



Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: JASON DANIELSON

Instrument: PIANO

Year Inducted: 2021

Jason Danielson was in eighth grade when he first met and performed with many of the city's jazz legends at CJC's student jam sessions. Today, he is proud to join those players in the CJC Hall of Fame.

Lessons learned from Bob Washut, Stu Calhoon, Susie Miget and others prepared Jason for a playing career with many local groups as well as numerous touring groups and musicals. When musicians such as Aretha Franklin, Claudio Roditi, The Mingus Dynasty and others needed a pianist for their Des Moines gigs, they called Danielson. He's also a regular in the pit for Broadway shows such as "West Side Story," "The Producers" and others that come to the Des Moines Civic Center.

More importantly, Danielson is active on the local scene. He serves as pianist, arranger and musical director for Fred Gazzo, with whom he has collaborated on three recordings. He has performed with the Des Moines Big Band, Scott Davis, Tony Valdez, Susie Miget, Wayne Page and others at area festivals, club dates and parties. Danielson also guides the next generation of players as a clinician/judge for the Coe College, Hoover, NEIBA and CJC jazz band festivals and a faculty member at the Simpson College Jazz Camp.

Jazz piano is not his only passion, however. Danielson, who holds an MA in history from ISU, teaches history and social sciences for Des Moines Public Schools. He researches, writes and presents workshops about the music of the Civil Rights movement.

Danielson is humbled to be inducted into the Des Moines Hall of Fame where so many of his mentors have been honored. "These are the people who hooked me on jazz, taught me the ins and outs of playing and allowed me to share the bandstand with them," notes Danielson. "CJC made a difference in my career as a musician and continues to do the same for so many younger musicians on the scene."

