

Willamette Jazz Society

Annual Report 2024

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

Jazz Station Strengthens Community Fabric

We often reflect on why, in Eugene, Oregon, rests a successful fulltime non-profit jazz club. Why here? There are much bigger markets with many more jazz listeners, with many more resources. But somehow, we continue to thrive in the arts marketplace as the only volunteer-run jazz club in the state and one of only a handful active in the nation.

Our primary conclusion is: This community has more social capital.

Our interconnected relationships are making positive things happen here that do not happen in other cities where social networks are few or disconnected.

The folks who provide financial and volunteer support to The Jazz Station are not a homogenous group. Far from it. Their reasons for giving are as varied as the artists that take to the stage. Some people give because they like big band music; some give to support emerging student artists; other individuals want a place where they can come and play or volunteer; and of course, many others want access to live jazz music in an intimate, neighborly venue.

However, you might be surprised to learn that several of our most generous donors are not necessarily the most ardent jazz enthusiasts. They give because they know our civic venue located in the heart of downtown adds strength to the fabric of our overall community. In short, The Jazz Station makes a healthy impact on many everyday lives. Our memberships' reasons for supporting The Jazz Station may vary dramatically, but a common inherent human need to belong – to be appreciated and valued – knits us all together in shared purpose.

The Jazz Station provides a place of belonging.

Social connection is currently at a premium. Retail is all but gone online. Many business workplaces are remote. Bank and post office visits, movie entertainment, restaurant ordering, educational classes, therapy sessions and even many doctor's office needs can be handled (and often encouraged) by a phone app or an online interaction. So, no wonder people are flocking into live sporting events, comedy clubs, theatres, and music venues at double-digit rate increases. The Jazz Station mimicked this national trend by enjoying a 10% increase in show attendance and welcomed 67 new members in 2024!

YOUR years of stewardship, show attendance and financial support are why we have grown and thrived over the past 20 years. And for this, we are eternally grateful.



However, we can never rest on past successes. Social relationships are a never-ending work in progress. They are all too fragile. Our future depends on YOUR help increasing public awareness and membership in The Jazz Station. **In 2025, please make this easy resolution to introduce your workmates, family and friends to our club.** When together we grow The Jazz Station's mission-driven goals to *"foster a vibrant local jazz scene through concerts and educational programs that encourage our community to love, study and perform live jazz,"* we tighten not only our own social safety net, but that of our entire community.

All the best,

Eve McClure, Acting Executive Director/Treasurer
Steve Owen, Artistic Director/President

Your Support in Action



500 Musicians
Perform at The Jazz Station



192 Performances
Diverse, affordable concerts



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



500 Student Participants
In WJS educational program-jams and concerts

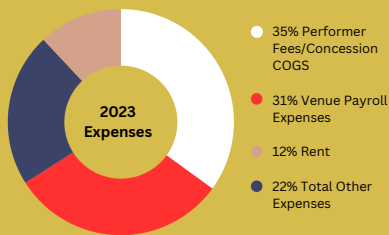
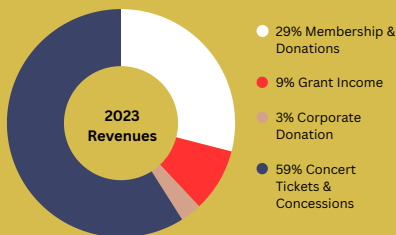


9K Audience Members
Attend concerts

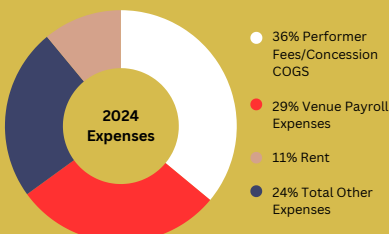
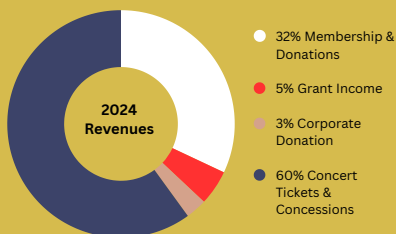


254 Members
Make cultural impact in our community

2023



2024



Revenues

- In 2024, Donations and Memberships grew 18% over 2023. This increase was hard-earned as the average dollar donation decreased, but we enjoyed 67 new members bringing our total membership to 254 along with 112 free student members.
- Concert tickets, tips and concessions grew a whopping 17% to account for 60% of all revenues.
- Grant Income decreased by \$11,700 or 38% over last year due to the last one-time state Covid grant issued in October of 2023.
- Corporate Income grew by 31% as we added an additional supportive business to our team.

