



SPRING 2017

# ***rhythm & news***

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE YEAR IN JAZZ

JAZZ UNDER THE STARS

# **Annual Report 2016**

## To Our Friends and Supporters:



As 2016 came to an end, there was a lot of chatter in social media about what seemed like the unusual number of celebrity deaths that had occurred during that year. It was a tough year for us at KCCCK as well. We lost two extraordinary men who were very important to the radio station.

First was Mark Yother. Mark began his career at KCCCK in 1977 as news director, and also worked for a while in Kirkwood's Community Education department. For most of his KCCCK career, he hosted a daily music show, as well as the movie review program Talking Pictures. As of this writing, it's been nearly a year since he passed, and I think of him every day.



Mark Yother introduces the band at KCCCK's Jazz Under the Stars

Dozens of friends and former co-workers of Mark's gathered in April of last year for a memorial, held at his favorite lunch spot, Tommy's. Friends who knew Mark from his years at KCCCK and Kirkwood, as well as KCRG-TV9, and organizations like the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale, laughed and told stories about our irascible friend for hours.

Friends from KCRG remembered the hilarious "graduation speeches" he wrote when someone quit or was fired from the station. Kirkwood colleagues recalled similar, but no less side-splitting, speeches he gave when someone retired from the college. At KCCCK, of course, his humor was showcased in his daily humorous commentary, "Got A Minute," which surpassed 5,700 episodes.

Mark is survived by his brother Larry and sister-in-law Gail. Dozens of Mark's friends and listeners have made memorial donations in his honor, which we are putting toward a campaign to name the KCCCK Music Library for him. If you would like to give, you may still do so at [www.kccck.org](http://www.kccck.org).

Another departed friend, perhaps not so well known to KCCCK listeners, but one who has also had a large influence on KCCCK's programs and community service, is LeRoy Karr. Fifteen years ago, LeRoy Karr came to me and offered to start recording our Jazz Under the Stars concerts. LeRoy and his son, Ed, had run a local recording studio for a while, and were well known around the community for the work they did recording the Cedar Rapids Symphony (now Orchestra Iowa), Liars Theatre, and other events.

LeRoy and Ed's involvement with Jazz Under the Stars began a partnership that grew to include recording not only our concerts, but producing CDs for The Corridor Jazz Project and Middle School Jazz Band Camp. Hundreds of musicians young and old have recordings of their work because of LeRoy. In the liner notes for the 2017 Corridor Jazz Project CD, I said this about LeRoy:

(He) would not want us to be sad, but rather to celebrate these hundreds of hours of memories that students and families now have that are preserved for all time on this CD, not to mention the previous nine, and all those to come. Every time a young person steps up to one of LeRoy's microphones, he is a part of the session, just as sure as if he was standing at the mixing board.



LeRoy and Ed Karr at one of the first Corridor Jazz Project recordings in 2008

Because of LeRoy's interest and support of jazz education, memorial gifts made in his name have endowed the LeRoy Karr Scholarship for young people who need financial assistance to attend Jazz Band Camp.

The many contributors who gave gifts in the name of one or more of these great men are listed in a special grouping in the final pages of this report. Thank you to everyone who memorialized and honored these members of the KCCCK family.

Sincerely,

Dennis Green  
General Manager, KCCCK

# KCKK 2016 At a Glance

## Weekly Listening Audience

14,400 (Source: Nielsen Listening Estimates, Spring 2014 and Fall 2014 Survey Periods)

## Fall Jazz Education Programs

- Schoolhouse Jazz (elementary)
- Jazz Band Camp (middle school)
- Corridor Jazz Project (high school)
- Total Students Served: 5,000

## KCKK Jazz Events

- Corridor Jazz Project
- First Friday Jazz
- Iowa City Jazz Festival
- Jazz Under the Stars
- Gospel Brunch
- Hot Autumn Nights

## Kirkwood Community College Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees is charged with setting policy for the college and ensuring the effectiveness of the institution by monitoring and evaluating strategic initiatives and financial direction of the college.

