



Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: JIM OATTS

Instrument: Trumpet and Educator

Year Inducted: 2008

With a background that includes gigs with Chase, Machito, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton and the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band, trumpeter Jim Oatts could earn a living as a jazz musician in just about any city of his choice. He chose Des Moines, where he shared his musical knowledge with students at Southeast Polk Schools and his talents in numerous musical settings in the area. The son of Iowa's patron saint of high school jazz bands, Jack Oatts, Jim is the driving force behind the Des Moines Big Band, a group he began playing with in 1969, taking on the leadership role in 1979. Eight years later, Jim helped get the band settled into its regular Monday night appearances.

In addition to the big band, Jim is an active performer with numerous local combos. His performances with Chase lead to his 2005 induction into the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. However, it's his dedication to keeping jazz alive that has earned him a position in the CJC Jazz Hall of Fame. Jim currently lives in Philadelphia.

