

David Drazin, Pianist

An accomplished and adventurous improviser, pianist David Drazin, a Cleveland, Ohio native, specializes in hot jazz styles such as Harlem stride, blues and bebop. He has played at the Chicago Blues Festival, House of Blues, and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, as well as jazz clubs and concert venues. He has appeared onstage with blues legends Big Jay McNeely, Floyd McDaniel, vocalist Barbara Rosene, and Jesse Scinto and the Dignitaries. David currently plays with J.J. and the Jazz Masters. David received his Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies from Ohio State in 1978. Early in his career, he played jazz-rock with the Columbus band Seeds of Fulfillment and accompanied dance classes at Ballet Metropolitan. Relocating to Chicago in 1982, David pursued the jazz life while continuing to play for ballet classes. In the 1980s, his dance associations led to an appearance on the ABC-TV series “Jack and Mike” as a can-can dance accompanist.

In 1985, David became official silent-film pianist at the Chicago School of the Art Institute Film Center. He has provided live piano accompaniment for silent-film screenings coast to coast: from the New York City Public Library to the Broncho Billy Festival near San Francisco Bay. He was honored to accompany Buster Keaton’s classic Civil War comedy “The General” at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. in 2010. In 2003, 2004, and 2006, David was invited to be a guest accompanist at the Pordenone, Italy silent-film festival. While performing at Pordenone for the first time, he met Charlie Chaplin’s son Michael, who invited David and his wife Carol to visit the Chaplin family home in Switzerland. David gave the Chaplin family an impromptu jazz performance on Charlie’s piano. David has composed and recorded for Kino International, Milestone, and other video distributors. Video and audio samples of his jazz, silent-film and ballet recordings are available on his website at www.kendavies.net/daviddrazin/.