drummer Bob Merrihew. Patrick is a professor of percussion at Western Washington University, with all the credentials and accomplishments that implies. He has been a guest drummer with Market Street at the Bellingham Jazz Society.

Duemchen, Sherman, Mascorella, and Dejoie were in the band we heard almost eleven years ago, but most of us will remember that session only slightly, if at all. Although "Jazz" has replaced the archaic New Orleans "Jass" in the band's name, their piano-less instrumentation remains. It reflects the makeup of many of the New Orleans bands of the early 1900s. As well as dances, those bands had parades, picnics, funerals, and wagon-borne advertising gigs where pianos would have been an impediment. The top piano men were elsewhere anyway, perfecting their art on fine pianos in Storyville's lavish bordellos.

We'll get a little different take on New Orleans jazz in particular, and traditional jazz in general, as the Market Street Jazz Band plays on May 21. Be with us at the Ballard Elks to hear and encourage this new addition to our list of local bands!

## PLEASE SHARE YOUR FAVORITE JAZZ MEMORY WITH US

We know that there are many, many jazz events and stories that have played an important part in your life. Our goal is to gather a collection of stories for our editor to use in the *Jazz Soundings*, when space is available. The topics could include such things as:



- When did you first listen to this kind of music?
- Where did you hear it?
- Who were you listening to?
- Is there a particular melody that brings back a flood of memories?

Did you ever have the opportunity to listen to or chat with the musicians, (or leader) of any bands that are no longer in existence? This invitation is not only extended to our listening and reading members, but also to our musicians. Don't worry about grammatical or spelling errors; we have an expert proof reader on board.

You may put your memories down on paper and mail them to PSTJS, 19031 Ocean Ave, Edmonds, WA 98020, or email your stories to [pstjs.editor@gmail.com](mailto:pstjs.editor@gmail.com). We hope to be overwhelmed with stories and memories sharing the joy of loving this music.

**ONE red X** on your *Jazz Soundings* label reminds you that it's time to **RENEW** your membership

**TWO red XXs** on your label means that you must **RENEW NOW!**

**THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST  
ISSUE OF JAZZ SOUNDINGS!**

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.

## JAZZ MEMORIES

By Connie Ward

I am a recent subscriber to your newsletter. You asked about first experiences with jazz music. One afternoon in 1969, while I was attending college, I was walking along Broadway on Capitol Hill in Seattle. Music was coming out of a record store. It sounded so amazing that I had to go inside and purchase the record. It was the vinyl album called *Wade in the Water* by Ramsey Lewis (issued in 1966 by Cadet Records in Chicago). I still have the record.

When I was growing up, no one in my family listened to jazz. It's just something that really appeals to me. Consequently, I've been able to attend some stellar performances by other jazz musicians over the years, including Dexter Gordon (who I saw in the early '80s at the Jazz Alley venue that used to be located in the University District). I was lucky to see Wayne Shorter a few years ago, before he passed away, at Benaroya Hall.

I look forward to seeing other stories from your readers.



**Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society**  
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**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.*



## **PSTJS HAS A YOUTUBE CHANNEL!**

We are pleased to announce that you can access the Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society's new YouTube channel as follows:

1. If you read *Jazz Soundings* online, click this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKrTj5vJuXGkztByAZzMXkw>
2. If you read the *Jazz Soundings* paper edition, either type the above link onto your browser's address line or go to the YouTube website and search "PSTJS." The PSTJS channel should appear at or near the top of the listings.

Presently, the channel offers three videos:

- Andrew Oliver and His Buddies' June 2022 Jelly Roll Morton concert
- A Day of Appreciation for Bert Barr - Part 1
- PSTJS Bert Barr Event 2019 Part 2 YT

There will be more to come. Please subscribe (at no cost) and help us grow our channel!

### **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**

If any of you are thinking  
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**NOTIFY US PROMPTLY  
OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS.**

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Or phone: 425-776-5072.

**THANK YOU.**

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