Thythmen Spring 2022 Thythe Spring 2022



Returning to Live
Top Albums of 2021

Student Profile: Vivian Shanley

Staff Profile: Saul Lubaroff

Member Profile:

Peg Dana



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE KEY OF G

When I think back to 2021, the thing that always comes to mind is having to talk around the lump in my throat when I stood onstage for the first time in more than a year to welcome the



Dennis Green

audience to the lowa City Jazz Festival. The same thing happened a few weeks later when at the opening of Jazz Under the Stars. Looking out over the happy crowd, reveling in the return of something we had all missed so much, made me quite emotional. I was lucky I was able to get through the script!

Even though the return to normal we thought we were getting last summer ended up being something of a false start, I am so very proud of the things KCCK accomplished during tough times.

Beating the odds, we were able to complete the Corridor Jazz Project and provide a glint of normalcy to music programs that were nearly shuttered by a virus that seemed tailor-made to

decimate the performing arts. Adding a video component to the program, in lieu of an in-person concert, proved so popular that we've decided to keep doing videos, and release a DVD. This allows everyone to see as well as hear the fine work of the students in our area jazz programs.

I continue to be in awe every day of how the KCCK staff has weathered the last two years without complaint or pause, nimbly negotiating an ever-changing list of health and safety guidelines, and never letting a hint of stress show on the air. So many people have written, messaged, and called to say they appreciate the calm, informative, and friendly presence of KCCK as a respite from the uncertainty of current times. And you backed up that appreciation with donations! KCCK's fundraising has never suffered during these unpredictable months, and that puts us in an excellent position to keep moving forward.

With luck, in 2022 we'll be able to put the bad of the last two years behind us, keep the positive things we learned, and return to enjoying the music that sustains us in the company of friends who we've missed.



Dennis Green General Manager, KCCK

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Jazz 88.3 KCCK FM & HD Radio

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2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Operating Revenues

CPB, Community Service Grants

\$28,942

Contributions from individuals through Kirkwood Community College Foundation

\$263,201

CPB, Other Support

\$135,743

Contributions from business and industry through Kirkwood Community College Foundation

\$22,238

Nonoperating Revenues

Investment earnings (loss)

\$138,112

State Board and lowa Department of Education allocations

\$532,380

Administrative support from Kirkwood Community College

\$209,624

Expenses

Programming and Production

\$472,530

Broadcast and Engineering

\$24,579

Programming Information and Promotion

\$17,357

Management and General

\$486,232

Fundraising and Membership Development

\$72,541

Underwriting and Grant Solicitation

\$41,961

Jazz Camp

\$263

Depreciation

\$17,630

KCCK's Financial Audits for this and previous years can be viewed at **www.kcck.org/legal** or in person during business hours at the KCCK office.

TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,330,240

CHANGES IN NET POSITION

\$197,147

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,133,093





Schools were largely back to in-person learning for much of the 2020 – '21 academic year, but it was obvious there was no safe way to bring more than a dozen jazz bands into a compact location for recording. So, unable to bring the students to us, we went to the students!

Over a two-month period beginning in January 2021, the Corridor Jazz Project went on the road, recording jazz bands at their schools. Of our 13 participants, we had 11 sessions; two schools in the lowa City district, which prohibited all outside guests, submitted recordings they made themselves.

Knowing that an in-person concert was unlikely to happen, we thought ahead and video recorded each session. These videos formed the basis for an online version of the Corridor Jazz Project concert, streamed live on May 5. The videos were so popular that we have decided to continue them, and the 2022 Corridor Jazz Project will be a DVD instead of just a CD. Thanks to GmixEast for their hard work this past year and for joining the Corridor Jazz Project team!

KCCK's Student Guest DJ hours were held over Zoom and broadcast during April Jazz Appreciation Month.



We were able to bring back KCCK's Middle School Jazz Band Camp in July after a pandemic layoff. Camp transitioned from one full-day session to two half-day sessions. This enabled us not only to keep students spread out in rehearsal but also to register more kids. Nearly 70 students participated, an all-time high. Many of us did things differently during the pandemic, and we have carried over those new ideas into our daily work. The new camp structure is one of those things. Plans are to stick with the half-day format for 2022.









Returning To Live

We cautiously moved back toward live, in-person events in the summer of 2021, with many of our signature events returning to happy and enthusiastic (but socially distant) crowds.

Iowa City Jazz Festival

The Iowa City Jazz Festival returned. The festival was shortened to two days, but it contained enough energy for an entire week! Iowa's Jazz Station kicked off the Friday festivities with a special performance of Schoolhouse Jazz. Saturday highlights included the three-horned attack of Jennifer Wharton's Bonegasm, and the festival was capped off by an electrifying performance from Minneapolis-based guitarist Cory Wong.







Jazz Under The Stars

Jazz Under the Stars came back with a roar, as we finally delivered shows originally booked in 2020 from the Eric Thompson Quintet, the Craig Erickson Quartet, and Soul Sacrifice. The Iowa Women's Jazz Orchestra was rained out, but we hope to bring them back in 2022.







