

MUSIC OUT LOUD NOMINATIONS IN ORDER OF RECEIPT

Musician suggestion: Warren Argo

Why should this musician be honored:

He was a legendary presence in the folk music scene both in Olympia and in the greater Puget Sound region. He was an organizer, teacher, dance caller and musician. Here is a link to a tribute to him: <http://www.seattletimes.com/obituaries/warren-argo-much-beloved-seattle-old-time-musician-dies-of-heart-attack/>. I'm not sure if he meets the 10+ years in Olympia requirement, but I can find out.

Nominator: Diane Utter

**(From Diane) He only lived here for 9 years and 9 months: Dec. 2001 to Sept. 2010, so I think he is out of the running unless living in Seattle and performing in Olympia counts for some extra time. I just found out he received a lifetime achievement award from a country dance society, so that is pretty wonderful.

Musician suggestion: Bert Wilson, Steve Munger

Why should this musician be honored: **

Nominator: Daniel Landin

**(SJ) Several requests made, unanswered.

Musician suggestion: Steve Munger

Why should this musician be honored:

I received your email about honoring Olympia musicians. I would like to nominate Steve Munger. Steve was an Olympia saxophone player for 30 years, who passed away from cancer a few years ago. He was a consummate musician at the center of the Olympia music scene since the early 80s. Steve was well know and highly regarded among jazz musicians, but he also played rock, blues, funk, reggae, just about anything you can think of. He was the kind of musician that everybody wanted on their recordings because he made everyone around him sound better. It is hard to think of any Olympia musicians who did not record with Steve at one time or another. A few of the bands he played and recorded with include Harmonic Tremors, Sweatband, Neobop, the Artesian Art Ensemble, Barbara Donald & Unity, Bert Wilson ensemble, various Steve Munger ensembles, Jam Camp, and Sour Owl. Anyone who knew him remembers Steve for his maniacal laugh and generous spirit as well as for his amazing musical skills. I can't think of a more deserving person.

Nominator: Ben Alexander

Musician suggestion: Jan Stenz

Why should this musician be honored:

I would like to nominate Jan Stenz.

Here is her bio information, from www.allmusic.com.

Artist Biography by Alex Henderson

Greatly influenced by Ella Fitzgerald, jazz singer Jan Stenz wasn't well known nationally but enjoyed a small following in the Pacific Northwest. Stenz was born Janet Mary Swenson and grew up on a dairy farm in the small town of Malone, WA, where she sang gospel in church but was introduced to jazz through the recordings of Sarah Vaughan and Billy Eckstine. As a young adult, she attended the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, and it was there that she met tenor saxophonist Chuck Stenz, who she married. After their three children reached adulthood, she started to seriously pursue a career in music. One of Stenz's strongest supporters was Jack Percival, a pianist from Olympia, WA who wrote arrangements for Jan and her husband Chuck. Stenz often worked with pianist Barney McClure, who in 1985, co-produced her debut album, [Profile](#), for his BAM label (which was subsequently renamed MNOP Records). Stenz performed numerous live dates in the Pacific Northwest, but unfortunately, [Profile](#) was her only studio album. In 1997, she was diagnosed with leukemia, and in mid-April 1998, her doctors told her that the cancer had reached her liver and that she had only weeks to live. On April 30, 1998, the vocalist gave a farewell concert that was primarily for family and friends, but when word of the concert got around, quite a few musicians showed up. That concert was recorded by McClure and resulted in the [Forever](#) album on MNOP. Although Stenz saw Forever's art work and heard the master recording, she didn't live long enough see the CD come out. On May 18, 1998, Stenz died in her Olympia home at the age of 65.

Nominator: Warren Guykema

** (From Warren) I just spoke with Chuck Stenz, Jan's husband until the time of her death. He said she lived in Olympia 43 or 44 years. You may or may not know that he was the owner for many years of Yenney's Music.

Musician suggestion: Jack Perciful

Why should this musician be honored:

I would like to share a brief bio on my late husband, Jack Perciful. If you are interested in learning more about him, I can be reached at email and phone listed below.

Also, other names that come to mind are Red Kelly, Joe Baque, Chuck Stenz, Bert Wilson.

Jack Perciful was born in Moscow Idaho November 26, 1925 and started studying piano at the age of 7.

He was contemplating a career in medicine when he heard the Jimmy Lunceford Orchestra on the radio one evening. The decision was made to follow a jazz music career instead. He started performing with bands as a teenager in the Moscow-Spokane area, often earning more in a weekend than his father did all week.