## KCKK Employees and Contact Information



Member-supported public radio  
from Kirkwood Community College.

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*News and Operations Director*

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Hollis Monroe  
*Music and Feature Producer*

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Kathy Hall  
*Vice President, Resource Development*  
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—  
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# A look back at a jazzy year...



## JAZZ UNDER THE STARS

The 29th year of KCCK's free concert series opened to unfortunate weather. The first concert, featuring 10 of Soul, was rained out by a thunderstorm that appeared suddenly. For the second week, there was enough notice that performances were moved indoors and Mirage played inside Parlor City. The remaining concerts took place without incident in beautiful weather. Summit was the first jazz group to perform inside the city's new band shell on August 18. Fresh from his third year of KCCK's Middle School Jazz Band Camp, thirteen-year-old Grant Lapointe played a piano set prior to the Eddie Piccard performance on Aug. 25.



## IOWA CITY JAZZ FEST

KCCK broadcasted 20 hours of live jazz from the mainstage of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. Backstage interviews were broadcast using Facebook Live.



## KCCK TRAVELS TO NEW ORLEANS

In November, more than 40 music fans journeyed with KCCK to The Big Easy, where they enjoyed the French Quarter, toured the sites, and even watched our own "Big Mo" John Heim sit in with the band at the Louisiana Old Mint!



## FIRST FRIDAY

The Opus Concert Cafe is the place to be on the first Friday of each month as KCCK and Orchestra Iowa present live jazz from 5-7 p.m. The Jarrett Purdy Project closed the year with a sold-out performance in December.



## TASTE OF JAZZ

"April in Paris" was the theme for Taste of Jazz 2016. We tasted French food prepared by Kirkwood Culinary Arts students, and enjoyed the continental sounds of Elsie Parker and The Poor People of Paris from St. Louis.





## CORRIDOR JAZZ

The ninth CD of the Corridor Jazz Project was released in March 2016, featuring 11 schools in Cedar Rapids, Marion, Iowa City, Lisbon and Solon. The Corridor Jazz concert was held over two nights at the Scottish Rite Temple in Cedar Rapids for this program, which has been called the “crown jewel of jazz education in Iowa.”



## STUDENT GUEST DJs

A new feature on-air this year was student guest DJs. Representatives from each participating Corridor Jazz school hosted an hour on KCCCK during April, Jazz Appreciation Month. Students spun some of their favorite artists and jazz charts, discussed what they liked about jazz band and their future plans.



## SCHOOLHOUSE JAZZ/BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

Schoolhouse Jazz served a residency in the Linn-Mar School District in 2016, spending time in each of the seven elementary schools. A clinic was given to fifth graders, followed by a performance for the entire school. The program provided a chance for the fifth graders to show off what they had learned in their clinic.



## HOT AUTUMN NIGHTS: JAZZ IN THE BARN

KCCCK held its first-ever “barn dance” when Iowa City surgeon Ernie Found offered his fabulous party barn for our fall fundraiser. Kirkwood cooked the food, Iowa Brewing Company provided their craft beer, and we rocked the hayloft with The Dandelion Stompers.



## JAZZ BAND CAMP

Jazz Band Camp broke another attendance record with 61 students, who spent a week rehearsing in big band and small combos. Twenty-four of the students were repeat attendees, demonstrating the popularity and value of this program.

# In-studio visitors and other highlights



## CHASE GARRETT

Chase Garrett stopped by to chat with Hollis Monroe about his seventh annual Blues and Boogie Woogie Piano Stomp in November.



## CHAD EBY

Newhall, Iowa native Chad Eby is on the jazz faculty at the University of North Carolina, as well as a clinician for Jazz at Lincoln Center. He also directs the Piedmont Triad Jazz Orchestra. Chad visited Eastern Iowa to clinic at his alma mater, Benton Community High School, and promote "The Sweet Shel Suite," a disc inspired by author Shel Silverstein. While in Iowa, he stopped by to visit with Bob Stewart.



