



# Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: RUFUS SPATES

Instrument: Saxophone

Year Inducted: 2013

Born in Texas, saxophonist Rufus Spates moved to Des Moines in 1938. After serving in the Armed Forces, he returned to Des Moines, where he married Edith Gray, a sister of the Gray Brothers, and began playing in their band at the Sepia Club on Center Street. Known for his bluesy saxophone playing, Rufus also led bands for groups such as the Monarch Club and the Hawkeye Elks. Even after the demise of Center Street, he kept performing with many notable Des Moines musicians including Speck Redd and Irene Myles. His suit and saxophone were part of the “Patten’s Neighborhood” exhibit at the State Historical Center.