After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to Moscow Idaho where he earned a Masters in Music Education. 18 months of teaching music in a small Idaho community was enough for Jack. He, against the advice of his fellow musicians, left for Los Angeles to pursue a career in the "big time".

He joined the Harry James Orchestra in 1956 and was his pianist, arranger and music director. During this time, he recorded over 25 albums, performed in major world concert halls (including Carnegie Hall twice) and appeared on numerous TV shows. Ed Sullivan, The Tonight Show, Dina Shore, Mike Douglas and the Jerry Lewis movie, "The Ladies' Man."

In 1974, he moved to the Olympia area to join his buddy from the Harry James Band, Red Kelly. They performed at the Tumwater Conservatory where many illustrious musicians would stop in and perform as well. It was during this time that Jack, Red and others formed the OWL Party (Out With Logic, On With Lunacy), a satirical jab at the political process. The campaign garnered significant votes with Jack as the candidate for State Treasurer.

Given the nickname "The Gentleman of Jazz", he was a modest and gentle man with a quick wit and sly sense of humor.

Nominator: Kathy Perciful

Musician Suggestions: Calvin Johnson, Justin Trosper, Kathleen Hannah, Kurt Cobain, Phil Elverum, Slim Moon.

Why should this musician be honored:

Off the top of my head, the most notable musicians would have to be Calvin Johnson (if no one else!) because he started K records and his name is basically synonymous with Olympia music. Others would be Justin Trosper of the bands Unwound and Survival Knife. Unwound is one of the most nationally known bands from our area. Third, I would say Kathleen Hannah of Bikini Kill. She basically anchored a genre of music (riot grrrl) in olympia and is a national icon. In fact, tomorrow, April 9th, has officially been proclaimed as "riot grrrl day" in boston in honor of Kathleen Hanna.

Kurt Cobain of Nirvana is another obvious one. Nirvana was started in Aberdeen and ended in Seattle, but the band was molded and influenced by Olympia.

Phil Elverum is another. From Anacortes, he moved to Olympia and started his seminal and prolific project called The Microphones and eventually when on to start Mount Eerie.

You may consider entire bands and not just individual artists because some are so influential as a whole and not necessarily as individuals. I think of both Lync and Kelp who were huge influences to Modest Mouse who is now an international phenomenon. Also, Sleater Kenney, Bratmobile and Fitz of Depression (one of the only Olympia bands to go on to sign a major record label).

Also, Slim Moon who founded Kill Rock Stars record company which has put out some highly influential albums. I'll let you know if I think of more.

Nominator: Lorenzo Determan

** (From Lorenzo) Yeah, a friend of mine pointed that out to me after I had already sent it. Sorry about that. Kurt Cobain is the only one on there that is deceased. That is going to be a tough one as I can't think of any others that are and Olympias music scene is relatively young, most of its pivotal musicians are still, at the most, in their low 50's.

** (SJ) Though not scientific, this Wikipedia article references Olympia as a place Kurt Cobain started to visit in 1986, and he died in 1994. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Cobain

Musician Suggestion: Isaac Brock

Why should this musician be honored:

I am suggesting the musician Isaac Brock and his band Modest Mouse receive recognition for their contribution and influence in the Olympia music scene. Although Isaac is not deceased it saddens me to see not tangible acknowledgement of his bands influence in and on Olympia. As the punk scene of the 90s was developing these local boys from Issaquah produced two of the most recognizable and defining albums of the 90s at Moon Studio in Olympia. Much of their early work was under the guise of Calvin Johnson, who is still prominent in the music scene in Olympia. The diversity in sound and emotion covered in Modest Mouse's body of work is undeniable and any one who knows anything about Olympia music will give at least a nod to their influence on this town. There's an old documentary about the production of the album *The Lonesome Crowded West* that has footage of Isaac interviewing in Sylvester Park. This man, his band, and this town are intertwined and maybe if we could give that a little recognition they would too. My phone number is 570470729 address 510 Thomas St NW. Please take this consideration seriously as I would hate to walk down another street in this state in commemoration of Kurt Cobain.

Nominator: Michael Zirpoli

** (SJ) Still living.

Musician Suggestion: Jeff Womeldorff

Why should this musician be honored:

My mom Robyn Chance told me about this. A friend of mine and a lot of other people in the music scene who passed last year Jeff Womeldorff I think would be a great candidate

Nominator: Morgan Chance

** (SJ) Obituary follows

Jeff, 28, passed away at home on August 15, 2014. He was born on November 17, 1985, to Gary and Jani (Youngstrom) Womeldorff, in Seattle, Washington. He grew up in Everett, where he graduated from Cascade High School in 2004. He attended Evergreen State College from 2004 to 2007. Jeff enjoyed working at Old School Pizzeria in Olympia.

