



Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: BEN HARRISON

Instrument: Guitar and Educator

Year Inducted: 2005

Ben Harrison got his first electric guitar in 1938 and began playing with musicians while attending Roosevelt High School. Upon graduation, he joined the service where he played with the Navy Cadet Big Band under the direction of another CJC Hall of Fame member, Don East. After the service, Ben attended Drake University where he obtained his B.A. degree.

All told, Ben played the guitar in central Iowa for nearly 75 years, including performances with hundreds of notable musicians and in just about every type of gig imaginable – radio shows, television programs, hotel lounges, nightclubs, KRNT Theatre, casinos and private parties. There is only one thing longer than Ben's list of gigs. That's the list of guitar students he has encouraged during his years in Des Moines. Harrison passed away in 2013 at the age of 89.

