

John Damberg Jazz Quartet and Quintet

Client Comments

August 17, 2024-Spenard, AK neighborhood party

Everybody really dug the band! It was an honor to have you folks play for us.

Patrick Winsett-Anchorage, AK fan and house party organizer

April 7, 2024-Anchorage, AK House Concert

Very much enjoyed the evening. You guys really cooked, especially in the second set!

Monica Jenicek-Anchorage Jazz Pianist and fan

March 23, 2024-UAA Recital Hall Performance of the John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet

You guys sounded and played excellent tonight. It was a lot of fun watching and listening! Very cool.

Ray Ash-Alaska fan and accomplished jazz and blues guitarist

March 1, 2024-Cordova Community Performance of the John Damberg Latin Jazz Quartet

We can't thank you enough or the support you've shown to our kids. Thomas (pianist) was in his glory up on the stage performing with your band. Thank you for inspiring him and for helping to shape and mold his love for jazz. My older son, Vincent on alto sax, was also very pleased to perform on stage with the Cordova High School Jazz Band.

Nicole Nothstine-Mother of Thomas and Vincent Nothstine in Cordova, AK

March 1, 2024-John Damberg Latin Jazz Quartet community performance in Cordova, AK.

Hi John. It was great to see you again and thanks for all the hard work you did to make things happen.

Anita Smyke-Vice President Cordova Arts and Pageants, Cordova, AK

February 24, 2024-John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet community performance at Valdez, AK

Thank you guys for coming. Great performance! So good for the Valdez middle and high school students to get personal coaching from John Damberg.

Maureen Radotich-President Valdez Arts Council, Valdez, AK

February 2 & 3, 2024-John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet school concerts & workshops in Soldotna, AK

I wanted to reach out and express my thanks for you and your John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet visit to Soldotna last week. We thoroughly enjoyed having you here and I have had a lot of students who wished that you could have stayed for longer. Being able to watch you communicate in real time while you were playing was a great skill for my students to see and experience. We would love to have you come back sometime in the future, so keep us in the loop if you're ever coming down this way. Thank you for your time and talent,
Mark Jurek, Director of Instrumental Music, Soldotna High School, Soldotna, AK

February 5, 2024-John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet Interview on Talk of the Town and February 3, 2024 performance for the Performing Arts Society of Soldotna & Kenai, AK

Subject: Re: Thanks for the great radio interview on Feb 2 on your Talk of the Town show
John:

But the pleasure was ***ALL OURS!***

I was grinning during the entire performance on February 3, 2024.

Bob Bird-Host of The Talk of the Kenai Radio show on KSRM radio station, Kenai, AK

February 5, 2024-John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet community and school concerts & workshops in Kenai and Soldotna, AK on February 2 and 3, 2024

We owe you at least as big a thanks for your energetic and engaging performances for our youth and our general audience. As I was in the narthex as people exited, I asked them about their experience and received enthusiastic and positive responses from all. The head count of 122 in the audience was one of our largest ever. I noticed that most people kept their programs, which in my experience reflects a real engagement with the music and the musicians; generally, we collect almost as many used programs as we initially gave out. I only collected about a dozen programs after your concert. As an organization, we also enjoyed interacting with the five of you. We will be putting you on our rotation of concerts that we would like to host in the next couple seasons.

Barbara Christian-President Performing Arts Society of Soldotna & Kenai, AK

September 30, 2023-John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet AJW Jazz in the Park Performance, Anchorage, Ak

John, I saw your John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet perform at the AJW Jazz in the Park event on June 3, 2023. Thank you for sharing your amazing talent with us!

Bill Wielechowski. Alaska State Senator

September 20, 2023 John Damberg Jazz Quartet performance Spenard, AK neighborhood party Aloha John,

Just wanted to let you know how brilliant your performance was on Sunday. The band touched everyone there.

Patrick Winsett-House Party Host for 9-7-23 Sauna Celebration party in Anchorage, AK

Reviews-Media

Dan Mac Quartet "907 Central" 2013 CD

Pianist Dan MacElrath's new CD provides a bright roundup of Anchorage area jazz talent. McElrath himself is represented by his quirky, boogie-infused "Night in Spenard," winner of this year's Spenard Jazz Festival Alaska Song of the Year in the instrumental category, and "Smile Sayulita Smile," a contender in last year's competition. But the cuts also include music by the quartet's guitarist Mike Doolin, bass players Milo Matthews and Ray Booker, David Martin and **John Damberg whose vibe work is deliciously featured in Booker's sweet "Waltz BBT."**
Mike Dunham -Anchorage Daily News-June 25, 2013

John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet

"An accomplished be-bopper himself, Damberg combines the marimba, vibraphone and steel drum in the many noted harmonic style of Charlie Parker and his descendants with the rhythmic and melodic under girdings of the Samba. Damberg made a fine match with his chief cohort flutist and soprano saxophonist Herb Kloss.... Indeed, both have an excellent feel for placing notes in coherent patterns. Likewise, their improvisations are thematic; the listener doesn't feel lost in lines wrought be running all the notes in chord changes. **The blending of the instrument timbres is just about ideal.**"

Larry Spellens-Anchorage Daily News-November 2, 1996

"For the last five years, marimba man John Damberg has been a driving force on the Anchorage jazz scene."

Mike Dunham-Anchorage Daily News-May 17, 1996

"Herb Kloss' flute and Damberg's vibes carried the melody. Their harmonic blending was a soft Caribbean balm, yet they could drive like a hurricane when required." "Damberg is a fleet, melodic soloist who appreciates the importance of varied phrase and note length, and spacing to swing."

Larry Spellens-Anchorage Daily News-March 27, 1995

Human Hands, a Composers and Improvisors Ensemble 1993 CD

"Damberg's group had the ease, grace and wing of those West Coast groups, as well as the appealing sound blend of less voluminous instruments. Just as notable as the balance and sonority of the ensemble was the quality of the compositions, which were all originals. Most of these were Damberg's and were marked by lyricism and swing."

Larry Spellens-Anchorage Daily News-March 1, 1993