



Jane Donahue Tributes

Jane Donahue loved jazz. Her contributions to the local jazz scene were immeasurable leaving a brilliant legacy for everyone she touched. And wow, did she ever touch a lot of folks! Musicians, jazz fans and media experts were all influenced by her knowledge and her connections with the local clubs and their talented performers.

Jane had many fans and friends who appreciate her passion for jazz and her endearing contributions to **Jazz Notes** and the **Twin Cities Jazz Society**. How to celebrate *Jane's* life? Consider these from the heart comments.....

Great musicians routinely get sendoff parties when they pass on, so it's nice to see a superfan, the late *Jane Donahue*, receive the same treatment. *Jane* was a long time guiding light of the **Twin Cities Jazz Society** and friend to many musicians. *Mouldy Figs* leader *Jim Field* said "She's been a fan and friend since **Fiorito's** in St. Paul in 1975. She followed us from the **Bungalow** in Lakeville in the 80s to **Benchwarmer Bob's** in the early 90s, to the **Lincoln Del** in Bloomington in the late 90s, to the **Shamrock** in St. Paul and the **Main Street Bar & Grill** in Hopkins the last 10 years. *Jane* was always there, at all the venues, all those years."

-- Tom Surowicz in the StarTribune

Jane was a fun gal to hang with. She had strong opinions about the music she liked and didn't like, and could tell you so without losing the humor of the situation. The first time I spoke with *Jane*, she said "I don't really listen to singers...but you're pretty good." When *Debbie (Duncan)* and I were in NYC at the **IAJE** festival, *Jane* and *Barney* loaned us their hotel room for a very needed hour away from the excitement. *Jane* showed up at many of *The Girls* shows, even though we #1. were singers and #2. did more pop music than jazz. I think she just loved to support the work of artists, both locally and beyond. I miss her.

-- Judi Donaghy

In the summer of 1999, a small event was planned to promote a few jazz artists. The crowd that showed up was three times what was expected and included *Jane Donahue* of the **Twin Cities Jazz Society**. Following the event, *Jane* and I talked over coffee many times. She was one of the most positive and creative people I have ever known. *Jane* was convinced that there were many jazz fans in our city who would support jazz, even on a summer week-end in Minnesota. With this type of support, the **Twin Cities Jazz Festival** was born. Over the years, *Jane's* intuition was proven to be correct. There are thousands of jazz fans and *Jazz Fest* keeps growing. *Jane* would let me know if I did a good job on booking artists and tell me when I strayed too far from the jazz art form. She was a great supporter of the **Twin Cities Jazz Festival** and jazz as an art form in our community. She will be sorely missed by all.

- Steve Heckler, Executive Director

Jazz Notes is one of the highest-quality, if not THE best, jazz society newsletters in the country. *Jane* was a big factor in **Jazz Notes'** high quality from its early years until the time of her death. She was the editor for several years, then continued to help with less-prestigious, lower-profile but essential work including compiling event listings and proof-reading the pages. The archives in her basement office included complete sets of back issues of **Jazz Notes** along with hundreds of photos. For years, she also ran the **Jazz Line** call-in service to answer questions from the public or direct them. Even though nursing was her profession, not journalism, *Jane* did an exceptional job of keeping Twin Cities jazz fans informed.

-- Dick Parker former StarTribune writer

Jane was omnipresent at ALL JAZZ events. She worked the hospitality tent, **TCJS** and **KBEM**. *Jane* probably had the most eclectic tastes in jazz I have encountered. She had her favorites, but enjoyed it all. We met her 20 years ago and have enjoyed hundreds of clubs, concerts and festivals with her.

-- Mike Wolstad

A word misused, a comma missed, name misspelled, oops, this person isn't playing at that place anymore.....*Jane* would rush off to find out who was playing where. In 1996, *Jane* was the editor of **Jazz Notes** and looking for a replacement. She wanted to free up her time to enjoy more jazz listening and do other things for the **Twin Cities Jazz Society**. Having never met, and not knowing me, she called to ask if I'd be interested in being the editor for "**Jazz Notes**." Since then, for over 13 years, we talked or communicated nearly everyday—faxing then e-mailing, often being silly late into the nights—working to try to make each months' issue of the **TCJS Jazz Notes** newsletter the best it could be. She was my mentor in jazz and editing, and she was my friend. She expected a great deal, but never ever had a harsh word. If it was wrong, it was wrong. If it was questionable, we found the answer. If it was good, it was good. Face value. She took people at face value, never doubting the good in them, nor expecting any bad. She took life as it was, and lived it. Her charm always preceded her smile. Around *Jane*, there were no doubts. All was well. Her philosophy: do what you can. You can do it. If it's too much, don't do it! Got it done? Good for you.

-- Starla Barker, Twin Cities Jazz Society Jazz Notes Editor