Expenses

Planned (and budgeted) payroll and performer fees increased double digits to support our 192 concert community offerings in 2024. (Attendance numbers grew from 8,100 to 8,900 audience-goers. Increased ticket and concession revenues helped to offset expenses.) We also supported three free summer shows to the public at the Pavilion Night Time Market. Currently, our staff includes a Booking and Social Media Manager, Venue Manager and four event personnel for a total of six part-time paid staff.

Additionally, we made investments to upgrade our audience experience by improving sound, stage and electrical lighting in 2024. Rent expenses remained flat.

Balance Sheet Equity Position

Our total equity position grew 13% over last year thanks to a steady increase in revenues from donations, memberships, admissions, bar concessions, corporate donations, and our first-ever endowment dividend!

As we continue to grow and expand the reach of our mission, we continue to rely on this delicate balance of revenue-generating community support.



"The Jazz Station is a place where students can perform in an inspiring, real-world atmosphere and connect to the broader Eugene/Springfield community outside of the classroom."

Paul Krueger

UO Director of Jazz Studies; Co-host of Second Set Jam

Cultural Impact

The Willamette Jazz Society (WJS) was founded in 2002 as a non-profit organization. Our core mission at that time was to assist high school students with band camp music scholarships and to provide temporary performance space where musicians could study and perform live jazz. As community audience interest expanded and concert attendance grew, we looked for a more permanent home. To that end, we opened our first Jazz Station club in downtown Eugene in 2005. We are now celebrating our 20th year!

The Jazz Station is the only community-run, non-profit jazz club in the state of Oregon; and one of only a handful active in the nation.

Our venue, a Eugene downtown mainstay, offers over 500 musicians, 500 students and 9,000 community members access to an intimate, neighborly, 70-seat capacity venue.

The Jazz Station shares a longstanding relationship with the University of Oregon, Lane and Bushnell Schools of Music, as well as local middle and high school band programs. It is an essential symbiotic relationship. Paul Krueger, UO Director of Jazz Studies and Jazz Station "Second Set" jam session co-host, finds The Jazz Station a place where "students can perform in an inspiring, real-world atmosphere and connect to the broader Eugene/Springfield community outside of the classroom."

The Jazz Station's outreach to the public schools and its educational programs empower community members, foster a more vibrant and diverse musical culture, and demonstrate our commitment to bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together to experience the joy of this art form and its capacity to enrich lives.

Jazz is the quintessential American musical art form. It is rooted in the African-American experience and is the voice of innovation, spontaneity, inclusion, adaptability, individuality, and diversity and at its very core - freedom. It is the Willamette Jazz Society's mission to nurture and preserve it.

Community Impact

One of our fondest memories is wandering into Sweet Basil in Greenwich Village back in the early 90s, hoping to catch John Scofield's quartet, featuring Joe Lovano on sax. Expecting to be turned away due to what appeared to be a packed house, shockingly we were escorted to a table right in front of the band already in the midst of its performance. It was indeed the definitive jazz club experience.

Needless to say we were blown away, as we regularly are at our beloved Jazz Station, a club similar in size to Sweet Basil. But it's not only the intimacy of the Jazz Station that reminds us of such gigs, it's the high quality of the playing that continues to amaze us time and time again.



What a remarkable gift we have here in Eugene, a big-city club in a mid-size town where the finest musicians on the west coast regularly perform with highlights from big shots like the Bad Plus and The Headhunters.

We feel so fortunate to be part of the Jazz Station, a welcoming community that not only includes our fellow Eugenians (audience and musicians alike) but also the familiar faces of student and returning players. What inspiration, what magic, what a celebration of love!