## CONNIE EVINGSEN

Minneapolis-based singer Connie Evingsen performed at Campbell Steele in May. Dennis Green, Bob Naujoks and Cary J. Hahn attended the performance.



## HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN

Hot Club of Cowtown came to visit for a live performance in February along with their widely unknown fourth member, Eva the dog!



## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA JAZZ

The jazz program at the University of Iowa began when percussion instructor Tom Davis received permission to form a jazz band, but with the understanding that the ensemble would not be allowed to rehearse in the music building! A young David Sanborn was a member of that group, as was Jerry Zinn, who went on to a long career as a band director in Iowa City. Zinn and current University of Iowa Jazz Chair John Rapson shared this important oral history in an interview on KCCK that also featured actual archival recordings from the original University of Iowa Jazz Lab Ensemble. Later, a group that included other members of that first group, reunited with David Sanborn onstage at the new Hancher Auditorium.



## RON ADKINS

Ron Adkins narrated "Jazz in the Stacks" at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in February. The Dennis McPartland Group played the music of Pat Metheny while Ron talked about the life and music of the great guitar player.



## KPOTI

"Tropical Heat" host Kpoti Accoh became an American citizen in November. Lisa Baum traveled to Des Moines to celebrate with him and his two sons, Jove and Theron.



# FY 2016 Financial Summary

## REVENUES

CPB – Community Service Grants . . . . .	\$115,001
Contributions from individuals through Kirkwood Community College Foundation . . . . .	\$259,300
Contributions from Business and Industry through Kirkwood Community College Foundation . . . . .	\$57,376
Jazz Camp . . . . .	\$17,432

## NON-OPERATING REVENUES

Investment earnings (loss) . . . . .	(\$11,253)
State Board and Iowa Department of Education allocations . . . . .	\$395,961
Administrative support for Kirkwood Community College . . . . .	\$219,239
Total revenues . . . . .	\$1,053,056

## EXPENSES

Programming and production . . . . .	\$430,152
Broadcast and engineering . . . . .	\$12,871
Program information and production . . . . .	\$24,417
Management and general . . . . .	455,949
Fundraising and membership development . . . . .	\$95,755
Underwriting and grant solicitation . . . . .	\$55,387
Jazz Camp . . . . .	\$15,689
Pension expense . . . . .	(\$6,376)
Depreciation . . . . .	\$19,586
Total expenses . . . . .	\$1,103,430

## CHANGE IN NET POSITION . . . . . (\$50,374)

Net position – beginning of year . . . . .	\$149,581
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle Net position – beginning of year, as restated . . . . .	\$149,581

## NET POSITION – END OF YEAR . . . . . \$99,207

# Hollis Monroe: A Voice for Jazz



If that new voice on KCCK in the midday slot sounds familiar to you, perhaps it's because he read your name, or the name of your child or grandchild, on graduation day at Iowa State University. Every

year since 1999, Hollis Monroe has donned a cap and gown, and read the names of students as they crossed the stage to receive their diplomas.

Hollis joined KCCK in 2016 on his birthday, April 4. Filling the shoes of a legendary on-air personality like the much-missed Mark Yother is a tall order, but Hollis hit the ground running, and in the months since his arrival, has smoothly integrated himself into the corridor jazz community and the KCCK family.

Hollis was born in Moline, Illinois and started musical training at an early age. He joined and toured with the Moline Boys Choir when he was eight, a singing career that included an appearance with Moline jazz legend Louie Bellson at the Moline quasiquintennial in 1973. At about the same time, he began studying violin, viola and cello. In college, he began as a string performance major, but switched to vocal performance when the smooth, rich voice that today has become his trademark began to emerge.

After graduating from Marycrest College, he apprenticed with the Des Moines Opera and for years toured nationally as a violinist/violist, vocalist, Shakespearean actor, music director and conductor. He's taught vocal pedagogy, literature and diction at several music and Shakespearean academies. He served as director of both church and madrigal choirs, and performed publicly. From singing in jazz clubs, dinner theaters and operas, to performing in orchestras, singing the national

anthem at sporting events, even playing piano at wakes, Hollis has seen a wide variety of audiences.