First Friday Jazz

First Friday Jazz returned to in-person shows in October, after featuring live streams through most of 2020 and 2021. Eddie Piccard kicked off the return, and each show since has been a sellout.







STAFF PROFILE: Saul Lubaroff

Saul often posts a selfie during his KCCK shows.

Saul Lubaroff has been a familiar presence on lowa bandstands for decades. These days, he's also a familiar presence on lowa's Jazz Station. You can hear Saul pretty much every week, either during his regular Saturday and Sunday morning shows, or when he subs in during the week. Saul joined the KCCK staff in 2019, and his deep jazz knowledge and natural gifts as a friend communicator have quickly made him a popular host.

Saul's love for jazz began when he was a child, and it was enriched by the unique musical opportunities afforded him growing up in lowa City.

"My dad listened to jazz all the time. Modern Jazz Quartet, Jerry Mulligan, Count Basie. Those were the albums I listened to. And I also became exposed to the plethora of jazz and music at Hancher Auditorium in the '70s and '80s. And also the University of Iowa Jazz Department, which at the time was just starting to flourish."

Saul started off on the clarinet in elementary school but encountered a common issue for young musicians in junior high. "When I got to seventh grade, of course, there were too many clarinets. My band director, Lee Witwer, who I count as one of the reasons I became a professional musician, needed some people to switch. To bass clarinet, bassoon ... I volunteered to play tenor sax."

This was about the same time that Saul's Tourette's syndrome began to manifest itself. He credits music and his playing for getting him through many difficult times.

"Over the years, I've discovered that having Tourette's and also possessing music talent is quite common. I was able to put so much of my energy and angst into my saxophone. It gave me a way to focus when going to school and sitting in class was the hardest thing for me - to try to sit still and control my tics."

As a musician, Saul's experience has ranged from leading his own straight-ahead jazz groups to playing funk, blues, and in legendary lowa ensembles like Johnny Kilowatt, Shade of Blue, and The Fez. Highlights of his playing career include opening for George Clinton and Koko Taylor, sitting in with his friend, pianist Michael Wolff at New York City's Knickerbocker Club, and joining Orchestra Iowa on clarinet to back Bernadette Peters.

KCCK is not Saul's first radio gig. He did part-time stints at KKRQ and WMT-FM in the '80s and 90s and was even the subject of a 1986 NPR profile, which delved into the complications of a person living with Tourette's doing a radio show. He discovered early on that despite the extra challenges he faced, he had a gift for this style of communication and entertainment.

"I loved and I still do love the sound of my voice through the headphones. I've always been able to talk to people, and I love talking about music."

But being on KCCK is a more meaningful and personal experience because he gets to play the music that's important to him.

Even though Saul has been connected to KCCK as a musician for many years, he's proud to be more closely connected with the station and its many programs, both on the air and in the community.

"I've known most of [the KCCK staff] for a long time as a musician. Apart from just providing a service of being one of the best, if not the best, jazz stations in the Midwest of the country, is how tied in we are to the community. It makes me proud."

KCCK's Top Albums for 2021

Even with the restrictions of the pandemic, jazz artists found ways to record and release great music in 2021. Here's a look at some of the albums that rose to the top throughout the year on lowa's Jazz Station. Visit www.kcck.org/news/top-88-for-2021 to see the full Top 88 chart.

- **1.** Gerry Gibbs Thrasher Dream Trios "Songs From My Father" (Whaling City Sound) September Album of the Month
- **2.** Veronica Swift "This Bitter Earth" (Mack Avenue) March Album of the Month
- **3.** Helen Sung "Quartet+" (Sunnyside) October Album of the Month
- **4.** Roy Hargrove & Mulgrew Miller "In Harmony" (Resonance)
- **5.** Till Bronner & Bob James "On Vacation" (Sony Masterworks)
- **6.** Matthew Whitaker "Connections" (Resilience)
- **7.** Diana Krall "This Dream of You" (Verve)
- **8.** Ethan Iverson "Bud Powell in the 21st Century" (Sunnyside) February Album of the Month
- **9.** Jennifer Wharton's Bonegasm "Not a Novelty" (Sunnyside)
- **10.** Marc Cary "Life Lessons" (Sessionheads)
- 11. Leo Sidran "The Art of Conversation" (Bonsai)
- **12.** David Larsen "The Mulligan Chronicles" (David Larsen) April Album of the Month

- 13. Quincy Davis "Q Vision" (Qore)
- **14.** Dave McMurray "Grateful Deadication" (Blue Note) August Album of the Month
- **15.** Dave Stryker "Baker's Circle" (Strikezone)
- **16.** Nnenna Freelon "Time Traveler" (Origin)
- **17.** George Kahn "Dream Catcher" (Playing Records)
- **18.** Julian Lage "Squint" (Blue Note)
- **19.** Anibal Rojas "Cachai" (Anibal Rojas)
 January Album of the Month
- **20.** Dave Zinno Unisphere "Fetish" (Whaling City Sound)
- **21.** Alexa Tarantino "Firefly" (Posi-Tone)
- **22.** Behn Gillece "Still Doing Our Thing" (Posi-Tone)
- **23.** Melody Gardot "Sunset in the Blue" (Decca)
- **24.** Bob Mintzer & WDR Big Band "Soundscapes" (MCG Jazz)
- **25.** Charles Lloyd & the Marvels "Tone Poem" (Blue Note)

KCCK's jazz education programs allow us to meet extraordinarily talented young people at the start of their musical lives.