Tammy Tudor & Tim Shaner
Jazz Station Members



“What a remarkable gift we have here in Eugene, a big-city club in a mid-size town where the finest musicians on the west coast regularly perform ... “

Tammy Tudor & Tim Shaner

Jazz Station Members



In 2024, The Jazz Station, in collaboration with Lane County Farmers Market, hosted three FREE summer concerts for the community at the Farmers Market Pavilion.



Steve Owen, Artistic Director
with Thurston High School Students

Community Outreach

Education is a central tenet of the Willamette Jazz Society's (WJS) mission "to foster a vibrant local jazz scene through concerts and educational programs that encourage our community to love, study and perform live jazz." WJS hosted 192 concerts at The Jazz Station (TJS) concert venue (a project of WJS) which highlights a variety of artists ranging from advanced high school and college student first-time performers to internationally recognized musicians.

We provide six community outreach programs: First Monday Night Big Band, One Set Wednesday, Jammin' with the Pros, Classical on Broadway, Acoustic Americana and The Nutcracker Suite.

One Set Wednesdays/Second Set Jam

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 offers this opportunity to students and community members.

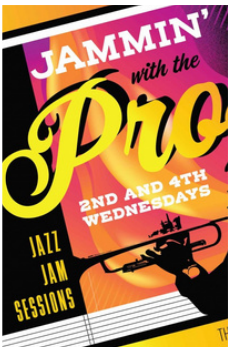
First Monday Night Big Band

The First Monday Night Big Band, directed by UO Professor Emeritus of Jazz Studies, Steve Owen, 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.



Jammin' with the Pros

TJS offers the only local opportunity for high school, college and amateur musicians to play in front of a supportive audience with a professional sound system, stage lighting, and baby grand piano. Jammin' with the Pros expands options for both school-age students and life-long learners interested in developing and honing improvisation and performance skills, receiving instruction, and meeting other community musicians. The concept of the jam session as a community-building activity is central to jazz.



Jazz Station mentors with Prairie Mountain School students



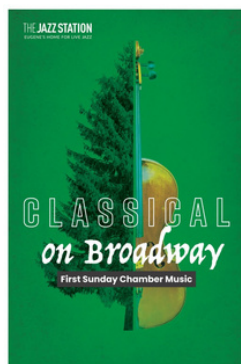


Artistic Directors Eunhye Grace Choi, acclaimed pianist and chamber musician, and Wonkak Kim, UO Professor of Clarinet

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 Jazz Station offers chamber audience-members a one-of-a-kind, relaxed and intimate listening experience.



First Thursday Acoustic Americana

“Acoustic Americana” blends elements of folk, country, bluegrass, and traditional American roots music, and features acoustic instruments like guitar, banjo, fiddle, and mandolin. Indeed, jazz and acoustic Americana share roots in the blues and other early American musical styles like folk and gospel, creating a foundation of shared influences.

The Jazz Station is pleased to present accomplished regional performers in this entertaining genre on the first Thursday of each month.





Holiday Jazz Orchestra December 2024

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 regional reinterpretation of a European classic played by professional musicians. This is an excellent opportunity for new and seasoned fans alike to enjoy and learn about American jazz at an accessible price.

The Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn Nutcracker Suite series has become a holiday tradition that Lane County audiences look forward to each year. Events like these enrich our community, build The Jazz Station 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 Beer and wine sales substantially augment event revenues.

Big Time Jazz

Nationally recognized, Benny Golson, jazz icon booked at The Jazz Station
World famous, 7-time Grammy nominee, tenor saxophonist, composer and arranger books two sold-out shows at The Jazz Station.
Elevates our sense of what's possible.

Youth Program Outreach

Sunday Learners' Jam, Educational Outreach Program, Formalized
Middle school and high school students work bi-monthly with seasoned local music educators in supportive setting.

Baby Grand Piano

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

1st Venue Manager, Community Outreach & New Grant Awards

Reopened with grant-supported full time Venue Manager. Partnered with Eugene Symphony Orchestra and Old-time Mud City Society to expand community outreach and impact.

Expanded Community Outreach Programming

New Programs include: "Classics on Broadway"& "2nd Set" jam sessions that follow student-led "One Set Wednesdays".

