



Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: DON ARCHER

Instrument: Guitar

Year Inducted: 2004

Born and raised in Des Moines, Don Archer's musical education began at Phillips Elementary School where he played violin. During that time, Don began hearing various jazz guitarists on the radio, most notably Django Reinhardt, and decided that the guitar was the instrument for him. Self-taught on the guitar, Don's first professional job came in 1958 with a country music trio. By 1959, his musical interests turned to rock and roll, playing with Larry Dowd and the Rock-a-Tones on their hit recording "Pink Cadillac."

In 1962, Don became interested in playing jazz guitar while living in Duluth, MN. When he returned to Des Moines several years later, he hooked up with organist Sam Salomone and the two of them, along with a cast of other area musicians, became the standard bearers of progressive jazz in Des Moines. Although Don moved to Tucson in 1982, his influence on the area is as strong as ever. The list of active Des Moines musicians who studied with Don is a "who's who" of the area's finest jazz musicians.

Don passed away in 2010.

