



Willamette Jazz Society

Annual Report 2025

Our mission is to foster a vibrant local jazz scene through concerts and educational programs that encourage our community to love, study, and perform live jazz.

Artwork by Don Latarski

**THE JAZZ
STATION**
EUGENE'S HOME FOR LIVE JAZZ

Growth, Impact and Leadership

Everyone likes to play on a winning team.

2025 was just that year for The Jazz Station. We strengthened our lineup with a new Executive Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Event Managers and Website Master. Three new board members brought expanded networks and executive expertise to our community.

What does this mean? The Jazz Station is better positioned than ever to expand its mission to deliver jazz education, appreciation and performance opportunities to more audience-goers, members, students, and musicians.

The 2025 Play-by-Play

Jazz Education and Community Awareness

Steve Owen, Emeritus Professor of Music, along with five graduate teaching fellows from the University of Oregon Jazz Studies Program, returned to schools to provide clinics and performances for more than 815 students.

We also spread The Jazz Station gospel by inviting hundreds of community members to four free summer concerts at the Eugene Pavilion civic center. We danced and listened to a variety of jazz music from salsa to blues performed by some of the best musicians the Northwest has to offer. Hundreds of folks came out to enjoy the fun!

Venue & Operations

We streamlined membership and renewal sign-ups, refreshed the website, and refined reporting tools to support data-driven decision-making and grant applications. We enhanced storytelling through professional video communications that strengthen community engagement. Programming sales rose 7% driven by 68 sold-out shows (out of 165), reaching more than 9500 audience members and 1,000 musicians and students. The Jazz Station launched a more robust sound and bar volunteer training certification program. This further professionalizes operations and strengthens civic participation.

Investing in our Future

Our first-ever 1:1 donation-matched fundraiser raised \$27,000, with 183 donors supporting 33 Butte to Butte "Team Jazz Station" race participants. Membership grew by



55 new members, and dollars raised through memberships, donations and sponsorships increased by 8 percent.

A record-setting year in profits, along with our first meaningful rainy-day and endowment fund interest income, afforded us to hire a paid, experienced Executive Director, Don Hudgins. This organizational investment provides long-term stability and mission-driven growth for years to come.

The Jazz Station enters 2026 focused on providing a great schedule of performances; and a deepening commitment to our community. We are grateful for your continued support and participation. We cannot do it without YOU!

Sincerely,

Eve McClure, Treasurer
Steve Owen, President

Your Support in Action



500 Musicians
Perform at The Jazz Station



165 Performances
Diverse, affordable concerts



70 Volunteers
Working as the life-blood of the organization.



500 Student Participants
In WJS educational program-jams and concerts



9.5K Audience Members
Attend concerts

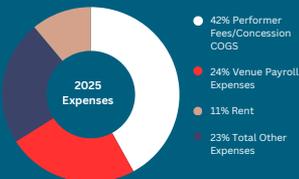


309 Members
Make cultural impact in our community

MISSION

To foster a vibrant local jazz scene through concerts and educational programs that encourage our community to love, study, and perform live jazz.

2025 Revenues & Expenses



2025 Financial Health

In 2025, The Jazz Station enjoyed a blockbuster year. We can point to three significant factors that generated these results.

Skilled volunteer labor.

In 2025, we operated with 1.6 fulltime positions. With a barebones paid staff – and the help of professional volunteers – we hosted 110 shows, 55 outreach events, four free city-wide Pavilion concerts while reaching approximately 9,500 community members. Add another 500 students, 500 musicians, 70 volunteers and 309 Jazz Station members, and one can readily see: We are making a huge cultural impact within our community.

4TH of July Jazz Station Butte to Butte (B2B) Fundraiser with 2x MATCH.

This year we had over 183 individuals and/or companies donate to our 3rd Annual B2B Fundraising event in support of 33 Jazz Station race participants. We made a splash in our tee-shirts – even made the Mayor’s Insta page – building awareness while raising \$27K. Community participation and excitement was at an all-time high. And every dollar donated was matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$10K.