2002

2005

2006

2010

2011

2012

2015

2017

2018

2019

2018

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

Venue

First Jazz Station Location
Secured Original venue located in downtown Eugene at 68 W. Broadway.

Mayoral Ribbon-Cutting

The Jazz Station Made Quantum Operational Leap
Jazz Station moved one block away to 124 W. Broadway. Venue renovated by over a hundred volunteer community members.
Secured 8-year lease providing stability and much improved 70-person-capacity venue.
City supported WJS with \$25K loan.

First Payroll

First Paid Event Manager
Positions are Established.

All-Age Programming

All-Age "Jammin' with the Pros" educational jam sessions begin.
Sundance Natural Foods, community corporate sponsor, supports bi-weekly all-comers jams.

Marquee Sign

Neon Sign Added to Storefront Branding
"The Jazz Station" Purchased by grant from Lane Arts Council.

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 Executive Director & 5 Event Staff

Implemented Jazz Station House Band outreach to schools. Improved organizational stability, database management and reporting.

Stage Renovation & Expanded Community Awareness

Rebuilt stage and added sound dampening enhancements to improve audience listening experience. Collaborated with Lane County Farmers Market to host free summer Pavilion concert series to raise awareness.



“The Jazz Station has been there for every step of my musical journey. It is where I’ve met all of my mentors and felt most connected to the music.”

Caylie Davis

Trumpeter and Jazz Station Performer

Music Mentorship

When I was in 8th grade, I found myself falling in love for the first time. Though no person in particular caught my gaze, the music of Clifford Brown had my full attention. Many magical nights were spent learning songs such as Up Jumped Spring or Cherokee; trying to understand how this unfamiliar world worked. My family took notice of my studies, and at some point that year, my Opa took me to see Charlie Porter perform at the Jazz Station. I had seen Jazz at Lincoln Center at the Hult Center, and I had seen jazz performances at the Shedd, but in this early encounter at the Jazz Station, I still vividly remember getting up close to the music, meeting the musicians in the band, hearing them talk about the music...

I never stopped going back after that. I would go to see Tony Glausi, Joe Manis, Paul Krueger, and many more, always the same unforgettable intimate experience with the music I was learning to love. The Jazz Station quickly became the place where my friends and I would want to spend our evenings.

Equally as important as the shows are the community events, such as the Sunday Learner's Jam, or the First Monday Big Band. I'll never forget the spotlighted nerve and excitement of playing on the stage at my first Learner's Jam, or even more the same feeling playing on that same stage next to almost all of my mentors in the Eugene area at the First Monday Big Band.

The Jazz Station has been there for every step of my musical journey. It is where I've met all of my mentors and felt most connected to the music. And even now that I'm older and live in NYC, it is my favorite place to play when I'm home, and my favorite place to go hear my friends and teachers. It has been the most important space in my musical development, and the same goes for many others.

Caylie Davis

Trumpeter and Jazz Station Performer

Celebrating 20 Years - Thank You!

Aaron Hipple
Aaron Schnabel
Alex Dracoby & Julie Hessler
Amy and Sean Davis
Andrea Piercy & Mike Murray
Anita and Ron Larson
Ann Muller
Ann Ross
Annie Porterfield
Anthony Edwards
Barbara Bergreen
Barry Polonsky & Judy Grubbs
Beth Pool
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
Broadley Vineyards
Bruce Heldt
Bryce Barker
Burnette Dillon
Carl Hurt
Carl Woideck
Carol Van Houten
Caroline Moore
Carolyn Kranzler
Catharyn & Glen Martz
Catherine Harris & Ross
Bondurant
Charles B. Shaw & Rebecca Pressnall
Charles Lawrence
Charles R Owen
Charles Snow
Cheri Smith
Cherie Ignatius
Chris Orsinger
Chris Bucheit
Christina Sjoblom
Christoph Greiner
Cindy Robinson
Cliff Mitchell
Colin NewBill
Daniel J Temmesfeld
Dave Bahr
Dave Glenn
David Adams
David C Force
David Cooper
David Heyer
David Morgenroth & Barbara Koostra
David Rogers
David Staley
David Thomas
Dawn Hunter
Dean and Carolyn Kortge