He began his public radio career at WVIK, while attending Augustana College in Rock Island. After his touring performance career ended, Hollis returned to broadcasting in 1996 at WOI radio in Ames, and continued there through the station's transition to Iowa Public Radio, before joining KCCK.

A self-professed sci-fi and fantasy geek with an astounding collection of fantasy movie-themed ball caps, Hollis says that interviewing Leonard Nimoy and John De Lancie (Star Trek's Spock and Q, respectively), for a radio project called "Alien Voices," remains a highlight of the many interviews he's done.

Now at KCCK, Hollis enjoys talking with listeners, finding it immensely rewarding. Best of all he says, "I get to share jazz on the radio with my fellow fans five days a week and get paid for it. How cool is that?"



Hollis Monroe on stage at the Iowa City Jazz Festival.



# The Year in Jazz

By Bob Stewart



For Eastern Iowans, the year in jazz 2016 saw the return of an old friend; or should I say new friend! The beautifully rebuilt Hancher Auditorum opened for business in September with an outdoor performance

by Trombone Shorty and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Hancher jazz concerts have been held at various other venues in the area since the flood of 2008 washed away the original structure. University of Iowa alumnus David Sanborn returned to Iowa City with his Electric Band and joined in a reunion of the original University of Iowa Johnson County Landmark Jazz Band. Joe Lovano, who had played Hancher some years before with his nonet, returned in November as part of a quintet with the great Cuban pianist Chucho Valdes.

The next year began with an appearance by the Rebirth Brass Band at the Englert Theater in February. In April, the SFJazz Collective performed a Michael Jackson tribute in Dubuque at the Heritage Center. It was a treat to have saxophonist Miguel Zenon of SFJazz make a return visit to the area in July with his own quartet, performing at the Iowa City Jazz Festival. The festival's stellar lineup included Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom, the Akiko Tsuruga Trio, Pancho Sanchez's hot Latin jazz band, up-and-coming trumpeter Marquis Hill and his Blacktet, and pianist David Berkman, all gracing the stage on the University of Iowa Pentacrest. Bassist and singer Esperanza Spalding returned to the Englert Theater in October. The year's highlights concluded with Twin Cities vocalist Connie Evingson's performance at the Campbell Steele Gallery in Marion, and Matt Wilson's Christmas Tree-O winding things down in December.

We lost numerous jazz icons in 2016 starting with the greatest recording engineer in jazz history, Rudy Van Gelder. He was responsible for thousands of recordings including nearly every session on the Blue Note label from 1953-1967, which encompassing some of jazz's most groundbreaking and enduring classics. The master of jazz harmonica, Jean-Baptiste 'Toots' Thielemann, passed away at age 94. Legendary New Orleans clarinetist Pete Fountain left us, and premiere vibraphonist Bobby Hutcherson also passed from the scene. Leaving the piano bench empty were renowned Canadian pianist Paul Bley at age 83, and Sir Charles Thompson, at age 98. We lost noted jazz vocalist Ernestine Anderson and jazz and blues singer and pianist Mose Allison. Allison, noted for his work as a songwriter, saw his work covered by a wide variety of groups from The Who, Leon Russell and Bonnie Raitt, to the Rolling Stones, Tom Waits, Van Morrison and John Mayall.

From the rhythm section, one-time Weather Report bassist, Victor Bailey, succumbed to Lou Gehrig's disease at age 56. Bob Cranshaw, who was the bassist of choice for Sonny Rollins over five decades, died in November at age 83. The Scottish baritone saxophonist Joe Temperly, who anchored the reed section of the bands of Woody Herman, Duke Ellington and Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, held the baritone sax chair for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra from its inception until his death at age 86 in May. Prostate cancer took the life of another Ellington alum in May, trombonist Buster Cooper, at age 87. Renowned educator, composer and arranger David Baker of the famed Indiana University jazz program left us at age 84. Contemporary jazz icon, composer, bandleader and drummer Alphonse Mouzon died on Christmas Day at age 68. Finally, trumpeter and educator Paul Smoker, who led the Coe College jazz program for 14 years, and the University of Iowa and University of Northern Iowa programs for shorter periods, died in May at age 75.

