

SECOND LINE

Newsletter of the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society

A Quarterly Newsletter

October 15, 2020

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Director: Carol Lingenfelter
Director: Ted Turner



The PRIJB: L to R: Ray, Clarke, Charlie, Larry, Alan, Rory, Oscar, Lenny

Website: <https://www.prijb.com/>

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON:

Dear Friends of Jazz,
We Keep on Keeping On! in this pandemic.

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times....” The opening paragraph of Charles Dickens’ novel, *A Tale of Two Cities* tells the story of contrasts and comparisons...times of chaos, conflicts and despair. Suffering on one hand, and joy and hope on the other.

How are you coping.....and hoping?

One way is to attend our next First-Friday-at-Avo’s PRI jazz session on November 6th from 2 to 4 pm at Avo’s. We’ve learned how “selling a table” and all wearing masks can really work. The two-trumpet band was warmed up and lively last month.

But how we miss the three-hour indoor comradery with our Poudre River Irregulars!

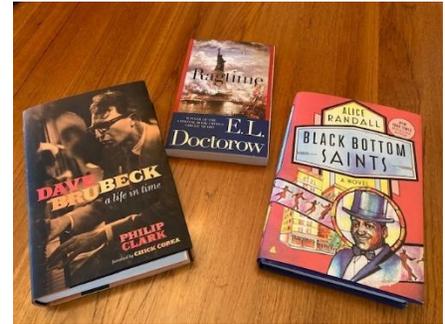
Here’s how I “cope with hope” and music at home:

I just finished reading *Dave Brubeck, a life in time* by Philip Clark with a foreword by Chick Corea, (2020) This will stay on my shelf to be reread as a resource for jazz history.

Next on my reading list:

Black Bottom Saints: A Novel by Alice Randall, 2020. I'm eager to start this one about jazz in Detroit.

Ragtime.... E.L.Doctorow, 1975. This would be a re-read for fun. Remember the movie or Broadway show?



Right now, I'm into a book written in 1931: *Mozart* by Marcia Davenport. Eccentric Mozart?! I didn't realize his back story was so interesting! As "they say" – if you want a new idea, read an old book.

Once a month my "Piano Pals" group of 5 friend-pianists play for each other in a Zoom mini-recital with a laptop or iPad on top of each friend's piano. We currently don't get together for lunch and recital but on Zoom we take turns playing, and then talking about music or good books to read.

Whether you're playing, reading, or listening, Keep Music Alive in your days!

"Jazz washes away the dust of everyday life!" Art Blakey

The KUVU jazz station is on "24/7" throughout my house. (I still have to dust the house, but I feel better!)

From Peg, your appreciative fan

FROM THE SECRETARY-WEBMASTER-MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

First Friday at Avo's on November 6th.

Well, the virus is still with us and we are being careful with distancing and masks. We had a another really great outdoor version of our traditional First-Friday-at-Avo's on October 2nd. Avo's new system for making reservations to attend our events continues to work well. The PRIJB played well as usual with two trumpets, and it was really great to hear their live Traditional Jazz again.

We are planning for another First-Friday-at-Avo's event on November 6th at 2pm and we hope that will come off as well as did our earlier events. The band will have two trumpets again, so keep an eye on those emails I send out often about our upcoming events and check out our website at: www.prijb.com and our Facebook pages and Google as well. We will keep you posted on our upcoming events as the virus situation develops. At present we do not have a plan for December.

Jazz Society Membership – dues renewals:

As you may already know, I am now handling the Jazz Society membership renewal process. I am using email to request dues renewals when they come due, so please keep an eye on your email for those notices. For those who do not use email, I am sending dues renewal notices via US Mail. We understand that the virus situation has made it difficult to get out for many. However, it is important to keep our Jazz Society and the Poudre River Irregulars going through these virus times. It will be a great help if you can renew your dues as usual. We will have a November 6th live jazz performance by our band at Avo’s, however, at this point we are not sure about the plans for the following months. We will keep you posted.

Jazz Society and the Poudre River Irregulars - 25th Anniversary Year:

The Poudre River Irregulars and the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society were founded in 1995 thus making this year our 25th anniversary year, providing live traditional jazz performances and encouraging and promoting the performance of traditional jazz in our area. I ran across a really great article in the Coloradoan newspaper from March 1996 highlighting the band when it was one year old, and I thought our members would be interested in seeing that article as a special memory at this time of our 25th anniversary year. The article begins on Page 4.

Thanks
Fred
FWSmith, Secretary

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:

For Facebook: When you’re logged in to Facebook, search for “Poudre River Irregulars Jazz”. Please “like” our page and “share” the page to your contacts. Your “like” and “share” are very important to spread the word of our Northern Colorado exuberant jazz! Your help is appreciated!

