



# Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: JOHN KRANTZ

Instrument: Piano/Promoter

Year Inducted: 2024

John Krantz has had a passion for jazz since he was in his teens and was fortunate to work with older musicians at an early age. John moved to Boston in 1976 and studied privately for several months. This was when he fell in love with jazz theory and had the opportunity to experience many world class jazz artists. Due to a very demanding schedule in the family business for many years, John did not perform publicly until 2006 when Hall of Fame bassist, Ross Cornelison asked him to fill in for the ailing pianist, Stu Calhoon. This was a turning point for John and he has been playing around Des Moines on a regular basis ever since.

Besides performing, John has been an avid promoter of jazz in Des Moines. He founded the CJC Hall Of Fame in 2001, arranged to provide a venue for The Des Moines Big Band to perform at for several years, established and administered the first CJC website and Facebook pages for many years. He has been the artistic director for the annual Hoyt Sherman Place Jazz In July series since its inception in 2019. Additionally, he has personally brought one of his favorite pianists, Benny Green, to Des Moines three times.

John began booking music for a local establishment in 2014 that features jazz duos and trios twice weekly and added another established restaurant in 2022. This adds up to no less than sixteen gigging opportunities a month that he provides for local jazz musicians to perform. The most gratifying part of his involvement with jazz in Des Moines are equal parts of 1) providing opportunities for musicians to perform and 2) exposing the general public to high quality music. He devoted 23 years to working on the CJC Hall Of Fame before finally “passing the torch” in 2024. The Hall of Fame is undoubtedly his proudest achievement as it has provided needed recognition to dozens of iconic musicians since 2001. Besides being a “jazz advocate”, John stays very active serving on the board of directors of several non-profit arts organizations.