# Raised on Jazz and KCCK

Ben Williams

“For as long as I remember, my family has listened to KCCK,” says Ben Williams of Cedar Rapids. “We had it on in the car whenever we were driving somewhere, in the house on the weekends, and you better believe it’s on come Christmas time. It most certainly made an impression on me: cultivating a very different set of musical ideas and tastes than most children my age.”

The son of two musicians, Gail and Paul Williams, Ben admits he ran hot and cold on jazz as a youngster.

“I remember going through phases of loving and hating it. Sometimes I wouldn’t understand the music that was playing; it sounded dissonant and confusing. Over time I have come to relish the complexity of jazz, and no other genre can really replace that,” he said.



**Ben Williams mugs for friends in the audience at a gig at DG’s Tap House in Ames.**

But good lineage doesn’t save you in jazz combo. Ben smiles ruefully as he remembers one of the jazz band camp directors yelling at him for changing the form in the middle of a piece at KCCK’s Middle School Jazz Band Camp.

Ben continued to benefit from KCCK education programs in high school, when the Xavier band participated in the Corridor Jazz project. He remembers enjoying the recording process for the CD and being able to watch the other high school bands at the annual Corridor Jazz Concert.

Ben has continued his music career while working on a demanding course of study in college and graduate school. Even as he gets ready to complete his Master of Science in Computer Engineering, he also finds time to play regularly in combos with friends at Ames music haunts like The Maintenance Shop and DG’s Tap House; as well as coming home and performing with his parents at Ramsey’s in Marion.

“Jazz is such a great outlet for creativity,” he says. “Not to mention the fact it has been a welcome distraction for some of my more stressful classes.”

In fact, Ben has a theory that studying music, particularly jazz, helps in his tough academic discipline. “Things like analyzing and reproducing patterns, understanding the math behind music, leading cross-discipline teams, and dealing with ambiguity. I would bet that out of Iowa State University’s band program, over half of the students are engineering majors.”

One thing that Ben has noticed as he has traveled, is that not only is it rare to have a jazz station like KCCK in town, but even more rare is the opportunity to interact with and learn from music professionals in programs like those KCCK offers.

“All of the kids in the music programs have so many awesome clinics, workshops, lessons, and opportunities that spring out of jazz education,” he says. “As for the radio station, I will say this: after moving out of Cedar Rapids, I’ve lived in Ames, Kansas City, and Minneapolis, where not a single jazz radio station was as good as KCCK. It is a pure listening experience. Nothing matches the variety and character KCCK brings.”

After graduation, Ben will move to Seattle to take a job as a software engineer at Microsoft. But he intends to also keep pursuing music. “I just couldn’t imagine life without music,” he says.

# A Lifeline to Another World

Jim Majusiak



Jim Majusiak first began listening to KCCCK to get a respite from his high-pressure job as an emergency room physician in Iowa City.

“For me, to go back to my workstation and hear some music reminded me there was another world out there, kind of a cool oasis,” he said.

Growing up in rural South Dakota, there weren’t many entertainment options. But a young Jim bought a crystal radio that enabled him to pull in faraway stations like WLS and KOMA at night.

“There’s something about radio,” he says, “and particularly music on the radio that you can project your whole self into. It was like a lifeline to another world.”

Jim went to medical school in Portland, before moving to Iowa City to focus on emergency medicine. While working many late nights in the emergency room, Jim, mentioned to a colleague that he missed the listening options he had in Oregon, particularly during the overnight hours. His friend suggested KCCCK.