Jeff loved music and playing rock guitar. He was a member of the rock band Moldy Castle. He enjoyed Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and was training regularly. He was a cat lover, and owned a cat. He had a good sense of humor.

He is survived by his parents, Gary and Jani Womeldorff; and grandparents, Dave and Susan Womeldorff, Peggy Youngstrom, and Walt Youngstrom.

Musician Suggestion: Verne Munro Eke

Why should this musician be honored:

I wish to nominate Verne Munro Eke, a deceased Tumwater native, for the posthumous award announced in the Arts Digest. Verne meets all the criteria listed and more. He was a fine musicologist, pianist, vocal coach and orchestra conductor over many years in Olympia. He founded The Capital Area Association for the Performing Arts (CAPPA) and was pivotal in acquiring the legislation and funds that allowed the building of the Washington Center for the Performing Arts .

I have documents that bring the above statements to life that I wish to drop off or send. However, I am leaving town tomorrow and was only apprised of the award yesterday. I don't have the technology or know-how to copy them to you. May I bring them to your office? If I mail them to the Olympia Center, I fear they won't be returned. Or is your office IN the Olympia Center? I have also left you a voice mail this morning.

Nominator: Sally Anacker

Musician Suggestion: Jan Stenz

Why should this musician be honored:

I would like to add to what is likely a number of suggestions to commemorate the life and talents of Jan Stenz.

Jan Stenz wowed me the first time I saw her perform in 1975. She was performing at the Melting Pot, located on the corner of Capitol Way and across from the Capitol Campus - a venue that morphed frequently through the years into businesses including the first home of Olympia's Children's Museum. A versatile jazz vocalist, she could riff and scat with the best and deliver a ballad that touched your soul. It was listening to her ballads, frankly, that won my heart. That first performance I caught - memorable. I walked in to the venue in time to hear her rendition of the Rogers and Hart tune "My Funny Valentine", and *felt* it, as deeply as if I had been made privy to her own story. Her voice and style were that personal.

Jan performed with other notable area musicians that included her husband and tenor saxophone player Chuck Stenz, Jack Percival, Red Kelley, Barney McClure, Chuck Deardorf, and

more. Her primary haunts were here in Olympia and along the Seattle-Portland corridor. Besides the great memories of her wonderful performances, this lovely and gracious lady left her legacy in other ways - one studio album *Profile* produced by Barney McClure in 1985, and *Forever*, a recording of her farewell concert prior to her death in 1998.

I once read a reviewer write that Jan wasn't an innovative singer, and I recall pondering what that really meant. Reviewers, right? Maybe it was true, "innovator" was the wrong descriptor. She gave everyone something much more than technical innovation. In my mind's eye I see couples at candle-lit tables listening to her sing, "stay, little Valentine, stay," and their hands would reach, touch, caress. Singles would lower their eyes and slowly run a finger around their glass's rim. Servers and bartenders would stop for a moment and just watch. Jan Stentz gave us music with heart.

Nominator: Margo Westfall

Musician Suggestion: Bert Wilson

Why should this musician be honored:

I would like to nominate saxophone master Bert Wilson for the Music Out Loud commemorative location. Bert was a world renown Saxophonist and composer who moved to Olympia in 1979 and passed away in Olympia in 2013. He was a teacher for many world famous saxophonist to include Lenny Picket of Tower of Power and musical director of NBC's Saturday Night Live, Jeff Coffin of the Dave Mathews Band and Ernie Watts of the NBC orchestra. Bert was stricken by Polio when he was very young and was confined to a wheel chair his entire life. In spite of his disability he created a concept on saxophone that placed him among the greats of the instrument. His influence on the local music scene was profound. Some of the legends of Jazz would stop by Bert's home to play and visit with him. Many musicians moved to Olympia to play with and learn from Bert including Steve Munger, Jim Pribbenow, Ariel Calabria and Steve Bentley. His music had a major impact on the Obrador band, the women's orchestra Bevy, and numerous other small combos. His group Rebirth, which was filled with Olympia musicians, and had international acclaim for its recordings and performances. His music continues to be heard in local venues. He was without a doubt the most powerful musical influence in the local music scene for the past 30 plus years. It is a great honor to nominate him for this award.

Nominator: Michael Olson