Rainy Day and Merker Endowment Funds provide meaningful passive income.

After several post-Covid years of squirreling away non-operationally needed funds, along with our annual endowment distribution, our interest income stream help support the recent hire of Executive Director, Don Hudgins. This ED hire – and any future paid staff – are a critical investment to ensure long-term organizational stability.

Most importantly, the programming which features a talented pool of musicians makes the whole operation hum. Our overall **Event Income** grew for the fourth year in a row by 7% over last year. And membership rolls increased by 55 individuals or 22% from 2024 to reach a new all-time high of 309 people.

Grant Income and Corporate Sponsorships grew by an additional \$10,000 over 2024 providing added community educational outreach support.

Balance Sheet Equity Position

Our total equity position grew 24% year-over-year for one bang up performance in 2025.



“They had so many ideas for what we could do to improve.”

Students at the Academy of Arts & Academics

Cultural Impact

The Willamette Jazz Society (DBA The Jazz Station) is a non-profit organization founded in 2002 to assist high school students with UO jazz camp scholarships. In 2005, we opened our first performance venue – expanding our educational mission – to offer our community a space where students of all ages, community members and professionals can meet to perform on stage. The Jazz Station, a vital cultural heartbeat located in downtown Eugene, introduces residents to diverse musical voices, from local talents to national artists, fostering cultural appreciation for jazz, our quintessential American musical artform.

Beyond the stage, the venue functions as a community gathering place that strengthens social ties. Regular concerts, jam sessions, and educational programs create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet, share experiences, and celebrate music together. This sense of belonging enriches civic life and contributes to making Eugene-Springfield a more vibrant and attractive place for residents and visitors alike.

As an example, in early October, The Jazz Station welcomed more than 60 budding musicians from Willamette High School for our bi-monthly Jazz Station Jam outreach program. The excitement was palpable. “For many students, it’s their first time playing in a jam session,” said Joe Freuen, Director of Bands at Willamette High. “It’s a formative experience to get on stage and try out live jazz in a small group setting.”

Every year funds are reinvested into programming, youth jazz education, and artist support. This commitment helps nurture musicians and listeners, ensuring that the spirit of jazz—improvisation, collaboration, and resilience—continues to inspire for generations to come.

Community Impact

We have enjoyed the excitement of live music for our entire adult lives. You can't beat jazz as a genre for witnessing the talents of a musician as the musical lead is tossed from one performer to the next on stage.

Here in Eugene, we have noticed that the intimate Jazz Station is the hub of the community of musicians we see and hear at live events. When we have been, for example, at a jam concert, we have said, "Hey, we just saw (him or her) playing at The Jazz Station when we were there last month!" And we have said the same thing when we have been to an opera, the ballet, the Eugene Symphony, a metal band concert, a food truck pod, a pizza restaurant on the river, a winery, a blues bar, a play, or at the U of O.

We need to keep these elite, mentoring Jazz Station artists, normally only found in large cities, right here in town as they deliver energy and texture to the lives of a much larger community of smiling people as we encounter each other throughout the streets, venues, and restaurants of downtown Eugene who delight in live music. Aren't we lucky!



Pam and Bob Hess
Jazz Station Members



Jazz Station Butte-to-Butte Fundraising Team poses with Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson - later to be posted to her Insta page.



Willamette High School Girls' Combo performs at The Jazz Station Jam

Community Outreach

The Jazz Station's community outreach programs continue to grow and reach more people every year. Education is a central tenet of TJS mission "to foster a vibrant local jazz scene through concerts and educational programs that encourage our community to love, study and perform live jazz." We host over 60 outreach events and over 100 concerts annually which highlights a variety of artists ranging from first time performers to internationally recognized musicians. **Our venue is the only full-time non-profit jazz club in the state of Oregon.** We are not only an essential local community space to perform and hear live jazz music, but we also are on the radar map for regional and national jazz artists as they tour the West Coast as a great place to play.