And that was all it took. Over time, listening to KCCCK became a bigger and bigger part of Jim’s life. Eventually, he even asked the hospital engineering department to run an antenna wire from the roof to his workstation, which was deep inside Iowa City’s Mercy Hospital, and had poor reception.

“That became moot when the station started streaming,” he chuckled.

During those many years working through the night, Jim served as a sort of volunteer air monitor for KCCCK, calling in if the station went off the air in the wee hours.

He appreciates how KCCCK has used technology to improve the quality and access of its programming. Putting in the Iowa City 106.9 translator, introducing streaming, and now the Radio Free America on-demand service, are all things that make listening to KCCCK more pleasant and convenient for him.

Jim doesn’t remember exactly when he started donating to KCCCK.

“I’m sure it was pretty sporadic at first,” he says.

But over time, KCCCK became one of the most important charitable organizations in his life. He’s passionate about the quality of KCCCK’s programs, and wants to see the station continue to grow and improve, which requires additional funding.

“I’ve thought that someday I just might call in to the fund drive and offer a money-back guarantee. Donate to KCCCK. If in six months the music doesn’t sound sweeter and you aren’t happier for supporting this effort, then I will refund your membership!”

Jim says that donating to KCCCK is important because there are no guarantees in life that the things we enjoy will always be around.

“Sometimes things disappear; whether it’s the corner grocery or the friendly guy you knew that ran the service station. Small operations like that, when they go away, they don’t come back. And that’s where the urgency is in supporting it. Because it’s probably more tenuous than any of us realize.”

Making sure KCCCK’s existence is not tenuous is why we ask people to contribute, and people like Jim Majusiak who support the station year after year keep us on firm financial footing.

## Our thanks

to the individuals and companies who invested in jazz public radio with a contribution in 2016.

KCCK's continued existence rests solely on the support of our listeners. YOU keep the jazz playing on KCCK!

**Sustaining Members are highlighted in bold type. These music fans have made the special commitment to make a pledge to KCCK that automatically renews every year. The guaranteed, consistent giving gives us the ability to better budget and plan for the long term.**

The following list reflects charitable gifts given to KCCK between January 1 - December 31, 2016. While every effort has been made to ensure that this report is accurate, we apologize in advance if we failed to list your name properly.

If you believe your listing is in error, or you do not wish your name to be printed in future reports, please contact KCCK's Development Office at (319) 398-5421.

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# Dancing to The Music

## Casey and Kate Cook

Through their family businesses, Cook Appraisal and Garage MaHaul Self Storage, Casey Cook and Kate Gfeller have sponsored a variety of KCCK events, most recently Hot Autumn Nights - Jazz in the Barn.

Kate has been a musician since childhood and put herself through college playing organ at a Des Moines church. She has degrees from Drake, Northwestern University, and a PhD. from Michigan State. Her career combines her education with her love for music, as she is one of the world's foremost experts in research concerning how cochlear implant patients react to and experience music. Her work in finding ways to improve that experience has been translated into five languages and taken her to twenty-five countries.

Casey, who grew up in Michigan, has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa. He has operated his appraisal and storage businesses since 1993. In addition to music, theatre, and the tango, Casey is a fan of Iowa Women's Basketball. This was a passion

ignited by Kate's mom, who played the venerable six-on-six game as a teenager and followed the sport throughout her life.

Casey and Kate are fans of all kinds of jazz, from Weather Report and Ella Fitzgerald to Norah Jones and Madeleine Peyroux. Kate remembers playing Duke Ellington charts on oboe in high school band.

But if you really want to get to know this couple, watch them on the dance floor. The tango is their favorite dance, and they've taught themselves to integrate tango steps in ballroom dances like rumba, foxtrot and swing.

The Cooks like to support organizations that have a positive spirit and passion for the arts.

"We think KCCK is an excellent vehicle for both," Casey said.

We're grateful to Casey and Kate for supporting KCCK's community and fundraising events, but especially for heating up our dance floor!



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Thanks to the family and friends of Mark Yother, LeRoy Karr and Fran Boston who contributed memorial gifts in their names in 2016:

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