Don Latarski
Dona Clarke
Doug Mozan
Douglas Barrett
Douglas C Hintz
Dr. Dwayne and Bette Rice
Ed Madison
Ed Vansciver
Ellen Cantor
Eric Anderson
Eric Sternbach
Erika Mittge
Eva & Jon Martin
Eve McClure & Steve Owen
Francis J Mastrogiovanni
Frank Gibson
Frank Webster
Fumiyo Tao
Garrett Epps & Kathy Bader
Gary Kitzrow
Gary Larsen
Gary Parks and Eva Bagno
Gavin McComas
Gerald L Grooms
Greg Christy
Greg Cramer & Frances Sutherland
Harriet Rubin
Harry Gandy
Heather Glenn
Helen Martz
Henry Houston
Herb Merker & Marcy Hammock
Howard A Houseknecht
Inara Scott
Jackie L. Melvin
James A Pumphrey
James King
James Lobben
James Murray
James Olsen
Jason and Kershia O'Connor
Jeannette Bishop (in memorium)
Jeff and April Bernacki
Jeff Ostler
Jeffrey Ogburn
Jennifer Gordon
Jenny Tullier
Jeremy Nissel
Jessica & Morgan Broadley
John Crider
John Hannah & Mary Brooner
John Heller
John Polese
John Simoni
Joyce & David Graves
Kathie Hsieh
Kathryn W. Porter
Kay Crider and Patrick Phillips
Ken Humphreys
Kenneth Alexander
Kent Howe & Kathi Wiederhold
Kevin Chambers
Kimberly Johnson
Larry and Janelle Smith
Laura G Holland & Richard Argosh

Laura Niles & Robert Benedict
Linda Boyers
Linda Tindal and Jerry Tindal
Louise Bishop
Lynda E Lanker
Lynn D Frohnmayer
Lynne Swift
Lytton Reid
Maggie Vargas & Greg Fremstad
Marcus Widenor
Marian Smith
Marise Gwin
Mary Parthemer
Mary Zoellner
Matthew J Fleischman
Matthew Parrott
Max Liebreich
Mervyn L Feuer
Micah Sundholm
Michael Falter
Michael McGann
Michael Spang
Michal Young and Cynthia Wenks
Mike Brinkley
Mike Sanders
Natalie Narvid
Nick Rieser
Niels Miller
Noreen Franz-Hovis
Oscar Kimbrough
Pam Whyte & Ron Saylor
Pamela & Robert Hess
Pamela Qualley
Pamela Saunders
Patricia Frishkoff
Patrick G Morgan
Patty and Bill Sage
Paul Bodin & Peggy Leeds
Paul Brown & Martha Reilly
Paul Hoobyar
Paul Krueger
Paul Roth
Paul Slate
Paul Vincent Safar
Peter Edberg
Peter Kincaid
Rachel Foster & Randall McGowen
Ran & Marni Andreini
Raymond Frey
Rebecca Mikesell & Charles Fuller
Richard Sniezko
Richard T Regius
Rick Johnson
Robert Stilwell
Robert Z Melnick
Robin Bloomgarden
Robin Chitwood
Roger Chope
Ron & Janet Bertucci
Rudy Berg
Sabrina Godsey & Doug Godsey
Sally J Cairnes-Wurster
Sandra Gill
Sara Tripodi
Sarah Rose Burkhart



Photo Courtesy of
Dona Clarke, Circa 2005

Scott FitzGibbon
Scott L. Pratt
Scott Twaro
Sean Batty
Sean Peterson & Shannon Rose-
Peterson
Shelley Hoose
Simon Levear
Stan Baker
Steffen Land
Steven Hecker & Kimberly
O'Brien
Steven Johnston
Stewart Gilbert
Susan Brody and Allen Johnson

Sara and Dave Blackwell
Susan D Gendein-Marshall
Susan Norris & Dan
Schlichtmann
Susan Pease
Susan Whitney
Susie Chapin
Tammy Tudor and Tim Shaner
Tara Bedney
Ted Ledgard & Kim Kelly
Ted Owen
Teresa Frizzell
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
Vickie Ingram and Mike Kimball
Victor Doperalski
Vincent Gray
Wayne Taubenfeld
Wendy Loren
William Jamerson





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