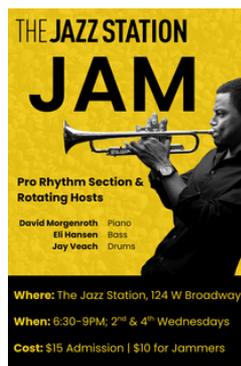
First Monday Night Big Band

The First Monday Night Big Band is home to many of the region's top professional players. This large jazz ensemble plays compositions from classic works by Basie and Ellington to pieces written by contemporary composers. The second Big Band set is opened-up for local students and community musicians to sit-in with professional band members and play together. Big Band musicians donate their time and all proceeds go back to support The Jazz Station.



The Jazz Station Jam

In 2025, we reimagined a new jam session at The Jazz Station. The Jazz Station Jam opened in September to musicians of all skill levels. Whether a budding musician or a seasoned player, this jam is a chance to play, listen, and connect in a welcoming, low-pressure environment. Each session features a rotating host—local jazz pros bringing their own unique vibe to keep things fresh and inspiring. Every jam participant is encouraged to bring their instrument, their voice, or just their ears, and be part of a vibrant night of spontaneous music-making. Everyone's welcome at The Jazz Station Jam.



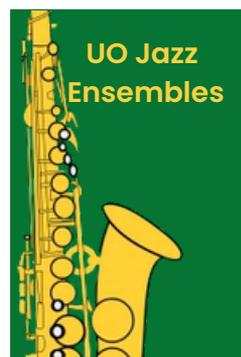
One Set Wednesday

OSW provides students with an opportunity to showcase their talents in a one-hour gig in front of a supportive audience - often their first performance as an ensemble leader on stage. Students learn how to contract, market and produce their own shows. This creates a "real-world" performance environment where students can experience all the facets of professional musicianship that a school classroom or individual music lessons cannot. TJS is the only venue within our community that offer this opportunity to students and community members.



UO Jazz Bands & Small Group Ensembles

Our partnership with the University of Oregon (UO) music program has been vital to our outreach success as an organization. The Jazz Station hosts eight dynamic concerts a year in collaboration with the UO Jazz Studies Department, led by Paul Krueger, Director. Comprised of both music majors and non-majors, these ensembles offer students the chance to explore a diverse range of styles and jazz repertoire in a vibrant real-life jazz setting.

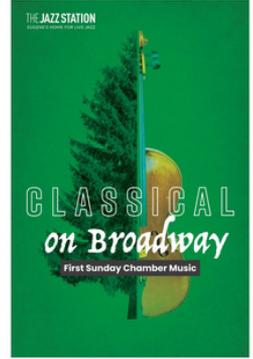


The small group Oregon Jazz Ensemble and UO Jazz Lab Bands provide access to free and low-cost exciting performance opportunities for community members while they hone their skills needed to master jazz.

Classical on Broadway

“Classical on Broadway” music program, the first Sunday of every month, showcases performers from the Eugene Symphony, the University of Oregon faculty, renowned out-of-town artists, and top university students.

The Artistic Directors of this one-of-a-kind chamber music experience are Eunhye Grace Choi, acclaimed pianist and chamber musician, and Wonkak Kim, UO Professor of Clarinet.



Steve Owen, Board President, gives Willamette High School students an improvisation lesson



Holiday Jazz Orchestra
December 2025

Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's Nutcracker Suite

Our annual holiday series celebrates the work of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, exposing Lane County audiences to this uniquely American reinterpretation of a European classic played by the top regional professional musicians – an excellent opportunity for new and seasoned fans alike to enjoy and learn about American jazz at an accessible price. Events like these enrich our community, build TJS awareness within the arts marketplace and create a sense of local community.



