



Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: BOBBY PARKER

Instrument: Drums

Year Inducted: 2001

Bobby Parker was the “go-to” jazz drummer in Des Moines for five decades and it seems that he played with virtually every player in town. Influenced by drummer Jo Jones and known for his swinging brush technique, Bobby worked with many of the other Hall Of Fame inductees including Speck Redd, Francis Bates, Do East, Helen Gale and Ross Cornelison.

Over the years, Bobby had the opportunity to play with many of jazz greats that came through Des Moines, including Coleman Hawkins, Roy Eldridge, Eddie Peabody, Pearl Bailey, Mary Lou Williams, The Harmonicats and even the great Art Tatum. One of his last long running engagements was at the Savery Hotel with Irene Myles, Jim Bierma and eventually Julius Brooks.

