

March 2022

Hope 'Springs' eternal for JU Scholarship Auditioners

By "CP" Christopher Peppas

Some of you may recall the old one-liner: "How do I get to Carnegie Hall? Practice. Practice!" On Sunday, March 20, from 1-4 p.m., Joe's K Ranch will



be transformed into the JAZZ UNLIMITED version of that vaunted New York venue.

It represents the culmination of all the fund raising done throughout the year at the monthly jazz jams, the October All-Star Jazz-stravaganza, membership dues, JU's patrons and venue sponsorship through advertising in this monthly newsletter.

All are welcome to attend this event as a way of not only showing your support, but to

listen to some great music. Attendees are always amazed at the level of talent on display year in and year out. And...if you're moved to add to the coffers for next year's auditions...that's even better.

Each year, the JU organization, now in it's 51st year, fulfills one of its core missions. That is to raise money for youth scholarships to encourage and educate the next generation of musicians who gravitate toward our preferred genre ~ JAZZ ~ in all its forms.



This year, a gaggle of hopefuls, musicians and vocalists alike, will gather, perform and try to get their hands on \$9,025 dollars in cash awards.



This year's prize package includes a little twist. The top and second-best jazz guitar player will win an additional \$1,000 and \$500 worth of private lessons, respectively, from Milwaukee native and jazz legend Dick Eliot.



Mr. Eliot, who is well into his eighties, continues to record and perform live at The Clarke Hotel, County Clare among other venues.

Dick's curriculum vitae is most impressive. He recently sold his residence in Las

Vegas, where he lived for almost fifty years when he played with Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Sammy Davis, Jr., Barbra Streisand and even some names you'd recognize.

Jazz Unlimited began as a group of devotees of Dixieland Jazz, which was a popular music form around town in the early Seventies.

What constitutes what we now call jazz has changed plenty over the decades to include Be-Bop, Straight Ahead, fusion, The Standards, Great American Songbook, Gypsy, jazz's first cousin "The Blues" and more to come.

All forms of music are like amoebas and changing all the time. Rock-a-Billy, Rock & Roll, Pop, Country...you name it.

All one needs to do is listen to the hue and cry every time the nominees into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame are announced or The Halftime Show at the Super Bowl is on.

Suffice it so say that what JU is most interested in fostering the love its members have for jazz and encouraging the next batch as they come out of the oven.



Put another way, we are the incubator in the Jazz Henhouse. And you are a big part of it.

Whether you're a member or not (why wouldn't you be) or just come occasionally to JU's jams or you simply stick around to listen and are engaged when you stumble upon a group playing when you go out to eat.

It is infectious, be forewarned, and there is no vaccine so far and no one's expressed interest in discovering one.

We have awards for reed players, horn players, vocalists, showmanship and those younger players just getting their feet wet.

If you know of anyone who you think might qualify to audition (must be 18 or younger on March 20), please let them know.

All the details, requirements and applications as well as complete descriptions of all of the awards are on the JU website: www.JazzUnlimitedMKE.org.

Feel free to contact any members of the JU Board. The email addresses are on the front cover of the newsletter as well.

Hope to see you at this or another JU event real soon.