Historical Milestones

Non-Profit Status

Willamette Jazz Society establishes as 501(c)3.

Congratulations!

Founding members, Nancy and John Crider, married at The Jazz Station!

Wine + Beer Sold

March 2011 Liquor License Granted

Big Time Jazz

Nationally recognized Benny Golson performs at The Jazz Station
Elevates our sense of what's possible.

Youth Program Outreach

Sunday Learners' Jam, Educational Outreach Program, begin.
Middle school and high school students work with local professional music educators.

Baby Grand Piano

Yamaha Baby Grand Piano Purchase
New piano elevates the listening experience for audience members.

1st Venue Manager

Reopened with grant-supported full time Venue Manager.

Expanded Community Outreach Programming

"Classics on Broadway"& "2nd Set" jam sessions begin.

Membership, Fundraising & Community Awareness Take Quantum Leap

2002

2005

2006

2010

2011

2012

2015

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

Venue

First Jazz Station Venue located in downtown Eugene at 68 W. Broadway.

2nd Venue Location

The Jazz Station Made Quantum Operational Leap
Jazz Station moved one block away to 124 W. Broadway, our present day location.

First Payroll

First Paid Event Manager

All-Age Programming

All-Age "Jammin' with the Pros" educational jam sessions begin.

Marquee Sign

Neon Sign Added to Storefront Branding

Venue Renovation

New Stage, Venue and Sound Board Improvements.
Musician and audience experience enhanced by audio technology investments, paint, carpet, and bar updates.

Hired 1st Part-time Executive Director & 5 Event Staff

Implemented Jazz Station House Band outreach to schools and improved organizational stability.

Stage Renovation & Expanded Community Awareness

Rebuilt stage to improve audience listening experience. Hosted outdoor free summer Pavilion concert series to raise awareness.



In 2025, The Jazz Station hosted four free summer concerts at the Farmers Market Pavilion raising community awareness - and mostly raising fun!



“... the Jazz Station has played a crucial role in my development as a musician, but most importantly, the Jazz Station holds a special place in my heart as it encourages my love for music.”

Ellie Gomulkiewicz

Drummer, University of Oregon Jazz Studies Student &
Board Student Representative

Music Mentorship

The Jazz Station has been an important space to practice my passion for music as well as develop my skills as a musician. I have been playing jazz for about 3 years, and what influenced me to start studying it was actually attending a show at the Jazz Station. My freshman year of college, I wanted to see live music and found the Jazz Station downtown. After seeing that live jazz performance, I became inspired by the talented musicians and decided to study jazz the following year.

Since then, the Jazz Station has played a significant role in my drumming. In terms of studying music, the Jazz Station gives me countless opportunities to watch talented musicians and learn from them. There are shows almost every week where, when I attend, I am surrounded by people who likewise love music, and I can learn something, whether that be musically or professionally. Furthermore, I'm able to talk to the musicians after the show, which has given me chances to connect with players I look up to. I always leave the shows feeling motivated to practice and play.

Aside from watching, the Jazz Station has given me chances to play in a professional setting. To name a few examples, the Jazz Station holds shows for the University of Oregon Small and Large Ensembles, which, being a student myself, I can participate in. The Jazz Station also gives opportunities to students such as myself to book our own gigs. We can get paid, organize a group, and choose the music we want to play by scheduling a one-set Wednesday. This includes the student playing their own hour-long set of music, and a jam is held afterwards. This provides a way for students to earn money as well as get practice performing and playing in a professional setting.

Needless to say, the Jazz Station has played a crucial role in my development as a musician, but most importantly, the Jazz Station holds a special place in my heart as it encourages my love for music.

Ellie Gomulkiewicz

**Drummer, University of Oregon Jazz Studies Student &
Board Student Representative**

Celebrating 21 Years - Thank You!