Our Google page: On your device (cell phone or ipad) you can google the band by using “Poudre river irregulars jazz band” in the search box. You’ll see that you can click to the new website home page, to Facebook posts by us and to Facebook posts by Avogadro’s, KRFC, Denver Jazz Club, and more.

First Friday at Avo's

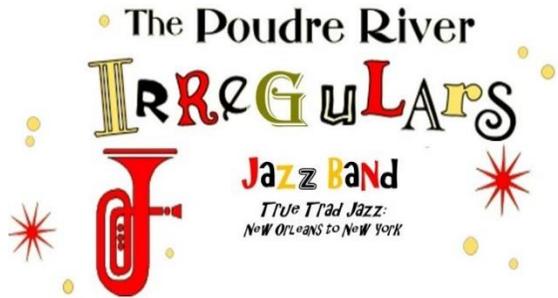
Avo's is located at 605 S. Mason, Fort Collins, (970) 493-5555.

Hot Jazz with the Poudre River Irregulars Jazz Band

Advance Table Reservations Required at:

<https://www.avogadros.com/>

Become a Jazz Society member today go to www.prijb.com



Our October 2nd performance at Avo's was a great success and our next one is on Friday November 6th. It will be outdoors, with distancing and masks.

FOR SALE - Beautiful Steinway Grand:

1924 Steinway Model "M" Baby Grand Piano (5' 7" long), beautiful Mahogany case, professionally restored in 1972. Original Ivory and Ebony keys, recently tuned & appraised,

comes with a quilted cover for the piano and the bench cover as shown.

A member of our family since 1930, reluctantly offering this heirloom for sale at \$12K OBO.

Contact Len Kellogg at 970-593-1964 or lenkellogg@lpbroadband.net



In this photo, the musicians are (left to right) Bill Runyan, trombone, Bob Cooke, Band Leader, Cornet, Neil Strand, reeds, Christine Stevens, reeds and piano. I heard them often in that time period and I even have recordings from that era (on cassette of course) that I listen to often.

PS: If any of our members were actively following the PRIJB at that time, please give me any further information or corrections, and I will be sure the word gets out.

Local big band a jazz regular

Poudre River Irregulars spread traditional musical experience

By ELIZABETH BEARD
The Coloradan

The Poudre River Irregulars truly are irregular.

A dying breed, they are the only professional, traditional jazz band in Fort Collins and the spearhead for an area jazz society.

Equally unique is their makeup. The nine-member band includes a clinical psychologist, four Colorado State University faculty members, a Colorado State University graduate student and music therapist, a Fort Collins Symphony member and two engineers.

"We all had varying degrees of musical experience, but not with traditional jazz," said Bob Cooke, the founder/leader of the band, and one of the founding members of the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society. "Playing traditional jazz is new for most of our group, but it gives us the chance to re-create the music of the '20s and '30s and play it as it was originally played."

The band got its start less than a year ago by Bob Jackson and Cooke, who are both accomplished musicians. Cooke's jazz experience began with the Platte River Jazz Band and continued with the Queen City Jazz Band where he was the first trumpeter. Jackson, also a trumpeter, played with the widely known Excel-

sior and Grand Dominion jazz bands.

With the hope of finding musicians and people interested in traditional jazz, they turned to Bill Runyan, trombone player and chairman of the Music, Theater and Dance Department at Colorado State University. Together, the threesome united eight men and one woman to form the Poudre River Irregulars. They had their first performance at Bar Bazaar in April 1995.

"The basic premise of our group is to provide an alternative type of music for the Fort Collins area," Runyan said. "There is a big market for all kinds of music in Fort Collins except for jazz. We want to provide that venue."

Playing what Cooke terms "Louis Armstrong-style music," and attracting senior citizens and college students alike, the band has been playing at Avogadro's Number and Bar Bazaar in Fort Collins, and at the Denver Jazz Club. In addition, they have other irregularly scheduled performances.

"This is uplifting, happy music," Cooke said. "It is part of our heritage and important for people in this region. But, more importantly, it can serve as a resource for people in Fort Collins."

"Our aim is to sensitize people to this music that is not heard on a reg-

ular basis and to serve as an educational resource," he said. "We want to find sponsors so we can become an outreach program and go to schools and play. We do this for fun, not to make money."

However, playing the music that was made famous in New Orleans, the heartland of jazz, does not come easily. The group, which has to work around faculty meetings, vacations and other activities, practices a few times a week.

"We have to practice on a regular basis in order to play good music — but it is hard to find time when you are working with a group of professionals," said Gary Atkins, guitar

player and nephew of Chet Atkins, the famous guitar player. "I play my guitar for two to three hours a day in addition to our group practices, which we have two or three times a week. It is a significant time commitment."

Nonetheless, their Dixieland jazz is becoming increasingly popular. There weren't any empty seats when they played at Avogadro's Number last month, and the group expects the same turnout for its next performance.

"They just look like they are having so much fun," said Dorothy Mazur, a first-time audience member. "This music just makes me feel young and carefree again."