

Nominee: Jon Eder
Category: Lifetime

I have known Jon Eder for nearly 30 years, since I moved to Flagstaff in 1982. He is, without doubt, one of the most talented, versatile, and energetic musicians in northern Arizona.

I have found him to be an exemplary educator - serving in a multitude of capacities including teaching band and instrumental studies at all three high schools in Flagstaff (Coconino HS 1980-89), Sinagua HS(1989-92), and, currently, Flagstaff HS since 1996.

As performer, he has performed with great distinction in the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra for the past 35 years, and has held the principal clarinet position since 1981.

Jon has officially served as the Flagstaff Symphony's Assistant Conductor since 1981. His service and dedication as conductor of the Flagstaff Youth Orchestras from through the decade of the 1980's is most remarkable. Jon has just this year again accepted to direct that very talented ensemble.

First as a student, then as a faculty member, Jon has performed yoman service with the Flagstaff Summer Festival and the NAU Summer Music Camp (now named after the late Pat Curry).

Jon's talents in performance, however, have not been limited to classical music. He is well-known throughout the state as being one of the finest jazz specialists and can be seen leading or performing in some of the very best jazz ensembles in Arizona.

So whether people have cheered for his marching bands at multitudinous HS football games, or marveled at what he and his concert bands and orchestras consistently achieve, or whether they find themselves with eyes burning after gorgeous clarinet passages at the Flagstaff Symphony -- I would hesitate to count the thousands of lives Jon Eder's music making has touched.

In my opinion, there is no one else living who has made a commensurate impact on the lives of those who have call Flagstaff home. Jon Eder's service to the musical community in the various roles described above, span over 35 years of service.

One would have to assemble ALL of the programs of the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra for the past 35 years to see Jon Eder's name in each and every one of them -- most often as clarinetist, and for the last ten years as conductor of many performances -- including the Fourth of July and Labor Day celebrations, the Nutcracker Ballets, and many others.

As a public school music educator, Jon Eder's groups have achieved top ratings at region and state festivals. He is unique in the educational community for having received Superior ratings at the state level for Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, AND Orchestra.

Jon's lively and understanding personality causes students to flock to his ensembles and to outdo themselves in meeting his high expectations. It is little wonder that Flagstaff HS currently enjoys the highest band and jazz enrollment in the school's history.

Jon's groups have participated in all community parades. His jazz ensembles perform for many private functions as well as events like the Disabilities Awareness Conference and AZ Special Olympics, and the rally for Senator John Kerry.

His groups have toured, and the FHS Band has annually performed the National Anthem at Arizona Diamondbacks games. And, as you can imagine - the list goes on and on!

Quantifiable "impact" is difficult if not impossible to measure in the case of any creative artist/teacher. I would wager that the legions of students and colleagues who have been influenced by Jon can be found in every state of the Union and many far-flung countries of the world.

One of those (my own son Kurt, now 43, and living in Las Vegas) sites Jon Eder as being one of the most important and influential teachers he was fortunate to have during his school years. Then there is another. Myself.

And now, it's time that this self-effacing musical dynamo be properly recognized. I can think of no better way for that to happen than to confer Viola Babbitt's "Lifetime Contribution to the Arts" 2011 Award on my friend and colleague, Jon Enno Eder.

For more information on Job Eder, please visit:

<http://www.cal.nau.edu/academy/orchestra-conductor.asp>

Eder & FSO: http://azdailysun.com/entertainment/article_5e6b7fb7-dd35-5875-b09e-24c3e65eb4c3.html

http://www.azdailysun.com/article_2c07a10b-4798-5266-8ca5-4990424b506a.html

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1280022832>

Please see youtube for example of Jon Eder's work:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUTCjl_ZI10

PLEASE NOTE: For the music samples Jon Eder is acting as the director, except for the mp3 titled: *John Eder Solo* in which he plays the clarinet.