Aaron Hipple
Alejandro Ramirez
Alex Dracoby & Julie Hessler
Andrea Callahan
Andrea Piercy & Mike Murray
Anita and Ron Larson
Ann Fidanque
Ann Muller
Ann Ross
Annie Fulkerson
Annie Porterfield
Anonymous
Anthony Edwards
Barbara Bergreen
Barbara Koostra & David Morgenroth
Barry Polonsky & Judy Grubbs
Bart Johnson
Bev Day
Bill and Lynne Rossi
Bill Kelly
Bill Klupenger
Bill Whitley
Birgit Foley
Bob & Sherlene Schmidt
Bob Stewart
Brad Jones
Brandy Rodtsbrooks
Bret and Chantel Hansen
Brian Price
Bruce & Loi Heldt
Bruce Bowerman
Bryce Barker
Burnette Dillon
Carl Woideck
Carol Van Houten
Caroline Moore
Carolyn Kranzler
Casey J Bedney
Catherine Harris & Ross Bondurant
Charles Lawrence
Charles Snow
Cheri Smith
Chris Orsinger
Chris Bucheit
Chris Carthum
Christina Sjoblom
Christoph Greiner
Cindy Robinson
Cliff Mitchell
Colin NewBill
D Laine Young
Daniel J Temmesfeld
Dave Bahr
Dave Glenn
David Adams
David Erickson
David Force
David Heyer
David M. Bender
David Rogers
David Staley
David Thomas
Dawn Hunter
Dean and Carolyn Kortge
Debbie Sullivan
Debra and Dr, William Cox
Diana Haigler Gardner
Don Hudgins
Don Latarski
Donald Townsend
Dorothy Dilliplane
Doug Mozan
Douglas Barrett
Ed Madison
Ed Vansciver
Ellen Cantor
Eric Anderson
Eric Hample
Eric Robinson
Eric Sternbach
Erika Mittge
Eva & Jon Martin
Eve McClure & Steve Owen
Eve Müller and Gregory Brandt
Francis J Mastrogiovanni
Frank Gibson
Fumiyo Tao
Gail Virgili
Garrett Epps & Kathy Bader
Gary Kitzrow
Gary Parks
George Day
George Rode
Gerald L Grooms
Gerald Walton
Gerry Berk
Glenn Griffith
Greg Christy
Harold Huestis
Harriet Rubin
Harry Gandy
Heather Glenn
Helen Martz
Henry Houston
Herb Merker & Marcy Hammock
Howard A Houseknecht
Inara Scott
James Jared Taylor and Brooke Chang
James King
James Lobben
James Murray
James Olsen
Janey Barnes-Wiederhold
Jason and Kershia O'Connor
Jeff and April Bernacki
Jeff Langford
Jeffrey Ogburn
Jennifer Gordon
Jenny Tullier
Jeremy Nissel
Jim and Barbara Walker
Jo Schechter
Joan & David Brown
John Hannah & Mary Brooner
John Heller
John Neilson
John Polese
John Simoni
John Wahland
Judith Watt
Karen French
Kathleen J Herse
Kathryn W. Porter
Kay Crider and Patrick Phillips
Kelli Tinker
Ken Humphreys
Kent Howe & Kathi Wiederhold
Kevin and Carla Chambers
Kim Kelly
Kimberly Johnson
Larry and Janele Smith
Larson Family Foundation
Laura G Holland & Richard Argosh
Lesli Larson
Linda M Burns
Linda Tindal and Jerry Tindal
Lisa Quaid
Lorraine Stein
Louise Bishop
Louise Furukawa
Lynda E Lanker
Lynn D Frohnmayer
Lynne Swift
Maggie Vargas & Greg Fremstad
Malika Fitch
Marcus Widenor
Marian Smith
Marise Gwin
Mark Hurwit
Martin Jones
Mary Parthemer
Mary Zoellner
Matthew J Fleischman
Max Liebreich
Mervyn L Feuer
Michael McGann
Michael Spang
Michal Young and Cynthia Wenks
Michele Bouche
Mike Brinkley
Mike Sanders
Molly Renne
Nancy Hamilton & John Crider
Natalie Narvid
Nick Rieser
Niels Miller
Noreen Franz Hovis
Oscar Kimbrough
Pam Whyte & Ron Saylor
Pamela & Robert Hess
Pamela Qualley
Pamela Saunders
Patricia Krier
Patrick G Morgan
Patty and Bill Sage
Paul Brown & Martha Reilly
Paul Hoobyar
Paul Krueger
Paul Roth
Paul Vincent Safar
Peter Dragovich
Peter Edberg