Vivian Shanley is definitely one of those extraordinary people.

We first got to work with Vivian as she learned the bass at KCCK's Middle School Jazz Band Camp. "That was my first time playing jazz," she says. "At first it was really scary, but I learned a lot about playing in a band and how to take a solo. It became a lot of fun."

Once in high school, Vivian found her path in music and never looked back. She plays in Washington High School's Jazz Revolutionists (recording on four Corridor Jazz Project CDs). She was a four-year member of the All-State Orchestra as principal bassist and a three-year member of both the 4A All-State Jazz Band and NEIBA Jazz Band.

Outside of school, Vivian hones her chops gigging around the state. Her first combo was the popular Corridor Quintet. She's also fronted her own Vivian Shanley Duo and has also performed with the lowa Women's Jazz Orchestra.

Hard work and dedication to her craft has earned her a list of awards a seasoned pro would envy, including the Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award for Outstanding Small Group Composition.

Vivian thanks John Hall, her bass teacher, Melinda Westphalen, her piano instructor, and band and orchestra teachers Jared Wacker and Andrew Steffen for inspiring her passion for music. "The teacher who's had the biggest impact on me, though," Vivian says, "is my jazz band director, Joel Nagel. He taught me everything I know and has always inspired me to step outside my comfort zone."

She's also grateful to KCCK for helping her develop as a musician. "[KCCK General Manager] Dennis Green has been such a support. He has always been willing to book us for gigs." Vivian and her various combos have played a long list of KCCK events, including Jazz Under the Stars, First Friday Jazz, Taste of Jazz, and the lowa City Jazz Festival. "I wouldn't be where I am today without KCCK," she says.

Fall 2022 will find Vivian at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, studying for a degree in Music Education and honing her skills with the acclaimed Mark Urness, another bassist with deep lowa connections. "Mark Urness is such a great teacher, and I'm very glad to be at his school," says Vivian. "I went there for a campus visit and knew right away that Lawrence was the place. I really felt like I belonged there."

Everyone at KCCK is very proud of Vivian and all that she's accomplished ... so far. We can't wait to hear what her future holds.



KCCK 2021 Donors

The following list reflects charitable gifts given to KCCK between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021. 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 the KCCK Office at 319-398-5446.

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.

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MEMBER PROFILE: Peg Dana

"KCCK is a resource that has been there my entire adult life," says Peg Dana. She began listening in 1973 as an undergrad at Cornell College in Mount Vernon. Her future husband, the late Robert Dana, introduced her to both KCCK and the larger world of jazz.

"Bob loved jazz," says Peg. "He could hear a song and know who was singing or who was playing. A song would start and he'd say, 'Oh, that's Anita O'Day!'"

She enjoyed Bob's passion for jazz and his desire to share that passion with her. Peg remembers Bob listening to a Cleo Laine song and urging her, "You gotta listen to this!" They eventually saw Cleo Laine perform twice — once in Chicago and once in London.

She and Bob (an Iowa Poet Laureate) traveled the world, from Africa to China. "We were always going somewhere." Their mutual loves of travel and jazz went hand in hand. It opened their ears to other great singers, like Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, and such stellar players as Bill Evans, Chet Baker, Coleman Hawkins, and Teddy Wilson.

But it was Sundays at home with lowa's Jazz Station that were always special for Peg. Those were days for reading, cooking, or planning the next adventure — often with KCCK in the background. Pressed to name a favorite KCCK show, she mentions Bob Naujoks and "Gentle Jazz." "I could listen to him all day, any time," she says.

Peg remembers one Sunday when she and her husband were sitting on the porch, drinking their morning coffee and listening to a song by Jane Monheit. They were so impressed by her singing that they booked tickets to her upcoming show in Cedar Rapids.

Peg has been a KCCK donor "longer than I can remember." Our records go back to about 1989 and her name is there, which makes her a member of a loyal group who have donated every year for more than three decades.

Peg retired in 2014 and has since remarried retired nurse and acclaimed visual artist Rolland Guild. Rolland shares her love of jazz and is by Peg's side at KCCK events like the Iowa City Jazz Festival, Jazz Under the Stars, and First Friday Jazz.

And, of course, on quiet Sundays listening to the radio.

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