Peter K Watt
 Peter Thompson
 Rachel Foster & Randall
 McGowen
 Ralph Novak & Kristine Crowley
 Ran & Marni Andreini
 Raymond Frey
 Richard Sniezko
 Richard T Regius
 Rick Johnson
 Rob Dodson
 Robert Stilwell
 Robin Bloomgarden
 Robin Chitwood
 Roger Chope
 Ron & Janet Bertucci
 Ron Schultz and Laura
 Sanderford
 Rudy Berg
 Sabrina Godsey & William
 (Doug) Godsey
 Sally J Cairnes-Wurster
 Sam Evans
 Sandra Gill
 Sara & Dave Blackwell

Sara Tripodi
 Scott D Thompson
 Scott FitzGibbon
 Scott L. Pratt
 Scott Twaro
 Sean Peterson & Shannon
 Rose-Peterson
 Shelley Hoose
 Shira Fadeley
 Shoshana Cohen
 Simon Levear
 Steffen Land
 Steve Beaty and Glenna
 MacKinnon
 Steve Kenny
 Steven Hecker & Kimberly
 O'Brien
 Steven Johnston
 Stewart Gilbert
 Susan Brody
 Susan Norris & Dan
 Schlichtmann
 Susan Pease
 Susan Whitney

Tammy Tudor and Tim Shaner
 Ted Ledgard & Kim Kelly
 Ted Owen
 Teresa Frizzell
 Terry West
 Thomas Boyd
 Tim & Carol Whitsel
 Tim Roberts
 Todd Sickafoose & Ilana
 Umansky
 Tom Bergeron
 Tom Di Liberto & Abby Lane
 Tom Keating
 Tom Scoble & Kathleen Dillon
 Torrey Newhart
 Trisha Crinkley
 Vicki Levine
 Vicki Ingram and Mike
 Kimball
 Victor Doperalski
 Victor R Congleton
 Wayne Taubenfeld
 William Jamerson
 William Watson
 Zach Knight

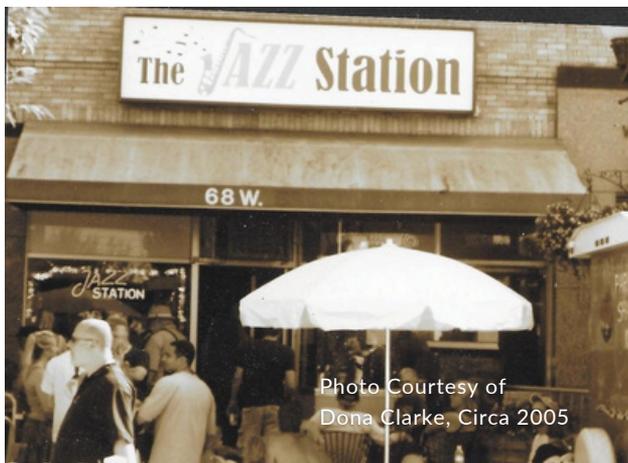


Photo Courtesy of
 Dona Clarke, Circa 2005





Photo courtesy of Rei Mastrogiovanni

THE JAZZ STATION

- Live music
- Community Education Programs
- Local beer & wine
- Convenient location

124 W Broadway,
Downtown Eugene

P.O. Box 12194
Eugene, OR 97440

thejazzstation.org

